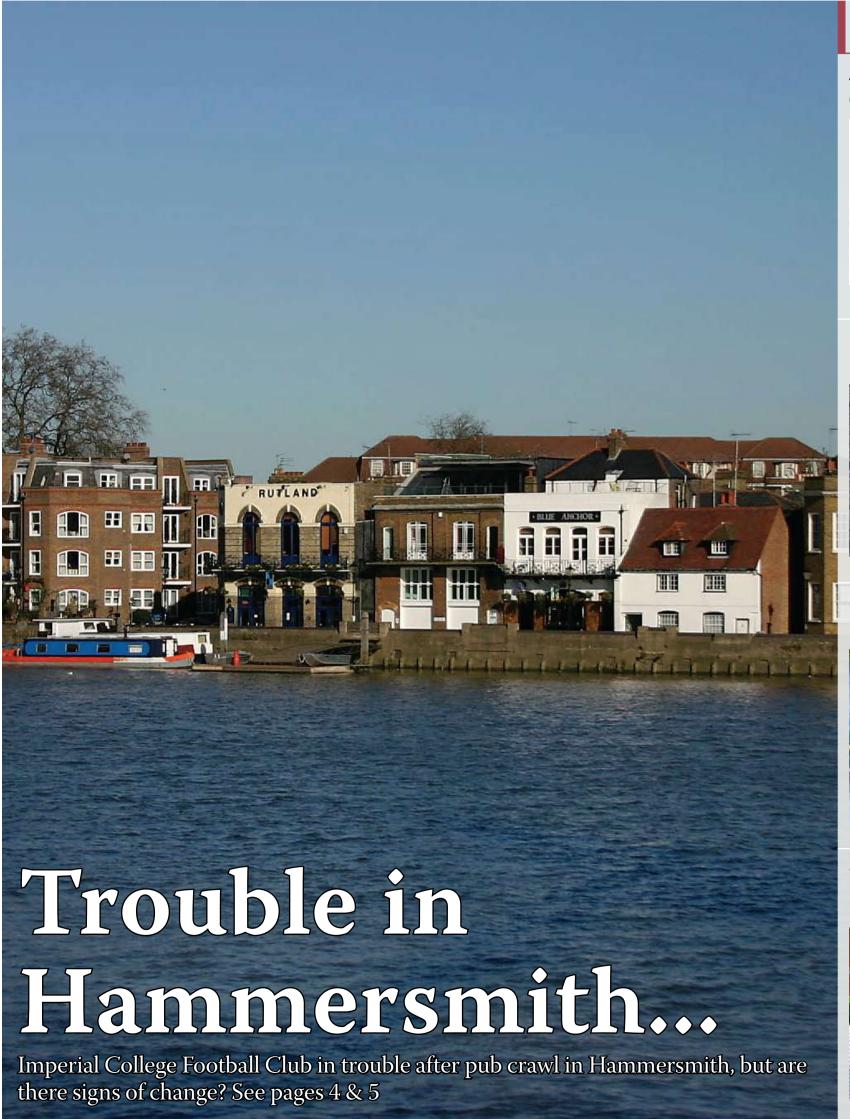
# telix

The student 'news' paper of **Imperial College London** 

The Non-Epic Fail Edition

Issue 1,416 Friday 21 November 2008 felixonline.co.uk





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News

# New postgraduate and international positions to be created in Council

Union Council Chair, Afonso Campos came under the spotlight after certain accusations on Live! that he was not acting appropriately. After clarifying the previous meeting's minutes on Council and on Live! the situation was resolved without a hitch.

After Council Chair made his points, there were three main agendas to be resolved firstly there was the bi-election to elect ordinary members for the faculty unions, which, rather unsurprisingly were all filled, apart for the Royal College of Science Union seat. The other two agendas covered the creation of two new seats on Council.

The first of the two papers to be discussed was the creation of a new International Student Officer. Council had to vote on amendments to the paper first, and decide whether or not all students could stand for the positions, or whether it would only be international students. Before any of this could be decided, Council first had to agree upon the definition of international students. It was decided that international students would be all those students outside of the United Kingdom. This included the Channel Islands, who College consider as International students and thus pay the full fee.

The second amendment to the paper was deciding whether or not all students should be allowed to vote. Alex Grisman, who is the Academic Affairs Officer (Taught) for City and Guilds College Union, made the point that the role would only effect international students and that therefore only international students should be eligible to vote. This turned out to be the case and the motion was passed.

The second paper presented by Deputy President (Education & Welfare)



Councillors voting at the meeting on Monday night

Hannah Theodorou, looked for a reshuffle of postgraduate positions. Miss Theodorou felt that the current representation of postgraduate students was ineffective. The paper suggested removing the current postgraduate positions from the faculties and placing it into the Graduate School Association (GSA), which would cover both taught and untaught postgraduates

Again the question of representation came into question as it was discovered that any postgraduate could stand for the various positions. Other Council members commented on the fact that this method is the best solution in the current situation, although some disagreed.

Both of these two new roles will be

## Conservatives see 50% target as unrealistic

**News Correspondent** 

The government's approach to university expansion is like "trying to drive a car with the accelerator and brake both pressed to the floor", says Tory universities secretary, David Willetts.

Willett's remark was made in a speech at the University of Kent last week. at a time when the Higher Education Funding Council for England (Hefce) wrote to all universities asking them to 'review their planned recruitment for 2009/10, warning there will be no funding for extra university places in 2010/11. Although 10,000 additional student places were to be financed for 2009/10, those numbers have already been allocated to universities since January 2008. This means that university places will be capped for the next two academic years.

Willett's went on to say: "In 1999, the government promised to get 50% of young people to university by 2010. It is a scandal that the figure remains below 40% and, for men, the chances of reaching university are actually going downwards."

"It is absurd to have a target for 50 per cent participation and specifically to prohibit universities from meeting

Although Labour committed itself long ago to sending half of all young people to university by 2010, the uni-

versity participation rate for young people has only risen by 0.6% since 1999-2000 and stands at 39.8%.

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) tion systems shows that the UK has slipped from 4th to 12th in the international league table for the proportion of young people going to university.

One of the countries overtaking the UK is Poland. In 1990, Poland sent one in eight of its young people to university, however, today it sends one in two. So while the UK will undershoot the 50% target, Poland has already hit it.

Government's aim of widening university participation may also be hampered by its recently discovered £200m funding shortfall. This prompted the universities secretary, John Denham, to announce Labour's u-turn on proposals to offer grants to students with a household income of less than £60,000. This has now been reduced to £50,020. This decrease in the limit is expected to affect some 40,000 students starting

Last week university think tank Million warned that restricting student numbers risked damaging widening participation, particularly among under-represented groups. A wideranging review of the higher education funding system is being called for, in particular costs and benefits of univer-



**Tory University Secretary David Willets** 

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## Imperial Bioscientist students win gold in worldwide competition

**News Correspondent** 

An Imperial College team of nine undergraduate bioscientists are celebrating this week after returning from the International Genetically Engineered Machines (iGEM) competition with a gold medal and two additional top

As reported last week, the team had spent a week at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology competing against the 84 other universities from 21 different counties, in the renown undergraduate research synthetic biology competition. They triumphantly came home with the gold prize for technical excellence, top prize for best manufacturing-themed project, and another for best new 'part'; which refers to Bacillus subtillis bacteria used

Professor Richard Kitney, a Professor of the Imperial team gauged the international achievement they attained, saying "Our team has performed brilliantly and it's fantastic that we did so well when faced with competition from other leading university teams from the UK and around the world."

The four-month project involved a team of nine undergraduates from Life Sciences and Bioengineering, four advisors and two professors with the concept of turning harmless bacteria, Bacillus subtilis into efficient biofabricators. The hope is that the bacteria will be able to produce self-assembling organic compounds, such as cellulose, on demand, and in a pre-meditated

The application behind the team's winning concept will go onto aid many

industrial procedures, from reconstructive surgery to the manufacture of eco-clothing. Professor Paul Freemont, another of the team's advising Professors had great hope for the future of the biofabricator, saying the team's hard work "sets up other engineers and life scientists from around the world to use this harmless bacteria as a chassis for other synthetic biology

chemistry 3rd Year), James Chappell (Biochemistry 3rd Year), Tom Adie (Biology 3rd Year) and Chris Hirst (Biotechnology 3rd Year), Krupa Hirani, Yanis Djinnit, Clinton Goh, Qin Qi, and Prudence Wing-Yan Wong (all Bioengineering Various Years) will all now return back to the day-to-day proceedings of College life.

. Undergraduates Erika Cule (Bio-

Eric Pickles MP, Shadow Secretary of

New stealth tax increases cost of living for students

New laws introduced by the government as part of the Climate Change Bill shortly to receive Royal Assent, allow the Government to charge for bin collections. This charge, called a stealth tax by critics will increase further the cost of living for students.

Groups that are exempt from council tax, students the most prominent example, will not be exempt from the so called "bin taxes". Government guidance documents state that "a particular example might be households of students" as a group which is exempt from council tax but not the bin tax.

However there is also significant leeway for local authorities to exempt groups who do not pay council tax from the new bin tax, stating "authorities must take account of those groups who might be unduly disadvantaged as a result of the introduction of an incen-

State for Communities & Local Gov-

"This is a second hit on students, just days after the Government's decision to cut student grants. Gordon Brown's bin taxes will punish not just family homes, but any household with a large group of people. Labour Ministers are so obsessed with picking people's pockets that they now want to raid students' wallets. These new stealth taxes will increase the cost of living for cashstrapped students and student nurses, who are already struggling to pay their

If the proposals were unpalatable as they stand, Labour Deputy Leader of the House of Commons has said that MPs will be exempt, with taxpayers' picking up their tab.

The cross-party Communities & Local Government Select Committee has slammed the Government's plans for

"We repeat what we said six months ago: it is hard to see why any council will want to set up a complicated charging scheme that earns it no money and risks widespread public disapproval"



Remember those happy days when bins were free?

**Dear Student** 

The Imperial College 2008 iGem team

Welcome to Imperial College, we hope you are settling in well!

It is imperative that you maintain your oral health whilst here in London. With this in mind Imperial College has made available to you the services of a National Health Service (NHS) Dental Surgery.

Please call us on 07964543103 as soon as possible to arrange a check-up or to book other appointments.

We are running a special service for students on evenings, Saturdays and Sundays so as not to clash with your academic and social commitments.

You may be entitled to help with costs for NHS Dental Care- visit www.ppa.org.uk/ppa/ **HC1\_form\_intro.htm for more information.** 

News

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News

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Friday 21 November 2008

IC Football Club cause problems in Hammersmith

**Editor in Chief** 

Imperial College Football Club were in the spotlight last week, after complaints against them were lodged by several pubs in Hammersmith. The original complaint was lodged against Imperial College Hockey Club but it was later found that the club involved were indeed the Football Club. The hockey club were proven to have been in Fulham at the time of the incidents. The Hockey Club have since received an apology from the Football Club Captain James Skeen.

A number of complaints have been received from residents in Hammersmith about vandalism and drunken behaviour caused by Imperial College students taking part in a pub crawl last cle as well as smashing a large amount Wednesday. The main bulk of incidents apparently occurred in the area close

**Jovan Nedić** as vases. After this, members of the source of trouble. Many have argued club proceeded to go outside and then that the lack of control of the memthrow glass at houseboats moored on the river, before moving on to the next and by default the club Captain, whilst pub. Having seen the behaviour of the members involved, The Blue Anchor decided not to admit any more members into the pub, which resulted in some intimidation from the group. fe*lix* was also informed by the staff at the pubs that the police were called down, and a couple of students were apparently stopped and asked questions before being released.

From here, the group then moved onto the Old City Gates, the final stop on the route, where landlord Dennis McCarthy told *felix* that the group had trashed the male toilets, removed the handrail off the wall, trashed the cubiof glasses and windows in the door. Staff at the Rutland Arms also

bers in the club is the fault of the club some members of the Football Club claimed that it is 'very difficult' to control a small minority of the members despite 'a lot of effort being made'.

Despite their every attempt, it is clear that there are members in the club that are the main source of the problem. Certain members of the club, who, wish to remain anonymous, have also told felix that they found it 'unfair that the whole club gets such a bad name because of the actions of a few idiots.'

Whatever the reasoning for the behaviour, and the distinct lack of discipline in the club over the past few years, many from Imperial College Union and Imperial College have called for a radical change in the behaviour of the club. Sport Imperial have also



The Rutland Arms, the scene of the incidents last week

to Hammersmith Bridge, near the Blue Anchor and the Rutland Arms.

Imperial College Football Club were taking part on their annual 'Hammy 10', a 10 pub pub-crawl in Hammersmith that the football club have been doing for several years. The crawl starts in Stamford Brook and finishes in the Old City Gates pub next to Hammersmith Bridge, with the Rutland Arms and the Blue Anchor being two of the stops along the way. Nearly 90 members of the club took part on the crawl, with the group splitting into several smaller and only so many committee members and moved on with the 'lead' group as tions couldn't be noticed." and when they arrived.

landlords, as the club reached the vari-According to residents, the club alleg- to Imperial College Union. edly caused £600 worth of damage to ing various artefacts in the pub such

claimed that the problems they had at their pub was not an isolated incident, with them claiming that the same group of people had caused damage and disorder in at least four other pubs up and down the river.

Imperial College Football Club Captain and another member of the committee have, since the event, been to all the pubs on the route to firstly apologise and secondly find out what happened. Club Captain, James Skeen, told *felix* that "there were so many groups sponses from the landlords. ups in order to, according to the that could be with them to control eve-

With so many groups passing The main allegations made against through the pubs, it was apparently the club were by local residents and difficult to identify the individual culprits; however *felix* understands that ous pubs next to Hammersmith Bridge. those responsible have come forward good of them to come and apologise."

Since the full extent of the evening groups on the pub crawl were the main just empty promises.

threatened of removing the club from British University and College Sports (BUCS) leagues which would effectively dissolve the club for the year.

One thing that can be said is that there are clear signs and willingness for change. In comparison to last year. the club is actively trying to rectify their image and are trying to hold their members to account. felix managed to get in touch with most of the pubs on the route, and found a mixed bag of re-

Landlords from the earlier pubs along the route told *felix* that they refootball club captain James Skeen, rything." He then went on to say that: ceived no problems from the students 'not cause a disturbance'. Several past "The problems seemed to have been and had no complaints. The landlord members of the club were also present caused by a small group towards the of the Rutland Arms, where most of in some of the pubs along the route, back of the pub crawl where their acthe trouble started, told felix that he "had seen a lot worse before", whilst the Dennis McCarthy, landlord of the Old City Gates, said that the whole thing was "quite frightening for the staff, but no-one was hurt. However it was very

There are signs of improvement in the Football Club, but many from Imthe Rutland Arms by throwing glasses was slowly being unravelled, it became perial College Union and Imperial Coland bottles about, as well as damag- apparent to the club which one of the lege wonder whether it is a new leaf or

# What the residents say

#### The Rutland Arms

The landlord of the Rutland Arms spoke to felix, confirming reports from local residents that a large group of Imperial College students had been in the area on Wednesday night and had caused a considerable amount of damage to the outside of the property. The landlord has been in contact with college, in order to lodge a complaint and to recoup around £600 worth of damage

As things got out of hand, The Rutland Arms began to refuse service to the group, at this point they began to throw glasses into the river, in the direction

#### The Blue Anchor

The Blue Anchor was scheduled to be on the route of the pub crawl, but refused entry to the group, having witnessed the chaos at The Rutland Arms. They confirmed reports of glasses and bottles being thrown in the direc-

#### **Old City Gate**

Dennis McCarthy from the Old City Gate told felix a "considerable amount of damage" was caused to the property including a toilet cubicle and a window in the front door. Glasses were "indiscriminately" thrown into the street, disturbing passers by.

He described the incident as quite "disturbing for the staff", and other customers. He added, "It was very good of them to apologise, but what probably should have been high spirited fun, went completely over the top. The main thing is that no-one was hurt. I'm sure it's not indicative of the whole of Imperial, it just takes a few people to ruin things."

#### **Local Residents**

Whilst having a drink by the riverside in Hammersmith on Friday evening, a group of Imperial students were approached by a resident of the nearby houseboats and were told they "should be aware that Imperial College students are not very welcome around here following an incident on Wednesday night," and that if they were planning on staying for a while they might be "advised to remove your 'Imperial College' banners in order to avoid un-

Expanding on his initial comments, he told the students, "We had your hockey club down here, about 100 of them came through, they trashed a few of the pubs along the river and threw glasses at the boats. It was particularly upsetting because I have kids and they were quite scared." He added that the group "had claimed to be from a different college before admitting to being



# **Negatives**

This is not the first time that Imperial College Football Club have had problems with the University and Imperial College Union. Below are some of the incidents as well as the consequences.

## in The Union

ported on the events surrounding an incident in Da Vinci's after an official complaint was made against the football club over homophobic chants. The club denied that they were directed at any individual but at the rugby club. The entire club was banned for a week.

#### Rembrant damaged during annual dinner last year

Damaged caused in the hotel with the £1,000 deposit not being returned. No apology was given to having events at the hotel again.

#### Homophobic chants Trouble at the ULU **Cup Final**

Back in November 2007, felix re- Clashes with Royal Holloway supporters at the University of London Challenge Cup Final in Motspur Park football ground. Damaged caused to the facilities reached the sum of £60 after the Imperial football club accused the Holloway supporters of taunting and looking for a fight after Holloway won the match.

#### Various bans from **The Union Bars**

Several members of the club have been banned for various time scales for reasons. There have been several recorded incidents the hotel and as a result all Impe- of players arguing and taunting rial students were banned from door staff, to spitting and fighting with other students in The Union.



# A statement from the Club Captain

ICUAFC Club Captain



The club and the Union are working together to ensure the guilty individuals are identified and suitably dealt with.

Following being given details of the alleged incidents, myself and another club official immediately personally visited the effected parties to offer our sincerest apologies on behalf of the club.

Further to this I would like to extend my apologies to the wider Imperial College community. I am deeply embarrassed by the behaviour of these members as well as the damage it will do to the reputation of the club and college. I appreciate that apologising doesn't change what has happened but the new club executive committee has recently been working hard to remove a previously negative culture which had been installed in the club.

Following the lessons learnt from this incident I am confident the club will move forward and proudly represent Imperial College as a majority of our members currently do.

## **Positives**

On the pitch, the club as a whole has had varied success. They field a total of 9 teams, seven play in the University of London Union (ULU) leagues, four of which are in the British Universities and College Sports leagues (BUCS), Aside from the sporting abilities of the club, they have arranged community work in Eastern European countries.

#### **ULU Challenge Cup** Community Work

Cup for the past two years, win- club arranged to do some communing it in 2007 and losing to Royal Holloway in last yeasr final at Mot-

The 1st XI are expected to reach the final of the cup again this year, hopefully with better results.

#### International standard players

have several semi-professional with one reaching full international proud of.

facilities and expertise to improve again.

Imperial College Football Club 1st Whilst on tour in Germany and XI have reached the final of the Czech Republic this summer, the

more community work on their tou

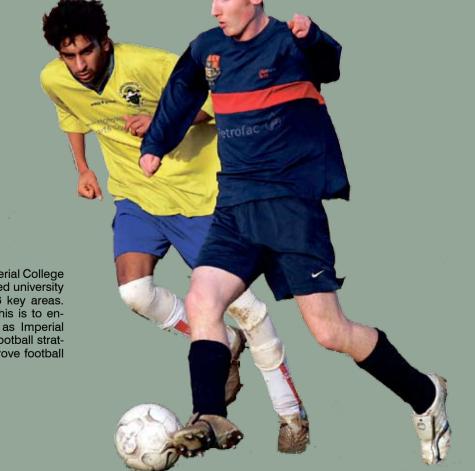
#### **Varsity Champions**

Imperial College Football Club the Varsity set-up, the Imperial foot- at a grass route level. ball club have never lost a game. and professional football players, something which they are very

The club is looking to continue Along with the help of Queens this winning streak this year when Park Rangers, the club has the they will face Imperial Medicals yet

#### The club are looking to arrange BUCS 'Focus' University

**BUCS** have chosen Imperial College as the only London based university to develop football in 6 kev areas. The main objective of this is to engage universities such as Imperial in the new FA national football strat-Ever since football was included in egy, which aims to improve football



PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVE MURRAY

6 felix Friday 21 November 2008

International politics.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Headlines from around the globe

The world beyond College walls...



Chief executives of the "Big Three" car manufactures, Ford, General Motors and Chrysler have asked the US Congress for an urgent \$25bn bail-out. At a Senate hearing, the chief executives claimed that without financial help, the US car industry will face catastrophe, causing ripples through the rest of the economy as millions of people employed in car dealerships and auto garages across the USA will lose their jobs. General Motors has suffered the most, with sales down 45% from last month and losses of \$4.2bn in the third quarter. Republicans and Democrats are split over whether part of the government's \$700bn bail-out fund should be used to help the vulnerable carmakers, or whether they should file for bankruptcy. European states are also grappling with similar pleas from their auto sector, and Canada has already agreed to support carmakers there.



Self-rule is back on track in Northern Ireland after a deal was reached concerning policing and justice of the country. In May 2008 a devolved government was formed by a historic agreement between the Protestant Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and Catholic Sinn Féin. But for the next five months the power-sharing government was dysfunctional because of deadlock over the several issues, principally the transfer of law enforcement from ministers in Westminster to Belfast. A breakthrough was finally achieved when it was agreed that a politician from a third party would be selected to run the new Justice Department. British Prime Minister Gordon Brown has called it "the last building block in the process for bringing peace and democracy to Northern Ireland."





#### Russia

A constitutional amendment which would extend the length of the presidential term from four years to six in Russia is a step closer to passing as it was approved by the lower house of the Russian parliament. The amendment was proposed by President Dmitry Medvedev himself in early November, arguing the reforms will improve the political system, but Kremlin critics believe the initiative is tailor-made for Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to return to his former post as President again. The next step is the parliament's upper house, where if a two-thirds majority is achieved, the amendment will take effect and become the first ever change to Russia's post-Soviet constitution since its adoption in 1993.



## 🎑 South Korea

South Korea's Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has recently demanded that history books be re-written to remove what it calls left-leaning contents. Though the ministry wants to encourage diversity in historical views, conservative critics are dismayed at how chapters of the textbooks "undermine the legitimacy of the South Korean government," through their explanation of the Japanese colonialism era and the Cold War conflict. The controversy has sharpened the larger debate in South Korea over how to appraise past leaders. Japan saw similar controversies over how their teenagers are taught history in 2005. South Korean schools will be able to use the revised textbooks from March 2009.



## ★ Somalia

The Somali pirates who hijacked the Saudi oil super-tanker Sirius Star have demanded a ransom through the Al-Jazeera satellite television station. The full laden supertanker is carrying two million barrels of oil - ¼ of Saudi Arabia's daily oil output - and is among several Greek, Iranian and Hong Kong cargo ships hijacked in the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Somalia. Piracy from criminals in the east-African state has grown in recent years with the Sirius Star being the biggest vessel to be seized yet. The Indian Navy recently attacked and destroyed a pirate ship in the Gulf of Aden, and the UN and other national Navies are taking steps to further protect the vital shipping route.



### Iraq

Following months of negotiations, the Iraqi government - lead by Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki - has approved a security pact with US military forces. The pact was approved by the cabinet, but crucially it must be passed by the parliament before it can take effect. The pact outlines the terms by which US troops stationed in military bases across Iraqi would be governed, something which was previously covered by the UN Mandate which is due to expire on 31st December 2008. Most significantly the pact requires US troops to withdraw from all Iraqi cities and towns by June 2009 and from the country completely by the end of 2011. Parliamentary readings and debate have already begun, and the voting day for the pact is expected to be Monday 24th November.



## New Zealand

47 year-old John Key, a multi-millionaire former investment banker, has been sworn in as New Zealand's new Prime Minister. His centre-right group won 45% of the vote in elections on 8th November, knocking the ruling Labour Party from the seat of government which they had held since 1999. With recession hitting New Zealand during 2008, Key's election campaign promised to boost the flailing economy and tone down the previous government's ambitious environmental policies. Asians make up 9% of New Zealand's population and Key's cabinet includes New Zealand's first Asian minister. Pansy Wong who was born in China was appointed Minister for ethnic affairs and women's affairs



Friday 21 November 20:00-02:00



UNIONOS S.H.A.G. FINALE





imperialcollegeunion.org/ents

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





## 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* 



there were a lot of mistakes. In than I'd normally like there to Let be. Over the past week I have received several complaints about the spelling and grammar, incorrect maps and general shoddiness. For all the above, I apologise, yet at the same time

The number of complaints we received is clearly a sign that you lot are reading what we print each week, and that you all have a certain standard you expect the paper to reach. It is for those reasons that I thank you all for emails.

At the same time, I feel that I need to explain what exactly happened to result in such an epic fail, which I made jokes about on the front page! The network on which the paper runs decided to throw its toys out of the pram and not co-operate with us, and it decided to do this on Wednesday, which the regular contributors out there will know, is very, very close to our print deadline.

What resulted was a frantic rush to the finish line, with pages being passed around on USB sticks and many photographs and files subsequently going next to the library cafe.

will not lie, everyone, last week missing. As a result, several pages were not printed: for which I apologise to my section editors and their contributors. Because of the lack of a network, our copy editors were not able to look at each page efficiently and so errors were bound to slip past them.

> So there you go. Yes it was a poor issue, but at least it was an issue and like I said, it showed us that you guys clearly do read it and you really want a good quality newspaper.

With that in mind, you may have noticed that there have been a few changes to the appearance of the paper. Most of all in this, the comment section. We think it looks more modern and more stylish. We think that it works but if you think it doesn't, then please let us know by email or in person.

Next week's issue should be a good one too (fingers crossed) as it is the Guardian Students Media Awards. felix, I, science, Live! and Angry Geek are all nominated in various categories and we will report on the outcome, hopefully with some lovely trophies.

Oh and *phoenix* is out! Get your free copy with felix. Copies can be found

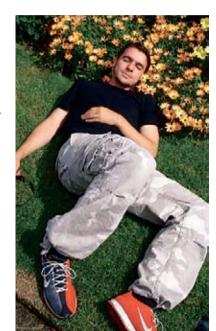
## Is this ranting cubed?

ear guys at *felix*, and everyone else. I hope this s both the first and last article I write here, and I'm pretty aware of my family's history when it comes to letters of complaint, but I was left completely and utterly appalled at the content of felix last week. Not only was it filled with language a sailor would have trouble keeping up with, but a lot of the content was just pointless rants. You see, I was on the bus home from Imperial on Friday night, and as it did its random "This bus is being held here in order to regulate the service" thing, and with passengers beginning to complain, I thought that a one-to-one with my felix newspaper would give me a rest from the impatient, unappreciative company I had the misfortune of being with. But when I opened the newspaper, I was faced with just the same; students ranting about hospital waiting times, amount of work they have, petitions, and even about ranting itself (but am I just ranting about ranting about ranting, or as an imperial student would put it: Ranting cubed?)

The thing that I was most appalled with was the amount of spelling and grammatical mistakes made by the high-standard students that we supposedly are. There is no such phrase in the English language such as "I could of"; it's "I could HAVE"! And we aren't in America, so "defense" is spelt with

"Imperial Girl, some advice, try being a little less promiscuous"

**Yasin Fatine** 



a C! No decent person would take an argument seriously if it contained such basic flaws. And another thing, to the girl who had the decency of bl\*nking out part of the F-word in her article, at least put in the correct number of asterisks! (But maybe I'm just nitpicking with that one.)

