

felix

The student 'news'paper of
Imperial College London

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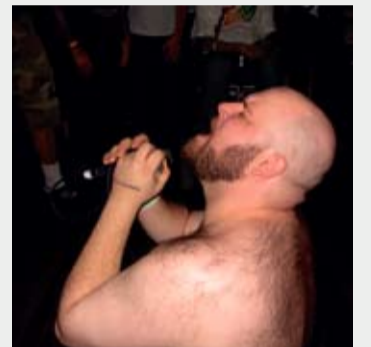


Sabb's position to be split?

First steps taken to a possible creation of a new sabbatical role for next year, page 2

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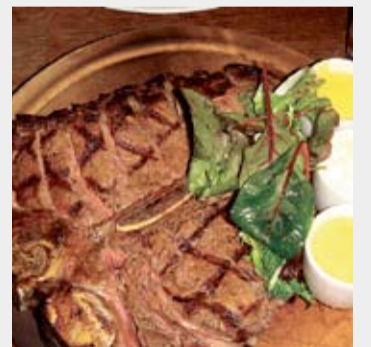
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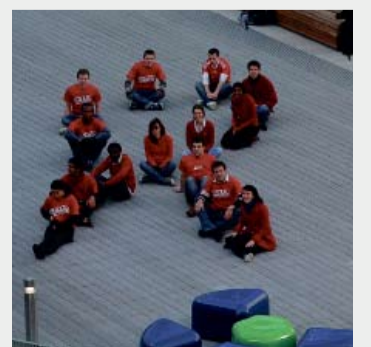
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Splitting of a Sabbatical

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

The Sabbatical Review Group met this Tuesday to discuss the possibility of separating the current role of the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) into two positions. The idea was originally conceived last year by the then President Stephen Brown and Deputy President (Education & Welfare) Kirsty Patterson, the latter of which is currently the Honorary Secretary of the City and Guilds College Union and is still in favour of the split.

A large proportion of other universities have separate positions for education and welfare in the sabbatical structure, which some have used as an argument for having the new position. By splitting the roles, it would seem, at least on paper, that the two roles would better tend to the needs of the students.

One of the biggest criticisms that has come from the current education and welfare structure is that there are many student demands that fail to be met, for example improvement of the personal tutor system. This could be one reason why Imperial College has the lowest student satisfaction rating of all the top 10 universities in the country, an issue that was raised in the RWB meeting this week. At the end of each academic term, students fill out the SOLE form where they rate their courses and lecturers. However it was pointed out that students feel very little action is seen from these results.

When asked for her comments, Hannah Theodorou, the Deputy President (Education & Welfare) points out that "significant changes do come about as a result of surveys such as SOLE. However, we have traditionally, as a College and a Union, not been very good at communicating these to the students. This is particularly time-consuming and as such has usually been sidelined because of other projects". She went on to add "The issue isn't necessarily that my workload is far greater than anyone else's; all the sabbaticals are worked off their feet. It's the fact that my role has the widest scope for improving the



Four might become five by this time next year

student's education experience whilst at Imperial and year-on-year, it is the sabbatical role which fails to meet the majority of their aims because it is so broad."

Another key point that was raised by the group is that Imperial is truly independent, as it is no longer affiliated to the National Union of Students [NUS] or the University of London Union [ULU], and as a result the representation of our students on a national scale is more important now than ever.

With each of the arguments for splitting the position, there were also the reasons against the split. One main concern that was raised was that the creation of the new position would mean that money would be moved from other sources, with the biggest fear being that money would be taken from clubs and societies. This is not the case, as the need for an additional sabbatical would have to be agreed by College Council, with the extra money coming from the College directly. Another concern would be the overlap between the two positions and the

high need for communication.

Towards the end of the meeting it was suggested that instead of splitting this role the Faculty Union Presidents could become full time sabbaticals, which would mean that they could potentially alleviate the workload of the DPEW. This was supported with the arguments that currently the faculties are able to deal with education and welfare matters relating to their faculty. However, this would mean the creation of two more sabbaticals instead of just the one.

However, some students fear that by creating a faculty sabbatical, it would mean that the there would be more segregation of students from the central union, as is currently the case with Faculty of Medicine. Hannah also pointed out that a lot of her workload is currently not Faculty-specific.

The issue is being taken to the next Union Council on the 15th December.

Got any views, let us know by posting on the *Live!* website - live.cgu.net/news/1874

Imperial students celebrate World Aids Day



Student's from this years SHAG team managed to get a image of a red ribbon onto the Queen's Tower earlier this week to raise awareness of World Aids Day. Also earlier this week, members of the SHAG team managed to recreate a human ribbon, also to raise awareness of the day. If this isn't enough, the entire centre page of felix this week is dedicated to World Aids Day. Enjoy!

Imperial College Healthcare is Nicer than NICE

Dina Ismail
News Correspondent

Imperial College Healthcare has snubbed the NHS drugs rationing body, the National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE), by setting up its own 'in-house' version. The trust will decide whether to prescribe drugs to its patients that have been deemed not cost effective by NICE or have not yet been approved.

This move by Imperial comes after the recent controversy that many new and more effective cancer treatments have been rejected by the NICE purely on cost grounds. These drug treatments, however, have been proven to prolong cancer patients' lives and are also freely provided on the Continent. As these drugs are not available on the NHS, many cancer patients have therefore had to pay for them privately in order to access the new treatments. In some cases this can cost up to £5,000 per month.

The situation is worsened by the NHS rule that states a patient cannot be both a private and NHS patient at the same time for the treatment of the same condition. Thus patients who had been topping up their NHS care by paying for the new cancer drugs privately, have found themselves effectively banned from NHS treatment. This of course has incurred very heavy financial costs for many cancer patients paying for all aspects of their care.

The government initially backed this rather hard-line stance on patients turning to private health care. Their reasoning being that they did not want to create a 'two-tier' healthcare system whereby patients lying next to each other on a hospital ward would be getting different levels of treatment. How-

ever, after a few high profile court cases, angry front-page headlines and intense lobbying from high profile doctors, including Imperial's own Professor Karol Sikora, the government finally backed down and loosened up the restrictions on private 'top-up' treatment. In light of the new regulations, Imperial College Healthcare has decided to contradict NICE and prescribe the expensive new drug treatments banned from the NHS, where appropriate, and absorb the cost from its £800m budget.

The trust is made up of Hammersmith Hospital, Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea, St Mary's, Charing Cross, the Western Eye Hospital and Imperial College London following a merger last year. It is now one of the largest trusts in the country with a budget at least twice that of the average hospital and was ranked the third safest hospital in

England only a few weeks ago.

Not only that, but Imperial College Healthcare now has its own new cross-faculty Drug Discovery Centre. Professor Steve Smith, chief executive and principal of the trust, recently ranked 11th in the 50 most powerful people in the NHS, said the trust has such a large research base that the drugs may have been developed by its own experts or that the trust is involved in clinical trials and can enrol patients. Thus it is best placed to decide what the most effective treatments for its patients are.

Imperial College Healthcare may have shown that it is a force to be reckoned with by taking matters into its own hands. It will, however, be interesting to see whether its defiance in favour of patient care sets a trend for the rest of the country's healthcare providers.



The home secretary presenting the controversial new I.D. card

Foreign students used as identity card "guinea pigs"

Kadhim Shubber
Deputy Editor

The government has begun issuing compulsory I.D. cards to non-EU students living in this country. Students applying for a visa will be forced to pay between £295 and £500 as part of the visa application process and will be charged a £30 fee if they lose the card. Critics have accused the government of using foreign students (a group less able to resist than UK citizens) as guinea pigs for the controversial scheme. Between 50,000 and 60,000 foreign students are expected to receive cards by March with the scheme extended to home and EU students in 2010.

Foreign students will be required to renew their visas in person, at a number of centres around the country; a centre in Croydon will serve London. Biometric data including fingerprints will be collected at the centres but eye scans have been dropped. Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman Chris Huhne said: "Foreign nationals, who cannot vote, are perfect guinea pigs for a government wanting to test a deeply unpopular and unworkable policy."

Other charges levelled at the scheme are that it is ineffective and serves merely to reduce the general public's aversion to I.D. cards. Phil Booth, head of the national No2ID campaign group said, "The Home Office is trying to salami slice the population to get this scheme going in any way they can". He added "The volume of foreign nationals involved is minuscule so it won't do anything to tackle illegal immigration."

The Conservative Party similarly opposes the scheme. Shadow home secretary Dominic Grieve said, "The Government are kidding themselves if they think ID cards for foreign nationals will protect against illegal immigration or terrorism - since they don't apply to those coming here for less than three months". Foreign students will have no choice about the I.D. cards as they will be refused the right to stay in the country if they reject the cards.

The government has ignored opposition to the scheme. Home Secretary Jacqui Smith claimed in November that people 'can't wait for ID cards' adding that "I regularly have people coming up to me and saying they don't want to wait that long [2012]". The government believes that the identity card scheme will reduce illegal immigration and make it easier for employers to ensure they don't employ illegal immigrants.

Jacqui Smith said that employers and colleges want to be confident people are who they say they are and added "We all want to see our borders more secure, and human trafficking, organised immigration crime, illegal working and benefit fraud tackled. ID cards for foreign nationals, in locking people to one identity, will deliver in all these areas."

Some support for the scheme exists with Sir Andrew Green of Migration-watch UK saying the cards should be supported.

"We welcome the introduction of ID cards for foreign nationals as part of wider measures to tackle illegal immigration," but Director of civil rights group Liberty, Shami Chakrabarti said: "The public will yawn at yet another re-launch of this scheme and if the card came with loyalty points, we still wouldn't buy it. Picking on foreigners first is divisive politics; as costly to our race relations as our purses."

The cost of the scheme has come under attack with current estimates putting the price at £4.7 billion. Critics have decried the unnecessary scheme as a waste at a time of economic crisis. Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman Chris Huhne said "This hugely expensive scheme will have no impact on crime, terrorism, illegal immigration or illegal working as foreign nationals already have passports with visas. This intrusion on British liberty is completely unnecessary," adding "When the rest of us are forced to carry ID cards, this scheme will prove to be a laminated Poll Tax."

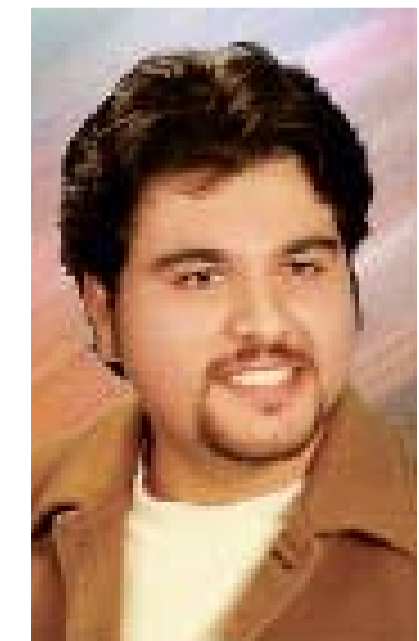
There has been significant student opposition at a number of universities around the country. Students in Liverpool protested with anti-I.D. card group "Say no to ID cards" and Manchester University students outside the Home Office building. ICU President Jenny Morgan told felix that she's "yet to see one good argument for the ID cards, whereas there are so many arguments against."

She then went on to say that "perhaps we should remind the government of the Human Rights Act. The government should be ashamed at using international students who could be vulnerable due to the language barrier and possibly not knowing what the norm is in Britain."

If you are a non-home or EU student and have received an I.D. card or are re-applying for your VISA soon, please contact us at felix@imperial.ac.uk



The home secretary presenting the controversial new I.D. card



Will this affect his place here?

Allegations of terrorism levelled at Zohair

Kadhim Shubber
Deputy Editor

Zohair Abu-Shaban, the Palestinian student that was prevented from taking up his place at Imperial this year, is suspected by the Israeli government of links to terrorist activities, felix has learned.

In response to enquiries about Zohair the Israeli Embassy in London's Public Affairs Department sent an email to the Union detailing the reason why he was prevented from crossing into Israel.

felix has seen this email which says that "he [Zohair] is wanted for questioning in Israel as he is suspected of being involved with terrorist activity". The email does not specify any further details but it goes on to state that: "If he tries to cross the Israeli border he will be arrested immediately."

Before applying to Imperial College, Zohair had a Fulbright Scholarship to

study at the University of Connecticut. When he tried to leave for the U.S. earlier in 2008 he was detained for 2 hours and interrogated by Israeli security personnel about possible affiliations with Hamas, which Zohair strenuously rejected: "I am independent from Hamas, I have no affiliation to it, I have no relation to its activities." His U.S. visa was eventually cancelled on the basis of secret Israeli evidence. "I cannot see the evidence and so have no opportunity to contest it," wrote Zohair in response.

LOLCATZ



OF THE WEEK

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Roaming Rabbi at IC

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

Several complaints have been raised over the recent actions of a Jewish Rabbi on the Imperial College campus. Rabbi Mendy Loewenthal has been seen in and around campus attempting to inform the Jewish students about the Chabad organization.

Chabad, who are an outreach branch of the Jewish faith that provides opportunities for Jews to become more observant, as well as shelter and kosher food for travelling Jews. Their website describes the Chabad of South Kensington as a 'place where university students come to connect to their Judaism. It offers students the opportunity to learn and discover the richness of their Jewish heritage with group study, one on one learning, organized trips, Shabbat and holiday celebrations.'

Neither Imperial College Union [ICU] nor Imperial College [IC] have a problem with the presence of the Rabbi in the area. They are concerned, however, with his actions around campus. Several posters have been appearing across the campus advertising the Chabad centre using the Imperial College Union logo, thus indicating that there might be an affiliation with ICU. Jenny Morgan, ICU President, made it very clear that he has "no affiliation with Imperial College or the Union". Imperial College do have a Chaplaincy Centre, which is open for students of all faiths to go and explore different faiths and beliefs, ask questions about identity and meaning and to engage with contemporary issues.