Friday 21 November 2008

So, I know that felix readers everywhere will be scrutinizing every word of this article to say "Aha! I got you Mr. spelling man with OCD!" Firstly, go ahead (you won't find any!), and second, I'm just trying to remind everyone that spell-checks do exist! But I do know that there are also terrible examples out there on the streets of London; take "St. James's Park" for instance. I think that's one of the few cases where graffiti on a sign should be legal. So really, the way we can improve society as a whole is not to just focus only on ourselves, but on the small things in life, like spelling for God's sake!

But on the other hand, maybe student life is so hectic that we haven't got time to check our spellings, just get the message out there! So yeah, keep up the good work felix guys! Anyway I'm off to complain to the council about the presence of lollipop ladies (or "school rossing patrollers" to be more PC) at pelican crossings. Have a nice weekend evervone!

P.S. Imperial Girl, some advice, try being a little less promiscuous and guys may actually start liking you!

# A. Geek has had enough of Imperial Girl



"this godforsaken university and all of the fashionista arseholes will one day be behind you. But it's harder to get away from yourself."

in the bud right now: Imperial Girl, before the edition of Loose Women. You have issues. I appreciate this – I think we all do, deep down. But you need to see someone, before you really damage people other than yourself. I mean, we that's fair enough. The other day I had all read *felix*. The more you write, the higher the possibility that some of us may read what you're putting out. One stray glance, one look at a sentence written on the other side of the world map section, and kapow! Central nervous system shuts down, and they're out like a light. Three of my friends are still in a coma from last week. They were all male, of course. The female ones have formed a militia with the intent of murdering you in your sleep.

I think the reason I'm taking such an issue with you is that you're obsessed with this notion that you speak for all women. I find this problematic for two reasons. First of all, you use it as an excuse to speak to Allmen. Allmen is a fictional race of people created by that weird teacher you had at your like you back – a sob story worthy of old school with seven ex-husbands, that you kind of respected but only when she wasn't creeping you out with shouldn't claim one week that, gosh asymmetric makeup and the face of a darn it, people are so superficial, and woman hit with the hangover mallet. "Allmen are bastards." She'd slur. And mentally, subconsciously maybe, you

The second reason, of course, is that you don't speak for all women any more than Harold Shipman speaks for all llow me to nip this one doctors. The fact that you can smash finite number of monkeys at a type-

something to be proud of.

Anyway. To the present day. You're finding things tough at Imperial, and to have a conversation with someone wearing a leather jacket. We all have to make sacrifices to study at an institution like this, I guess. The reason I hate you is because you're one of those people who just can't stand to be a geek. You just physically can't bring yourself to do it. It scares you so much that you'd much rather truss yourself up in vour whorehouse best and stagger around London on heels higher than your sense of self-importance.

And I'm not someone who thinks everyone should strap themselves into a lab coat and enjoy the ride here, I just think that if you're the kind of girl who goes out to clubs wearing outfits that a nudist would consider revealing, and complains when boys you like don't Hannah Montana, indeed - then you then the next describe your "fuck-me pumps", a phrase so stupendously awful that I can't bear to even add it to my

word processor's dictionary. People at Imperial, on the whole, are unhappy with who they are. It's a really, genuinely terrible affliction and it's something they should aim to change a keyboard slightly better than an in- at once. You can't blame a university for causing it. You can't bemoan a workweeks drag on and fe- writer doesn't mean that you have the ethic and a scientific regime for turn-. lix becomes an in-print force of every Imperial woman behind ing you into a mentally-imbalanced

who you are. Imperial is your day job, respect. Because at the end of the day, it doesn't define you as a human bethis godforsaken university and all of the fashionista arseholes will one day ing. And if you decide that that person you've become isn't what you'd like, be behind you. But it's rather harder to then you've got an impetus to change get away from yourself. it. An excuse is not a way out. Espe-Want to know how to repel men at

cially if it's as feeble as IG's. sixty paces using fishnet tights and sexually-alluring footwear? Email If anyone else is reading this, following Imperial Girl's passages of wisdom someone else at ImperialGirl@ic.ac. like they're a new season of Sex and uk. Alternatively, choose the blue pill at anangrygeek@googlemail.com. A the City, then I implore you – just look at yourself and try to be someone you



you. And even if you did, it'd hardly be prostitute in the evenings. That's just Wise words A. Geek... wise words

"getting cosy

one while it's

cold outside is

eriously,I can see you reading

this right now and it makes

me feel good. Actually it was

the other day that I saw an-

other girl reading my column

in the Library Cafe, and I just got this warm fuzzy feeling. A little bit like the

one you get when you've drunk too

I am loving this time of year. The

with a loved

incredible"

is incredible. One problem, I have the (x2-they are on offer), I have the candles, the romcom DVD and the red wine - I'm just missing the guy. Okay girlies.. I will get one before long. Now is the optimum time to be getting a ask? Okay Christmas, NYE, Valentine's day... you need to get the guy now for optimum efficiency. I just love the feeling of being held close. You know, like when you are waiting for the bus and it's cold and he's got his arms around you keeping you warm. And when you are walking and you take your hand out of your pocket and he just grabs them and holds them close in his... My gosh! I am so soppy today! Let me go on: When he offers you his scarf when you say you're feeling the chill, when you drink hot choco in front of the TV at night, when he... boys i hope you are taking notes - I'm not dropping hints for nothing! Boys and Girls, we all know the 2 commandments. Thou shalt have fun in the time of High Sun (aka Summer). Thou shalt giveth your

Summer is for fun. Winter is for those relationships. Other things i love about winter is how everything around you seems so much more clearer. It's like the crisp cold sharpens your eyesight. When you're walking down the same road you do every morning to get to college, you suddenly realise the beautiful archeitecture. The other thing i notice is that girls make more effort to style their clothes. The other day i saw a girl whose hair look like she walked striaght out of a Loreal hair-colour advert, and she was wearing this turgoise winter cap. Oh so gorgeous. And i love these new tights girls around campus winter is fast approaching and the are wearing with boots. I like the way

commitment(eth) in the time of the

HIgh Moon (aka winter).

thought of getting cosy with a loved one while it's cold and snowing outside around 5.30pm. The smokey clouds that veil the bright full moon. The way M&S chocolate conflakes mini bites the leaves fall in spiralling motion off the trees. The christmas songs and gift adverts that come on TV. Hmm. Win-.....but but before I leave you, I

Imperial Girl loves Winter romance, hint, hint

ter is here soon my friends. would like to take this opportunity to boyfriend to snuggle up to. Why, you address some of the responses to the articles I have received over the past couple of weeks. Apologies if I haven't responded to your emails, please know that I read everything that is sent. One emailer who will remain anonomous quite elegantly commented, "Women like yourself are having a hard time working out the right balance between being a successful woman and an desirable woman. Unfortuantely, while women go for successful men, men are put off by successful women" - and it couldn't be truer. When I was around the age of 16/17 I forcibly pretended to be a bimbo around people especially guys. Showing a guy that you are headstrong doesn't always bode well. So here's my modified tactic at university. Step 1: Don't make obvious to the guy you like that you are headstrong or any other strong personality traits that you may possess. Step 2: figure out if you like him and if he can fit well with your personality. Step 3: if the answer is positive from Step 2, slowly lure him into understanding who you are. This way you'll only be revealing yourself to promising candidate, hence being more efficient. Gosh i love efficiency today... I must have turned German.

And to the article written by Anon to my first column that wrote "Imperial Girl is a Geek like the rest of us" I found it really hard to follow your argument or views. I am not entirely sure what I was reading, not in an offensive way of course... Let me know, IG (Im-



## **Alex da Flex** discovers the truth about doctors



"I got chatting to a girl who thought a visit to the doctors involved having every orifice violated for a lollipop"

The curtains are drawn in the consultation room and

your knees brought up to your chest. Your rare-end in the meantime is fully exposed to the coldness and you hear the snap of the rubber examination gloves as Dr. X playfully manipulates it onto his appropriate hand. You lie in wait, worryingly anticipating the inevitable as he rubs cold gel. Where he will enter you no man has gone before... This is just one of many descriptions I have encountered from patients and friends alike. Is it really the truth? Do docs really just stick their fingers where the sun-don't-shine as soon as you enter the room? Hell no. Medicine as a profession would cease to exist if that was common practice, for you would sue it for every penny Just last week, I got chatting to a girl on the train and she thought a visit to the doctors involved having every orifice violated for a lollipop. The hospital is NOT a porno set and guess what? Doctors sometimes even talk to you, put you at ease, find out what's wrong from the conversation before sticking anything in, up or down you.

Before the 70s, before the internet. before all the facilities that provided you with "health information". You used to believe the doctors, remember that? They have trained for over 10 years and all you see are the cracks do you really think you know more on the wall as you lay pa- from surfing the net for 20minutes? Do tiently on your side with you really think that every cough you

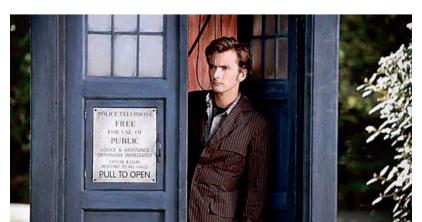
get is bronchial carcinoma? How times that these people then bring this type around next year. The funny thing is, in have changed. Now the media is filled with stories written by lay people who have never been to the doctors. Just the search so I picked it up again. Errrr, see other week, I read that smoking reduces your chance of getting some obscure syndrome Z. Yeah it might do according to an equally obscure study, where all subjects died from every other disease under the sun because they never got old enough to get syndrome Z. It's this type of junk in the media that drives me crazy. It's this type of junk that always appears in newspapers

the funny thing is Doctor, I'm coughing up blood, what do you think that's about?" Well, I don't think it's because of the excessive dietary spinach intake. A common misconception is that

of junk to their doctors. "Errrr, I heard

that smoking is good in the 'latest' re-

doctors sometimes get things wrong; therefore we should not believe what they say. They are only human after all. So I'm not going to take the blood pressure tablets because they might kill me. that require the literacy of a five year OK, let's investigate it then. Don't take old. Then what really hacks me off is your meds and let's see if you are still



Don't worry, this Doctor is 100% above board... hot too

Now my beloved engineers, if your clients ask you stupid questions and say absurd intellectually challenged things to you too many times to count, can you act in a civil manner? Or would you lose it? Well doctors can't do that you see. They need to hold onto their sanity and be empathetic, which in medical terms requires doctors to understand how intellectually deficient some patients can be and respect their wishes. One other thought, maybe that's why they are called patients; you need a lot of patience. As this article draws to a close, one must say that although the preceding views were strong, they are close to the

the face of such stupidity, doctors must

still be civil, calm and professional.

truth. Sometimes the truth is the most astonishing piece of information. But the bottom line is, the majority of patients are people undergoing suffering and deserve care and attention. It is a fine art to distinguish those who are ill from those who think they are ill, a skill unique to the medical profession and perhaps justifies the high costs of producing a doctor. Remember, the next time you go to see your doc, have a little trust and believe that maybe, just maybe, he or she will heal you without

Comment

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Friday 21 November 2008

## Amna Shaddad: "student socialism is annoying"

are not so popular, unlike the resistant scepticism of America; the scepticism against student socialism is perhaps more justified. If anything, the persistence of socialism amongst students if not at times seemingly uneducated, is simply of often rather simplistic notions of social change.

One of the mottos: 'long manifestos don't win struggles-practical unity does' I think sort of sums up what I'm trying to say. It gives the impression of people in a room coming to the conclusion-Of course we all agree that's really wrong!-Its placard making time!

They're with everyone and against everything-the first sentence of their pamphlet reads like an insurance sales (-and perhaps all politics is like this) 'whether in opposition to war, racism or privatisation'-we're the ones you want- this generality-of the more the merrier here seems far too socialisingstudent-inspired. Immediately all that is translated is Sheila Rowbotham's recollection of the all inclusive Oxford socialist students of the 80s who spent their meetings in pubs criticising the detrimental and fundamentally slowing effects of alcohol and women to

The soul of man under socialism gressing from poverty through com-

■ he notions of socialism munism suffer their criticisms despite obvious developments; take Cuba for example, surviving the American Blockade and the fall of the Soviet Union is desperate and struggling development personified.

But it is the repetitive and apparently pointless reappearance of student socialism that is annoying. We all know what they look like and can probably guess what they're going to say more or less, while I may seem hypocritical criticising their confidence and optimistic relentlessness in the face of ignorance, I honestly don't know that much of the effective history of student socialism beyond that of the contagious spread of the 'change the world' bacilli of the 60s, all that I realise is a

Communism is difficult, and a struggle, even more than Capitalism. The recessions and current credit crunch will inevitably be overcome, be it through socialist bail-out means or otherwise; and besides, Communism? - Here? Simply looking out of an Imperial building window onto the excessiveness, and extravagance that is Kensington and all who inhabit it, the

The only faith to have in western humanity, without wasting a lot of energy is only in its capitalist development may flourish. Those countries pro- and ultimately insatiable drive. Forget

Unplug and lend us your ears



oltaire once said: "I may not agree with what you believe, but I will defend to the death your right to

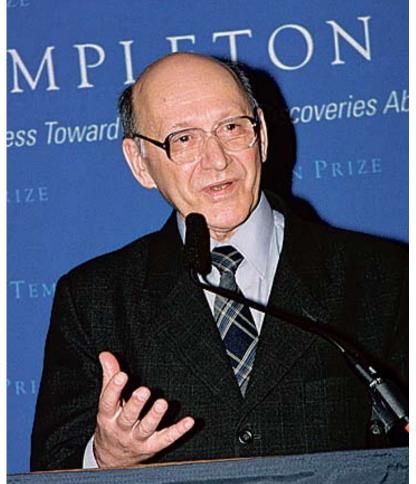
This pretty much sums up my attitude towards religion. As a scientist (and atheist), I just don't 'get' it. Religious people make me a little uneasy, but so do the militant clan of faithbashers - Dawkins, Dennett, Hitchens et al - with their fervent desire to see all forms of religion wiped off the planet. I know the majority of religious people are normal, and so I tolerate them, albeit sometimes through grit-

That tolerance ends, however, with philanthropic organisations such as the Templeton Foundation. This bloated American enterprise, founded by the late Sir John Templeton (a Presbyterian businessman who died earlier this year at the grand old age of 95), is dedicated, in the words of its website, to answering the "Big Questions" in life, by acting as "a catalyst for research on concepts and realities such as love, gratitude, forgiveness and creativity ... [and] questions on the laws of nature and the nature of the universe".

In plain English, this means blurring the boundaries between science and religion by throwing as much money in as many directions as possible. Think of it as a benevolent hippo, waving its tail around and flinging shit far and wide. Or an amoral arms dealer, selling weapons to both sides in a conflict. Except that the conflict in this case s inside minds and institutions, and Templeton has gone a step further to actively promote it.

Among its many ventures, the Templeton Foundation has a publishing arm - which reads like a catalogue of discredited creationist pseudoscience - and an array of lucrative prizes, including the Templeton Prize (full name: The Templeton Prize for Progress Toward Research or Discoveries about Spiritual Realities ... they don't do snappy).

The Prize, at \$2 million cleverly calculated to be worth more than the



One of the winners at the Templeton Prize

Nobel, is given to someone who has "made an exceptional contribution to affirming life's spiritual dimension" or, in the words of Richard Dawkins, "any scientist ... willing to say something nice about religion". The Foundation also gives out the "Epiphany Prize for Most Inspirational Movie", awarded in 2005 to the Passion of the Christ, a film that was more notorious for inspiring people to leave before the end.

More insidious, and less well-publicised, is the gigantic funding arm of the Foundation which gives out around \$70 million annually to scientists, research groups and institutions. Name a university - British or American - and odds are that it has received money in some form from Templeton.

Oxford got £1 million for its Centre for Science of the Mind, and the freemarket espousing Templeton College now Green College - changed its name in 1984 upon receipt of a "significant" sum of money from the Foundation. Cambridge's Theology Department gives out journalism fellowships to writers willing to "examine the ... creative interface between science and religion", and recently received \$3 million to research what the Foundation quaintly terms "the great debate" over the evolution of biological complexity.

In fact, the more prestigious the university, the more likely it is to have gained in some way from this leviathan. Harvard, Yale, Princeton, MIT ... the sition to abortion and stem-cell relist goes on. Even Imperial is not be-search, and recent donations in excess yond accepting money to study "Deep of \$1 million to push through Propo-Beauty...the Search for an Underlying Intelligibility of the Quantum World"; or "Science and Transcendence", which aims to find out the "nature, character and meaning of ultimate reality".

motto "Respect the Facts" - seems to see no inconsistency in giving out \$100,000 of Templeton's money in the scientist Sunny Bains has pointed out form of essay prizes, or allowing the elsewhere, this "subtle intrusion" of winner to speak at its functions. The religion into science could be the thin Michael Reiss controversy back in Sep- end of the wedge for a more sinister tember is another example of the re- presence in the future.

cent clash between faith and fact.

Perhaps it is sanctimonious to expect all these institutions not to take such a good source of funding; after all, Templeton's rise has coincided with a drop in government funding, both here and in the US. But studies have shown that researchers often, consciously or not, find the results their donors would like. This is why scientists have to declare conflicts of interest if, for example, they are working for a drugs company whilst testing a new medicine.

This should all be enough to set alarm bells ringing, but the British media has been eerily quiet on the issue of Templeton money. More strange still is, despite most of the UK press's distaste towards the US Republicans, almost no journalists have made the connection between Templeton's son, Jack, who now runs the Foundation, and his large donations to George W. Bush's campaigns in 2000 and 2004, and to John McCain's this year.

So what, you may be thinking; the and Obama's campaign haul far outstripped McCain's. But for a Foundation that preaches the benefits of scientific endeavour on the one hand, while giving oodles of cash to one of the most backwards post-enlightenment regimes with the other, the contradictions are telling.

This, together with a stated opposition 8 - an amendment to ban gay marriage in California – plus countless links to shady US organisations like the Discovery Institute, is why British universities should say no to Templeton's Even the Royal Society - with its money, at least until they have made their agenda absolutely clear.

Otherwise, as writer and Imperial

## Gilead Amit heads back to the Wild West



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"I'm back in town, and the most effervescent of apologies to you all for the period of lawlessness I so disgracefully abandoned you with"

feel like Gary Cooper halfway through the double doors of the saloon as the raucous, devil-may care atmosphere abruptly quiets down. The doors swing back on their piano ends discordantly as the pianist The game of poker stops mid-hand, as to restore the mood of hushed reverthe dealer looks over his shoulder, edgily chewing his hand-rolled cigarette from one side of his mouth to the other. The bartender quietly gathers the most valuable pieces of glassware and places them in assumed safety, somewhere out of sight.

'Didn't think ye'd dare shew yer heed 'round these parts again, sheriff', rings out a voice from a darkened corner a voice with the texture of sandpaper and the smell of a marinated shank of lamb left to hang in a pair of socks overnight. A solitary pair of spurs can be heard jangling from somewhere behind the clouds of smoke.

A gun is whipped out of its holster: a mirror shatters, men dive for cover beneath the nearest tables, bullets fly, a chorus girl screams from an upstairs bedroom, a chandelier collapses, one patron of the bar generously knocks limp body falls from the second floor landing. Though not necessarily in that The gunsmoke clears to reveal the

cigarette smoke. I blow nonchalantly on the barrel of my Colt .45, twirl it with consummate elegance around my index finger, pick it up off the floor and stick it back in its holster. I walk over to the dead body and solemnly down a glass of firewater. You could cut the tension in the room with a knife. Come to think of it, you could probably have

direction. A jolly ragtime beat on the nately no-one was there to try it, so to living alongside each other in cityou'll have to take my word for it.

A sentence is formed in an attempt ence so inappropriately broken. The crowded hall hangs on my lips as I look them over with cold indifference before turning and walking away. I stop at the double doors and say: 'The bad times are over.' And they are. I'm back in town; and

the most effervescent of apologies to you all for the period of lawlessness I so disgracefully abandoned you with. For letting the riffraff take over the streets, control the concourses and hijack the highways, with their disregard for good syntax, good grammar, logical rigour, self-consistency, good taste, relevance, humour, generosity of spirit, imaginative thought, and minimum standards of coherence. For dragging this li'l town through sheer linguistic hell, I can never forgive myself.

And I'm sorry to all of you who let the independence get to your heads, a fellow-drinker into the piano and a and thought the parents were out for the night. You ain't seen the last of me

There we go. A little apology, a touch of humour and we're all right again. Aren't apologies great? I'd say that they have to be one of my favourite inventions. Right behind bagels, the BBC iPlayer and those small buttons you press at zebra crossings to keep you occupied until the light decides it feels

Apologies are a wonderful con-

hinges as suspicious faces turn in my cut the tension with a brick. Unfortu- the transition from tribal habitation ies without some tool to indicate an admission of wrongdoing. Now using an apology to express regret is all very well in theory. But that's not how it comes out in practice. Like with everything else in this era of global recession and financial armageddon, the net worth of apologies has depreciated

> An apology is more of a way to soothe one's own conscience than anything else. A receipt that if presented often enough and loudly enough, in a sufficiently large variety of ways, will refund all grudges and exchange all potential unpleasantness for something more appealing. This cheapening of apologetic sentiments is largely the fault of the English, and their deliberate, large-scale undercutting of the excuses market. If, in a flight of Douglas Adams-ian imagery, work could be obtained from an Apology Drive, the Industrial Revolution need never have happened for Britain to lead the world in terms of energy production.

Because you really like your apologies in this country. Right behind meteorological inquisitiveness and sports-related self-deprecation, contrition is your favourite mindset. It's not that you necessarily have a lot to be apologetic about. It's not as though you ever have anything to be particularly thankful about either, yet supermarkets and banks, pharmacies and train stations, greengrocers' and museums up and down the land reverberate to the sound of the English apologizing for x or thanking each other for y. My Mediterranean impatience for meaningless, automated responses passed off as politeness makes me slightly nauseous every time one of your compatriots transforms an awkward silence into a diarrhoetic splurge of mindless small talk, liberally laced with the 's' word.

Don't be fooled into thinking it passes you off as a considerate people. You just acquire a reputation for being the worst and most awkward light conversationalists in the world.

If that seems a little harsh, I ap-hmm-



cept: people would never have made All right, y'varmints. Time to clean out this one-cat town.

#### Imperial College London



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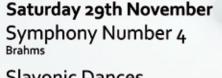
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Links: www.tda.gov.uk / www.imperial.ac.uk/outreach / www.erseitec.com



Saturday 22nd November

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Science

Science

Science Editors - Daniel Burrows & Mićo Tatalović

science.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Large waist almost doubles the risk of death

Catherine Luckin

Having a large waist circumference can almost double your risk of premature each year. The scientists believe the death, warned scientists from here at Imperial last week. A study of over 350,000 people from across Europe showed that even if you have a normal body mass index (BMI) and are therefore not considered overweight or obese, excess fat around the waist brings serious health risks.

Obesity is currently diagnosed by measuring BMI, which is known to be linked to mortality risk. However, this study suggests that the distribution of body fat may be more important than BMI. The scientists involved believe that doctors should also record patients' waist circumference and that this should form a part of regular health check-ups.

Imperial scientists, with colleagues across Europe, compared people with the same BMI and found a direct correlation between subjects' waist circumference and their risk of premature death. In fact, the risk almost doubled for people with a waistline considered to be large, compared to those with a small measurement. Waist-hip ratio is also an important indicator of health, with a lower ratio being associated with a smaller risk of mortality.

Obesity is on the rise and its nu merous health implications, includ-

within the 'diamond growth region.'

tequilla into Gold

Modern Alchemy: Turning

Jacob Aron

betes, are well publicised, as well as the estimated 30,000 deaths it causes increased mortality risk caused by excess abdominal fat may be due to the tissue releasing chemicals and

ing heart disease and type two dia-

messenger substances, such as hor-

mones, which contribute to the devel-

opment of chronic diseases including

cardiovascular diseases and cancers.

Although they did not investigate the

waistline than others, they believe that

a sedentary lifestyle, poor diet and

Professor Elio Riboli from Imperial said they were surprised that waist size had such an impact on people's health; "Although smaller studies have suggested a link between mortality and waist size, we were surprised to see the waist size having such a powerful effect on people's health and premature death. Our study shows that accumulating excess fat around your middle reasons why some people have a larger can put your health at risk even if your weight is normal based on body mass index scores."

genetic predisposition are significant



This guy no longer can find belts that fit... he requires a tape measure.

snails

Katie Wookey

Mexican scientists have discovered a way to turn tequila into diamonds. It turns out that the chemical makeup of the drink has a ratio of hydrogen, oxygen and carbon atoms which places it The scientists turned to tequila not

for its intoxicating quality, but because previous efforts to create diamonds from organic solutions such as acetone, ethanol and methanol had proved unsuccessful. They then realised that their ideal compound of 40% ethanol and 60% water was remarkably close to down the molecular structure. The tequila. Luis Miguel Apátiga was one of the researches from the National Autonomous University of Mexico: "To dissipate any doubts, one morning on as high-power semiconductors, radiathe way to the lab I bought a pocket-size tion detectors and optical-electronic bottle of cheap white tequila and we devices.

whether the great amount of chemicals present in tequila, other than water and ethanol, would contaminate or obstruct the process. It turned out to be not so. The results were amazing, same as with the ethanol and water compound, we obtained almost spherical shaped diamonds of nanometric size. There is no doubt; tequila has the exact proportion of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen atoms

The diamonds were made by heating tequila to transform it into a gas and then heating this gas further to break 100-400 nanometres in size. They could be used to coat cutting tools or



mmmm Tequilla.... Golden Tequilla

did some tests. We were in doubt over

necessary to form diamonds." result: solid diamond crystals, about



research means that humans and other vertebrates no longer have a monopoly when The Lancet it comes to 'handed' behaviour. Hayley Frend, a third year Nottingham undergraduate, spent her summer studying the sex life and genetics of the pond snail. The young researcher found that the handedness of the

Left handed

snail's mating behaviour is matched by an asymmetry in the brain which is determined by its mother's genes. Demonstrating that, like humans, pond snails are genetically programmed to use left or right hand sides of the brain. Pond snails usually have a right handed (dextral) twist to their shells, but occasionally it is left handed (sin-

istral). As dextral snails circle clockwise and sinistral circle anticlockwise, the 'mirror image' snails end up circling each other and the unlucky pair are frequently unable to mate.

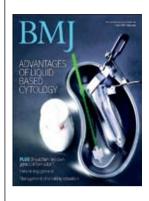
evolved multiple times emphasises its | stand the tinder-dry content. importance for animals," says Dr Andrew Davidson, Hayley's supervisor.



## **Podview**

**Felix Whitton** reviews medical podcasts

## **British Medical**



An interesting interview with Dr. Phil Hammond in a short podcast entitled 'We're British, we don't talk about sex' ('sex' being a euphemism, in this case, for genital warts; so by doing that we've already gone and confirmed our Britishness, haven't we?).