Rabbi Loewenthal has also been calling himself the Rabbi for Imperial College, which is incorrect, as the actual Rabbi for London students is Rabbi Gavin Broder. Rabbi Broder has been heavily involved with campus activities this year, including assisting at the ICU Freshers' Fair and wandering around



Rabbi Mendy and Sara Loewenthal operate on an open door policy, regardless of affiliations, backgrounds, and religious observance

campus in an attempt to contact the Jewish community at Imperial.

One student told *felix* that they have felt 'harassed' by Rabbi Loewenthal, who persistently sent them e-mails and flyers in an unsolicited manner. He has also attempted to add a number of students as friends on facebook, and has added Imperial addresses to his mailing list without consent of the students in question.

Yoni Weiner, President of Imperial College Jewish Society, told *felix* that "there has been a mixed response from the Jewish students, some students have welcomed another person organ-

ising additional educational and social events for Jewish students but other students feel that considering the small number of Jews at Imperial it is not necessary to have another organisation competing with the Imperial College Jewish Society which already provides educational and social activities for Jews at Imperial and are weary that Chabad have a hidden agenda."

Recently, Chabad were in international news when Rabbi Gavriel and Rivkah Holtzberg, a couple running a Chabad house in Mumbai, were killed during the recent tragic events that occurred there.

The world beyond college walls

Norway: Treaty to ban cluster bombs signed

Representatives of 100 countries gathered in the Norwegian capital Oslo to sign a treaty that will ban cluster bombs all over the world. However the biggest stockpilers of the weapon, the US, Russia and China will not be signing, arguing that cluster bombs have legitimate military uses such as repelling advancing troop columns.

Concerted pressure to ban the weapon came from campaign groups around the world, and the movement gathered momentum after the 2006 Israel-Lebanon war where cluster bombs were deployed. Supporters of the treaty hope it will stigmatise the use of cluster bombs, just as landmines were stigmatised by the 1999 Ottawa Treaty, which will shame the big arms producers to sign the cluster bomb treaty at a later date.

Iraq: 'Chemical Ali' convicted

Saddam Hussein's cousin, Ali Hassan Al-Majid who is known as "Chemical Ali", has been convicted of crimes against humanity by the Iraqi High Tribunal and sentenced to death for a second time. He was found guilty of crushing a Shi'ite uprising after the First Gulf War in 1991. The prosecution used evidence obtained from dozens of mass graves containing thousands of decayed bodies that were discovered after U.S. forces ousted Saddam's government in 2003.

Al-Majid, who earned his nickname for his role in using poison gas against Kurdish villages, already faces a death sentence handed to him in June 2007 for his role in a 1981 crackdown on Kurds in northern Iraq, but it was never carried out due to political wrangling.



Kenya: Time for Mugabe to be removed, says Kenyan Prime Minister

According to Raila Odinga, the Kenyan Prime Minister, "power-sharing in Zimbabwe is dead and it is time for African governments to oust President Robert Mugabe. The comments made by the Kenyan PM is one of the strongest comments made by any African leader, and are sure to have re-sounding effects.

President Robert Mugabe, who has been in power for some 28 years, blames Western sanctions for the current situation and woes in Zimbabwe. As the most recent elections, President Mugabe had to share power with Morgan Tsvangirai after many months of campaigning.

Imperial College Big Band win Gold Award

John Prestage &
Marc Hinken

Sunday 30th November saw the Imperial College Big Band take a trip to Colchester to take part in the regional heat for the National Concert Band Festival. Competing in the Open Big Band category, the band played music from jazz legends Gordon Goodwin, Dizzy Gillespie and Kenny Wheeler, up against strong competition from the University of Surrey Big Band, amongst others. The band excelled under the direction of musical director Andy Simm, with the judges particularly impressed by the band's "highly musical and stylish performance", as well as Chaz Keiderling's masterful solo on the tenor saxophone.

The band walked away with the highest award possible, a gold, being the only band in the South East to do so, marking an excellent end to the autumn term. In April, the band will travel to Cardiff to take part in the national finals of the festival, where they will be fiercely competing against winners of the other regional heats. This will give the band an excellent opportunity to further their musical and cultural de-

velopment, furthering the opportunity to be nationally recognised as one of the top Big Bands in the country.

The IC Big Band rehearses on a weekly basis and showcases some of the best musical talent that Imperial has to offer. The society is one of the most active at Imperial, with extensive gig opportunities arising throughout the year, including termly gigs at the

union and an annual European tour. Their next performance will be on Thursday 18th December at 8pm in dBs, promising to be one of the highlights of Christmas week at the union. Entrance is free and the band will be playing their award winning tunes as well as their usual variety of jazz, latin, funk and a feast of Christmas songs like you've never heard them before!



IC Big Band perform their music at the competition



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UNIONdjs
DJ Elles

Room 2

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Fountains, Popcorn and Candy Floss

The Black & White Christmas Ball - come dressed up!

- Free mince pie and mulled wine on entry. (while stocks last)
- Father Christmas with his sexy elf helpers!
- Bucking Reindeer game.
- Festive cheer throughout!

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buy your tickets online now from
imperialcollegeunion.org

£9

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The Union encourages responsible drinking. R.O.A.R. Student I.D. Required.

Until December 12th
Price then rises to £11

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college
union



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*

Imperial Girl bites back at her critics... well just Angry Geek



"There are only so many times you can write about Wikipedia before the Imperial body thinks that the toilet paper in Sherfield is a better read than your column"

I had the choice not to respond. I had the choice not to write again. I had the choice to give in. But of course I didn't get into Imperial with that submissive approach. Angry Geek, you really are too angry. I take on board your criticisms about my grammar but I don't agree with your attitude to the context of my columns. I write to share MY experiences as a girl at Imperial; it's not for you to disregard me, as crude or as unimportant you might find them.

Threats in your last comment, "... have formed a militia with the intent of murdering you in your sleep"- A. Geek, are seriously not appreciated. I may talk of female issues that you find offensive but in every language, that act of violent murder is definitely NOT funny or witty and is unlikely to be tolerated by anyone on Campus. I read the psychiatrist is great at Imperial; perhaps you should take a look in because that is a ridiculous comment to attack me with.

At first, I was quite hurt by your response and shocked that you choose to publicly announce your views about my column in such a derogatory way to women "Loose-Women"- A. Geek, without emailing me first. Then I remembered the numerous emails I have received and feedback that I have heard from girls and some guys who enjoy reading my column and decided not to let your opinions affect the readers chance to enjoy reading what I have to say.

So please, although I am flattered by all the attention you are giving me, you keep to your side of the sheet and I'll keep to mine. I suppose if you mention me again we will all just have to assume that you have run out of things to write about, I mean there are only so many times you can write about Wikipedia until the Imperial body thinks that the toilet paper in Sherfield is a better read than your column. :)

So I carry on regardless. Recently, I have been exploring the idea of adoption, bought about by a discussion I had with a relative. She feels that she will be unable to find a partner soon enough to have a child of her own. So I suggested adoption to her, and

of the Woody and Mia case where the then couple adopted a child called Soon-Yi who then went on to marry her guardian Woody. He is now 71 and she is 36 and they have been happily married for 10 years. Not to say that all adopted children will marry their guardians but there are other complications.

Take the Jolie case where many bogus claims were made to acknowledge that baby Zahara Marley Jolie-Pitt was actually their biological grand-daughter or otherwise daughter. What happens when the parents of the adopted child want back in to that child's life, perhaps for financial motives, emotional attachment and alike? What if the child wants to know who their biological parents are? Does this system make an adopted child search for closure in unanswered questions for the rest of their lives and equally the mother that willingly or unwillingly gave up their child so long ago?

It undeniable that a child might know without being told that they are adopted but what's assured is that if a mother is desperately seeking a child and has the ornate need to be a mother she will overcome all these barriers. There are too many children left stranded in this world to deny them a chance of a family or just a mother. China's orphaned girls are of the most highly publicised, reasoned the result of the One Child Policy. Adoption is a lengthy process that can often take years, in which time many of these orphans may pass.

Adoption is not without its red tape but if a someone wants to adopt none of these factors should stop them. What do you think? - email me, ImperialGirl@imperial.ac.uk.

Unbelievable quality journalism, right there hard-hitting coverage of a walrus with some kind of flute, accompanied by an explanation that - animal lovers may complain- but hey, fuck them, this is a walrus with a goddamn wind instrument!

As I leafed, I came across The Story. The Story concerns the MMR Baby that died ten days after receiving an arguably controversial inoculation. It didn't get many column inches, presumably because the paper was all babied out, what with coverage of the terribly-named doom babies, Faith and Hope, and the baby made for tabloid headlines, Baby P.

Yet despite being consigned to the depths of the inner pages, the MMR Baby still makes a good headline, containing both the word 'baby' and 'died', part of the holy trinity of sensationalist journalism.

But why would I be angry about the death of an adorable, innocent child? Why. I'm such a bastard. There's even a photo of him, and he definitely looks like he was going to grow up to be Prime Minister or something. I'm such a shit.

Well. Back history for those uninitiated with the wonders of the MMR. The Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine is an injection given to children to protect them from some pretty horrific diseases. They used to come as three separate stabs in the arm, but medical genius managed to cut that down

Angry Geek drags up MMR again... it's not his fault, honest



"What in God's name are they thinking?! My GP doesn't tell me not to inject heroin into my eyeballs, but I still don't add it to my to-do list!"

I picked up the Metro again this week, fresh from including it in my column not so long ago. In a way, I was asking to be pissed off, but the promise of their new section intrigued me. Turns out that my claim of them stealing stuff from the Internet wasn't so far-fetched, as they now have a section dedicated entirely to that.

Unbelievable quality journalism, right there hard-hitting coverage of a walrus with some kind of flute, accompanied by an explanation that - animal lovers may complain- but hey, fuck them, this is a walrus with a goddamn wind instrument!

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Well. Back history for those uninitiated with the wonders of the MMR. The Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine is an injection given to children to protect them from some pretty horrific diseases. They used to come as three separate stabs in the arm, but medical genius managed to cut that down

to just the one some years back now. Everyone's happy, in theory. Until the alleged link with autism hit the press, and everything went into the toilet. All across the universe, a million women cried out in unison, "As a mother, I..." and then fell silent.

Only it wasn't silence, it was really loud shouting and the most comedy-sized gigantic headlines you could possibly imagine.

Despite the fact that a lot of the fuss surrounding MMR has died down now, it's still a good demon to drag out of the underworld once in a while and beat to death with the journalism stick, so naturally this story was a good one. Who cares why the baby died, all that matters is that someone died, and the MMR jab is to blame.

Presumably, then, the journalists were quite disappointed upon talking to the parents and discovering their baby died because they weren't keeping an eye on his temperature. This is a child with a rocky medical history anyway, and the parents claim his death came about because they weren't told to watch over the child following the vaccination.

I'm sorry? I mean, assuming this was actually true, and they weren't told to watch their own son - which is hugely unlikely, as it's about the only thing you can get nurses to say nowadays - and then, then assuming that they weren't handed a bunch of paperwork saying exactly the same thing - almost as unlikely, since the one universal constant of medical treatment is that you leave with lots of bits of paper telling you to sit very still in a dark room for four days - even assuming all of this, are you honestly telling me that these parents did not consider to watch their own son?

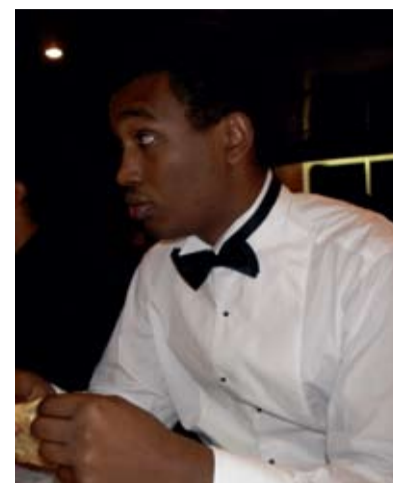
What in God's name are they thinking?! My GP doesn't tell me not to inject heroin into my eyeballs, but I still don't add it to my to-do list. And that's when I began to feel the pangs of guilt, because God knows I'm a fan of bitching about the NHS. There are a lot of incompetent people working for them, mainly because they insist on hiring "humans" for some reason. I've been done over a lot of times, and family members have fallen pretty ill owing to their mistakes. But there's always a line you have to draw, isn't there? There's always that point at which you have to say that maybe, maybe this isn't something we should be complaining about?

Okay, so a cute little baby died. We want someone to blame. But throttling the NHS - just as throttling social services with the Baby P fiasco - is unlikely to help things. These institutions exist because they get things right most of the time. That's a fact. The only thing to be angry about in the case of this child's untimely death is that he wasn't cared for better.

Let me know how little I know about medicine and/or caring for children by sending your flaming pitchforks to anangrygeek@googlemail.com.

comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Amin Elmubarak says don't sacrifice democracy



"A community that feels victimised due to what they hold dear, would feel resentful and angry with no idea how to be heard"

We must follow the example of what the United States did after 9/11, we are more vulnerable than them and therefore we must be a tough state and not a soft state. Our Intelligence network, our security response, our legal framework all need an overhaul and all need a strengthening"

This was the reaction from Arun

Jaitley, a senior member of India's opposition party, the BJP.

The number of confirmed dead reached 172 and counting, after a siege of almost 60 hours and multiple gun battles at multiple locations, including several luxurious hotels that attract the upper classes and wealthy, both domestic and tourist alike.

Newspapers in India have reported that the country's government has raised its security level to a "War level"

after interrogators found out from the one terrorist captured alive that he had been working with "lashkar i taiba" - a terrorist organisation with a link to the Pakistani government.

Although you can use 'devastating', 'disgusting' or all of their synonyms in one large sentence that would cause your computer to paint the page green, it will not do justice for those who have had their lives taken in those attack. Yet it is very important to try and put the events that transpired in Mumbai into some kind of context.

After 9/11, the Patriot act was rushed through Congress and after the attacks on the London Underground and Transport System in July, the Prevention of Terrorism act has been rushed similarly through Parliament.