Dr Phil's recent article, published in the BMJ, about the hypocrisy of the NHS regarding the HPV vaccination - purporting to offer 'choice' while at the same time denying it by offering only one vaccine, produced by our favourite evil pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline - caused a bit of a fuss in the medical community, so he defends his thinking to BMJ editor Rebecca Coombes. Is this another case of government pandering to big-

We can't be sure, but their woefulness in dealing with the situation lent a hand to the Daily Mail's ongoing campaign of vitriol against all things NHS-y and good.

http://podcasts.bmj.com/bmj

## of Medicine



weekly podcasts summing health news

The Lan-

different guest discusses a particular issue, ranging widely across themes such as malaria funding, global health policy and cutting-edge research on MS treatments. Web editor Richard Lane presents and his guests range from the engaging to the fantastically dull. A good way of keeping up to date The fact that this specialisation has | with medical news, if you can with-



# Podcast of the Week

**Medical Matters:** 



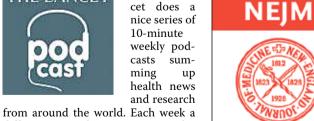
We couldn't have a Podview without a Radio 4 entry, and as usual Auntie is head and shoulders above the rest. Well-chosen stories introduced with a sense of humour - David Brent talking, wince-inducingly, about race: "You are half-and-half, aren't you?" "Mixed-race, yes" "That is my favourite. That's the melting pot, please" lead on to discussions on issues like the phenomenon of 'colour blindness' in US children, who refuse to mention someone's race when it is different to

We also get a round-up of current news, for example the new Mental Health Act coming into force this week - what will it mean for psychiatrists and patients? – plus a disturbing trend of suicides among ageing South Asian women in the UK.

If you're not keen on the specialist nature of the other podcasts, but still like to keep abreast of health news in society, this comes highly recommended

http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio/podcasts

## **New England Journal**



The New England Journal of Medicine is an American journal focusing on the research side of medicine and is therefore somewhat lacking in breadth. I would love to say that what it lacks in this department it makes up for in presentation, charm or even an interview or two...but sadly, it doesn't. Instead what you get is an annoying voice (American, female, but that's by-the-bye) reading, verbatim, article summaries from each month's edition of the journal. In a monotone voice. For 20 minutes. Yes, it is as boring as it sounds. And yes, they caused me so much anger for stealing those 20 minutes – valuable time, you understand, that I'll never see again that I won't be surprised if a couple of years was wiped off my life. And I hope they're happy.

http://content.nejm.org/misc/podcast.dt

Mico Tatalovic Science Editor

Now, you might wonder just what Russell Brand has in common with meerkats and unless he slept with somebody's granddaughter again you might be excused for thinking there is no link, really.

But the link is the BBC. What with this silly controversy over the BBC radio joke that's been all over the news in the last couple of weeks, many have criticised the BBC for wasting public money on offensive programmes. But how's this for a criticism: your money paid for a movie that's already showing in France, is scheduled in Germany, Belgium and Russia but its release date still TBC in the UK!

The Meerkats is a new BBC feature film about - you guessed it - meerkats, the highly social mammal from the deserts of south Africa. After success of the BBC's 'Meerkats Divided' and 'Meerkats United' from the early 1990s and the more recent global success of the Discovery Channel's 'Meerkat Manor' series it comes as a nobrainer that another meerkat movie would be a good thing to do: after all, people are getting tired of penguins. But there was controversy over this movie from the beginning.

It was scheduled for filming at the same time as Discovery's 'Meerkat British Baffoon Manor: Oueen of the Kalahari, vet another cheesy take on meerkats and a preguel to the Meerkat Manor series. Both Discovery and BBC wanted to



Russell Brand and The Meerkats

film at Cambridge's Kalahari Meerkat Project in South Africa, but only Discovery got permission and the BBC ended up filming on a site some 50 miles away, at Tswalu, the largest private wildlife park in South Africa. Tswalu had the advantage of having a variety of wildlife including rhinos, giraffes and honey badgers that are not present at the Kalahri Meerkat Project (which is set on ranchland). However, there were no tame meerkats there so BBC had to recruit some of the former volunteers from the Project, trained by Cambridge scientists for research purposes, to habituate the meerkats so that the BBC could film them from up close. With lots of money invested and a film crew from Oxford Scientific Films at the Project site, Discovery sent out privacy agreements to all the volunteers and scientists at the Project to sign. These basically forbid anyone from talking about Discovery's the Discovery crew had to communito see the film before we, license payproduction that was filmed with their cate via a single 52kb cable Internet ers, in the UK.



A family of Suricate... whatever that is.

help at the Project. Apart from a few connection with their team back home media sycophants, everyone refused to sign this document as research scientists doing their research did not want to get involved with the politics of the media production world.

In any case, the competition, or rather cold war, between the two film teams ensued because whoever managed to finish and release their film first would get the scoop: audiences probably wouldn't want to go and see two meerkat movies in a short time period. Ultimately, both films were finished at about the same time, although

How to Become

an Astronaut

(which they shared with 30 other people) whilst the BBC had a high-tech satellite internet connection, or so the rumour went. Both films were bought by the Weinstein Company and they apparently decided to do a cinema release of only one of the films, although both were originally conceived as feature films for cinema audiences. I guess the BBC movie was deemed better. That doesn't explain why it's not narrated by David Attenborough, but instead by the late Paul Newman... Or why audiences across Europe will get

# Stand-up comedy

As I sit down in the Soho Theatre, someone tries to hand me a programme. It's not an usher however, but Josie Long herself. "I'm sorry, do you mind sharing?" she beams, offering a collection of folded paper covered in her endearing and often hilarious scribblings. "Only I didn't photocopy enough."

Awww aren't they sweet?

This pretty much sums up Josie's approach to comedy. Her props are random objects from her personal life, she illustrates her points with handdrawn graphs, and invites a friend to embroider handkerchiefs live on stage for the entire evening. Throughout the act she will pause, correct herself, comment on how the jokes are being received and generally chat with the audience. It actually feels a bit like you are watching the director's commentary of a movie – whilst trying to watch the movie proper on a separate screen entirely

Josie's latest show is about her new found fascination for science. As a child she felt you had to pick a side between the arts and sciences. As she says, she went with the 'poetry and self harm crowd, because scientists are all 'nerdy virgins' - of course. Now that she's older however, she's realised there is no such need to close yourself off from science. She's been reading about all manner of subjects, from the Enlightenment to astronomy and whilst the show is far from a lecture it did send me scurrying to Wikipedia to read up on some of her references.

Many stand-up comedians appear constantly miserable, as if the world is all too much for them to take and only dry wit will sustain them. Josie on the other hand seems to find delight in every corner of her life, be it watching regional news reports, buying a bottle science works. You're unlikely to come away from of water or gazing into the heavens. Her enthusiasm is infectious, and you can't help but smile when you realise just how pleased she was with that last

simply adds to the appeal. The show is summed up with Iosie's views on science. It's not about coming up with an idea and saying "this is the

joke. This can mean that at times she is

forgets to finish the previous one, but

this slightly scatterbrained approach

truth for all time." Rather, you shoultake the view that "hey, it may not be perfect, but it's the best we know right now, and maybe someone will coming along and make it better in the future." A pretty good description of the way

'All of the Planet's Wonders brackets Shown in Detail close brackets' (as Josie calls the show) feeling that you've learnt something, but you will so eager to get to the next gag that she certainly have been entertained, and if you're lucky some of Iosie's bubbly enthusiasm might have rubbed off on you. Do go along - if you don't get to leave with one of the live embroidered handkerchiefs, you'll at least walk out with a smile on your face.



They're behind you...

#### The secret of becoming an astronaut is that you have to really, really, really want to be one. Oh yes - and to be considered for the European Space Agency's 2008 recruitment round currently in progress (they recruit only every 15

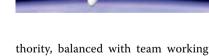
We were told this tonight by French astronaut Jean-Francois Clervoys during an event at the London Science Museum's Dana Centre. Three time shuttle astronaut Clervovs, who has spent 675 hours in space, was joined by a panel of experts in space history. medicine and psychology - to educate and entertain the forty or so of us who had volunteered for 'Space Station

years or so) you should also be at least

the right age and nationality.

with our Astronaut Training and Selection Manuals, we split into teams not falling out of the programme and to engage in a range of psychological, physical, and knowledge tests that were both fun and sufficiently taxing extremes. to give us a flavour of what the Right Stuff is all about.

Consider a potential manned flight to Mars for example. As it takes 20 minutes for communications to travel from Earth to Mars, a problem on the spacecraft cannot be fixed via an iterative chat with the engineers back time through good planning and au-



and individual respect.

As it turns out, you don't need to be super-human to be an astronaut. You will typically be 27-37 years of age; not because you automatically die in space after age 37, but rather your sponsors are looking for a sensible number of working years for their investment. After that it helps to have a PhD in a relevant discipline, to be able to speak Russian, to pass a raft of psychological It wasn't all one way though. Armed tests, and to be reasonably fit. Again, your career with ill health, rather than the ability to withstand physical

> Those selected move onto an 18 month basic training in Europe, the USA, and Russia. Then you're on your way to the dream.

And that's how the memory of the adventure seemed to Jean-Francois as he described the effect of dimming the shuttle's cabin lights with the sun and home, so our psychological test was earth behind the spacecraft, and lookbuilt around getting things right first ing at the "milky way like a highway" in the total blackness of space.

# What spam really means

People who buy spam pills are morons, but how much of society do they represent? *felix* does the maths

Those who scan the Technology pages of the BBC for fun probably saw the delightfully ingenious study into the mechanics of spam. Yes, that's spam of the aetherial electronic variety, rather than the indiscriminate meat sort.

If you've ever wondered how the hairy-palmed vandals laying siege to vour inbox make money out of their endless barrage of exhortations for this pill, that degree, or those ladies, look no further than the aforementioned spam report. You can find it at www.icsi.berkeley.edu/pubs/networking/2008-ccsspamalytics.pdf. I won't spend much time reviewing the study here, pointing you instead to the BBC coverage or, better, the original article: I'd highly recommend having a read of it – it's well-written, accessible, and entertaining, representing a study much in the vein of Freakonomics.

Briefly, the authors managed to insinuate themselves into the Storm botnet, a sophisticated network of infected computers, operated remotely by a few master computers. Following ethical principles to the letter, they hijacked a portion of the botnet, covering their tracks to avoid discovery by the botnet administrators, and replaced the original outgoing spam messages with ones of their own, directing the hapless recipients to a site the authors had set up. A number of campaigns were run, including one where the end site nominally sold pharmaceutical products of the blue variety. By monitoring how many visits they got to the site from the original spam recipients and seeing how many visitors attempted to purchase pills, the researchers were able to quantify the profitability of spam campaigns, and to infer the likely size of these operations. Turns out that the profit margins are probably rather meagre, so don't start making lists of all your Facebook not-really-friends quite yet – though it might be satisfying to get payback for all those sodding vampire invitations, making money from this ploy has all the prospects of a stone-transfusion blood-bank.

However, there are plenty more interesting little nuggets in this study

**Kurt Osyzs** than the authors had the space, or possibly gall, to analyse. However, I know no such bounds, and so am leaping at the chance to read far more into the data than I suspect the authors would be comfortable in, and to grace the august pages of Felix with some original research on plagiarised results. There'll

My first attempt centred on the fact that the results were global, offering some apparently entertaining comparisons of different countries' susceptibility to spam. However, I was unable to obtain a world gullibility index: the spoil-sport authors caution against using response rates as a method for inferring "degrees of cultural or national interest in the particular promises or products conveyed by the spam", instead suggesting it is due to regional differences in the quality of spam filtering, and anti-spam education. A shame, as it would have been funny to issue scurrilous remarks about Bulgaria, Pakistan and India, and to note the heightened interest in France for pharmacy related spam (and conversely the curious lack of it in the States) - does the libidinous reputation require prop-

However, even if hopes to analyse regional differences are dashed, there's hope yet on the global scale - I put it to you this study offers an unrivalled opportunity to study world idiocy. I'll be propping up this contentious claim with some very shaky assumptions, and dubious maths, and will unapologetically try to point this out where I do, hoping a brazen approach will get you unwittingly to the end this "study" before it all becomes too much, and you throw this paper away in disgust.

Commencing with what we know from the original study – the authors send out many spam emails, of which a number A (82,700,000) got to a valid address. These are then sent either to spam folders or inboxes, in unknown numbers, which we denote by B and C respectively (Ooh, doesn't that sound scientific!). Due to all that, the researchers' website received a number of visits E (10522, which doesn't include crawlers), of which a number G stowing a status of "weirdly curious, (28) were "converted" – an attempt was

0.131

Domain /	% of	5 min Google:	Infiltration of
filter name	emails	Free?	inbox (%)
	Тор	10, mostly free	
Hotmail	8.47	Yes	0
Yahoo	5.05	Yes	0.00173
Gmail	3.17	Yes	0.00683
AOL	2.37	Yes	n/a
Yahoo.in	1.13	Yes	n/a
Sbcglobal	0.93	Yes	n/a
Mail.ru	0.86	Yes	n/a
Shaw.ca	0.61	No	n/a
Wanadoo	0.61	No	n/a
Msn	0.58	Yes	n/a
Def. free:	22.56	Average:	0.00285

Table 1: Free and commercial domains, and their spam-filtering effectiveness

Barracuda

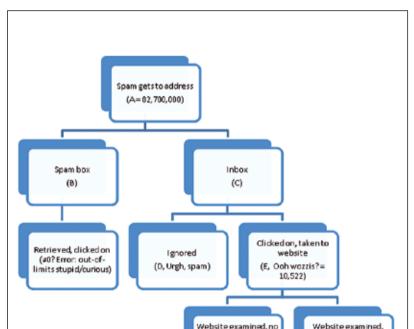


Figure 1: Quantities, where known, from the original research are shown. Unknown quantities are determined in the text. Except for B. which is left as an exercise to the reader. Fat chance.

(F, Pathologically curious=10,494)

made to pay for pills. I've taken the liberty of putting this information in a chart, Figure 1 (awarding self star for geekiness), and take this point to explain the assumptions I'm making elsewhere in this chart. I'm going to try to determine the fraction of the population those 28 represent. And I'm going to callously equate those 28, as insensitively as only the youthfully virile can, with imbeciles. Uncharitable - perhaps they can't use the normal ways to surmount the problems the pills address – but I'm flint-hearted: it's poltroons like them who make spam profitable, and open my college inbox o almost 400 daily missives of bilge.

Having justified the numerator, let's look at the denominator. I'll restore karmic balance by munificently bebut not idiotic" on those who clicked on the spam's link, but didn't attempt to order pills (F). Yes, this is generous, and does not allow us to quantify for the virile morons, who probably belong in the numerator. Tough - they probably contribute to the gene pool, and it gives me one of the terms in my denominator. To this number, we also need to add the idiots (for correct normalisation, muggins), and D, the number of those who saw the spam in their inboxes, but who ignored it. To express this mathematically, the Idiot Index I.I. = G/(F+G+D). You've reached Equation 1: 1up, or eat a mushroom.

Unfortunately, to know D, we need to know C, the number of messages free represent 22.6% of email addresses made it to the spamees' inboxes (what fat-tailed distribution, so saying that topic, left aside, but if present, this may a silly plural). Which we don't. Note including all providers, not just the top have implications for our findings – l I'm making another assumption here, namely that no-one is dumb enough to have gone to a folder labelled spam and clicked on messages inside. Rash, as that sort certainly belong in our will have fewer users, and thus fewer numerator, but this is utterly unquantifiable, whereas torturing the original research Madsen-like will yield C.

Table 1 (I'm going all out here) summarises the top 10 ranking email domain names spam was sent to, together with the fraction of spam sent to that domain. I've also included a column on

whether the domain is free, for reasons which will soon become apparent. To monitor what happened to the spam after it was sent by the botnet, the researchers cunningly set up some fake email addresses at the top 3 webmail providers (no surprises: Hotmail, Yahoo and Gmail), and others at their department, filtered through a commercial spam-filter, Barracuda, apparently with slightly more permissive spamtagging than default settings. The third column indicates, where applicable, the percentages of messages sent to those accounts which ended up in the inbox: inbox infiltration. Note that the commercial spam-filter (right at the bottom of the table) performs much worse than the webmail accounts.

(G, Silly Mr. Floppy

Anyway, I'm going to take a simple binary approach, based on the difference between the webmail and commercial spam filter, and assume that this difference is due to resources alone – the more email addresses a provider represents, the more resources it is able to dedicate to sifting out spam. So free webmail providers, who represent many users, are very good at keeping users' inboxes clean. If that sounds too simplistic, this next bit is really going to grate: We're going to estimate the number of emails reaching inboxes, C, by adding the product of number of inboxes with inbox infiltration for both the free and the commercial providers. Very messy in practice, this. Of the top 10 providers, those which are definitely targeted. This might well be a rather 10, will take this number only up to don't see any indication the authors 25% is very foolish. But invoking the re- wrote the spam in any languages other source argument above again, if we go than English. But here we cite the presdown the rankings, these free domains resources to devote to spam filtering, so their infiltration values will be more akin to the commercial, thus belonging in that term: our division into free and commercial is really based on filtering

efficiencies, after all. Doing the maths, if 25% of A went to there's one sixth of a sucker born every free domains, which have an average in-

in Figure 1. Subtracting E from C to get D, and plugging it into Equation 1, with the previously known quantities, we find the Idiot Index is 0.068%. We could leave this there, but that's not headline material, and I'm on a roll, or at least a bun. The present world population W, which we round to 6,710, 000,000 and the globally average birth rate X (20.18 babies / 1000 of population / year), which we can multiply to find the number of people born every year. Ooh, let's include a factor Y, to work out how many of those make it out of infancy: we only care about people old enough to use a computer and a credit card. We get this factor from the infant mortality rate Z = 42.09 deaths / 1000 live births. So the infancy survival factor Y will be (1000-42)/1000,

filtration (worked out from the average of the top 3) of 0.00285%, 589 emails

will have got through to the free inbox-

es. Now for those with commercial-

like infiltration values. They represent

75% of A – but what should we use as

their infiltration? We only have 1 data

point, which represents a filter with

permissive settings! Ha, we scoff at this

and whack a factor of 0.5 in front of the

commercial infiltration of 0.131%, to

simulate improved filtering due to less

permissive settings, and find 40626

emails reach commercial inboxes; by

far the dominating contribution, and

grossly sensitive to our fudge-factor.

But a reality check reveals that the total

number of emails reaching inboxes, C,

is 41215 - a number larger than E, so

we've not managed to trash the model

Multiplying W with X and Y, we find the present rate of birth of people who make it through infancy is 129 million per year, or 245 per minute. Let's call this number M. (Nice and in the middle - we've covered both ends of the alphabet now, and screw Greek or He-

Let's just step back, and mention a couple of other assumptions we're just about to make. The first is that M comes from global averages, and will encompass mostly people without access to credit cards and the internet. So combining that with the results of our earlier investigation may seem grossly unfair. But let's note the original research showed fairly good global coverage, with less of a North-South / rich-poor country skew than might be

So let's gloss over this access issue in a Panglossian fashion, assuming the best of all possible worlds, where intelligence (and hence the lack thereof) is all nature, no nurture, where the genepool is uniformly distributed across all nations and all socioeconomic backgrounds so that a sample of intelligence in one segment of society extends to all

We're also assuming no correlation between intelligence and language spoken. An interesting, if controversia ence of many countries where English is not the native tongue – eg France. Phew, enough prevarication, let's cut

to the chase, and multiply our birth rate M with our idiot index I.I., as you've all been waiting for. The result. dear Reader? An update of the old saw, oft attributed to P.T. Barnum: turns out

Culture & The Arts

Arts Editors - Caz Knight, David Paw and Emily Wilson

Budding culture vulture? Write for us. arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## Book review pending

**Emily Wilson** 

Arts Editor

ast time I promised you a book review. The sad thing is that between my last stab at editing and now, I have not finished a book. I'm still reading the 900-page door-stopping epic that is The Mitfords, which is a collection of letters between the Mitford sisters of upper-class, eccentric, Nazi-loving fame. It's a brilliant book which has been making me laugh, cry and think all at once but I've been reading it for months and I'm only 500 or so pages in. I'm not sure I'll ever finish it, particularly given that I keep picking up more accessible material to read alongside it. Currently, I'm on a rather good sociobiological/anthropological number about human evolution. The chapter on the evolution of human sexual behaviour is particularly delectable

The question that I just know is on your lips, as always, is: what have I been up to if not reviewing books? Well, this past weekend I went and saw the Rothko exhibition at Tate Modern for a second time. I hope you all paid attention to my previous review of the exhibition and have already gone to see it. No? You ignored me? Harsh. It's a great exhibition! Go see it!

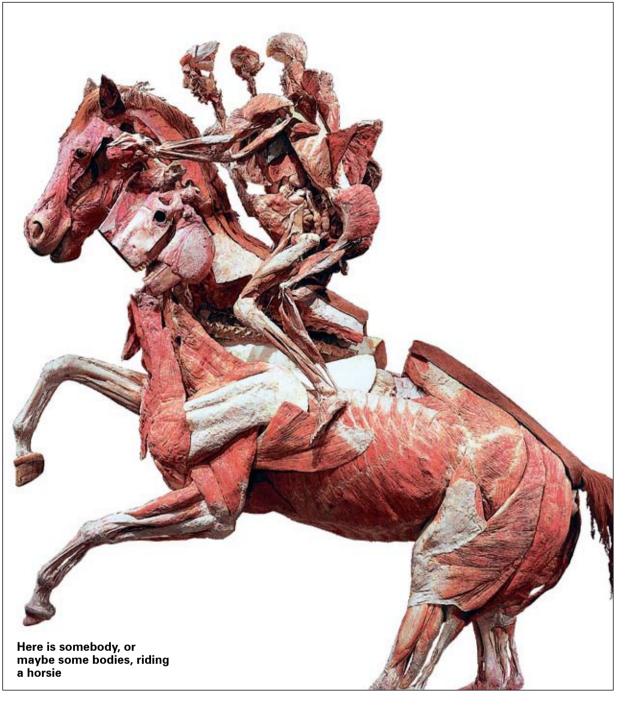
Now normally I would only go to an exhibition once, but this one was even better the second time round. I picked up on so many different things I hadn't

pletely different experience. Before. my favourites were the black-on-black bunch at the back of the exhibition. This time I was less keen in comparison to my renewed passion for the 'Seagram Murals'. They were beautiful and I have no idea why I didn't adore them as much the first time. So I guess the moral of this story is not only that Rothko rocks, but also that art just gets better and better the more you experi-

While I was at the glorious artistic Mecca that is the Tate Modern, I wandered round the new Turbine Hall installation by Dominique Gonzalez-Foerster. This can be summed up as sci-fi geek art. Ms Dominique has produced a futuristic dystopia made up of giant spiders, glowing green lights and evacuation shelter beds. The beds are littered with sci-fi books and the screen at the back shows snippets of scenes from sci-fi movies.

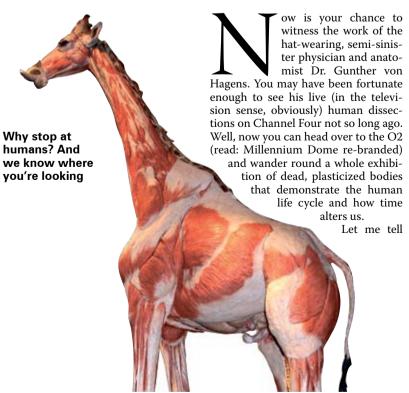
It's surreal and funky, like the dorky library-dwelling kid you went to school with all grown up and taking over the world. Pretty awesome, though it couldn't hold a candle to that big crack in the floor from last time, which I basically wanted to have the babies of.

Many thanks to all those who keep sending in articles without us having to beg for it. We love you, yes we do, and we apologise if we can't print them all. As always, if anybody else would like to noticed the first time and so many of contribute, we will welcome you with my opinions changed. It was a com- open arms at arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk



# Plastinated corpses as an art form?

Emily Wilson gets up close and personal with some dead bodies and the free radicals coming to kill us all



you right now: don't go to this ex- stand like normal people who just haphibition if you're squeamish or have fainting inclinations. It really is an entire exhibition of bits of dead bodies. Though at the same time I did find the bodies oddly unrealistic. The plastination process used to preserve the subjects (which is well explained inside the exhibit) leaves them looking like somebody did actually craft them out of lumps of flesh-coloured plastic. The skin or facial characteristics, so they life cycle and how time make them individual. In some cases it and the process of aging. It kicks off at fall apart after we hit 30. Even in our and display after they died.

pen to have no skin. I also noted that the vast majority of the figures possess a penis and a set of testicles dangling from stringy anatomy you can hardly believe supports them. Yes, there were a few female bodies, whose skinned breasts almost made them more unsettling to see but the men dominated. I would be interested to know if this is

due to an imbalance in the people who process also leaves the bodies without donate themselves to Dr. von Hagens. The general idea of the exhibition lack any distinguishing features that is to demonstrate the passage of time could be the same body over and over conception. Here you can see a whole again in different poses. I had to re-range of foetuses starting at a fleck of

(the legal cut-off for abortion here in the UK), and even before, a foetus looks like an actual person, complete with fingers and toes. For me this beginning was the most unsettling part of the whole exhibition.

The rest of the exhibition carries on through life, from childhood through adolescence and into old age. There is a great deal of focus on the damage aging does to the human body. There are joints from arthritis sufferers and tumour-ridden internal organs demonstrating perfectly how we graduall early 20s our brains are beginning their gradual decline. A highlight for me was mind myself constantly that these used a cell ball you can barely make out, a feature on how eyesight fails and how to be living, breathing people who vol- all the way up to birth. A highlight is some of our famous artists probably unteered themselves for plastination the dead body of a pregnant woman, developed their characteristic styles lying down casually and sectioned so through their inability to see clearly; There are several things I noticed you can see how the baby sits inside Monet's blurry oil paintings being a about the bodies. Firstly, despite lack her. The foetuses affected me more case in point. A plastinated body holds of facial skin, they all retain their eye- than I would have expected. I'm a firm a paintbrush and easel and stands at brows, evelashes and lips and have all believer in pro-choice and I believe a canvas to accompany this section. been given glass eyes. I found this over- strongly in a woman's right to abort There is a cheap print of Monet's 'Wawhelmingly creepy. Like something out an unwanted child. But coming face to ter Lilies' strapped to an artist's easel, of a horror movie, they are dead but face with these foetuses did make me which I was amused to see attracting can stare at you with expression. They see the pro-life argument – at 24 weeks the attention of two women. "Is that

Arts

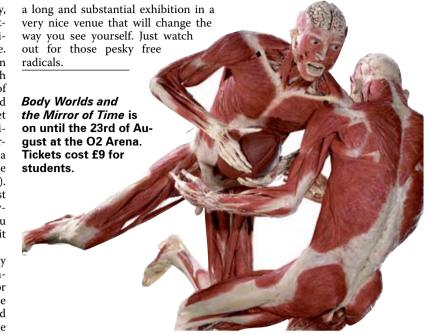
The exhibition did at times take on a preachy slant. It had a tendency to rattle on about how it's all our own fault that our bodies decline and showcased an excess of lungs ravaged by smoking. I got fed up of constantly being told to eat healthily, get lots of exercise and give up my excesses. But on the bright side, it did also emphasise, in the centennial village section, how we can beat time and live active and happy lives well into our eighties and nineties. I'm sorry to say there was a display entitled 'sexy at sixty', suggesting that even people in their sixties and seventies are able to enjoy fulfilling sex lives, defying the minor issues of erectile dysfunction and feminine lubrication. And there were pictures. I

basically had to wash my eyes out with bleach after reading that bit.