"The War on Terror" seems like an odd phrase. Simple enough, one may think but what does it actually mean? Terror is not an ideology like Communism or a "rogue state" like North Korea. It is the utilisation of desperate, disorientated and frustrated naive young people by older, more calculated individuals who remain hidden but wish their own atrocious agendas to be met.

I sincerely hope that India does not follow what America did after 9/11 for many reasons. Firstly India is not America, these type of attacks on

Indian soil have been occurring for years, but for years it has mainly been the poor or those of "lower casts" that have been affected: Trains being derailed, lone gunmen, grenades, car bombs etc. So what is the difference? These attacks on Mumbai have killed about a dozen Westerners - the other one hundred and sixty or so were Indian, yet the media coverage everywhere has shown those Western victims. Put simply, this is an attack that the West - those crusaders against terror can relate to. Though we can only speculate at this moment in time about the motives behind the Mumbai attacks, we can be certain that, unlike 9/11, it has nothing to do with America's foreign policy in the Middle East.

Secondly, who on Earth would wish to follow the actions of the Bush Administration? This is a government that instigated a war against an enemy state after only loosely associating it the Airliner attacks. Let's not forget that the Taliban government did not fund, coordinate or aid the attacks on the Twin Towers and Iraq.... Well they were included as part of the war on terror but as hindsight is always 20/20, we now know that the reasons for going to war had nothing to do with this global battle against terrorism.

And finally; though Westminster was

equally guilty of this, why would one strip their country's constitution of civil liberty by such acts as the Prevention of Terrorism act here and the Patriot act in the US? By sacrificing freedom for safety one deserves and will achieve neither, this is how it works:

Those who are profiled as being high terror suspects due to what a profile of a terrorist is, would have their civil liberties quashed "for the sake of national security". A community that feels victimised due to what they hold dear regardless of what it is: be it religion, ethnicity or country of origin - as the case may be in India now that one of the terrorist was found to be a Pakistani citizen - would feel resentful and angry with no idea of how to make their views heard. Of those, a suggestion able and angry few would be utilised as foot soldiers to commit senseless acts of terrorism on defenceless civilians and so the cycle is perpetuated.

In closing, these attacks are more than ghastrly, yet if the response is a knee-jerk one then we will do nothing but cause suffering to those caught in the cross-fire and encourage a new oppressed and frustrated generation of would-be terrorists, who will have grown up in countries that have come to accept civil-rights violating laws in the name of national security.

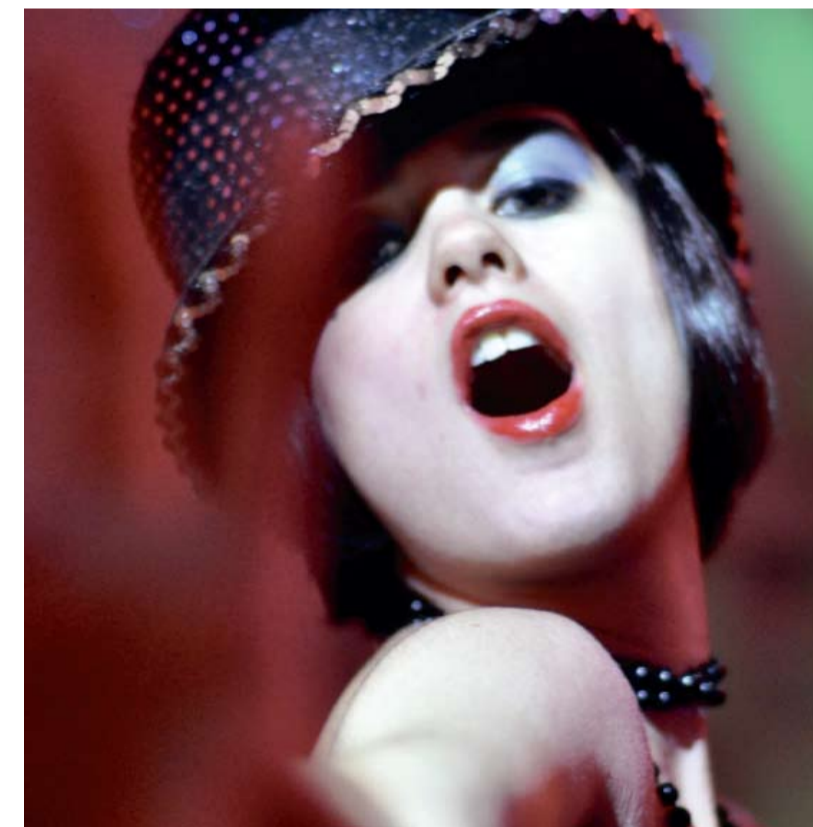
Gilead Amit welcomes you to Cabaret



"People with creativity shouldn't be incited to tap into lucrative veins of enthusiasm they didn't generate"

In the forty-odd half-baked little ramequins of whimsy that I've rammed down your throats over the fifteen months spent at this glorious institution, I have only once embarked on what could be called a rant. A stream of violent abuse emerged from my own fair hands in May of last year, as I tore into YouTube commenters in a wholly cathartic vituperative frenzy. The video that sparked off that uncharacteristic outburst, in one of those twists Agatha Christie would have struggled to concoct, was also the inspiration for the FROTHY quiche of delight you now see before you.

The video in question was a 192-sec-



settle before the film of inspiration can be stirred by the ladle of reinterpretation. The motivation behind artistic endeavour should not be a desire to feed off a collective nostalgia. People with originality, creativity and vision should be encouraged to embark on their own projects, not incited to tap into lucrative veins of enthusiasm they didn't generate. At the present rate of things, the entirety of cinema history will be rewritten every fifty or so years, in progressively sharper colours and with increasingly tighter dialogue.

Take the Old Testament - a work blinding in its originality and breathtaking in its scope - a text that has formed the bedrock of Western civilization and that no self-respecting hotel bedroom should be without. How would it feel if some local studio chiefs decided to commission a remake? An updated version with an all-star cast and none of the unnecessary boring bits that were in the original? Something that captured the spirit of the day?

Sure, let's make the God character a little friendlier. Let's cut some of the explicit sex and violence in order to get a PG or U rating. Let's insert a likeable, central protagonist and have him be a little more tolerant than some of the guys in the original. You know, to get the kids involved. You can guess the punchline to this Mitchell & Webb sketch: the New Testament is released in cinemas globally and has massive returns at the Box Office. Lucifer vies with Saint John the Baptist for the Best Supporting Actor Oscar while the Almighty makes a clean sweep of the Special Effects prizes for the second year running. Talk of a television series is scrapped as Jesus reveals he won't be able to make the filming dates: a shame, but maybe we could shift the focus onto a secondary character. 'Saint Peter: the Pearly Gates' goes into pre-production and the franchise keeps on growing.

Seeing as I began with films set in

Nazi Germany, I feel tempted to quote the line from Pimpernel Smith: 'The mind of man is bounded only by the Universe.'

Platitudinous and unimpressive when seen out of its original context as a codephrase for Jewish intellectuals to escape from German clutches, perhaps, but true nonetheless. The problem with that, of course, is that the Universe is a pretty limited place to begin with. Things exist in patterns and rhythms, with repetitions and recurring features: the very fabric of the cosmos obeys phenomenally simple laws governed by mathematics that even a human mind is capable of grasping. Just as the infinite possibilities existing in nature lie in variations on a theme, so the most original of our inventions fall into the same trap.

The theory has been proposed that all stories, whether taken from the arcana of Norse Mythology or the final assignments of first-year creative writing students from American arts colleges, fall into five basic categories. There are five ways we have managed to express our Universe in verbal form, and all the rest, as the preacher might say, is vanity.

While not subscribing to the idea that five is necessarily the golden number, we are clearly limited in the means of communication open to us. Every novel is in some sense an adaptation of an earlier publication, each play or sonata a pastiche of an earlier work, and all films remakes or parodies of those that came before.

We can't help repeating ourselves, and our artistic footprints are so large that we end up crossing our own paths time and time again. There should, however, be limits to how eagerly we run around in circles. When this particular frothy soufflé of enchantment is updated to a 22nd Century audience, for instance, it would be a shame if people watch the 2012 version of 'Cabaret' to get a feel for my message.

Suicidal-emo-girl? on tolerance, criticism, Imperial Girl and A. Geek



“As soon as you write about how you truly feel you’ve opened yourself up and there, in between jokes, fluff and prose, is a part of you in that article”

First off I need to thank A.Geek for inspiring me to find a writer's name. I can be horridly uninventive at times but thanks to him I shall no longer have to write as merely Unknown. I must say I found the reply to my last article quite funny, even though I was just a tad upset that things didn't seem to come across as I wanted them to, ah well! I have a reiteration of the same sort of idea written already but I'm not going to bore people with the same concept so soon... perhaps I'll send that one in sometime next term. So now allow me to get on with the topic I want to address today. I really should have commented on this last week, but my lethargic nature and my uncanny trend to procrastinate delayed the effort of typing these few words slightly. As I'm sure you're all aware there are at least two different forms of criticism; constructive and destructive. I'm also sure I don't have to explain how A.Geek's rant on Imperial Girl two weeks ago was definitely the latter. Now that in itself is no problem, freedom of speech comes with freedom of expression, and if you put your opinions and views out there you have to be ready to see them torn apart, trampled on, spat at and pulled through the mud. However, while there is no doubt that such is acceptable, I wonder if it is necessary in many cases. What happened with Imperial Girl went beyond criticism into mobbing and, for reasons I will explore later, even into bullying in my opinion and resulted in nothing

more than some cheap laughs, the loss of diversity of views in our newspaper, a surely insulted and hurt author and the intimidation for other people to share their more intimate views out of fear of having them similarly ripped to shreds. Now I happen to be a fan of A.Geek usually, he has a very witty way of writing and his articles can be quite amusing just as Gilead's elegant mastery of English can be delightful to read even though he lacks content at times. Also I disagree with a lot, if not most of, the ideas in Imperial Girl's articles but that does not change the fact that regardless of my opinion, hers are just as valid. Even though I do not agree with her, I find it interesting to see how she thinks. It brings diversity, a variety of outlooks on life and alone the fact that her view on life is so radically different to mine or what I usually read, alone the fact that I'm left wondering how she got to the conclusions she did, it makes her articles well worth reading. But as popular as A.Geek may be, he is absolutely no one to say who "has issues" and who has not. When someone commits themselves to writing about one's own feelings and thoughts like IG did, it's more than words that go into the article. As soon as you write about how you truly feel or think, you've opened yourself up and there, in between the jokes, fluff and prose, is a certain part of you in that article. To then have your views so aggressively assaulted from several fronts at once with nothing held back, I can imagine hurts.

When I saw the various reactions to IG tabloid take its course I was reminded of a scenario back in time that I would imagine at least a few of the students here will find familiar. Perhaps some of you remember that "cool" / "popular" / "funny" guy in early Secondary. Perhaps some of you recall the quieter "geek" who unlike his peers didn't think physics and maths was all that bad. Nor did he think that the black guy rapping off on how many niggas he killed or how many bitches he fucked was all that awesome. Perhaps you recall how because he thought differently to the rest and didn't follow the mainstream he was always the butt of jokes and never really fit in. Whenever he said something that "popular guy" would mock it and the crowd would all laugh amusedly and slowly but surely the "geek" would stop bothering to give his input. A classic story of the creation of an outsider. But then again perhaps you have forgotten or never saw such a thing. Fortunately the story has a happy end, because the "geek" goes off to a good university with likeminded people. He even goes as far as writing to the newspaper regularly and in his own way becomes quite popular amongst his peers. He can proudly be who he is and express himself and all seems well. Oh the irony is thus; that when in his new environment emerges a person who seems to think differently to him and the rest he resorts to mocking and attacking this. Backed by the many who think alike, he works on making that person who is different look stu-

pid and labels their views as ridiculous and pathetic until just as so many years earlier that person ceases to express themselves the way they did. That isn't criticism, it's no different to the bullying one would expect of immature kids. It may be more refined, more intellectual and justifiable by free speech, but for anyone who gives it some thought it is still no more than bullying. I would like to encourage IG to return to the newspaper, for if the authors in my felix should have to be limited to those whose articles appeal to the likes of A.Geek or alternatively those tough enough to take no heed of the aggressive feedback it will surely be an empty newspaper. Funny, amusing perhaps, but empty. I don't need someone to write stuff the way I see things for its nothing new, I'm much more interested to hear those who think differently. To conclude, in his last article A.Geek speaks of freeing little felix from his ball gag, and I could not agree with him more. But censorship does not only come in the form of outright prohibition to print something but can also be generated more subtly by creating such an aggressive critical atmosphere that authors are intimidated to write as they want to in fear of being utterly flamed and bashed. In general a bit more tolerance could do people a whole lot of good. But otherwise I still think you're a pretty cool guy A.Geek. Comment over. Enjoy your week everybody! -For comments and messages mail to louepi@hotmail.com-

VAT and Imperial College Union

Following the government's reduction in VAT on Monday, the Union have changed our prices where applicable.

- The Union Shop and Newsagent have reduced their prices and although some of the marked up prices have not changed yet, the price you will actually pay at the till has been reduced accordingly.
- The Union Catering's prices will not change as VAT is not applicable to our food sales.
- The Union Bars' prices will remain unchanged due to the rise in the duty on alcohol cancelling out any change in prices that may be passed on to the Union by our suppliers.