Additional highlights were the presence of a plastinated horse and a giraffe in the exhibition. The horse was being ridden by some plastinated humans, and was demonstrating how similar all mammals are inside. The difference is merely scale. I can't quite recall the purpose of the giraffe, but it was certainly impressive. Like most of the human bodies, this giraffe was male and offered the chance to observe that its reproductive regions were indeed in proportion. I will also note that its arsehole was particularly huge.

To criticise the exhibition, it did tend to stray from the purely scientific. The bodies were often contorted into more artistic positions, arms out-stretched. In line with the exhibition title 'The Mirror of Time, there was a display of two bodies floating through the air, twisting around each other and holding a mirror up. Why, Dr. von Hagens? Why? What purpose does that serve? There was also quite a lot of arty, farty photography and poetry diluting the lessons in anatomy and medicine, which didn't sit well with me. The worst crime of all was the section on free radicals, operating too much along the 'Dr.' Gillian McKeith line of thought. A helpful video demonstrated how the free radicals are coming to get **the Mirror of Time** is us. This video portrayed a free radical as a floating cloud glowing different colours which wafted towards a big round cell (the free radical and the cell were approximately the same size). When the free radical bumped against the cell, the cell turned grey and shrivelled up and died. But don't worry! You can stop this happening by eating fruit and vegetables!

Aside from this bewildering display of pseudo-science, I would recommend the exhibition – and not just for the medics among you. It's a valuable and entertaining opportunity to find out what's inside us all and what time



#### is doing to us. For your money you get Dr von Hagens gives new meaning to shirts vs skins

# Walking on a cloud at Tate Modern

#### Leonardo Ramirez, while finding out more about Cildo Meireles, takes his socks off and wears a mask

here is something very democratic about Cildo Meireles. He is neither a snobbish art elitist nor the commercial type who will paint-to-order so to please clients/art an installation about prohibition. dealers. His art is provocative, practical and a pleasurable experience.

As you enter the first room, conventional ideas of space are challenged. This was really the low point of the exhibition as I am not a fan of opt art. But it gradually became more interesting. A bundle of 100 cruzeiros, sold for 20 times that amount, is displayed. A topical issue which begs the question; "Are banknotes worth the paper they are written on?" Living under the increasingly authoritarian Brazilian dictatorship of the seventies, he used the same medium to protest against the repression, writing political messages on banknotes. In the next room, there is

Walking on broken glass, surrounded by rope barriers, doors and barb wire, you really feel as though you are breaking the rules as you wander around the maze. 'Missions' is both aestheticallypleasing and a political statement. A thin column of communion wafers connects a floor covered with one penny coins and two thousand bones hanging from the ceiling. The former represents the commercial interest of the Iesuit missionaries and the latter

the consequences of the Christianisation they carried out in parts of Argentina, Paraguay and southern Brazil. A circular tower of radios, all tuned to different frequencies and aptly called 'Babel', seems to be alive.

But perhaps the best piece is 'Fontes.' The whole room is densely packed with only three objects: the floor is completely covered with small vinyl numbers, the walls are densely packed with clocks and the space is crammed with long, wooden rulers hanging from the ceiling. Upon closer inspection, you can see that the order of the numbers in the clocks and rulers seem to be random and the spacing between the 'units of measurement' arbitrary. As if

this was not enough to overwhelm you, the whole experience is enhanced with ticks for music. After a while there, you begin feel that time and space are

My favourite installation of the whole exhibition was, however, 'Volatile'. While queuing (yes, it is worth it) you can read a disclaimer and some recommendations – you have to wear a mask and take your socks off, some people with respiratory conditions are advised not to enter. The floor of the U-shaped room is covered with about 25 centimetres of powder and the room is pitch dark except for a small candle at the far end. The sensation of walking along is much better than the fine sands of the Caribbean or the Indian oceans or the sand dunes of certain deserts (maybe because only our sense of touch is being stimulated). Did you ever feel like walking on a cloud? This is as close as you can get. By the way, if you have ever skydived you would know clouds are not as pleasant as they look.

One word of advice: do not tackle your friends, otherwise you will be escorted out of the building by the secu-

Cildo Meireles is on until the 11th of January at the Tate Modern. Tickets cost £8 or free with gallery admission concessions



This is entitled "Red Shift: 1 Impregnation 1967-84". I can see where the red shift bit comes from, but "impregnation"?



## Monkey: Journey to the West

#### **Kieron Stopforth** journeys to the O2 to discover Jamie Hewlett and Damon Albarn's remake of a Chinese classic

West is an ancient stone egg who, after causing havoc in Heaven, annoys Buddha and then has to assist a Holy Man in retrieving some Buddhist scrolls from the West (India, not evil capitalist West). The journey is hundreds of miles long with plenty of trials thrown in for good measure. So the cheeky and strangely camp monkey meets up with a Holy Man, a horse (who can't talk), a pig (who can) and, as far as I could make out, a green man and off they go roaming westwards, being tested by Chinese dragons, fiery mountains and a slightly dominatrix-esque lady with a

The story has been rewritten as a modern opera by Damon Albarn (of Blur and Gorillaz fame), the music fus-

onkey: Journey to the Gorillaz 'take' too, which is very cool. If that isn't enough, the players are from a Chinese circus who apparently spent most of their early lives stood on their heads (and other people's heads at that) as there are some seriously phenomenal acrobats in this show. So you have a brand new opera, written by an established pop-hero, acted and sung by Chinese superhumans, cool Gorillaz styling with a rich story and it's all in Chinese (with subtitles).

Now whilst all of this stuff is excellent and done pretty well in isolation, it was hard to feel as if the elements really ever combined to their full potential. Firstly, although the source book is rich and long, the opera just skims over it and at some points it's hard to know what is going on (hence not being able to tell who the green man is). Also, there are some serious plot holes – like the massive build-up to an encounter es classic Chinese sounds with modern with an evil, face-eating army, which electronic to interesting effect and the never really kicks off properly and then style of the characters and sets has a the token bad guy just sort of walks off.

There are some moments that leave you asking: what just happened? I want some proper vanquishing, dammit! Secondly, although the stage combat is exciting at several times and makes

good use of the players, it never really explodes and is unfortunately less Ong-Bak and more interpretive dance. Finally, whilst the music is new and interesting, it's never really classic nor memorable, which is a real shame.

There are a lot of good points and good reasons to see this - conceptually it's great and it's new and exciting. The Gorillaz take on everything adds a modern slant to a classic Chinese story. It's not rubbish. It is a cool modern opera, it really is, and there is good stuff in here. The trouble is, it's not amazing

Monkey: Journey to the West is on until the 5th of December at the O2 Arena.



Fei Yang as Monkey (dressed in yellow in the centre) and the cast taking a bow at the O2 Arena

# A midsummer night's frolics

#### Benedict Fraser hot-foots it to Footsbarn for our favourite Shakespeare play

ry Demetrius, who is in mia loves Lysander and he feels the same. Meanwhile, Helena is in love with Demetrius. That night, faced with an ultimatum from the king, Hermia and Lysander elope to the forest. Demetrius follows Hermia, Helena follows Demetrius. Into the woods they all go, where in the silvery moonlight the magical Oberon holds sway with his wife Titania and their slave Puck. And it just so happens, on this night of nights, that an acting troupe are rehearsing their romantic tragedy amongst those same trees; Bottom tries to persuade Peter that he should play every part. Faeries dance. Who will fall in love, and with whom? Or is

it all just a fantastic dream? A park in East London. Trees and a tent. We are ushered into a space where quietly excited theatregoers mill and hum under draperies of leaves. The expectation is palpable. All around; leaning, gesturing, with assured humanity, we are the arbiters of our collective experience. Through again into a lofty amphitheatre; a broad stage (a bold statement) brought to life by the faces

ncient Athens. Hermia's on to a dancing mushroom). Body father wants her to mar- language both touching and hilarious oozes from the characters. Helena sighs and we fall in love with one so tender; one resigned look from Peter at the exasperating Bottom and we have seen it a thousand times. These actors have our hearts without saying a word, such that the exquisite poetry, once it comes, is more meaningful and beautiful. Also, crucially, because we are not straining to keep up with the dialogue we are able to relax and actually be

The set (more-or-less one broad. gnarled tree), though in concept simple, works to great effect in the atmospheric and intimate tent theatre. Visible to the side of the stage, and completely in keeping with it, is a small group of musicians: saxophone, oboe, drums, and, I'm sure, a sitar. They looked like they've been stranded there since 1969, grooving to an eclectic mix of styles. On costumes, these people do not skimp. Demetrius and Lysander are grotesque, comically vying for superiority when their interests collide. Tragedians' masks portray the austerity of Athens; once in the magical woods the masks are comic, mischievous works of art. Puck, with maracas

#### "This wonderful cast deliver genuine, selfless performances"



raised towards it, by the steady ebb and flow of the assembled revellers. Who said Shakespeare was a dweeb?

Welcome to Footsbarn's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. These are no ordinary theatregoers: the average age is well below thirty, the company are warm and welcoming and there is a definite sense that this is a

cool place to be. This is no ordinary theatre experience: wave goodbye to your nights spent in gilded West End prosceniums, to self-important actors spewing grandiose Pinter and Chekhov before is very difficult to hear. This causes a an apathetic crowd. This uniformly dip in momentum, but such is the vivid wonderful cast deliver absolutely genuine, selfless performances and really connect with the audience. In doing so, they shed light on the true spirit of Shakespeare, so often obscured by less humanity, restores our faith in rushed delivery or static body lan- life on a cold winter evening. Oh and guage. The bard must have been, first, there's free food afterwards. Will not an entertainer, but it is hard to see him gaining such popularity as he now enjoys based on many modern stagings. Footsbarn cut down the script consid- A Midsummer Night's Dream is erably and give free rein to the quality on until the 30th of November at and quantity of physical emotion displayed on stage (I lost my heart early **£15 for students**.

and a lovable bumbling glint in his eyes, expresses himself almost solely with a single noise.

These touches of aesthetic joy grow on you throughout the evening, and despite the two hours with no interval, I can honestly say I was never bored. One toddler did get a bit restless and, ambling curiously across the front of the stage, was almost the star of the show. The actors took her into the

A few niggles remain: Titania's diction is rushed, and much of her speech characterisation and physicality of the actors that the effect is minimised. However, such weaknesses are hard to find in a show which, with its bound-

Footsbarn Theatre. Tickets cost

Film Editors - Zuzanna Blaszczak and Jonathan Dakin

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# Plenty of action...

but a 'Payne-ful' lack of plot in Mark Wahlberg's newest film proves yet again that PC games don't make for great movies

Max Payne ★★☆☆

Director: John Moore Writer: Beau Thorne & Sam Cast: Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis, Ludacris Beau Bridges

Jonathan Dakin

Max Payne (Wahlberg), a cold-case investigator, is dragged into the world of death and destruction by the murder of his wife and child. Whilst continuing to search for the murderer so he can exact revenge, the arrival of a strange and dangerous new drug on the streets of New York temporarily distracts him from his vendetta. After two murders, both directly involving him, Max finds himself caught up in something bigger than he imagined, and with the help of Mona Sax (Kunis), a gun-toting dominatrix, they try to take down the people responsible for these deaths across the city.

The film starts off well, building an interesting and involving plot, before quickly descending into chaos. Many plot points are left unexplained or unresolved, and the many stock characters and locations are briefly introduced through clunky dialogue and obvious exposition. What begins as a crime thriller soon becomes supernatural, and without being well explained, it is hard to know what the



is (except for looking cool). Wahlberg, who usually delivers a solid performance, seems bored and uninvolved, whereas rapper Ludacris

struggles to be believable as a character or as an actor. The best performances in the film are by Kunis and current Bond girl Olga Kurylenko, both being evocative and seeping sex but at the same time being strong and powerful women. It is a shame that they were not in the film more.

Although the film plods along much like any other action-thriller, there is nothing original or unique about it, except for the amazing cinematography. The film is extremely well shot and looks amazing, the backgrounds and set pieces instantly creating a point of having demons flying around creepy and dark mood. The atmos-

phere is one of the film's strongest points, as are the fun and clever acon sequences, which involve very slick and stylish slow motion shots. If you ignore the standardised poor plot, the film is actually okay, especially for a film based on a computer game. I found it mainly enjoyable. and was not bored at any point in the film. It is just a shame that with a better script the film could have been so much better, perhaps one of the best films of the year. But this is not the case. It is a very same-y, usual action-thriller that is all style but no substance. Action film fans and Mark Wahlberg fans may enjoy it, as well as those who appreciate cinematography, but for anyone else I would strug-

# Film Cynic Clinic

Following on from last time's homage to cinema, this week we take a surreal and occasionally nonsensical look at the impact that the DVD format has had upon the industry.

version of Terminator 3?

There were disadvantages too, such as the volatile human memory, which was easily corrupted by external influences: Titanic's "Iceberg, dead ahead!" becoming "Iceland, dead ahead!", a classic example of frozen food shop interference. This, coupled with a blatant disregard for the accompanying soundtrack (Papa Joe could only do Arse-Trumpet), led to the development of more effective media for storing and viewing films. In the late 1990's, the

So what were the advantages of DVDs? Well for starters there was the enhanced picture quality, which was frankly guite marvellous compared to video cassettes. To really appreciate it all you needed to do was invest in a new six-figure television, complete with those oxygen gold-plated hermitically-sealed cables. If, like most of the population, you weren't able to do that

then you could still enjoy DVDs too. They would just look and sound like VHS. Other benefits included duallayer discs. One side was the film plus bonus extras, whilst the other doubled as a handy coaster.

But the biggest difference with DVDs had to be the introduction of the unskippable copyright notice. With a good old-fashioned tape, the start of the video was always a wildly flickering collection of ancient adverts, random clips from your parents wedding, and white noise. Yes, you never really saw the first five minutes of any film as the fast-forward button always got stuck but at least you could fast forward. Now we are subjected to a TV licenceesque lecture reminding us how we're

Still all is not lost. It's been a few years since the first DVD, prices of equipment and films have been falling consistently in recent months, and many people have managed to accrue a rather nice back-catalogue of cinema. Just in time for Blue-ray. Blue-ray: What a format! Even more quality (once you've bought another new TV) and with an even more Draconian copy-protection system. At this rate the next format will be nothing but an onscreen message. telling us not to dare to think about watching a movie. In the industry, I suspect they call this progress.

With Jupiter, Mars and Venus all currently orbiting the sun, the astrological system is in a tumultuous phase. Your best bet is to keep things light to avoid any further confusion. Try short 30 minute comedies that take a satirical look at the week gone past, in a mocking fashion. In fact just stay in and

In the early days before wax-coated discs were invented, films used to be shared from generation to generation by word of mouth. This is of course completely different to the process for passing on holy scripture (word of god), or indeed the art of dissociating yourself from real life in a fantasy onine world (word of warcraft). This had some advantages. When the original script was somewhat lacking in flair or originality (think any teen movie released after American Pie) then it could always be spiced up a little. Who can forget Papa Joe's ragtime piano

DVD was born.

Sex Drive ★★★☆☆

Director: Sean Anders

Writer: Seab Abders & John

Cast: Josh Zuckerman,

Clark Duke

The title says it all. A high-school kid

that just can't get laid, a long drive

make the young and mostly uninici-

across the United States, a love trian-

Amanda Crew.

Film Editor

all criminals for watching DVDs.

gle and a once-in-a-lifetime road trip that slowly turns into a journey from hell - if this doesn't sound familiar then you are seriously lacking some basic familiarity with teenage comedies. The now iconic American Pie which surprised everyone with its world-wide success exposed a seriously ignored and still largely un-tapped niche in the cinema market. Obviously, the 'oh my gosh, that's gross' reactions brought a lot of money. The capitalist forces of supply and demand, which are the unconquerable rulers of the film industry were allowed to act and the situation was promptly rectified. The result was a swamping of the screening rooms with comedies whose sole aim was to

#### Your weekly film horoscope:

# Democracy in the cinema: Mićo Tatalović takes a look at interactive films.

was at the 10th Motovun Film Festival (renowned as the 'Woodstock' of film) in Croatia this summer mainly to see their 'interactive cinema programme': screenings that handed over the director's role to the audience. There were three such films: Czech 'Kinoautomat' Man and His Home (1966), Danish Switching (2003), and Canadian Late Fragment (2007), movies in which we decide what happens.

Kinoautomat, the first interactive cinema and brain child of Czech director Radúz Činčera was invented in 1966, which included two moderators sitting at the stage alongside the movie projection. The first and only film made for Kinoautomat system was Man And His Home ('Člověk a jeho dům'), which ous film festivals, and the interactive front on each side of the screen was a contained within the storyline several DVD and a book about Kinoautomat door. After the first scene was played moral dilemmas for the main character, Mr. Novak. Each time Mr. Novak was in a predicament (nine times in the movie) the projection was paused and the moderators would come up to film *Mr Sardonicus* (1961). This was grand old tree from greedy developers. the stage and present each side of the at a time when television drew audistory to the audience. The audience ences away from the cinema, so Castle was then asked to vote on what Mr No-strived to make the cinema experience vak should do next; should he go after more interesting to get more viewers so pavillion, one watches the final scene, his angry wife, or stay in the flat with his barely clothed sexy neighbour? In es would get a card with a thumb-up the tree. At the moment when the kids a special purpose-built cinema hall on, and depending on how they turned seats had red and green buttons people could press to vote, the movie preced- thumb down. At the end of the movie, the tree used in the film. Simultane-

majority choice being shown.

The first screening of Kinoautomat took place in 1967, but the combination of demanding technical issues (to enable voting and parallel storylines, five different projectors had to be running at the same time and be switched between during the screening) and the communist regime that disliked the idea of people voting, even in cinema, meant that the concept of Kinoautomat ended up being forgotten for 40 vears. Then, in February 2006, Raduz Cincera's daughter digitalised the film and brought it to the National Film Theatre in London where it thrilled the 300 audience members, who all voted using devices resembling remote controls. Since then screenings are also organised in Prague, as well as at vari-

sual film promotions in the 1950s, also one of the two doors. The story was an allowed the audience to vote in his he could make more money. Audiencthe card this could be a thumb up or raises up to reveal a full-size replica of ing once the audience voted, with the they would get their say as to how the ously, three other screens on the other

Punishment Toll because the audiences could decide to punish the nasty Mr Sardonicus. IMDB says "Before the ending, Castle appeared on the screen and explained the poll. He then "counted" the votes. If mercy won, then the happy ending would be shown. If no mercy won, the original ending would be shown. It is doubtful, though, that

any audience voted mercy." This was a far cry from the sophistication of Cincera's Kinoautomat and a more recent Cinelabyrinth. Cinelabyrinth was promoted as "the world's first labyrinth-style Cinematic System," and shown at Expo '90 in Osaka. This is how artist Michael Naimark describes it :"Everyone began in a single large theatre sitting on the floor. At the William Castle, popular for his unu- one of two options by walking through ecology yarn about kids trying to save a After seeing several scenes and making several choices, enough to totally lose one's sense of direction inside the where the children successfully save shout "we did it!" the screen in front

ing four theatres with everyone who began in the first room, now all facing each other. The gag was that no matter which options were chosen, the kids successfully saved the tree."

More recent examples of interactive films involve Switching (2003) and Late Fragment (2007). As interesting as they are, they are straight to DVD films aimed at a small audience and so it is hard to classify them as 'democracy in cinema' because viewers don't really get to choose what happens; by pressing the button they just switch to another scene - not knowing what this is going to be or why. So it is just switching between fragments.

I think that this interactivity feature

as well as the planet. \*Note from the editor (JD): Return To House On Haunted Hill (2007) was a direct-to-DVD horror film that was solely interactive: you can choose (with your DVD remote) what the characters decide to do and so your decisions effect the ultimate outcome of the film. There are several alternative endings as well as many different scenes, and

what you decide can prolong or reduce

certain characters survival time.

could provide a powerful, if yet un-

explored opportunity for education

through film, as a film about the en-

vironment could let viewers see how

their lifestyle choices (e.g. smoking,

pollution, recycling) affect their lives



movie finishes. This was known as the three sides of the tree rise up, reveal- Imagine if you could give Jack and Rose a happy ending...

# boast good acting, loveable characters and spot-on observations about the modern lascivious teenager.

The confidence that comes from using the Internet is amazing.

ated audience cringe as much as possible. The plot never changed but the quality of entertainment provided followed a sharply negative slope.

Thus, the first scene of Sex Drive in which a pair of underwear suffers through a young chap's erotic dream and ends up on the floor only to be, inevitably, stumbled over by a blissfuly ignorant parent, understandably filled me with dread. Unrightly so, as it turns out, even though the movie follows a plot that is the benchmark of the modern teenage comedy.

This time, the sexually frustrated

Planning a trip

to Australia?

We'd love to see you

at our Oz night.

Come along and speak to us about

your travel plans, hear about Oz

from the experts and get some

advice and tipe on getting there and

Wednesday 3rd December 7.00pm

STA TRAVEL

STA Travel, Victoria Branch, 52 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1W OAG

t:08714680649 e:manager.victoria@statraval.co.uk

kid is Ian (Zuckerman), a fresh highschool graduate obsessed with the fact that he can't lose his virginity. Lance (Clark Duke) who has found the way to get girls into bed with him does his best to help his best pal Ian but with little success. When Ms. Tasty, a girl met online, suggests that Ian comes up to Tennessee so that they can meet in person for a night of serious 'love making, Lance succeeds in convincing his friend to steal his brother's (James Marsden) 1969 GTO and act on the dream come true. Joining them, but not

Easy laughs with a frustrated virgin on the road

This year's version of 'American Pie' might not be one of the most original films but Sex Drive can proudly

Felicia, Ian's best friend and his secret crush who, as it turns out, has the hots for Lance. And so they set off, for what is to be a one day journey, never imagining the obstacles they eventually face terplay between the three main charnor the character-testing situations they constantly encounter on the way.

The various adventures that they experience and the numerous mishaps that happen to them make for an exceedingly entertaining watch and ensure that you will not get bored at any time. I should mention here that although the humour is, most of the time, rather crude and definitely on the immature side, it's not overtly stupid. Lance, for example, is not your typical playboy; he's slightly chubby and his method of pulling chicks is to act like a dick. Maybe I'm reading too much into this, but to me he seemed like a real life parody of the "The Rules of the Game" by Neil Strauss [Editor: a help-guide on how to pick up girls] and of all those self-confident, outspoken kids that are so irritating. Clark Duke does a very good job of being charming and infuriating at the same time.

Zuckerman brings a lot of warmth and authenticity into his acting, thus breathing in a lot of life into his character who proves to be less stereotypical than it seems at first sight.

Particularly memorable, is the camknowing the real reason for the trip is eo appearance by Seth Green whose

with a fondness for sarcasm is absolutely brilliant. His comedic timing is simply impeccable. Although the inacters is pretty flawless as well, which is partly due to the very well scripted

Sex Drive has all the vital features of a typical road trip movie, which at heart it is - we have the unexpectedly long journey, the crazy drivers, the stalling car, the brief stop in jail, love lost, love found and a lot of references to male genitals. Where it's different than other films of its kind is in the details. Sean Ander's movie feels complete, there are no gaping plot holes and even the most wacky scene makes sense. Also it's pleasant when you watch a film and can clearly see in every scene that making the movie was a lot of fun for all

I would definitely recommend joining Ian, Lance and Felicia on their cathartic journey when Sex Drive comes out on wide release in January 2009. There's only one 'but'; if you feel like vou left vour immaturity somewhere back in the 2005, watching this comedy would be ill-advised. But I hope that we're all still young enough to laugh at the behaviour of our peers, remembering that at one point we were all as Ray Bradbury wrote 'seventeen and crazy'

## **Coming Out Soon**

#### Get into the Christmas mood with Vince Vaughn and Four Christmases

Every Christmas happily unmarried couple Brad (Vince Vaughan) and Kate (Reese Witherspoon) go to romantic and exotic locations for their holiday in order to escape their disjointed and bickering families. But this year fog has closed the airpor, and the couple are caught on television, so when their respective parents find out what they have been doing every year, they demand that this time they will spend Christmas with them. Cue schmaltzy feel good fun and crude hilarity as Brad and Kate visit each of their divorced

parents in turn: making that total up to four Christmases. With an all-star cast including Jon Voight and Sissy Spacek, this is the feel good film of the year, where I am sure everyone will learn that the most important thing is family. Or love. Or something equally cheesy and vomit inducing. So if you want to get into the Christmas spirit, and learn that love is always close at hand, this is the film to watch. (But if you'd rather not, perhaps you should consider joining me in watching horror films and depressing dramas, in order to avoid glossy sugarcoated American family values at all costs. I feel queasy just thinking about it.)



Ahh, typical american Christmas. No wonder Reese has a funny face.



# unionpage



Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance Week

### Sexual Health Advice

There are loads of myths about sexually transmitted infections (STIs) which range from the totally ridiculous to worrying truths. It is fair to say the risk you take when you have unprotected sex is more hassle than it is worth. This isn't a warning to abstain from sex; it should be a personal choice. However, it makes sense to carry a condom around with you and use it the next time you get lucky. The worry of pregnancy is a stress that no student needs. However, even if you or your partner are on the pill you can still catch a range of infections. So get yourself both checked out if you haven't already.

Needless to say, if you are experiencing any symptoms it is really important to have a check up soon. This can be done at your local GUM (Genito-Urinary Medicine) Clinic. These clinics can offer you advice about contraception, do regular screenings (if you have no symptoms) or do specific tests (if you are experiencing symptoms). If you are sexually active and have had unprotected sex it is really important that you schedule one in, even if it is just for peace of mind. Symptoms of sexually transmitted infections include:

- A change in the normal discharge from the vagina
- Discharge from the penis
- Sores or blisters near the vagina, penis
- Rash or irritation around the vagina, penis or anus
- A burning feeling when peeing

Pain during sex

The closest GUM Clinic to Imperial is: What will happen during your The John Hunter Clinic

St Stephen's Centre 369 Fulham Road London SW10 9NH Tel: 020 8846 6699

This clinic provides an appointment only service which you can book either online or over the telephone. However, there are some situations in which you can obtain an emergency appointment such as needing the morning after pill or requiring attention following a sexual assault.

#### John Hunter Clinic

	Clinic Opening Times	Telephone Results Line Opening Hours
Monday	09.30 - 16.15	10.00 - 11.00
Tuesday	09.30 - 16.15	10.00 - 11.00
Wednesday	12.30 - 19.15	
Thursday	09.30 - 16.15	10.00 - 11.00
Friday	09.30 - 16.15	10.00 - 11.00

They also run a new walk-in sexual health clinic, which requires no appointment. It is held every Tuesday between 5pm and 7pm and operates on a first-come, first-served basis. You can also book a slot in advance by texting between 9am and 3pm on the day of the clinic you wish to attend and you will be texted back a slot.

TEXT: 'JHC slot' to 07786202243

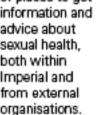
appointment will vary depending on why you are attending. Sometimes you might just need advice or to give a urine sample or prescriptions. Other times will require an examination- this may be external or it could be an internal swab. This is dependent on what your concerns are and whether you are experiencing symptoms. Results are usually sent to you via text within a week Come along to but you might have to have a follow-up appointment depending on the results.

All consultations are completely confidential, but if you don't feel comfortable going to your local clinic there are many options in London and near your home. To find your closest one, go to www.fpa.org and click on 'find a clinic'. You can then type in your postcode or address.

#### Did you know that:

- As many as 70% of women and 50% of men who have an STI don't have any symptoms?
- . The number of Chlamydia cases in people under 25 has risen by over 200% in the last 10 years? This disease is mostly symptomless but can British Pregnancy Advisory Service lead to infertility in women.
- Some STIs can lead to diseases such as cancer (HPV) and central nervous system disorders (syphilis)?
- You can catch some STIs through oral sex?

There are loads of places to get information and advice about sexual health, both within Imperial and from external organisations.



Deputy President (Education & Welfare) dpew@imperial.ac.uk

Hannah Theodorou

one of our information stalls during the week for more information and to pick up loads of free condoms or contact one of the people listed below:

#### Hannah Theodorou

Deputy President (Education & Welfare) dpew@imperial.ac.uk

#### Nigel Cooke Student Adviser advice@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial College Health Centre healthcentre@imperial.ac.uk 020 7584 6301 (24hrs)

#### Family Planning Association www.fpa.org.uk

www.bpas.org

Terrence Higgins Trust (currently organising free Chlarnydia testing for under 25s) www.tht.org.uk

## Monday

S.H.A.G. Film: Born into Brothels

Blackett Lecture Theatre 1

18:30 - 20:30

This Academy Award-winning film is a portrait of several unforgettable children who live in the red light district of Calcutta, where their mothers work as prostitutes. Zana Briski, a New York-based photographer, gives each of the children a camera and teaches them to look at the world with new eyes with extraordinary results.

## Tuesday

Global Health Forum: How will science prevent HIV infection?

SAF Lecture Theatre 1

18:30 - 20:30

Professor Jonathan Weber, the founding editor of the journal 'AIDS' and an expert in the field will be coming to talk about the future of HIV prevention

#### Super S.H.A.G. Quiz

Imperial College Union

20:00 - 23:00

The Union's weekly quiz has been hi-jacked by some pesky STIs! If you think you know your clap from your crabs, come down and compete for prizes including beer and cash plus the prestige of being the biggest sex-pert at Imperial.

#### Wednesday

Sin City - Chav It! Plus Sex Bingo

Imperial College Union 20:00 - 01:00

Come along in your finest granny gear armed with your lucky Bingo Pens. Everyone's a winner, with goodie-bags for all participants and excellent prizes for the top players.

## **Thursday**

S.H.A.G. Treasure Hunt

South Kensington

12:00 - 14:00

Collect your treasure maps from ICU or the ICSMSU from Wednesday onwards. STIs will be hidden all over College for you to find on Thursday lunchtime- bring back your spoils and swap them for prizes and get entered into our competition for the top prize announced at the end of the week.

#### Chamber Concert (hosted by Medsin)

St. Mary's Chapel

19:00 - 22:00

Featuring a string quartet and a vocal ensemble. All proceeds go to Shelter Trust AIDS Orphanage, Chennai, India.

## Friday

S.H.A.G. Film: Miss HIV

RSM Room 301

12:15 - 14:00

This controversial film explores the international collision of HIV/AIDS policies while following the journey of two HIV-positive women who enter the contest in Botswana. Filmed across Africa and at the International AIDS Conference in Toronto this explosive film aims to share both sides of an ideology struggle.

#### S.H.A.G. Week Finale featuring the UNIONdjs Imperial College Union

20:00 - 02:00

A whole evening of safe sex-focused fun, featuring condom games, raffles and naughty cocktails. Captain condom will be there to hand out loads of lubricated goodies too!

## S.H.A.G. Week Information Stands

Information stands will be set up every lunchtime throughout the week in the following locations:

Monday: Outside the JCR Tuesday: Outside the JCR Wednesday: Union Foyer Thursday: SAF Foyer Friday: Outside the JCR

We've got 1000 SHAG Bags to give away full of Pasante products, plus the Terrence Higgins Trust will be telling students about their Chlamydia screening programme and Medsin will be raising money for their selected charities.

Pick up one of our S.H.A.G. Bags from the information Stands!

imperialcollegeunion.org/shag

Music Editors - Peter Sinclair, Susan Yu & James Houghton

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Friday 21 November 2008



# An apology to Leonard Cohen

Peter Sinclair

eonard Cohen played across the road at the Albert Hall last Monday and Tuesday, but I could not afford to go. Leonard Cohen spent 5 top of a mountain in L.A. from 1994 to 1999. I have spent the last week or so disillusioned by the last two sentences - Leonard Cohen not only spent half of the 90s being mental in that disgraceful wealthy American celebrity way, but he also charges extortionate, arena-rock amounts of money too see him play.

So I thought I'd slate him a bit. "Here you go you overrated, wrinkled, depressed, depressing old schmuck, try this on for size. Your music brings no happiness to no-one. Nothing but misery, failed relationships, bad sex, bad breath and bad grammar ever came out of listening to any of your songs." I could say something like that. Then I could go on Wikipedia and get some references and take the piss out of them whilst framing myself as intellectually superior because I didn't spend 5 years being mental in a Zen Buddhist monastery in L.A. (racism waiver: not a comment on Buddhists, just people who become Buddhist after making loads of money and going mental). A previous musical and lyrical hero of mine would lie slain on the ground, ego reduced to dust, and I would stand triumphant, feeling slightly empty and dirty but on the whole pretty good

**Hate Gallery** 

fighting things.

Compassion Fatigue

chord metal repetes and lyrics from

but as you can see it didn't really work out. After reading some interviews and some Wikipedias, I made the discovery that despite having jumped on the 'celebrities who find religion after decades of drug use' bandwagon, Leonard Cohen is still an ace songwriter and, for a 67-year-old, a pretty cool guy. He still wrote 'So Long, Marianne' and 'Sisters of Mercy, and he still chain smokes. He may have lost his characteristic sense of cultural cynicism and powerlessness which permeated the majority of his work (he's Zen now, remember?), but the black gallows humour has remained, and I think has even been enhanced in recent years. "I think there's a laugh a minute" he said in a recent interview, in reference to his lyrics.

And faster than you can say 'After School Special, a moral lesson was learnt. It's all too easy to judge celebrities by the standards we live by, but you've got to remember the cultural divide which is being straddled every time a judgement is made. I could probably say something about most people in the music industry for being mental in one way or another, but the judgement would be through the preconceptions of a 20-year-old middleclass English male so it would be pretty much meaningless, and all but impossible to conceive the mentality which motivates so many of the entertainment industry's finest towards such spiritually eccentric ends. My message is one of tolerance, my friends, so c'est la vie - let the Kabbalah scrolls roll.

And that's what I tried to do this week,

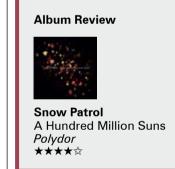
Too much love these days

## The waiting is Snover Susan Yu likes what she hears with Snow Patrol's latest album.

Will this band's snow plough of success ever snow down?



On the look out for some snow: "I seen some, boss" "Well don't just stand there, MELT IT"



Snow Patrol are one of the hottest sell-

ing UK bands in the last few years, and

they have now released their eagerly

awaited 5th studio album A Hundred

# fifteen-year-old rockers happy. **Duncan Casey**

#### They've thrown I have to say, I'd hoped for more when I picked up Hate Gallery's debut offerin just enough ing. I was never expecting anything big or clever - with titles like 'Good swearing to keep Things Come to Those Who Hate, it wasn't seeming likely from the start. the 15 year old Still, considering the pedigree of some rockers happy." of the band-members the whole album feels a bit paint-by-numbers - three

the Oasis school of song writing (i.e. make it rhyme) with angsty lyrics about Overall it's quite good fun, although I wouldn't necessarily rush out and buy That said, if you don't listen to the it when it's released on November 3rd. lyrics and turn the volume up, it's not Instead, keep an eye on the gig listings bad. The whole album clocks in at a and see if they come to town – if they shade over half an hour, with the ef- can translate some of the manic energy fect of the punky three-minute rock of the recording into their live shows, songs amplified by the nice trick of they could well be worth banging your take what you can carry/ A pulse, your leaving about half a second's pause be- head to.

tween songs to give a staccato feel to the whole recording. It's apparent in places that the band own more than a couple of Motörhead albums between them: 'You Don't Know' borrows heavily from 'Ace of Spades', although there's nothing much wrong with that. It's also not as heavy as you'd expect from the unnecessarily Emo leanings of the title: if anything, it's a bit radio-friendly in places, although they've thrown in just enough swear-words to keep the

Million Suns, which is a great followup to the 2006 number one explosive extraordinaire that was Eyes Open which sold a staggering 4.5 million copies across the globe. Without any doubts whatsoever, Snow Patrol are among the elite group of artists that have achieved the peak, reaching the many times platinum status with their previous albums Eyes Open and Final Straw. Notably, the outstanding single 'Chasing Cars' has just received its 2 millionth download in the U.S. and its 100,000th UK radio play. With their incredible success, this band has a lot to live up to. So now, is it any wonder that there is a lot of hype and tremendous anticipation surrounding the release of this new album? Nope. Even the frontman Gary Lightbody has something to say on this: "I'm so proud of this record. Everybody played out of their skin. Musically, lyrically and sonically the best record we've made.' Let our ears

and hearts be the judge of this one." The album breaks away with a rocket indeed. "A fire a fire, vou can only ber". The first track, 'IF There's a Rocket Tie Me To It, has a cracking tune with equally powerful lyrics, alluding to self destruction, loss, and holding onto the faint traces of someone dear.

Similarly, 'Crack the Shutters' follows the magic formula of the somewhat calm verse which gets catapulted onto the surging, skyscraping chorus with the drums kicking in and laying down the pulsating beats.

'Take Back the City' is their most recent single that was released last month, which has a grand video to go with it as well. Shot in East London, these guys have Alex Courtes to thank for it, the magician behind The White Stripes' sizzling 'Seven Nation Army.'

One of the standout tracks from this album is 'Lifeboat,' which seems to say "Hold on, hold on". Snow Patrol knows how to get a swanky groove going. This laidback treasure has a slinky rhythm with the coquettish violin hook in the

'The Golden Floor' is defined by its use of minimalism and lilting rhythm, held together by a repeated guitar

motif and skittering beats. The pace

chorus. Dangerously catchy.

accelerates in 'Please Just Take These Photos, with the constant under layer of guitar strumming whilst 'Set Down Your Glass' shifts again in the structure and makeup of the soundscape, diverging to a smooth, soothingly light number which almost has a Sigur Ros feel. The acoustic guitar in this track is the vocal's best friend. Seemingly timid and sweet in texture and sound, the delicate atmosphere is complemented by the tender, flawless vocalization of Lightbody's husky serenade, producing a winning ballad as a result.

Throughout the course of the 11 tracks, Lightbody (vocals/guitar) sings with unabashed sincerity and emotion. This album is definitely one to be



pulse, it's the only thing I can remem- Snow Patrol vocalist Alex Hogan playing guitar hero

# Another Day, Another Compilation



"Keates and Yates are on your side, while weird-lover Wilde is on mine" music. $extit{felix}$  <3 Morrissey

#### **Album Review**



The Smiths Sound of The Smiths

The latest Smiths compilation is without doubt the definitive one: a mustplay for every iPod in the nation and beyond. Though they existed for only five years and made only four studio albums, this quartet of Mancunians shaped the sound of the 1980s and still inspire bands today. Morrissey and Johnny Marr, the undisputed Lennon and McCartney of their decade, had a love-hate relationship that would ultimately lead to the demise of The Smiths in 1987

Steven Patrick Morrissey was the lyricist of the songwriting duo. His genius as a wordsmith (or perhaps wordSmith) was born out of his somewhat peculiar puberty. In his teen years at the tail-end of the 1970s he spent much of his time alone in his bedroom, reading Oscar Wilde, dreaming about James Dean and listening to music. He worshipped many idols during this time - mostly writers, actors and singers from the 50s and 60s – all of whom would shape the sound and style of The Smiths between 1983 and 1987.

Johnny Marr wrote the music. Four years younger than Morrissev. Marr was a wizard on guitar. His forever

memorable riffs, which echoed the jingly-jangly guitar music of sixties bands such as the Byrds and the Kinks, have inspired everyone from Oasis to Radiohead. Legend has it that some of the Smiths' riffs are so complex, even Marr can no longer play them. It was purely by chance that Moz and Marr met in the dreary setting of grey, rainy Manchester during the early years of the Thatcher government, bonded by their love of music and their desire to

The Smiths have an almost timeless quality. They made music in the mid-eighties but some of their songs sound like ditties from the sixties ('Ask', 'Panic', 'Girlfriend in a Coma'), while others have a seventies-style punkish edge to them ('Sweet and Tender Hooligan, 'London,' 'Shakespeare's Sister'). They were at their best when they effortlessly combined sweet sixties-style

quently comical lyrics about life in the eighties. "I'm not sure what happiness means / But I look into your eyes / And I know that it isn't there", sings Morrissey on the tragic but beautiful 'Jeane', a song that sounds like it could have been No.1 in 1963, if it's lyrics weren't about bedsit life in Thatcher's rundown Britain of 1983. It is fitting that Sandie Shaw, the barefoot girl singer of the 1960s, did a cover version of this Smiths classic.

It is this mix of a sixties sensibility with eighties observations that makes the sound of the Smiths so attractive. In many ways, the Smiths represented a retreat from the eighties into nostalgia for 1960s Britain. So they eschewed the synthesised robotic nonsense of 1980s pop music (Morrissey said he waved flowers around as a sign of humanity amidst New Romantic dross) by creating a strictly guitar-based sound. And each of their single and album covers featured a black-and-white shot from a classic sixties film: snapshots of a bygone era when men were men, and women didn't wear tonnes of glitter and leg-warmers. While they existed, the Smiths repre-

sented a form of escapism from eighties Britain. Morrissey captured perfectly the sense of doom in that period when he sang on 'Shoplifters of the World Unite': "Last night the plans for a future war / Were all I saw on Channel Four." By the mid-1980s, Thatcher had taken Britain well and truly from the 'Politics of Consensus' of the postwar 1960s era into a time of open classconflict and mass unemployment. She launched open warfare on the trade unions (smashing the miners in 1984), lowered wages, pursued an increasingly ruthless war in Northern Ireland, and made millions unemployed.

In many ways, Thatcher represented an anti-sixties mentality: she frequentlv attacked the liberal, druggy culture that was supposedly unleashed by the sixties counterculture and sought to replace the relative prosperity of life in 1960s Britain with new forms of austerity and control more suited to the 1980s. It is not surprising then that Morrissey (the anti-Thatcher who in 1988 would record a song called 'Margaret on the Guillotine') embraced the sound, feel and smell of the sixties as a refreshing alternative to eighties

Thatcher, the beauty of the Smiths' sound vs. the ugliness of Thatcher's grey Britain, represented a major cultural clash between old-fashioned British values of solidarity and fair play and the new destructive British values of conflict and defeat.

The Smiths summed up well the pointlessness of life in eighties Britain on 'Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now'. Morrissey sang: "I was looking for a job and then I found a job / And heaven knows I'm miserable now." It is striking that the cover of this single featured a picture of the blonde bouffant-sporting Viv Nicholson, who became a household name in Britain in 1961 after she won the lottery and spent a fortune on fast cars and fur coats. Again, the Smiths seemed to contrast miserable Britain in 1983 with the sense of possibility and vision that existed in 1961.

Some people call it nostalgia, but I call it escapism. And what is pop mu-

#### "The Smiths summed up well the pointlessness of life in the 80s."

sic about if not escapism? The Smiths managed better than any band before or since to sweep the listener off their feet and into more pleasant surroundings with their searing three-minute songs. The music made you smile and the lyrics made you laugh. Today, by contrast, we are surrounded by worthless, boring bands who insist we must wallow in the sorrow of the world rather than escape it. If the likes of U2 or Coldplay could stop making dull "protest songs" or patronising "world music" for just one minute, and instead allow us to rise above the daily grind, well, as Morrissey would say, "I'd get such a shock I'd probably jump in the

So in this time of global financial crisis and political unease, my advice is to "Boot the grime of this world in the crotch, dear / And don't go home tonight, come out and find" the Smiths - and perhaps escape reality for a song

#### **Album Review**



The Versailles Sessions The Leaf Label

#### **Steven Burgess**

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered weak and weary/suddenly there came a tapping, as if someone door. The arrival of Murcof's (a.k.a. Fernando Corona's) debut album fluenced electronic music, layering

work has become steadily more experimental and in 2007 he took time out from recording to work on a commisfestival at the Chateau de Versailles in France. Held annually it is a celebration of sound, light and water in the historic palatial gardens of French aristocracy and the Versailles Sessions are the product of six pieces prepared especially for the event.

Open here I flung the shutter, when, with many a flirt and flutter/ In there stepped a stately raven of saintly days of ing the future chase of *yore.* This is best considered as a piece a doomed monarch of sound art as it dispenses almost entirely with melody and traditional structure and is unusual even by electronic standards. All sounds were built gently rapping, rapping at my chamber up with recordings of 17th century Baroque instruments later moulded, perverted, subverted and distorted into a Martes in 2002 was credited with es- ghostly display. With phantom fingers theme not not develop far tablishing the genre of classically ingiving a combination of conventional beyond a tense, menacing and experimental instrumental per- milieu. recordings, clipped beats and acoustic formances, low growls rumble from instruments to create vast minimal- tortured souls in the bowels of purga- air grew denser, ist soundscapes. Since then Corona's tory, generating the nightmarish qual-

ity of a Gothic novel.

Ghastly grim and ancient raven wandering from the nightly shore sion for Les Grandes Eaux Nocturnes tell me what thy lordly name is on the night's Plutonian shore! With piercing flutes and plucked strings the fascinating opener 'Welcome to Versailles' smolders like a Chinese burn, but rarely are such heights reached again. Louis XIV's Demons is a stop

and start burst of shrill violins reverberated and Madame Guillotine. Although at times gripness the overriding impression of the album is one of monotony, the

is likely the throbbing base tones that an unseen censer. Like most sound art underpin this release would have corthe tracks (particularly the 12 minute long Spring In the Artificial Gardens) related well with the rise and fall of the sessions are drawn out, a conscious fountains and the fraught development decision acknowledged by Corona who matching the nocturnal light display. However the Versailles Sessions are a after viewing the venue decided the compositions needed "more time for perfect example of how live performthe sounds to develop and...resonate in ances do not always take to recording - an effect compounded by the site spethat big space", subsequently reworking the piece before the cific nature of compositions. The result performance. However is like watching a film without the picwhen commissions are ture, football without the crowd, Poe

setting into audio format this extended progression can seem lethargic. and the singular pace of development of each track

becomes tired. "Prophet!" said I, "Thing of evil! in situ performance - it -- nevermore.

without the poetry. "Tell me – tell me I implore!" All said and done the Versailles Sessions do suggest an enticing prospect when Murcof starts his first major UK tour in November. He will be premiering his new work Oceano, composed in collaboration with Spanish classical ensemble BCN216 and the visual sculptor Flicker. If well crafted audio visual performances are your thing you prophet still, if bird should definitely go check out his peror devil!" In the end formance in London later this month, one can only guess at but as an album - the Versailles Sesthe whole effect of the sions should perhaps be considered **24** felix Friday 21 November 2008 Friday 21 November 2008

Music music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# live at the Union Chapel

Movies and popcorn, hot chocolate and wintry days, Tim Burton and Johnny Depp, Amy Winehouse and a crate of JD; all, for one reason or another, are perfect combinations. Sure, you can have one without the other, but it's not the same. You could even try toying with the formula, but the results more often than not end up dubious: hot chocolate in summer? Sacrilege!

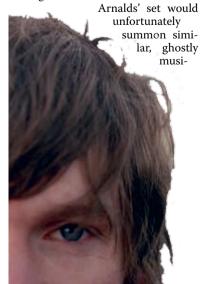
After experiencing Valgeir Sigurðsson and Sam Amidon in St Barnabas' Chapel earlier this year, I'd like to add "lovely, creaky folk music and Icelandic electronic neo-classical in chapels" to that list. It's a match made in heaven, one where the delicate musical arrangements and quietly emotive vocal deliveries perfectly complement the intimate setting, hushed reverence and dense atmospheres of these places of worship. This is why I jumped at the chance of seeing Ólafur Arnalds at the

Hailing from the small Icelandic town of Mosfellsbær, the 21 year old has spent 2008 supporting Sigur Rós on their latest tour while promoting his acclaimed debut album. 'Eulogy For Evolution' is a promising start for this talented musician with its assured and beautiful string-and-piano compositions punctuated by sudden outbursts of post-rock chaos.

#### "This is probably what Amish spacemen look like."

Opening for Arnalds on the night was German folk singer, Finn. Walking on stage with white tape under his eves, what looked like a baggy white shirt with a giant collar worn backwards, and black socks pulled up to his knees and over his mud-brown trousers, I was left with the impression that this is probably what an Amish spaceman would look like. His plaintive guitar-and-violin melodies earthed his set however, and his mournful vocals laid the mood for the rest of the evening despite a rather distant performance,

Finn did make something obvious: his playing about with effects pedals to create 'extra' guitarists and echo-y backing vocalists was an indicator that



# Olafur Arnalds Nickleback album review

The music. felix team gives a critical analysis of the Canadian quartet's new release



budgets of these relatively unknown strokes washing over the pews, revering recently attended various gigs full stray from the acts it's probably unfair to complain, berating around the cold building and of obnoxious, Red Stripe drinking piss but it's still ever so slightly disappointing to discover that the live show you're tersweet haziness. Sitting in front of a out an entire performance, I could unsurprises about to experience isn't completely, grand piano, Arnalds' melodies were derstand where he was coming from. like this

So I didn't particularly mind (or honestly, notice), when a few songs into his inviting as he honestly and humorset, Arnalds forgets to press a button ously mentioned any gaffs and as well that would have conjured his frantic as the terrors of having to come back post-rock guitar and drum noise on for an encore: "You go back stage and '3704 3837'. His live piano and string talk about the horrors of the show, but quartet proved sufficient enough to fill then you realise that people are still that gap and despite some sound issues clapping!" It was then that he offered jections of spirit-white bird silhouettes be that prevented one of the instruments to replay '3704 3837', this time with the from delivering that extra 'oomph', the button pressed.

cians playing out of a Mac. Given the entrancing, their Philip Glass-inspired become bored with live music. Havenveloping the audience with a bitjust as affecting.

Throughout, Arnalds was perfectly setting is right, there isn't a better exmake live

sound was general absorbing and hyp- A few weeks ago, I was having a It was an incredibly chilling, goosenotic. The quartet was particularly conversation with a friend who had bump-inducing effect and while Ar-

heads who insist on speaking through But when the crowd is perfect and the which perience. For this gig, that experience music came with the main set's closing song, worth-'Himininn er ad Hrynju'. What sound- while. ed like the bleeps of a heart monitor And the was soon joined by a spooky and heav- venue ily distorted robotic voice as eerie pro- couldn't floated up from the chapel's altar and more across the stain-glass windows.

Nightlife Editor - Catherine Jones

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# Hearts on Fire at Alexandra Palace

Fire at the disco! Nightlife Editor CJ reviews arguably the finest firework display in the whole of London.

Firework Display ★★★☆☆

Alexandra Palace

Rest: Fireworks Worst: Frustatingly large Price: Voluntary contribution

screams of a grown man, gazing with awe at the spectacular Ally firework display on Saturday

North London came out in force, from families to chavvy youths, perched on the slopes of Alexandra Park. Reputably the most spectacular firework display in London, the benefits were obvious; unimpeded views for all.

The display more than lived up to expectation, essentially 'it was better than last year.' Set to a medley of classical music from film soundtracks, the fireworks kept to the style, with rhythmical bursts and interesting compositions lighting up the sky. At an intense pace, the fireworks detonated thick

The glittery clouds and sparkly fountains (apologies for the flaky, nontechnical description) were my personal favourites. My heart goes out to the poor animals traumatised by the deafeningly loud rockets. They were very, but many chose to drink elsewhere.

So far a perfect night, thoroughly deserving of five stars. Such a shame when things took a turn for the worse post-fireworks. Like an episode of 'The Simpsons, the people of North London stampeded up the hill in search of alcohol. The mob took down all security fences in their path, racing to reach the Bier Festival.

Suddenly the evening became extremely tedious, I lost all patience with being herded around by security. The whole experience became uncannily like a music festival. The crowd grew restless. The muddy slippery hillside ruined my footwear. The toilet queues grew exponentially longer. The bar, if you could get near, ran out of beer. Generally it showed all the hallmark symptoms of large-scale event disorganisation.

It's a shame these factors inevitably spoilt the experience. The organisers clearly put a lot of thought into making a pleasant, family-friendly night, with a choice of ice-skating, fun-fairs, live music and the Bier Festival within the massive Victorian venue.

The kids clearly had the most fun on the night, running rampage on the trampolines, bungy-swings and rock-climbing wall. 'Queen on Fire', a fairly convincing Queen tribute band performed indoors in the main hall. However they disappointed many by cutting to playback on 'Bohemian Rhapsody'. The Bier Festival had a very poor selection of two German beers, which promptly ran dry at that. Security cracked down on revellers dancing on top of the long tables. It was 'alright'



Fire work display at Alexandra Palace



I'm gonna hazard a guess and say that this is Alexandra Palace. Just a thought!

Food

Food Editors - Afonso Campos & Rosie Gravburn

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## Virginia Woolf knows best

Afonso Campos Food Editor

oday, I am writing this colmn and article not from the excitement of the *felix* office, but from the comfort of my bed. This is not out of sheer laziness or some sort of megalomaniac desire to appear like a big-shot writer to anyone who might walk into my room while I fervidly type away. The real reason is that I am rather drunk, and I apologise quite unpower in your life. reservedly should this column read like a bunch of gobblydeedoo. I am drunk

Tonight's events made me come back to some thoughts I had a few years of friendships ago at a dinner in Oxford with some friends. The act of eating tends to be seen (especially by students) as singlepurposed. Not passing out of hunger seems to be the main motivator for a majority of the population to eat. Survival is without doubt a relatively understandable and not totally ignoble reason, but I wish the paradigm for food was wildly different, at least amongst a young crowd. While it may seem strange, I enjoy thinking of eat-

concept of preservation. If we think about it candidly, we may come to the somewhat abstract but paramount idea that one of life's aims is to preserve. Preservation in a way describes the evolved state of the Human Being. In every one of our lives, in what Aristotle describes as an anagnorisis (a moment of recognition if you will), we eventually realise this and set

ing and dining as an extension to the

because I just came back from a very

good dinner with, incidentally, a very

good friend.

upon maintaining and preserving the small things that define every single one of us. These can be anything from the preservation of memories past, experiences or values we choose to live our lives by. To me, getting together for a meal with good friends is without a doubt all of this and more: it is an experience that whilst it may not be noted as such at the time, actually has a lot of

Anytime you sit with interesting people you foster this preservation I talk about, a preservation of curiosity, intellectual pursuit and betterment of oneself through the sharing of ideas, and most importantly a preservation

I don't know what happened to dinner parties or enjoying food together in our generation, but one thing is certain, the act of doing so with friends should henceforth become a symbolic invocation, a cry and a loudly voiced statement that reconnects us with the urgency of maintaining the good things in our lives. It is good for us. It invites us to discover not only those around us

Virginia Woolf puts it much better than myself: "The human frame being what it is, heart, body and brain all mixed together, and not contained in separate compartments as they will no doubt in another million years, a good dinner is of great importance to good talk. One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well".

Cross-cutting application areas include energy, the environment, transport and healthcare

meet potential supervisors and find out about our research.