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

Science

Science Editors – Daniel Burrows & Mićo Tatalović

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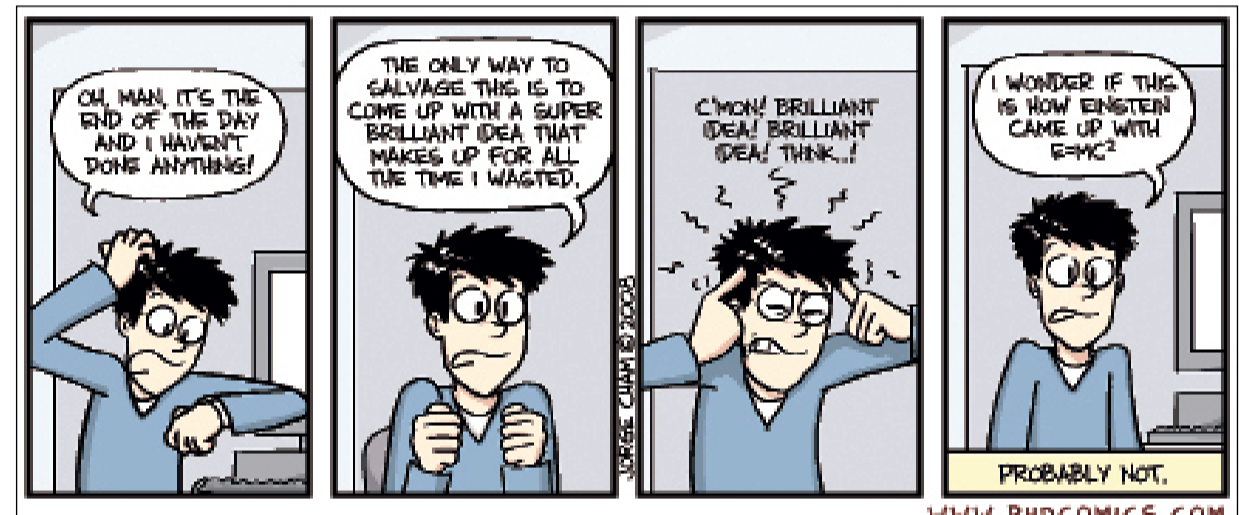
Procrastinators Anonymous

Olivia Sharp
Science Reporter

It seems like an inevitable consequence of having things to do - we're going to have to spend time pondering, avoiding, being distracted from the task in hand. But researchers studying procrastination think it can have serious health and financial consequences, and are looking for ways to conquer time-wasting, potentially rendering Facebook useless. Around 90% of university students are time-wasters, according to University of Calgary economist Piers Steel, who describes procrastination as 'voluntarily delaying a course of action despite expecting to be worse off for the delay'. It comes from a human urge to avoid the unpleasant. Students are a high risk category due to their often hectic academic schedules and social

lives. Studies have shown that chronic procrastinators have raised stress levels, and are prone to further risks to their health by putting off trips to the doctor and the dentist. They are much more likely to have accidents in the home as they will avoid 'dull' tasks like changing a lightbulb. Procrastination at work has financial consequences as time spent staring out of the window could be time spent productively badgering away. Steel believes certain character traits bring out the inner procrastinator, leaving some more prone. Time wasters are low in the conscientious trait, they are less 'dutiful, organised and industrious'. They are also likely to be impulsive-mixing up their intentions so being easily distracted. Anxiety can be implicit - a fear of failure can lead someone to put off starting a task. If this sounds like you, or you've not

iced a stressed out friend with bad teeth and anecdotes of falling over in darkened rooms, help is at hand. One strategy which has been shown to work is to set yourself attainable, specific goals, instead of a vague goal which allows a get-out clause. So replace 'I will get fit' with 'I'm going to the gym tomorrow at 7.30am.' Psychologist Tim Pynchl gives some parent-style advice: "Just get started"; the anticipation will be much worse than the actual task. To prove his credentials, he carried out a survey on his students, querying their moods and how much they were putting off tasks with deadlines. He found 'when students actually do the task they are avoiding, their perceptions of the task change significantly. Many times, they actually enjoyed it.' So do your homework, you might like it...



Professional procrastinator comic series PHD comic that regularly talks about the "power of procrastination"

Max Axiom™: Super Scientist

Mico Tatalovic
Science Editor

Maxwell J. Axiom is no ordinary superhero. He is no other than the super scientist! If you had any doubt about science being super, he's here to quench that doubt. Born to a marine biologist mother and nuclear physicist/park ranger father in Seattle, USA, he's got black skin, brown eyes and no hair. He is the scientific version of Shaft, swift, dynamic, cool. His super-powers come from a lightning that struck him one day on a wilderness hike: it gave him a newfound energy and motivated him to travel the globe and earn degrees in every aspect of science. Equipped with this enormous knowledge that he was ready to share, he assumed a new identity: Max Axiom, Super Scientist. His superpowers include super-intelligence, ability to shrink to a size of an atom, time travel and X-ray vision. So apart from breaking a few laws of physics in the start there, he does make up for it by using all of his powers to explain the science to the readers.



omatic hand glider and a private jet. In addition he rides a sleek motorbike and scuba dives. No wonder, when he gets to visit the top of the Mount Everest, dive off the coast of Alaska back in 1964, fly over San Andreas fault in California and then go to Taiwan, and also visit Iran after the devastating 2003 earthquake and all this in just 23 pages. **Volcanoes** In another one of episodes packed with time and space travel, Max starts off on the slopes of a volcano in Costa Rica dressed in some high-tech volcanologist suit; then he flies to a research vessel somewhere on the Pacific to take a 'mini-sub' to the seabed to show us underwater volcanoes forming new islands. He travels back in time to see the eruptions and the after-effects in Washington in 1980, Martinique in 1902 and Pompeii in AD 79, so apart from some learning about the tectonic plates, volcanoes and the composi-

tion of the Earth, we also get a bit of history. **Magnetism** This is the famous episode where Max "shrinks to the size of an atom" in order to explain just how magnetism works at an atomic level. He also visits ancient Greece where the word magnet was first coined, it was named after a region called Magnesia which was littered with a naturally magnetic rock "magnesian stone". Another story says magnets were first discovered by a Greek shepherd Magnes whose sandals (built with iron nails) were attracted to magnesian stones. Not even Max can tell us if this story is true, but he sure makes sure we understand how and why magnets work in this fascinating comic. **Scientific Method** What is so special about science; why do we often put it before other kinds of knowledge? Some would argue it is

Podview

Felix Whitton reviews newspaper 'casts

Guardian Weekly - Podcast of the Week



As a long-time Guardian reader ('leftie-scum' to my friends) I was a relative late-comer to their science podcast. Presented by one of the best teams of science journalists around - at least in Britain, where the paucity of good science reporting is worrying - Guardian Weekly is consistently thought-provoking, witty, and, most important of all, informative. It comes out every week (if you hadn't guessed), along with the occasional special edition, and usually runs to around 40 minutes. Recent podcasts have focused on, amongst other things, Barack Obama's views on science, space tourism, improvisation, and Darwin's beard. Intrigued? If so, give the show a listen: you (hopefully) won't be disappointed. Much easier than picking up the newspaper, with added interviews - notable scientific celebrities include Sir Martin Rees, Marcus du Sautoy, and Imperial's own Sir John 'Mr. Invisible' Pendry - plus special features and top-notch analysis from Alok Jha and his crack team of writers. And you can listen while doing the washing up, something which I don't recommend trying with the paper. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/series/science>