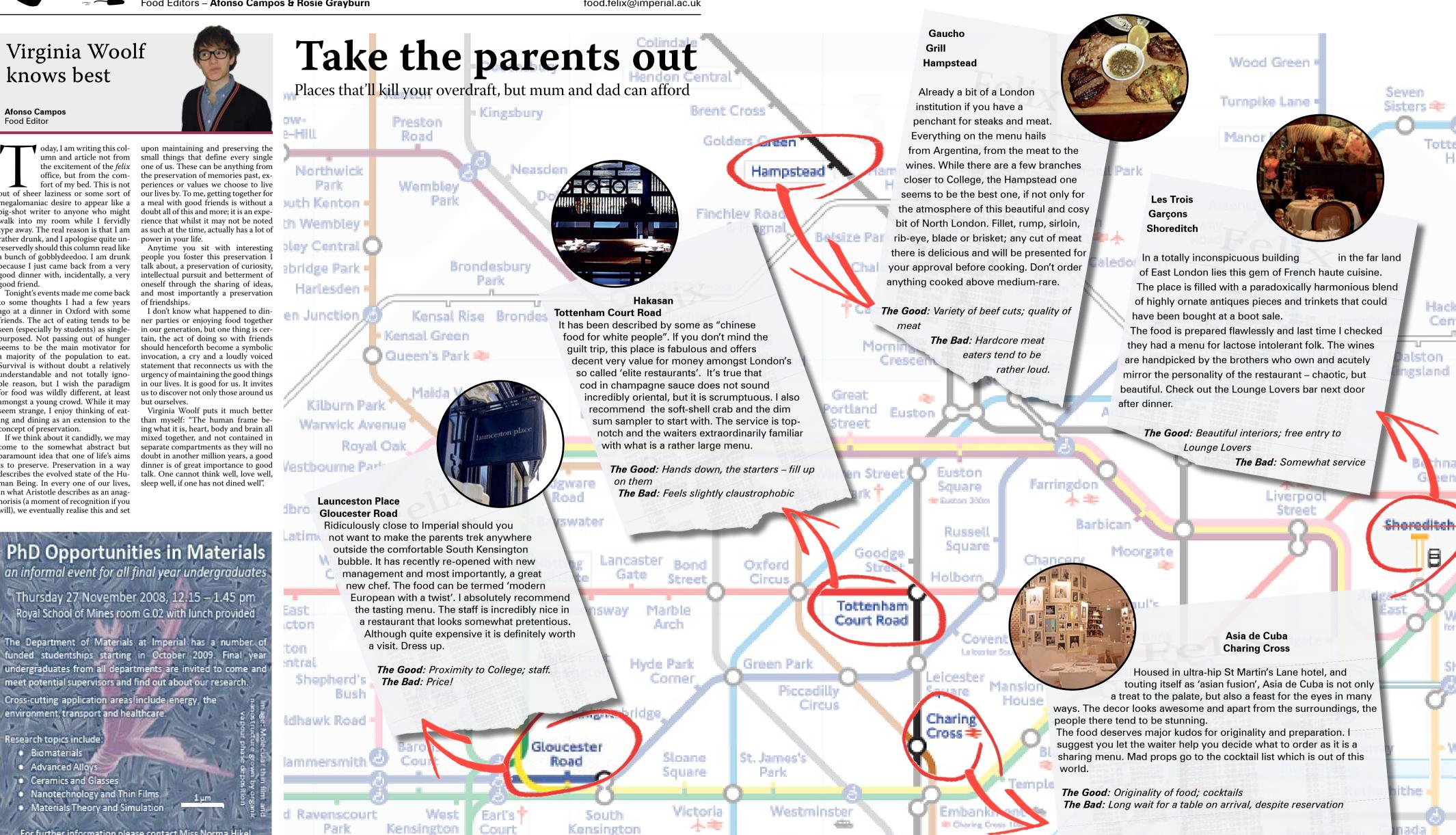
Research topics include:

- Advanced Allo
- Ceramics and Glasses
- Nanotechnology and Thin Films
- Materials Theory and Simulation

For further information please contact Miss Norma Hikel in the Materials Postgraduate Office: n hikel@imperial.ac.uk

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www.imperial.ac.uk/materials/



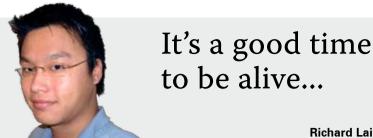
felix@imperial.ac.uk



## Technology

Technology Editor - Ravi Pall & Richard Lai

**Technology Editor** 



gies about last week's - an update patch killed the connection between our Mac Tiger servers and Leopard iMacs, so our article submissions were flying all over the room and mine just got lost! Like the folks on this week's Engadget

podcast put it: "it's a great time to be alive", with two of my most-anticipated devices - HTC Touch HD and Sony Ericsson Xperia X1 - being launched, as well as the INQ1 Facebook phone from 3, and a new iPhone firmware expected to come out soon. I'm actually very surprised to hear that the Blackberry Storm does not have wifi, probably to milk more money from unlimited-data plans. If you're lucky enough to be an owner of the Touch HD, Storm, Xperia X1 or even the T-Mobile G1, we'd like to hear from you.

Whilst on the topic, I've recently picked up the unreleased (abandoned?) Sony Ericsson M610i smartphone from eBay. I don't know why but every now and then I do search for prototype mobile phones or even laptops. I've never used a Symbian phone properly before - the last one (and my first ever) I had was the Sendo X, which I sold just two weeks after I bought it, simply because of my dissatisfaction with its sync speed with Windows. The hardware was well-built though, but that didn't save the company from liquidisation. However, the M610i was overshad-

In my opinion the best site for com-

edy sketches and funny clips. Must

check out their original videos!

owed by the arrival of my Touch HD and Xperia X1. Both Windows Mobile phones are probably HTC's best phones to date, even though the latter is released under a different brand. Build quality is superb, probably only let down by the less-than-ideal OS (many wish for Android on them). The graphical interface is great but still far from perfect (laggy, lacking few practical functions, etc.). If I were to choose my favourite out of the two, I think the Xperia's keyboard has won my heart.

Moving on to cameras: have you seen the sample movies recorded on the Canon EOS 5D Mark II? This 21.1megapixel DSLR does some real good HD video capture, and the quality beats the Nikon D90's jelly-like, 720p video recording (and I am admitting that fault as a Nikon fanboy). Although quite pricey, as with most prosumer cameras, I like the fact that you don't have to carry both a DSLR and an HD camcorder, as the former alone is painful enough to carry around, especially through airports where they still limit you to one hand-carry only. Well, I better start looking for a sponsor!

This week I decided to share my thoughts on my Mac virgin-experience, as it would probably appeal to most current Windows users (but not so much with stubborn Linux users). If you enjoy the article, please consider donating to the "5D-Mark-II 4 Richard Charity" - our phone operators in *felix* are standing by

# It's a good time Hi, I'm a Mac virgin

campaign has been quite successful with getting PC users' attention, boosting their computer sales figure to an all-time-high 2.6 million in Q4 2008; likewise for their iPhone figure, jumping from Q3's 717k units to Q4's staggering 6.9 million units. If you're wondering whether it's time for you to join the Mac party, then ou might find this article useful. I had been waiting for the right Mac-

Book for a long time, the previous generations being impractical with their scratch-magnetic polycarbonate cases. So when the aluminium MacBooks came out four weeks ago, I was so fascinated by its manufacturing process that I immediately bought my first ever Mac (the 2.0GHz MacBook) at the Regent Street Store the next day. It was about time as well: I've been through five or six Windows laptops and have suffered from the lack of built-in, professional-looking multimedia editors. Yes. Windows Movie Maker is very easy to use, but its boring templates mean vour videos will all look the

#### 'For a first-timer like myself it's very easy to use"

same; not the best choice if you want our video to stand out.

Back in the Windows days I was stuck with Adobe Premiere Pro and Nero Vision, both being very time-consuming to edit with and the latter provided only a few DVD menu templates of acceptable presentation. In the contrary, when I came across Apple's impressive iMovie app at the Regent Street store, I couldn't stop thinking how much better my DVDs could have been, and how much time I could have saved back then with a Mac.

Now my dream of owning the perfect machine has come true. Or has it? Here are my thoughts of my first-Mac experience so far:

#### **Build quality / Service**

Let's talk about the hardware first. I am probably the world's unluckiest guy to have gone through two MacBooks within four days after my purchase: the first one had a dead pixel (and apparently I was the first in the country to have reported a problem with the new MacBook), but fortunately Ap- my heart a little here. To make up for

ple did a direct swap followed by gration service. thought that was a smooth process, intil on my wa home on the bus I noticed that the replacement had a chipped hinge, which brought me back to the store. Hopefully my third one (which I'm typing on right now)

trouble-

some. Hav-

ing said that,

will be less

The new MacBook with it's shiny screen

I must praise Apple's efficient service followed by Apple's compact power adapter which has two retractable but do be careful with where you servhooks for cable management. The ice your Mac: some Hong Kong users told me that they were refused replaceslide-in optical drive and the screen's gradual ambient light sensor alone are ments for having just one dead pixel enough to force Oxford redefine the instead of three or more

The actual body itself is very wellbuilt: London-born Jony Ive CBE, Ap-All the ports are neatly located on ple's Senior Vice-President of Industrithe left hand side of the laptop, which can be both a good thing and a bad al Design, calls it "precision aluminium unibody enclosure" (kudos for not thing: the good is obviously the neatsaying "aluminum") which provides a ness and clean look, but the downside very strong structure with fewer parts. is that you may have to relocate your Like my old ThinkPad, I would hapvarious peripherals to reach the ports, pily pick up my MacBook on just one and then you'll worry about the lack of corner, with the lid open, knowing that extra USB ports: I personally find that five should be the standard for anyone it wouldn't flex. I originally feared that the metallic edges were going to be a (mouse, pen drive, iPod/iPhone, printer and camera), so MacBook users will problem, but they are actually nicely have to invest on a USB hub (powered sanded for your wrists' pleasure, unlike the plastic MacBooks.

word "cool".

#### Stability

Input Interface

down with two fingers.

Now this is where Apple has let every-

one down: the MacBook no longer has

a Firewire port (a high speed connec-

tion for camcorders and hard drives).

As mentioned before, one of my main

intentions of getting a Mac was for

video editing, so Cupertino has broken

though, Apple

teamed up with

gave birth to the

much more

churns

old

previous

power

9400M chipset,

the

The sweeties

here: the Mag-

cord connec-

ably still the

in the lap-

top world,

NVIDIA

which

from

Safe

Now onto the software front: Mac us-The new glass trackpad now supports multi-touch gestures, making life a lot ers have always been proud of their easier: scrolling is the same as before system's stability, but over the last few weeks I had already had several crashwith two fingers, three-fingers for forward and backward, four-fingers for es. For instance, I bought an HP all-in-Exposé (similar purpose to Vista's "Flip one printer with the new MacBook, but when I attempted to do some scan-3D"), the obvious rotation and zoom gestures etc. It really didn't take long to ning the entire system just crashed. forcing me to hard-reboot; and literally get used to these. Also, the click button is gone! Steve Jobs is known to hate just now it crashed again when I was simply browsing my documents, and buttons (although we have yet to see a touchscreen Mac) so now the entire took at least five reboots to get back to trackpad has cleverly become the butthe normal state. At neither events did ton. Again I found it very easy to use, Ravi's advice of using "cmd+alt+esc" as your thumb can still click on where (Mac's "Ctrl+Alt+Del") work. Perhaps the button used to be. Right-click is it's just early days. made easier as well by just clicking

My other problem is iPhoto: it's simply stupid. I tried to burn an album onto a CD using iPhoto, but rather than having a disc full of JPEG files I got three versions of iPhoto library files instead, forcing you to use iPhoto

to load the photos. Lame. Ignoring all the above though OS X really is quite nice: even for a first-timer like myself it's very easy to use, and it takes literally only a few seconds from lid closed to fully awake, search is lightning-fast, awesome "iLife '08" suite bar iPhoto, expandable workspace using Spaces, powerful self-repair tools etc.

Overall, the experience so far is quite nice and I have only the few regrets graphics power mentioned above plus a dented bank account. OS X is very easy to pick up, but if you think otherwise then I'm sure the free Apple seminars at Regent Street will be of great help. Many say that once you go Mac, you never go back (like felix has done), but I doubt I'll become one of those - Mac is obviously not as perfect as many fanboys claim, plus Windows machines love my wallet. If you insist on getting the new MacBook/MacBook Pro, I suggest that tion to date you hold on for a few more weeks to let Apple rid the bugs in the new systems.

# Backup your work

A review of the Western Digital My Book

With a previous article about the online backup service provided by Mozzy, it may be thought it would be worth while investing in your very own backup solution. We are all hard working students living in the age of the internet, but it simply isn't worth while backing up all your data on an online service. The downfalls including bandwidth limitations, transfer speed and the knowledge that your data is with a 3rd party. It would seem for the average user at home, the simplest answer to this problem is to buy an external HDD (Hard Disk Drive). Thefore the

**Ravi Pall** internet, looking for the best solution I could find at a reasonable price.

Along came the Western Digital My Book. The model I chose was latest version of the My Book comes in a very sleek matt black finish. Asthetics aside, let me engross you with the all so geeky details. My personal My Book has a 1TB storage capacity. A bit excessive I know, but some people need this storage now, and I'm sure there will come a day I will too. One of the first things I did was to transfer my 65GB iTunes library across, which bearly dented the capacity of this drive. At this point I'd like to mention how quick this was. Using Firewire 400 the whole library was transferred in less than 20 minutes. As first thing I did was to trawl though the I have just mention the Firewire 400,

now is the time to mention the connectivit. All the ports are on the back, which include the power input, 2 Firewire ports, a USB 2.0 port and 1 eSATA port. Thats alot of flexibility from a drive with the form factor of a small dictionary.

wasn't particularly cheep though. The 1TB My Book with eSATA cost about £120, but this is still very competitively priced with similar products available. WD is also a big name in HDD's so the 2 year included warranty, like the unit, is reliable. There is no noise, and it runs cool even though there is no fan. The top feature is the automatic on sevice which only turn



MobileMe for most Mac users. Even if

you just sign up for the free trial for a

short time. I think most will agree that

it is a smooth and seamless service that

keeps those important things in sync.

from Apple that syncs email, contacts

and calendars from a secure Internet

server, or "cloud," to all the devices you

use: your iPhone, iPod touch, as well as

Mac and PC computers. This data is

cations that deliver a desktop-like ex-

perience through any modern browser.

Me.com is the place where it all comes

together. MobileMe applications at

me.com include Mail, Contacts, and

and iDisk for online file sharing"

'MobileMe is a new Internet service

Headlines we couldn't fit in

Apple launches new, pricey 24" Cinema Display

All sorts of new smartphones released

Fujitsu Siemens demos external laptop GFX card

Jerry Yang to quit as Yahoo! boss, sobs over MS offer

MacBook / Pro TrackPad seizures patched by Apple

FCC approves white space frequency Wi-Fi

Shuttle Endeavour upgrades Space Station

Acer consumer laptops No.1 seller in 3Q08 market

Calendar, as well as Gallery for viewing Samsung sued and sharing photos, 20GB of storage, by Spansion over flash patents

# Mobile Me + iPhone = Nice?



The web interface to the online Mobile Me service. Giving online access to your calendars, contacts, files, photos and mail.

As one of many who have bought Apple's new iPhone 3G, I too know the drawbacks of email on a mobile device. The mobile distractions when out with friends (or even when, perhaps, in lectures) used to extend to receiving the occasional text message or phone call. This has since been upgraded to being able to instantly acquire the latest pointless news from some society's mailing list that you now regret signing up for in freshers' fair.

Unfortunately, having used a GMail rather unhappy to find out that Goog-

Apple originally came up with a solution by teaming up with Yahoo for their "YMail" service, which would give "free push email to all iPhone users." However, recently, some users including myself have noticed that the push email service seems to have silently stopped. Although there are many other push email solutions available online, I decided to try Apple's new MobileMe.

Despite being an avid mac user for the last few years, I have never tried using Apple's now obsolete .Mac service. Apple have since thoroughly improved account for the past 4 years (has GMail this, renaming it to MobileMe, and been in beta for FOUR YEARS!?), I was giving great support for iPhone users. Even though MobileMe publicly didn't Simply speaking, instead of having an up for a free trial account. MobileMe email arrive on my iPhone soon after offers much more than push email, minutes, where x is a minimum of 15. for getting someone's number whilst

between your computers.
After using MobileMe for a few weeks and experiencing the tight integration service offered. MobileMe feels like a accessible anywhere and automatically product which really bridges the small ensures that you get identical email, gaps. Even if I didn't own an iPhone, or contacts, and calendars, no matter even a Mac, MobileMe is highly useful for sharing files and photos with provides a suite of ad-free web appli-

friends, and even having synchronized bookmarks and folders between my le do not offer a push email service. have a smooth start, I decided to sign other computers. Setup is quick and painless, and the settings sync between all your devices. Back to my mac screen it is sent, my phone simply checks my including an address book contact list sharing is something hard to live with-GMail account for new emails every x which keeps in sync over-the-air (great out, and feels very responsive.

Overall, I would highly recommend

out on your phone, and finding it on

your PC or Mac seconds later, without

any need to sync), a calendar service.

highly comparable to Google calendar,

a decent photo storage/sharing webapp,

tightly integrated with the iPhone and

iPhoto, and finally iDisk, which is very

useful for having synchronized folders

# Syobon (a.k.a. "Mario Cat")

This classic annoying-yet-addictive 
The more balloons you pop, the more money you get, then you get for hours: http://is.gd/7Y1G to pop even more! http://is.gd/7Yct

Weekend Timewasters

Diggnation.com

Watch the co-founder of Digg.com

and his friend talk about some of the

Friday 21 November 2008

Is your club cooler than the cat that got the cream? Write to us.

clubsandsocs.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# Keeping the candle burning

Emily Wilson joins the Amnesty International society at their annual students' conference in Reading

ternational Society recently joined over fifty other Amnesty student groups from across the country at the annual student conference, held at Reading University. Running across a whole weekend, the event was packed with talks, workshops, actions and a couple of well deserved social events.

Following a night on the floor of a sports hall, Saturday morning kicked off with two plenary talks by some key figures in Amnesty and the world of human rights in general. The discussion was led by Kate Allen, UK director of AI, who was joined by deputy secretary general Kate Gilmore and the BBC journalist Alan Johnston, who talked about how his own human rights were famously violated. Each told the audience of students about how they became interested in human rights, how they got involved with Amnesty International and what human rights means to them now. The second plenary that morning featured Gita Sahgal, head of the AI gender unit, and Maajid Nawaz, founder of an extreme Islamist organisation turned prisoner of conscience and human rights defender.

These talks were followed by opportunities for the attending students to learn more about specific campaigns and how to take action to defend human rights in a series of workshops. I attended a workshop on Amnesty's new campaign targeting world poverty, which quickly descended into a heated debate about the political ramifications of the campaign and the controversy it might generate. Such debates between the like-minded and passionate students I found myself at the conference with were the highlight of the weekend for me. The second workshop I went to was about how to motivate and activate your own student group. Some of my group members attended a workshop on taking action through disturbing public tranquility - so watch out

for us on campus! The afternoon plenary focused on is involved in alongside other charities.

mperial College's Amnesty In- Campaigner David Grimason touched us all with his story of how his own son was killed a result of uncontrolled arms trading. Oliver Sprague, the programme's director, told us about what can be done about controlling the arms trade and how to get involved. Famed comedian and political activist Mark Thomas talked about breaking into a weapons convention, his own dealings with arms dealer traders and more recently taking on Coca Cola. It came as no surprise to us that Mark is in the Guiness Book of Records for "most number of political demonstrations in

The weekend wasn't just about sitting through talks - in Amnesty International we like to have fun too! Saturday night was a more social occasion. We got to know members of other groups while eating free cake and being entertained by a stand-up performance by Mark Thomas and awesome ska band

Sunday saw the 260 students at the conference taking action to fight for women's rights in Iran. In Iran, women make up more than 60% of the student population but are second class citizens subject to many discriminatory

An Iranian woman is under control of her husband or father, receiving half the inheritance of a brother and being targeted by honour killings for disobedience. An Iranian woman's evidence in court is by law worth half of that of a man. As part of Amnesty's ongoing campaign against these inequalities, we took part in a demonstration on the Reading University campus. Expect to see our faces on a TV screen in the

I think I can speak for all who attended from Imperial when I say this weekend was not only fun but changed our perspectives on human rights and the work of Amnesty International. The conference has motivated us to take more action to promote and defend human rights, and we have walked away with so many ideas about how to the Control Arms campaign Amnesty make our student group bigger, better



Look at them. They care. And think they can make a difference. Eurgh. How disgustingly left-wing

## Amnesty at Imperial

Imperial has had an Amnesty student group for around six years now, but we remain a relatively small group and all too often hear "but I didn't know Imperial had an Amnesty group!" - we're hoping to change that. Amnesty is a wonderful opportunity to get involved in human rights, increase your awareness of current affairs and meet new, like-minded people.

We have various events coming up and in the pipeline. During the imminent S.H.A.G. week we will be showing a film and holding a discussion/

This December we'll be running our annual Greetings Cards campaign helped out by Leonardo Soc, and we will be attending the London protests on the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Next year we're planning events relating to Guanatanmo Bay (yes – there will be cages and orange boiler suits for all!) and the Control Arms campaign. Anybody can attend these events, including non-members.

We always welcome new members and are always flexible about how involved you can or can't afford to get. Please come along to one of our weekly meetings (held on a Tuesday lunchtime – there are always biscuits!) or one of our major events to find out more. We look forwarding to hearing from you via amnesty@imperial.ac.uk.

## **About Amnesty International**

Amnesty International is a non-governmental organisation dedicated to ending human rights abuses across the world, and supporting those affected by human rights violations. Founded in the UK in 1961, it is a secular, politically neutral body whose reputation has earned it a UN human rights prize and a Nobel peace prize. While Amnesty are best known for taking action on behalf of individual prisoners of conscience, you may also have heard of such campaigns as "Protect the Human" and "Stop Violence Against Women". Amnesty is also heavily involved in the Control Arms campaign

On a lighter note, you will likely have heard of the Secret Policeman's Ball, a fundraising event famously held by and in support of Amnesty International. Started up in the 70s and directed by John Cleese, its 2006 and 2008 revivals were both held next door in the Royal Albert Hall. The latter featured appearances by celebrities ranging from Alan Carr, Graham Norton, and Mitchell and Webb to Keane and Razorlight. It is still available to watch online if you missed it.

Amnesty is constantly introducing new campaigns and targeting new aspects of its human rights cause. In the coming months you can expect to see celebrations of the 60th birthday of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Amnesty's annual Greetings Cards campaign (which invites participants to send seasonal greetings at Christmas time to prisoners of conscience around the world), and events focused on the 7th birthday on Guantanamo Bay. In the new year Amnesty International will be launching an exciting (and potentially controversial) new major campaign to target the human rights violations caused by governments and multinational corporations that perpetuate world poverty.

Now is a better time than ever to act in support of a charity that reinforces the fundamental human rights that are all too frequently violated across the world. You can get involved on own your own through the actions suggested on Amnesty's UK website (also a good place to find more information about what Amnesty International do – www.amnesty. org.uk) or through Imperial's Amnesty International Society.

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# Tales of worrying bangs and clunks

Rick Smith reports on the Bo's adventures on the Brighton Run, with photographs from Jonathan Silver

kay, so there's a Lord, a president and a physicist in a car (plus an engineer or two) – this is a story of nail biting speed, mountainous hill climbs, perilous oil slicks, CGCU top hats and stripy jackets – it can only the London to Brighton Veteran Vehicle Run starring Bo.' A little background before we go any further. Boanerges (affectionately known as Bo') - meaning sons of thunder – was manufactured in 1902 by James and Browne of Hammersmith and has been the CGCU mascot since 1934. He has spent the last 64 years throwing up no end of unusual and worrying bangs, clunks and more fumes (unadulterated by a catalytic converter) than you could breathe in a

clubsandsocs.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Having recently had the engine cylinders extensively repaired some teething problems meant that an engine re-build was required the afternoon before the perilous drive to Brighton could even be started. On the Sunday morning at 6:30 AM Dave Hankin gently spun the starting handle and Bo, along with his new phosphor bronze bearings, playfully roared into action

- I say roar, maybe more a pup bang pop bang! With our guests of honour Professor Lord Robert Winston and CGCU President Mark Mearing-Smith sitting comfortably and wrapped up warm, Henry Weaver, co-driver, and I [Rik Smith] began to drive the short distance to the start at Hyde Park

Having noticed a bit of oil outside the garage as we pulled out, we thought this was nothing more than Bo' playfully marking his territory of South Kensington and continued along our way. Pulling into Serpentine Road the place was a throng with cars and enthusiasts, all pre 1905 – and some of the enthusiasts were even older.

At 7:26 AM Bo' and his band of merry passengers crossed the start line and headed towards Hyde Park Corner roundabout. As we cruised through red lights and past waiting traffic – Police controlled of course we quickly slipped into 4th gear and motored swiftly towards Buckingham palace, the game was afoot! At Streatham Hill the co-driver was changed to Robert Carter and we continued our way onto Croydon, where we doffed our hats to the Mayor and continued swiftly on. During the descent from the hill and concrete jungle of Croy-

speed when |CLUNK| and one of our front gas lamps had jumped ship from its metal bracket and plunged towards the road. Slamming on the hand brake and foot operated transmission brake we ground to a halt – some 50 yards later – to find that the brass lamp had broken its bracket and was supported acetylene hose, I detached the tube and thrust the lamp into the waiting hands of Lord Winston who interjected, "looks like metal fatigue to me". Bo' continued on from Croydon with one

had to wave goodbye to Lord Winston just outside London but I am told that Clem – one of our support vehicles in the form of the RSM Motor Club's 1926 Morris T-type one-ton truck - quickly whisked him away to a slap up breakfast. As our halfway point approached nanometres above the tarmac by the I could feel something wasn't quite right, Bo' was telling me something. At the next lights we pulled up onto the pavement and gave him a quick once over, a squirt of oil in the bores and a well deserved drink of water. Bob Goodwill, co-driver, pushed the pedes-

Sir Robert Winston and members of the City and Guilds motor club put a brave face on a frightfully early start

we were back on the road. The town of Crawley offered us tea and a bacon roll which we grabbed and then made a surge towards the hill stage. We passed the half way point – by this time issuing less of an oil slick behind us. Our stop in Peas Pottage for a change of codrivers and a more thorough once over revealed that the oil slick we had been issuing for the past 30 miles was not Bo' marking his territory (now extending into Sussex) but Bo' gently emptying the oil from his gear box through a significant orifice onto the highway. At once the support team jumped to action stations and within an hour and a half a wooden patch had been manufactured, gear box oil refilled and we were back on the road.

green man, and at the next opportunity

With the improved compression prowas suggested that Bo' might just make the gears, 3rd ... 2nd ... cries of "Come enough for me. on Bo' you can do it" were uttered by both driver and co-driver, Daniel Izslowed further and we were forced into than subtle tow rope. As steam began the top; asking attendants how much another 100 yards. As we rounded the

As the miles clocked up we sadly trian crossing button and waited for the crest we slipped into 2nd, 3rd, 4th and we knew that our side mounted radiators would be cooling Bo's heart with the refreshing breeze.

Clubs and Societies

Mark - now our only guest of honour and passenger was always keen to help, passing us the water, the starting handle, tool box or whatever other items he was lumbered with in the back. However, one piece of information I didn't think he would come up with as we were descending a gentle hill in 4th gear was our speed! Driving Bo' is not an easy task but is none the less a delight; going down a hill is not for the faint hearted. With the wind battering my hands and face - wondering if the top hat will stay in place Mark coolly interjects while reading from his Blackberry, "23... 24... 25, that's 25 mile per hour!" - 25 was more or less our top speed for the day. But that's vided by our rejuvenated cylinders it 25 mph provided by 1902 technology supported on wooden wheels, 4 leaf springs and enough split pins and stee incline approached, we changed down gears to shake a stick at, 25 mph is fast

As the final stage approached we cruised downhill into Brighton in 4th zat, under their breath, sadly the revs gear knowing we needed to keep the pace up to cross the line by 4PM; hapfirst. That's first gear up a hill which a pily we were parked up on Madeira large proportion of Veteran cars are Drive by 3:45. Having been guizzed by persuaded up by an RAC van and a less a gentleman on the finish line with a microphone attached to the Tannoy to effervesce from beneath the floor he asked, "have you had any problems boards we knew Bo' was ready to be at getting here today?" to which I could only reply, "no, not at all, just a minor further, they encouragingly said only oil leak which delayed us by about an hour and a half!"



Members of the RCS motor club stop off for the infamous BJ breakfast- deep fried black pudding all round!

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# What's on...

Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editors - Lily Topham & Rachel D'oliveiro



## Monday

#### S.H.A.G Week

A free film showing courtesy of Amnesty International Society.

"Born into Brothels" is a portrait of several unforgettable children who live in the red light district of Calcutta, where their mothers work as prostitutes. Zana Briski, a New Yorkbased photographer, gives each of the children a camera and teaches them to look at the world with new eves with extraordinary results. Both uplifting and deeply sad, this film is unmissable.

Free refreshments provided.

Time: 6.30pm Place: LT 1, Blackett Price: Admssion free

#### **Ahlul Bayt** Talk

Are we running out of food and oil? Why are prices fluctuating? Ahlul Bayt Society presents an unmissable talk with Nafeez Ahmed, Executive Director of the Institute for Policy Research & Development.

Free refreshments provided.

Saturday

Place: LT 2, SAF **Price: Admission Free** 

## **Tuesday**

S.H.A.G Week

Global Health Forum: How

will Science prevent HIV

Hosted by Medsin's Glo-

bal Health Forum, Professor

Jonathan Weber, the founding

editor of the journal 'AIDS' and

an expert in the field will be

coming to talk about the future

Free refreshments provided.

S.H.A.G Week

Super S.H.A.G. Quiz! The Un-

ion's weekly quiz has been hi-

jacked by some pesky Sexual

Transmitted Infections! If you

think you know your clap from

your crabs, come down and

compete for prizes including

beer and cash and the prestige

of being the biggest sex-pert at

Time: 8pm

Place: dB's, Beit

Price: Admission Free

of HIV prevention.

Place: LT1, SAF

Price: Admission free.

# Wednesday Thursday

Look out for Medsin's Krispy Kreme sale on the South Kensington Campus.

Come along to gorge yourself on glazed delights. All proceeds will be going to Medsin's nominated charities

S.H.A.G Week

Time: 12 midday

### **Improvisation** Workshop

Try out a free improvisation workshop courtesy of Dramsoc. Anyone is welcome - no prior experience necessary!

Time: 2pm - 5pm Place: Union Dining Hall, Beit Price: Admission Free

### **Play: F20.0**

ICSM Drama presents F20.0 Paranoid Schizophrenia: One story behind the diagnosis. The story of one man's journey from quiet, rural Jamaica to loud and bustling

Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit Price: £4/6 (Students/Nor

#### S.H.A.G Week

Collect treasure maps from the Union or the Medics Union from Wednesday and find the STIs hidden all over College this lunchtime. Bring back your spoils and swap them for prizes and get entered into our competition.for the top prize announced at the end of the

Time: 12 - 2pm Place: All over College! Price: Admission free

#### S.H.A.G. Week Concert

Medsin invite you to a Chamber Concert as part of their Stop AIDS Campaign. Featuring a string quartet and vocal ensemble, all profits will go towards the Shelter Trust AIDS Orphanage in Chennai, India.

Time: 7pm Place: Hospital Chapel, Mary Stanford Wing, St Mary's Price: £3 (donations also

**Play: F20.0** 

ICSM Drama presents F20.0, Paranoid Schizophrenia: One story behind the diagnosis. The story of one man's journey from quiet, rural Jamaica to loud and bustling London.

Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit Price: £4/6 (Students/Non-

## S.H.A.G Week

**Friday** 

Come and see a free showing of "Miss HIV", a controversia film exploring the international collision of HIV/AIDS policies while following the journey of two HIV-positive women who enter the contest in Botswana. Filmed across Africa and at the International AIDS Conference in Toronto this explosive film aims to share both sides of an ideology struggle. Hosted by Every Nation Christian Society.

Time: 12.30pm Place: Room 301, RSM Price: Admission free

#### S.H.A.G Week Finale

Featuring the Union DJs. A whole evening of safe sex-focused fun, featuring condom games, raffles and naughty

See the Union website for more details.

Place: Union, Beit

#### **Play: F20.0**

CSM Drama presents F20.0, Paranoid Schizophrenia: One story behind the diagnosis. The story of one man's journey from quiet, rural Jamaica to loud and bustling London.

Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit Price: £4/6 (Students/Non-

#### ICSM Orchestra Concert

Come along to the ICSM Music Society Orchestra Concert! Repertoire includes Brahms Symphony 4, Dyorak's Slayonic Dances and Smetana's Ma Vlast. Conducted by Chris Gray.

Time: 7:30pm

Place: St. Stephen's Church, SW7 Price: Free/£5 (Students/Non-Students)

What's on will cover events running from Monday-Sunday every week. If you would like to feature a Club or Society event in What's on, you will need to submit the following:

- Club name, Event name, Date(s) & Time, Place, Price (if applicable), Short description of the event (max. 30 words)

Deadline for submissions for next week's edition is midnight on Monday 24th November. There is limited space, so all entries are subject to editorial snipping and we cannot guarantee that everybody who sends an email will feature.

Email: whatson.felix@ic.ac.uk

# offee Break



coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## *felix* fail attempt

Ravi Pall Coffee Break Editor

Whadafuh happened last week? I'll tell going to be a total shambles. you what! An EPIC FAIL of gargantuan proportions. Why you ask? Well it all started with a loving text from Jovan, on their respective computers, then the *felix* editor in chief. Within this all so loving SMS message were the words a USB memory stick. A painfully slow "felix down." Now I have just implied that this text message was more in depth than it really was. "felix down" were the ONLY words included in the all so friendly communication medium. Seriously, whatdafuh? So as the storey goes, I aimlessly wandered down to the depths of the Beit west basement, to (in a not so aimlessly manner) discover whadafuh! The effect on the timing the truth behind the looming words "felix down." When I eventually found out, it wasn't the worst news that could have come our way. The words "felix down" in fact meant the network had fucked up, and there was no way to ac- on behalf of the *felix* team. We know cess Dreamserve. Just to clue you in, it was a failed issue and a discredit to Dreamserve is the central server *felix* runs on. What does that mean? well to put it bluntly, it mean no one could log again. At the current time of writing, onto the computers, no one could edit

However there was one solution. This involved everyone writing their pages transfering all the files and pictures via process that has a risk factor greater than going down on a girl with herpes. In the end, a 40 page issue was whittled down to 32. All because the confusion created caused files to be corrupted, of pictures to go missing. At one point a whole folder with a complete section of felix in it just disappeared. Again, resulted in the issue not being copy edited. A point made by one irate *felix* reader who came into the office on the friday demanding an explanation

I would like to apologies to you all our loyal readers, but we will definitely endeavour to prevent this happening Dreamserve is up and working fine. No their pages for the weeks issue, and it tearing up this weeks issue every time also meant that last weeks issue was you see it Kadhim.

# Stuff IC Students Like!?:)

8. Sex:

College. Those who have sex, and those that don't. Either way, everyone loves sex, just some aren't getting any. don't start sleeping with hookers. For sexually active.

those that are, well done. With the reputation IC sudents have it's good that your rebelling. Also for those that There are 2 types of people at Impeial are, don't forget S.H.A.G. week starts monday 24th November. it is the perfect place to pick up FREE condoms, lube and learn about the STI's your For those that arn't don't worry, just more likely to pick up because your



## Drink with me, I'm Snaky B

and this week I'm dressed as Kylie.



B dressed as Kylie. That's right, the really old aussie bird who everyone hot a Pamela Anderson, but still HOT. Unfortunately i'm not way near as hot as my younger sister Danni, but she's way hot, even I would. Australia is hot. not a beautiful way, but in the, 'we've fucked up the ozone and now all us convicts have skin cancer' kind of way. Oh wait, I shouldn't talk about cancer, however I did do well to overcome it. Other problem with us fucking the any awards. She needs to die. Mate.

ood day mate. I'm Snaky ozone is the issues we now have with our Foster's.... well you wouldn't want a warm beer would vou? Mate. Well I don't care, I'm Kylie and I'm the Printhinks is so hot. Not as cess of pop, waiting in the wings for that scrawney bitch Madonna to die. Why is she the Queen? I got over cancer... she didn't even get over Guv Ritchie and make multiple babies. She was too busy spazing out over her imaginary (show me the evidence) religion. Plus I'm a much better actor, I did Neighbours for fucks sake- Madonna did 'Swept Away' I don't see that winning

# Photoshop Competition -8





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



were short on entries this week, and this week, but other budding photo ter again next week.

ner, Team Rubbish. It was starting are good, but i'm sure someone will to become a bit repetitive, but we stop their reign of terror victory.

we love hello kitty. You get the points Keep up the good work, and please en-

was caught playing a Nintendo DS.

Congratulations to this week's win- shop artists please join in. These guys This week's image is of a certain 2nd The high respicture can be found onyear physicist. I was staring to think line. Click on Coffee Break in the secphysics students were beginning to tions tab. Email your entry to coffee. break the trend of the nerdy video felix@imperial.ac.uk with your team game players. Obviously not as one name and .PSD file and you'll be entered into the FUCWIT league.

**34** felix Friday 21 November 2008 Friday 21 November 2008

## A Quickie (Crossword) 1,415

**DOWN** 

4 Change for the better (11)

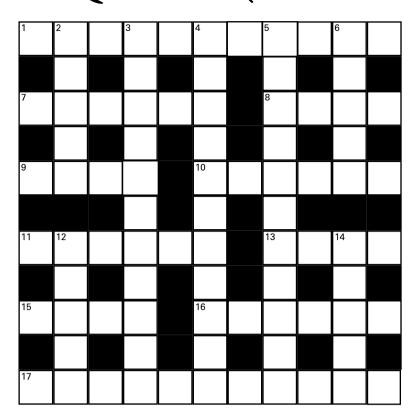
5 Nomenclature (11)

14 Many-layered bulb (5)

6 Citrus fruit (5)

12 Unforgiving (5)

2 Core (5) 3 Fantasy (4,7)



#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Lightly; without being too serious
- 7 Increase in price (6)
- 8 American predator (4)
- 10 Rectangle (6)
- 11 Put on one side (6)
- 13 At some other time (6)
- 15 French cheese (4)
- 16 Portion (6)
- 17 Menacing (11)

#### Solution 1,415

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Winners of last weeks Quickie were Top of the Table, they were straight in there... bang, not bothered, next please. These guys are quickly getting a monopoly on the puzzles section, we must break this. I suggest getting your felix, having a Quickie and sending it in. Laters.

# League Table

38 Points Möchten sie mein Manschaft? 17 Points Team Rubbish Hringur Gretarsson 16 Points Giramondo 16 Points Team Turner Gobels 12 Points Yu-Xi Chau 10 Points Martin '08 8 Points Team Rapid Bunnyz 5 Points

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

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, Caption Competition and Quick Crossword. 4 points for second, 3 points for third, 2 points for fourth and 1 point

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

rial.ac.uk or sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk. Go!

# **FUCWIT**

Top of the Table

## the hell is going on.

Simple! Now then FUCWITs, send in your answers to felix@impe-

# Harrowscopes. Or Horoscopes if you prefer.

Apparently Horoscopes need to be more helpful and less... 'made up bollocks'. Here goes:



Wise words for you this week: Nil Sine Labore (for non latin speakers, nothing without effort). You know

what you want but sitting around is not going to get it for you. However if you're prepared to put in the groundwork you could be reaping rewards as early as next Tuesday. (Only whilst stocks last though).



Caution is advised this week, as what seems like a good idea at the time could have dire repercussions (think

Phil Collins on drums) especially if copious amounts of beer are involved. If you attract the attention of shady men in pubs, a swift exit is probably necessary. Remember guys: "women and alcohol can be a lot of fun, but if you mix



New discoveries last week forced you to reconsider your plans. The change was unexpected and unwelcome, but the

good news is that a new direction will bring surprising benefits. Remember your friends that got you through the bad week with cake and tea/beer, they may need your help with their own problems soon.

thing stupid, but don't worry, the stars indicate now is an ideal time for all Taureans to

learn from previous mistakes. Thankfully, this week's embarrassment will only last until next Wednesday when the collective social memory of the sports teams is eradicated by copious



You may feel like you're snowed under and have no time for social activities this week but a friend

is counting on you to support them at an important event. Do not let them down unless you are prepared to spend the rest of the term earning their forgiveness. If all else fails, you'll have to buy it, but last time I checked



Whilst your mate thinks this week's antics are just more harmless fun, you think this time they've overstepped

the mark. You may not like conflict but things won't be the same between you until you say something. So bite the bullet, fight it out and make up over a couple of drinks or be prepared to loose a great friend.

else? You're full of ideas and inspiration at the moment which could really benefit someone close to you, so ask around and find out who is looking for a new muse. They may deny your help, but don't let up.



Whilst the relaxed status between you and your supervisor/ housemate/bit of stuff has suited you well up to now.

Things for you

have been going

so why not pass

the good fortune

on to someone

swimmingly of late,

things are about to change. You need to sit down and address both of you expectations of the relationship now, because if unresolved differences in your desires will go on to become a major source of anguish between



You may think your friends are interfering busybodies and that is because they are. However it's nice to know that at

least they are interfering busybodies with your best interests at heart. So when a close friend this week sets you up with someone unexpected, go with it. Some words that may come in handy; Może kupuję wam napój?

Well, well, well. Things are certainly looking up for you front this week. It seems holding out

Scorpio

for that special person is paying off, so take it slow and enjoy the 'getting to know each other' stage, safe in the knowledge the 'can't keep your hands off each other' stage is just around



#### Sagittarius

This week you need to address your work life balance. If you've been slacking off now is the time for some productive

study, but if you're part of the majority of Imperial students and working far too hard then you need to take some much needed me time. So go on, cancel tonight's intensive study session and get out on the town with your mates.



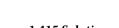
#### Capricorn

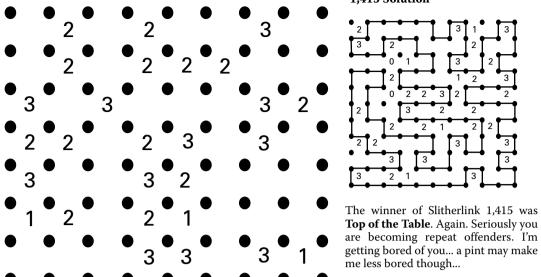
Variety may be the spice of life, but it is also a known cause of Chlamydia. You are super attractive to the opposite

sex just now, so enjoy it while it lasts – responsibly. Things will settle down soon and when they do you may be surprised to find a relationship that started as a bit of fun has further to go than you imagined. Pint?

#### sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Slitherlink 1,416





It's quite simple, all numbers are in a cell and must be surrounded with a corresponding number lines. Lines cannot split and there can only be one continous line. Any cells with no Look at the solution above for help.

## Caption time! -1

To help you waste time in lectures (if wisely- he knocked a hole in £50. come after you with a machine gun) we now have a caption competition. I can literally hear the exclamations of editor so drunk that he went home with a man to allow this; so use it 3) Make them funny.

you want to that is, we're not going to To the rules: 1) You make me laugh you get five points in the FUCWIT league. 2) Send captions to sudoku. felix@imperial.ac.uk, bonus laughs joy from here. However had to get the for placement of caption (so scan it if possible).

Fun & Games



numbers can have any number of lines. This week we have unlucky Brit James Toseland bailing if from his Tech3 Yamaha M1 MotoGp bike.... Epic Fail!! Now you get captionating.

## Wordoku 1,416

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Me and some chums relaxing in a slightly warmer climate

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1,415 Solution									
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#### we've just replaced numbers with letters. Complete the puzzle and then send the whole grid to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Wordoku is identical to Sudoku;

You will not get credit for just the word alone. It's not an anagram. WHA...DA...FUH? Competition

is stiffer than when 'a mate' sees Polish girl. The first answer took less than 15 minutes to bounce onto my screen cutting my \_\_\_\_ short! Anyways winners were Top of the Table who found "SHORTDICK" hidden there

# it all fucked up....

07980 148 785

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

#### This week's texts: "Sorry about the paper last week-

"Thanks for coming all the way down to the office to tell us about the errors though..."

"It was even better that you offered to help copy read...."

"Actually... you didn't did you? What a nobber"

"Polish girl is actually too hot. I think I may explode."

"Shit guyz. Wherez my dignity gone?.. I'z actually considered chewing throughz my arm."

"Want to see something sexual?"

## Tamara asks: How tall is a Union mini-bus?

to make use of the pleasure cruiser my second husband bought for me everyone and no one was offended. while we were courting. A little moonbathing went down a treat, I was relaxing with a glass of champagne, when a time! I was glad to see so many young number of young men from the Kings things following my advice on finding College Hockey Club came by on one themselves a rich husband, the compeof their community integration eve- tition was a little unnerving though. I nings. This year they were putting on was reminded that I'm not getting any

Not to be out-done by some kids pole-dancing moves out around the son has sent me their problems:

Clearly things were getting a little Dear Tamara, out of hand, so we laughed it off and I offered them some of my champagne.

ednesday evening their aim is about as bad as an RSM girl and they ended up giving their glasses to some of my neighbours instead.

Initially this caused some confusion, but thankfully it was laughed off by

In other news, I've recently discovered the wonderful Boujis for the first

putting on a show, I decided to put on Apparently it's been a very good a show of my own, thrashing my best week for all of you too, as only one per-

I recently cooked a delicious meal for my boyfriend and his parents, the only Unfortunately, I had run out of glasses trouble is, the duck I cooked was one of and so they threw their's over for me to my favourites from his farm, we called fill. Have you ever seen those guys try- him Donald and everything! As deliing to aim (might explain why they're cious as the meal was, I now can't face doing rather badly this year)? Anyway, the thought of meat and am considering

becoming vegetarian in memory of my beloved Donald. I'm worried my boyfriend won't un-

derstand as he says my cooking has been getting better, he's even stopped going to McDonalds for a top-up afterwards!

What should I do? **Ouacked off** 

#### Dear Quacked off,

I can't believe you're considering subjecting your boyfriend to a life of no meat! It would be one thing if you a travelling performance to entertain younger and really must get a move stopped eating meat and just ate the on if I want to find that illusive fourth veg you cooked to go with his main meal (meat is very calorific anyway), but to deprive a man of his meat is asking for trouble! You need to be a good woman and ignore your own feelings in order to make him happy.

If you have similar feelings in the future, I suggest you counteract the negative karma by cooking a big roast dinner. Shame on you!

Got a problem, contact Tamara at felix@imperial.ac.uk

**Sport** 

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

Yes there is a snowboard team at IC, and it finally warrants a mention in felix!

There is a massive university snowsports community in the UK, of which Imperial is a relatively tiny part of. Typically, clubs from Lough-Birmingham, Reading, Manchester and even Dublin attend national events with upwards of 30 members (the majority of which attend purely for the rowdy social aspect of it all) whereas Imperial are lucky to send 15 competitors. However, this number is growing year by year along with the team's successes, prompting funding from Sport Imperial enabling more frequent coaching and more consistent participation in events.

Last weekend saw Imperial's snowboard race team come 3rd overall in the British University Dry slope Championships (BUDS) Dual Slalom event - a huge achievement amidst the 64 participating teams especially in the first year that the competition has been sanctioned by British Universities and Colleges Sport. IC Snowsports race team won 10 BUCS points for Imperial in the sports league tables which is the best success they have achieved yet.

In the individual competitions, Allan Bouwstra and myself, Ruskin Constant, were 37th and 41st fastest down the boarders Grand Slalom course with times of 16.80 secs and 16.93 secs respectively - a formidable result against 182 total competitors that qualified us for the Boarder X race competition the following day.

Boarder X involves a much more difficult racecourse including jumps and sharp turns against another rider at

**Ruskin Constant &** event that has 4 riders. It is stupidly difficult even without having to worry about another rider who is well within the rules to 'nudge' you down. This led to a number of casualties of which fortunately there was no one from Imperial, but at least 3 hospitalities occurred over the weekend on the slopes.

> Last year, the snowboarding team were knocked out in the first few rounds due to an unfair mishap where a race official was late in signalling for our team to start. This year we were out to prove that Imperial has got some major riding talent despite hailing from central London. The event is often dominated by students from Unis further north that have access to more of the country's dryslopes for training or have a much bigger investment in sport (e.g. Loughborough or Bath Uni.) Beating Newcastle riders was particularly satisfying for this reason, especially considering we did not even have enough people for a full team (only 3 of the 5 that were needed) in my first year.

BUDS freestyle competition plays host to some major figures on the UK snowboard scene; the likes of which provoke other amateur snowriders to attempt the craziest of stunts in order to gain respect on the slopes. Despite not being recognised by BUCS as an official competition, freestyle still attracts at least a 100 competitors each time and this year was no exception.

There's a Big Air contest (massive jump with massive tricks) and a Slopestyle contest (big air plus rails.)

Tim Burton (freestyle captain) and Tom Britton represented Imperial on skis – notably throwing down a switch the same time, similar to the Olympic 180 and a dodgy somersault respec- 30 girls.

tively in the slopestyle.

On snowboard, Jamie Perrelet made it through to the final round of the big air contest on the strength of a solid 360 landed with style and panache.

It's also worth mentioning here that Imperial College is still host to the BUISC female freestyle champion Ces O'Hanlon from last year.

BUDS takes place at the Midlothian ski centre in Hillend just outside of Edinburgh and is always a memorable/terrifying experience. The ski race is held over 2 days on the biggest dry slope in Europe, which winds its way down a mountain on the outskirts of Edinburgh. Not only do the competitors have to brace themselves for the cold windy weather of Scotland, they also have to ski down a very steep Dendex slope riddled with bumps and patches of grass. You may ask yourself the question "why do this?" but every vear thousands of university students turn up to try and prove who is the fastest or craziest skier in the land and, Imperial is no exception.

2008 saw the largest BUDS ever, with 1350 people attending, including 450 male and 250 female competitors entered in both individual slalom and giant slalom events. This made this year's races very competitive. However the ski team rose to the challenge with individual members setting some excellent times. Charles Hudson, Alexander Davenport and Michael Parkes all finished within the top 90 fastest men in both slalom and GS events.

In true Imperial style the team took only one girl to compete, however Marianne Rolph did very well narrowly missing out on making the top

Alana played a captain's role as she

hitting position as well as some spectacular backcourt middle

scored point after a point from the

hits. Playmaker Ashly Black put on a

master class of setting, distributing the

ball deceptively to keep the opposition

blockers always guessing. Brazilian

defensive specialist Regina was in-

credibly accurate in service reception,

freeing Black up to execute Imperial's

fast and exciting brand of volleyball.

Middle hitters Linda and Ascha were

dominant and fast at the net, slamming

down Black's quick sets with immense

## IC swimming take on nation

Friday 21 November 2008

Thomas Whitehead-Clarke

Last weekend IC swim club travelled up to Ponds Forge swimming pool in Sheffield to take part in the BUCS championships. It is one of the biggest galas of the year, with several team GB and Olympic swimmers taking part.

The IC team did not disappoint, with several great performances, including their coach who managed to miss the train. Andrew Hagues finished 16th and 21st in the 50m and 100m backstroke respectively, finishing just a second outside the final in the 50m. Kent Zheng smashed his long-standing PB in the 100m breaststroke, showing promise for the rest of the season. Matt Steere finished a brilliant 12th in the gruelling 1500m freestyle, with Erika Cule and Thomas Whitehead-Clarke both taking chunks out of personal best times. Performance of the weekend goes to the men's medley relay team who despite being put together that morning took seconds off past times. With such good performances this early in the season, and the extremely young squad the club have, things are looking promising for the



## Imperial volleyball reaching new heights

**Emanuel Balsamo** 

The Women's 1st volleyball team cemented their position at the top of the BUCS South Eastern Conference 1A after a flawless performance at the second round of tournaments at Reading University. They maintained their 100% record, recording three more wins to add to the two convincing victories the previous Sunday at the University of Kent. The women are yet to drop a set and have already secured their place in visible as the team played as a cohesive the BUCS last sixteen playoffs.

Kent and won each encounter 2-0. The score lines made for impressive reading. 25-8 was the first set score against a Sussex side that could not handle an Imperial side firing on all cylinders. Reading and Kent could not do much better as opponents struggled to reach

than any other opponents and this was



Who is that lucky chap in the middle?

They faced Reading, Sussex and

There is no question that the Imperial ladies have been training harder

> power. Dynamic French phD student Amelie showed some deft touches as well as unstoppable cross court spikes. First year Jen also impressed, particularly with a huge block in the Kent game as the whole squad showed great focus and team spirit to dominate all three games from the beginning. Left-handed and elegant attacker Emily Boyd was in scintillating form time and time again her strong hits found the opponents floor to keep the

The team are improving each game and so far this season have played 13 games in all competitions and won all of them, including a prestigious preseason tournament and qualification for the English Volleyball Association Student Cup Finals, beating Southampton University and top 8 BUCS ranked Cambridge University along

scoreboard ticking over.

## Lacrosse tour to Oxford

**Emanuel Balsamo** 

One skier on the Grand Slalom

needed airlifting out with a helicopter

after over an hour of treatment on the

slope itself. The incident had a mas-

sive knock-on effect to the remainder

of the ski competitions, which cul-

minated in the ski team dual slaloms

being effectively cancelled. Instead,

the top 16 universities were picked to

battle it out based on the individual

results from the previous day, leaving

out our ski team. (BUCS regulations

stipulate that a Champion University

had to be decided that weekend, which

is why the competition was not simply

On the whole, the snowsports team

has already improved a lot this year

with all of the newest members show-

ing massive improvements having at-

tended regular training and, now with

solid performances at BUDS, the team

hopes to improve and build on the

The next tournament is the Brit-

ish Universities Indoors Snowsports

Championships (or BUISC) that starts

in the New Year at indoor snow domes

across the country. Imperial will be

competing in the southern qualifiers

and hopefully the finals further north

It's not too late to get involved with

the race team, so if you're up for hurling

yourself down steep slopes at break-

neck speeds, dodging objects, pulling

tricks, getting hyper on adrenaline and

merry with a myriad of other Universi-

ties at the some of the country's hugest

student social events then let us know

via ski@imperial.ac.uk. Failing that,

book yourself onto the Imperial ski trip

to Val Thorens in the Christmas holi-

days for a more concentrated dose.

progress it has made.

if all goes well.

On 7th November, 29 excitable lacrosse players set off for the club's 2nd annual tour to Oxford. The promise of booze, boogying, bonding, a fair amount of fancy dress and a cheeky lacrosse match awaited us in this beautiful city. Friday saw us hitting the town in our uber-sexy red tour shirts. After a round of rather lethal fish bowls to break the ice at a local cocktail bar, we made our way to the student night at Bar Risa which was in the ideal location- next door to our hostel! A great night was had by all, which was evident iudging by the horrific hangovers experienced the morning after!

After a morning spent blearily exploring Oxford (seeking out coffee to wake us up!), we arrived at University Parks, psyched for a highly competitive match against the Oxford University mixed team.

Despite a great effort from all our the whole day, with Black stretching | players (and enough people to field back to London broken but satisfied Boyd frontcourt and backcourt, and However, we looked upon this as a over...until next year..!

themed fancy dress in preparation for the second evening of debauchery. Outfits ranged from leopards to trees with varying success and levels of nakedness. We even had our very own 'snow leopard' made from a children's furry dalmation outfit?! After a cosy team curry we made our way to Clementine's for more drinking and more dancing. Unfortunately getting caught in a huge rain storm on the way was a bit of a disaster for those wearing face paint! The rain did

great opportunity for everyone, par-

ticularly the new players, to compete

against one of the best mixed lacrosse

teams in the country. Following a few

friendly pints at a local pub with our

rivals, we returned to don our jungle

classics as the 'Macarena'. Sunday saw the club drag itself out into Oxford once more for tour fines and a pub lunch before we headed the opposition blockers by setting up | 3 teams!) we lost fairly comfortably. A weekend of drunken carnage was

not dampen our spirits however as we

danced the night away to such cheesy



The mixed lacrosse team at Oxford

#### Aim number 1, get massive; aim number 2 beat some teams at rugby, aim number 3 beat some teams at any other sports going around.

and piled on the tuna baguettes.

That definitely helped. One

of our guys put on 10kg

ing some players in

key positions, one

of them being prop

heard that the

forwards. I've also

**Editor in Chief of** 

felix has decided

not to play this

year. What can

you say about

thing

the

Firstly I'd like

ly got com-

to the paper

which makes

sense. As far

as the 1st team

smart people

eating

chips, they're

not really ac-

tive or sporty.

into the gym.

tellv

of pure fat during this

After speak-

ing to some

1st team

squad, it

After your promotion last year to

**BUCS South Premiership B, what** 

are your aims for the 1st team

current performance and about sport in general

Elaborating on aim 1, you said get bigger, did you see this being a problem before in the months after you gained promoted? We did, which is why we went and got some gingsters pasties, sandwich shop

#### What are you realistic targets this season then?

league first. Our aim at the start of the season was to come 4th, and we believe it is still attainable, but the work has to be done and it has to be done now. We'd also like to retain the Gutteridge Cup, it's a massive thing and can hold 20 pints, so that's always a fun night when you win that. Obviously Varsity is a target as well, and we hope we can give another spectacle this year.

#### Talking about Varsity, how did vou feel after last year's result?

Sport Imperial have been great help, they try their hardest to give us everything we need as well as some of the stuff we ask for. There have been times where they haven't been able to help, probably because we asked for too much, but they do try and meet us in the middle. But yeah, they have gener-

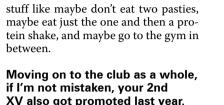
You've given us your predictions you think about some of the other

#### Hockey 1sts?

Men's hockey 1sts, they're doing Any props we quite well aren't they? They always do get, we hold seem to be winning with a small maronto and get gin though, 1-0, 2-1. I think they'll be them straight fine this year.

#### We tell them **Football 1sts?**

## Ask the captain - James Pettit The run-up to Varsity begins. This week, Mustapher Botchway interviews the Imperial College Rugby 1st XV Captain on their



I think they'll be well established in their league, but I don't see them getting promoted just yet. They've been winning their home games and getting good results away. But as far as the league goes, they probably won't go up

Where do you see them going

We need to secure ourselves in the Some of the less obvious sports What about squash? Didn't they win some BUCS thing too?

Devastated. But you have to realise that if the medics had lost that game, they would have felt worse. It was just one of those 50/50 games and we came out on bottom. It's a problem we've been having this season and something we will have to turn around. It won't just happen over night, but we are getting better and better every game and it is just a matter of time before we get

Seeing as you are now one of the 'elite' teams at Imperial as you are now in the premiership, what support have you received from Sport Imperial and/or the Union to help maintain this level?

ally been very good.

#### for the 2nd team, let's see what teams. Firstly netball 1st team?

I hear they are having a hard time sive. Normally but those babes will sort it out in the massive peo- end. They've got those cute little pink ple just sit in hoodies, they can't lose with that can front of the they?





Football are a mixed bag, they have

quite a lot of teams. They're good at

up there with the best. As far as BUCS,

I think they'll end up staying where

They'll go up, I remember that last

year they were quite good and they

seem to be doing the same again this

They were really good last year.

Yeah. I think they'll do well again this

What about Orienteering?

It's a sport where you have to

ments in the quickest time.

find targets in various environ-

So you've just got to be a normal hu-

man to do it. Good luck to them. Why

What is that?

now. What about fencing?

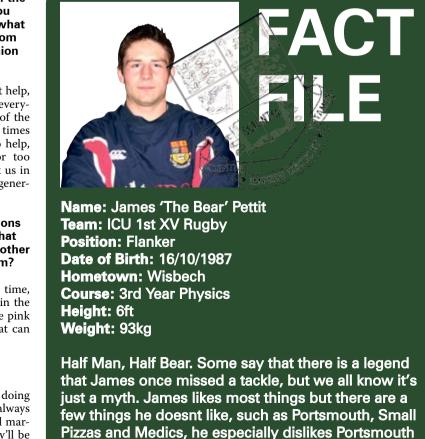
aren't they playing rugby?

drinking though, so socially they are Just before we round up the interview, we just like to ask you about the social side of things. As Jack and myself have pointed out in the paper, it's not just always about the sport. With that in mind, how do you balance playing for the 1st XV. competing week in week out and taking part in the social side of the rugby

**Sport** 

We don't stop anyone doing anything, in fact we encourage the social side of rugby. It is so important to bond with your team mates, dress up as girls and the 'lash'. But we do say that if you miss training because your out the night before, then we will come down on you. It's not just me on the case, the whole team has got the same mentality as no one wants to affect the training session by not being there. But nobody really does that as every is pretty committed and everyone wants the same result.

Also this Saturday night there is a cocktail event hosted by the club in dB's, cheap drinks and a good time. All you got to do is bring those little



**Sport** 

## Too many teams? Superclubs still the best solution

**Mustapher Botchway** Sports Editors

Friday 21 November 2008

he league table is here! Start getting excited about the prospect of the ultimate prize (to be decided in due course)!

In other news, we have a big debate about the vandalism in Hammersmith Celebrations are fine, but let us celebrate without causing a fuss.

Mustapher has managed to track down a captain to express his opinions about the Rugby Club. Hopefully this will now be weekly feature. Want to be interviewed? Drop us a line.

Last week's editorial prompted mass debate from the Miners. Medical School students, what are your views?

Dear Editors,

**Sport** 

Do we need "tea society" or a "cheese society"? The answer is clear, yes we do. because the students want one and surely the purpose of the Union is to give the students what they want. There would be no faculty teams if no-one wanted them, nobody would show up to play and they would vanish.

The whole point of a faculty team is for people to play sports who don't have the time to attend the sometimes demanding schedule of IC teams. For example, I believe IC Rugby have over 3 training sessions a week. They are also for people who want to take up a new sport in a no-pressure environment or for people that cannot commit to every training and match session. Although it's great that some people are good enough to play in a first team (it obviously makes then fell like a big man) it's

not for everyone. Merging all teams into one "superteam" wont change the strain clubs have on the IC purse strings either, if people where to join IC teams instead faculty teams then surely the club would need more money to support the new members? In fact, having players join the IC teams as well as their faculty team (as many do) means they pay membership to two clubs and so provide the college with more income!!

The point about playing for a social team, which the Sports Editor referred to as "bollocks" is more about the relaxed social atmosphere on the pitch as opposed to at the pub (where it also exists of course). Faculty teams, due to their general lower league ranking don't take games as seriously as games in the premiership division so people (especially beginners) are not pressured or shouted at if they don't play well which is a big factor for people who are starting out and for anyone else who just wants to do some exercise, spend time with their mates and get some fresh air. The Editors belittling of the RSM Football team is exactly the kind of attitude we want to avoid and is exactly why we like our faculty teams, so thank you for proving our point for us.

Charlotte Atteck

Dear Editors.

I personally play hockey for RSM and IC 1st team, so can appreciate the argument that if every hockey player at Imperial played for the same club, then that club would be superior and more

successful. However, it must be understood that not every hockey player at Imperial would want to play for such a club. Such a mergence would mean that the banter that comes with Varsity day and inter-faculty matches would

RSM are a more relaxed team, with abilities ranging from novice to countystandard players. We attract those who cannot commit to training each week but like to play their chosen sport on a regular (or not so regular) basis. We also offer mixed hockey every Sunday, something which IC does not. I find it appealing that RSM sports are less of a financial drain too. I was shocked to hear the cost of IC Rugby subs is £70 this year, plus £2 per training session and the average match costing ~£4-£5. RSM rugby on the other hand is a mere

The highlight of the RSM calendar is the Bottle Match; the second oldest varsity match in the world. This fixture has taken place for 107 years and is attended by over 300 people, making it a very attractive event for Geology and Material related companies. This is why such companies are interested in sponsoring our teams, and this, along with the RSMU, is where we get the majority of our funding, NOT from the

Abolishing RSM teams would mean losing traditions that are older than Imperial College itself. There is also the issue that certain Imperial clubs (cough Football cough) have reputations that their RSM counterparts would not like

With all of this in mind I think it is healthy to have a choice of clubs for sports within our University that cater for the needs of their players differently. After all we pride ourselves with having the largest number of clubs and societies out of all UK institutions.

Firstly thank you for your responses. Do we need a tea Soc? If I want to drink tea with some friends then ves Charlotte I would join such a society. However, I can categorically say that an RSM tea society is not needed, hence why to my knowledge there isn't one. Same with cheese. Moving on, Rugby may hold multiple sessions a week but they are compulsory for the 1st XV only. The 4th XV hardly to train in the first place anyway! In regards to football, training is recommended though again the 7th XI don't train as much. This nullifies your point regarding time constraints. I actually believe clubs that state that all standards are welcome because though, like lack, I represent ICUAFC 1st XI, the 7th XI is a team of people who want to give football a try or have very little experi-

ence playing. Furthermore, no, the lower teams are not shouted at if they are losing. Sorry to dispel such preconceptions of the bigger clubs. Further play nintendo wii in your garden, multiplayer, if you want some exercise with your mates in the fresh air. Alternatively join a bigger club where you can get all of that, plus

Sammy, I find it preposterous that people would want to play for RSM hockey, but not ICHC. I just don't see the logic, especially if RSM hockey have county standard players. I am yet to meet someone who has played to a high-ish standard that doesn't want to play with players of a similar ability.

Again, my main argument is not to abolish these clubs in it's entirety. Of course keep them for the Bottle match, and maybe stretch the definition of the inter-faculty competitions and allow you to play. I feel that all this could be done if said teams were actually part of their larger counterparts.

Example: The Shankman & Hardwick trophies took place last year between the RCS and CGC football and hockey teams respectively. I can for a fact say that I didn't have to raise any amount of sponsorship or union funds to put together an RCS XI.

Point taken about the reputation of certain clubs. However, that implies that everyone in the football club condones what happened last Wednesday, which is certainly false.

The solution is to abolish such teams to the extent that they receive no funding and are prohibited from taking part in ULU/BUCS competitions, leaving the bigger clubs to receive more funding (ICU still fund you, no matter how much you hide/deny it) to subside the sometimes costly membership fees and more players of any standard who want to play their respective sport.

**Mustapher Botchway** 

#### in association with Sports Partnership





## Fixtures & Results

#### Saturday 15th November **Fencing**

Women's 1st 135-109 University of Bristol 1st Women's 1st 119-124 Oxford University 1st Women's 1st 135-106 University of Cambridge 1st Women's 1st 135-105 University of Kent 1st

#### Football

Men's 2s ULU 0-3 UCL 2s ULU Men's 5s ULU 3-0 LSE 5s ULU Men's 6s ULU 5-0 SOAS 2s ULU Men's 7s ULU 5-2 St Barts 3 ULU

### **Football**

#### Lacrosse

### Volleyball

Men's 1st 2-0 UCL Men's 1st Men's 1st 0-2 University of Kent 1st Men's 1st 0-2 University of Reading 1st Women's 1st 2-0 University of Reading 1st Women's 1st 2-0 University of Sussex 1st Women's 1st 2-0 University of Kent 1st

#### **Monday 17th November** Netball Women's 2s ULU 44-26 St Barts 2nd ULU

Women's 3s ULU 12-8 Queen Mary 4s ULU

## Wednesday 19th November

Men's 1st 6-2 University of Portsmouth 1st

#### Basketball

Men's 1st 1-7 UCL 1st

Women's 1st 15-110 London South Bank 1st

Men's 2nd 3-4 Roehampton University 3rd

Men's 3rd 2-1 King's Medicals 2nd

Men's 7s 1-2 Imperial Medicals 4s

Men's 4s 2-1 Queen Mary 3s

Men's 6s 3-3 Oueen Mary 4s

#### Fencing

Men's 1st 135-81 University of London 1st

#### Football BUCS Cup

## **Sunday 16th November**

Women's 1s ULU 1-3 King's College 1st ULU

#### Men's 1st 1-2 UCL 1st Mixed 1s ULU 16-1 Royal Holloway 2s ULU

Men's 2nd 7-2 University of Reading 1st Men's 3rd 17-2 Canterbury Christ Church Uni 1st Women's 1st 8-0 UCL 2nd

**Hockey** 

Women's 2s 1-2 UCL 3s

#### BUCS Cup

Women's 1st 26-34 Kingston University 1st

#### Rugby Men's 1st 8-43 Cardiff University 1st

BUCS Cup Men's 2nd 41-13 University of Portsmouth 3rd Men's 3rd 17-26 Universities at Medway 1st

Women's 1st 3-1 King's College London 1st

#### Men's 3rd 2-1 King's College London 2nd

#### **Table Tennis**

Men's 1st 14-3 UCL 1st

Women's 1st 0-10 London Met University 2nd Men's 1st 8-2 LSE 2nd

**Tennis** 

#### Saturday 22nd November

Basketball Women's 1s ULU vs King's College London 1s ULU

#### **Football**

Men's 1s ULU vs RUMS 1s ULU Men's 2s ULU vs St Barts 1 ULU Men's 3s ULU vs King's Medicals 2s ULU Men's 4s ULU vs Royal Holloway 4s ULU Men's 6s ULU vs Royal Holloway 6s ULU Men's 7s ULU vs Royal Vets 2s ULU

#### **Sunday 23rd November**

Women's 1s ULU vs RUMS 2s ULU

#### Rugby

Women's 1s ULU vs LSE 1s ULU

## **Monday 24th November**

Mixed 1s ULU vs King's Medicals 1s ULU

Men's 2nd ULU vs St Barts 1st ULU Women's 1s ULU vs SOAS 1s ULU

Women's 1s ULU vs King's Medicals 1s ULU Women's 2s ULU vs King's College London 2s ULU

Men's 2s ULU vs St George's 1s ULU Men's 3s ULU vs LSE 3s ULU Vomen's 1s ULU vs LSE 1s ULU

Men's 2nd 8-2 Canterbury Christ Church Uni 1st Mixed 1s ULU vs St George's 1s ULU

#### Waterpolo

Mixed 1st ULU vs UCL 1st ULU

## Wednesday 17th November

Men's 1st vs Oueen Mary 1st Women's 1st vs University of Hertfordshire 1s

Women's 1st vs Buckinghamshire New Uni 1st

#### Men's 1st vs King's College London 1st

Fencing

Men's 1st vs LSF 1st Men's 2nd vs King's College London 1st Men's 3rd vs Uni of the Arts 3rd Women's 1st vs Royal Holloway 1st Men's 4s ULU vs RUMS 2s ULU Men's 5s ULU vs Royal Holloway 4s ULU Men's 6s ULU vs RUMS 4s ULU

#### Hockey

Men's 1st vs University of Hertfordshire 1st

Men's 7s ULU vs St George's 3s ULU

Men's 3rd vs University of Sussex 2nd

Men's 4th vs St George's 2nd



# Men's 2nd vs Canterbury Christ Church Uni 2nd

## Women's 2nd vs Buckinghamshire New Uni 1st

Men's 1st vs University of Portsmouth 1st Women's 1st vs King's College London 1st

Women's 1st vs University of Portsmouth 1st

Women's 1st vs UCL 1st Women's 2nd vs Thames Valley University 1st Women's 3rd vs Imperial Medicals 2nd

Men's 1st vs UWE Hartpury 2nd Men's 2nd vs University of Kent 1st Men's 3rd vs University of Brighton 2nd Men's 4th vs Buckinghamshire New Uni 2nd

Men's 2nd vs University of Essex 1st Men's 3rd vs University of Essex 2nd Women's 1st vs University of Sussex 1st

#### Men's 1st vs LSE 1st

**Tennis** Women's 1st vs University of Brighton 1st Men's 1st vs Roehampton University 1st

#### Volleyball

Men's 1st vs University of London Men's 1st

Friday 21 November 2008

Hockey Imperial Women's 1st XI Kingston Women's 1st XI

sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk

#### **Prince Charles**

We arrived at the Kingston pitch to find it covered in thick brown sludge. We were grumbling about getting our beautiful new kit splattered with mud, to our surprise Preying Mantis was the most annoved by the situation (we soon realised that it was only because it meant that she might actually have to wash her kit before the end of term!).

We got started with the match in the first half there were a couple of near misses from us, some good runs from Malvinas and Slippery Nipple, a few attacks into our D from Kingston which were cleared neatly by Leper and some

good saves from keeper Fresher Jess. We kept our game up and a very well taken long corner from Preying Mantis and Malvinas resulted in the ball being crossed to the far post where Stripper slotted it into the goal. At half time we were still 1-0 up and keen to score more goals

The second half was filled with many more attacking opportunities with some good drives through the midfield from Token Lezza and a few runs up the wing by Preying Mantis where she was fouled all the way. The defence continued to block any Kingston attacks with Kebab making some strong tackles and passing it to Dominator on the right who flicked it up the line to Malvinas. Sloppy Seconds held the centre defence picking up any stray balls and making some nice switches to both Fresher Sam and Wide Open. We had a few short corners which unfortunately did not result in any goals,

however, Prince Charles soon put that right when she dribbled past the de fence and took a hard strike from the top of the circle which cleanly hit the top of the back board making the score

We kept working throughout the last ten minutes but unfortunately with five minutes still to go they managed to invade our circle and after a few unlucky tackles somehow a ball rolled over the line and they had scored a rather mess goal. We kept the pressure on afte that and there were no more attacks into our circle which meant that we finished with a victory. We went out to celebrate that evening to the same 'Half Price Curry House' that we went to the previous week but this time with two different men's hockey teams accompanying us, after all we are at Imperial and so have to spread ourselves out evenly between the four men's teams, although the men's 1sts are hottest.



	Team	Р	W	D	L	F	Α	Diff	%	FI
1	Squash Men's 1st	5	5	0	0	21	4	17	100	5.0
2	Volleyball Women's 1st	5	5	0	0	10	0	10	100	5.0
3	Badminton Men's 1st	6	4	2	0	33	15	18	<b>67</b>	4.0
	Hockey Men's 1st	6	5	0	1	35	10	25	83	3.5
5	Netball 2nd	5	4	0	1	152	113	39	80	3.2
)	Hockey Women's 1st	5	4	0	1	20	10	10	80	3.2
7	Squash Women's 1st	6	1	4	1	13	15	-2	17	1.5
3	Basketball Women's 1st	5	3	0	2	233	221	12	60	1.4
•	Rugby Union Men's 2nd	5	3	0	2	117	94	23	60	1.4
0	Table Tennis Men's 1st	5	3	0	2	52	33	19	60	1.4
1	Hockey Men's 2nd	5	3	0	2	22	15	7	60	1.4
2	ICSM Netball 2nd	5	3	0	2	146	104	42	60	1.4
3	ICSM Rugby Union Men's 1st	7	3	0	4	142	191	-49	43	-0
4	Badminton Women's 1st	5	2	0	3	20	20	0	40	-0.
15	ICSM Rugby Union Men's 2nd	15	2	0	3	62	65	-3	40	-0
16	Volleyball Men's 1st	6	2	0	4	4	8	-4	33	-1.
۱7	ICSM Hockey Men's 2nd	6	2	0	4	9	6	3	33	-1
18	ICSM Hockey Women's 2nd	5	1	1	3	14	19	-5	20	-1.
19	ICSM Netball 1st	5	1	0	4	120	198	-78	20	-2
20	ICSM Hockey Men's 1st	5	1	0	4	10	16	-6	20	-2
21	<b>ICSM Badminton Women's 1st</b>	5	0	1	4	7	<b>34</b>	-27	0	-2
22	Netball 1st	5	0	0	5	115	181	-66	0	-4
23	Hockey Women's 2nd	5	0	0	5	4	<b>25</b>	-21	0	-4
24	Rugby Union Men's 1st	6	0	0	6	65	242	-177	0	-4

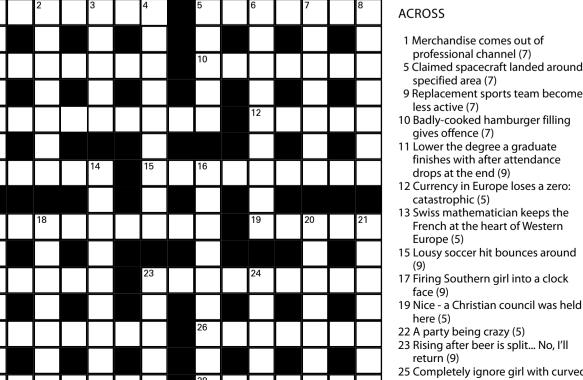
# Felix sports league finally graces us with it's presence!

valry commence. It seems like Squash have started where they have left off and are currently riding high in the table. Rugbby men's 1st on the other hand have started poorly in BUCS, leaving them rooted to the bottom. However, it is early days yet. There are approximately another 10 games to go so there is all to play for. There are slight changes to this year's league table. Firstly the *felix* index (FI) has been formulated in a very complex manner to reflect the average points won per game. The points

system is exactly the same as last year: 5 points for a win, -4 points for a loss and 2 points for a draw. Again BUCS teams will only be considered for ease. A ULU counterpart may be devised in future weeks to reflect the majority of

When more games are played the club standings will appear. Furthermore, the team(s) of the week/month may grace these pages.

## Crossword No. 1,416



What a bunch of talented ladies. They aren't half bad at hockey either!

#### **ACROSS**

1 Merchandise comes out of

professional channel (7) 5 Claimed spacecraft landed around specified area (7)

less active (7) 10 Badly-cooked hamburger filling gives offence (7)

finishes with after attendance drops at the end (9) 12 Currency in Europe loses a zero:

French at the heart of Western Europe (5) 15 Lousy soccer hit bounces around

17 Firing Southern girl into a clock face (9) 19 Nice - a Christian council was held

22 A party being crazy (5) 23 Rising after beer is split... No, I'll return (9)

25 Completely ignore girl with curved weapon (7) 26 Neat and formal hospital

delegates (7) 18 Misguided artisan famously does

changed energy state (7)

something away (7)

employee... (7)

covering (7)

DOWN

27 ... will wipe out period of time

28 Separate and keep protective

queen was in fascist group (7)

1 Gestapo make up charge to send

3 Join an organisation devoted to worker welfare (5) 4 He's in a star sign that allows us to

2 Baltimore with me gone has

choose similar words (9) 5 Give a trim to a fruit; that eases flow 6 Low-ranking clergyman used bacon

in an unusual way (9) 7 Wandering pirates go for a stroll (7) 8 In drug-filled hideaways, the rising urine becomes more intense (7)

14 Eat and retire, in some order: repeat 16 Prison area clock with broken bell

17 Fiasco as taxi backs up into leading

sports played at Imperial.

One thing that is vital for this to work is if you send in your results to Alissa Ayling as soon as possible so we can keep the league up to date. Good luck!

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

thing his way (7)

20 Make cheerful sounds, with life-force making sounds of contentment back (7) 21 Not best pleased, and filled with

the boundless back of beyond (7) 23 Overuses latest tricks (5) 24 Group of freemasons place a

Well done to Möchten sie mein Manschaft, who once again sent in a cor-

statement with the authorities (5)

rect solution. I have no space – hope all is well!

O B A M A W
I N S O M N I A C L U D I C S W D S L T D

# I E A T H E R S I I R O B O T T I I R R E R R M W

# felix sport

Send in your sport reports: sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk High resolution photos only





# Fives thrive, LSE deprived, Arnold revived, football well and truly alive

Football Imperial Men's 5th LSE Men's 5th

**Ed Lobb** 

The well oiled machine that is Imperial Mens 5s paraded onto the hallowed turf of Fortress H looking for a positive result against LSE 5s after a raw deal midweek, getting an undeserved shanking at the hands of LSE 4s. Ron, as God had done on the 6th day, has

created a team in his own image and Imperial started playing the champagne football they have been unleashing on the ULU Division 1 throughout this season.

Almost straight from kick off a Mamzi cross was lashed home, via Big Deen's big shin, by the LSE left back. Obviously panicked by the presence of the predator, the defender took it upon himself to give IC an early advantage.

Only a minute later a ball down the left found Mamzi with barely enough space to hide a Dewsbury schoolgirl. but he still managed to squeeze off a shot with the outside of his boot that went in off the far post. Unfortunately it didn't take much longer for the opposition to neutralise IC's most potent tactic, forcing a substitution of linesman Mo after giving offside every time they got possession. At 2-0 IC sat back with captain Ron Atkinson patrolling midfield like a commando and Tom Adams protecting the back four. Winehands, Dave, Simon and Jose were on call to clean up any unwanted discharge from the midfield and the attacking foursome of Big Deen, Mamzi, Mike and Tristan (just on time after a gamblers annonymous meeting ran late) repeatedly infiltrated the LSE backline but were unable to inflict any collateral damage.

A few minutes into the second half and a Mo-rale boosting moment for IC as the disgraced linesman entered the fray for the first time since a life threatening ankle injury sustained during the 4-0 merkalisation of Holloway last month. It was not long after that IC had the game sewn up. A throw in found Ron who shot speculatively from 25 yards. The LSE 'keeper had clearly been paying attention when watching his VHS of "Goalkeeping Skills by Heurelho Gomes and Rvan Apicella" and proceeded to fanny the ball into

his own net.

From then on IC continued to shag the proverbial granddaughter and chances were laid on for Tristan and Dan Abebe, only for the first to fire straight at the 'keeper and the second to be twice denied by LSE's own corrupt linesman. The game careered to a sudden and unexpected end on 90 minutes and IC 5s powered their way to the top of the table. Late Paul in goal did everything asked of him on his way to a 3rd clean sheet of the season and for that reason, and for not being the last member of the team to arrive, was awarded man of the match.