NY Times: Science Times



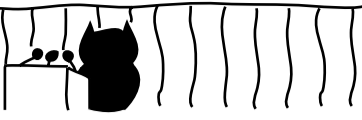
The NYT is a journalistic heavy-weight, and as such you would expect a podcaster to go with such a reputation. But this is America, lest we forget, so any science must be delivered in an earnestly folksy style, at the same time both patronising and yawn inducingly dull. So we have a short snappy news bit; a quirky (read: irritating) 'health quiz', which makes one wait until the end of the podcast to discover the answer (as if we care!); the 'science minute' section (how very New York); and gravel-voiced presenter and science editor David Corcoran introducing guests and features. There are positives, the podcast manages to squeeze a lot into less than 20 minutes. And they do look at 'serious' science - amid the bombardment of health gossip - such as last week's special 'Beyond the gene', which was illuminating, if annoying for me - as a biologist and pedant - when the panel of journalists fell into the trap of talking about 'a gene for so-and-so'. There is also a global feel to the podcast, a nice change for anyone who has had to sit through hours of inward-looking US shows. So while things are patchy stylistically, Science Times partly atones for its sins by taking a serious, if at times humourless, look at the world of science beyond the parochial borders of middle-America. <http://www.nytimes.com/pages/science>



It's rumoured that Max can even 'down' a yard of ale in 3.32 seconds

the scientific method that gives science its prestige and claim to objectivity. But in order to decide if this is true or not one needs to understand what this method is. Perhaps more importantly for would-be scientists is to see how the scientists go about their daily work: what is it that they do when they practice science? Philosophers and sociologists have argued for decades about this, but Max explains the crux of it in this exciting episode that sees Max's city threatened by flooding from a nearby river. The best way to decide on how to stop the river is to follow the scientific method to design the best possible levee to prevent the river from overflowing. Forming hypotheses and testing them, making scaled down

models all feature in this episode. **Light** Sunshine, sun-bathing, rainbows and lightning are all the phenomena Max attempts to explain in this episode. Just to make sure we understand it all he embarks on space voyage in his compact space-shuttle, all the way to the Sun to observe nuclear fusion that creates energy some of which is visible light. He also rides a beam of light at the maximum possible speed in the universe, and obviously has a lot of fun doing it! But we see here that Max is also a human being, he visits a museum, has a cookie and a hot drink and relaxes watching telly when his work is done.



A tribute to tolerance

Katya-yani Vyas
Politics Editor



At some point during my tenure here on earth I would like to converse with a member of the BNP in depth, in an attempt to gain some kind of insight into their psyche. The meeting would no doubt end in fierce argument but would nevertheless give me a better understanding as to how sometimes seemingly rational people can hold views that are so alien from my own.

Freedom of speech is something that we take for granted much of the time, as clichéd as that sounds. We will champion that old adage, the one that vehemently states that we 'may not believe what they have to say, but will defend to the death their right to say it'. In practice though, much of the time it is difficult to accept differing views, I have seen many a political argument escalate after those involved have self-righteously proclaimed; 'I respect your opinion, but...'. Of course you don't respect their opinion, you think that they are complete buffoons...maybe I am generalising, of course I don't think I am, and if you do, well, you are an idiot. I jest, I jest dear reader, but you get the point.

As an editor of this section I have come across a number of articles that I don't fully agree with. Myself and James publish them regardless, I am not arrogant (or knowledgeable) enough to believe that another's views are invalid. We as students with varied personalities and a diverse range

of views on everything from politics to soft drink flavours have the ability to write to this fine student newspaper and have our opinion published, embrace the opportunity dear reader, it is a privilege indeed. If you feel some disillusionment with the content of the paper, write us a comment piece or an article that takes the opposite view, I guarantee you will feel better.

I can't say I was not taken aback this week when the accusation was levelled against the newspaper that it was purely a medium to promote fascism, in addition to which I was told that I simply must be a supporter of the conservative party purely based on the highly convincing evidence that my accent is 'a bit posh'. Considering James' last column was entitled 'In honour of communism', I was slightly perturbed, nevertheless, hopefully we will have a comment piece from the particular fellow who felt so strongly about the political tone.

I suppose the mark of a truly tolerant society is one where we are able to tolerate those who hold bigoted opinions, those who are not open-minded as well. This is the society that we persevere to attain, so I will continue to listen to people telling me that I am wrong and debating for argument's sake the content of an article. If nothing else it makes my day more interesting and hopefully tolerance will succeed in elbowing its way into such conversations. For the sake of my sanity I sincerely hope so.

UK welcomes Euro

Neil Dhir

José Manuel Barroso the 12th president of European Commission has come to the conclusion that Britain is "closer than ever before" to joining the single currency, the Euro.

Speaking in an interview with a French radio station Mr. Barroso said that the "the people who matter" were having second thoughts about Britain's long-held position as a bystander of the single currency. Mr. Brown, the PM, at the helm of the Labour party has made no secret of the fact that it favours entering the single currency but not unless five economic tests, set by the Treasury, have been met.

As late at 2003 the Treasury ruled that it was not in Britain's interest to join the single currency. Mr. Barroso was further quoted as saying "I know that the majority in Britain are still opposed, but there is a period of consideration under way and the people who matter in Britain are currently thinking about it."

The optimism of the Commission has been fuelled by the comeback of Lord Mandelson, previously the European Commissioner of Trade, who this Saturday, at a Labour conference, spoke favourably of joining the Euro - contradicting Number 10's official line on the Euro "We have no intention of joining."

Apart from sparking fury from the opposition party, the Conservatives said they will now table parliamentary questions to establish what recent contact Lord Mandelson has had with Mr Barroso. William Hague, the Conservative shadow foreign secretary, said: "It is extraordinary that certain politicians are whispering to the EU Commission about joining the Euro behind the British people's backs."



Barroso has claimed that Britain are considering joining the Euro

Meanwhile sources close to Lord Mandelson claim no discussion had been had with Mr. Barroso over Britain's Euro future. Joining the Euro would require a referendum; a referendum is herald over by the electorate. The people that "matter" are not the Labour politicians now in office it is the other 60 million odd people of

the UK. A recent poll by the Evening Standard found that 70% of the participants were against Euro entry.

It is beyond this correspondent what exactly Mr. Barroso is trying to achieve other than promoting the opposition party's European policy, and thus the party itself, and further distancing the British population from the EU.

Dubai faces criticism during hotel celebrations

Mohsin Asharia

This week saw the world's most expensive party, complete with the world's largest ever fireworks display, marking the launch of the world's most lavish hotel, in the city with the world's most "world's most".

£20m for the opening of Atlantis The Palm, Dubai is a small figure in relation to the £1bn cost of the hotel itself, but certainly enough to cause a stir. Kylie Minogue reportedly pocketed around £2m for her 45-minute performance, and the fireworks display was over six times that of the Beijing Olympics opening ceremony, and could be seen from space.

The extraordinary celebration is just one example of Dubai's extravagance. The city has, in recent years, become synonymous with glamour, glitz and luxury. Burj Dubai, the world's tallest building, lies a stone's throw away from The Dubai Mall, which opened in a credit crunch-defying manner a fortnight ago. With four times as many shops as Westfield, I probably don't need to add that it is the world's largest mall, and also houses the world's largest Gold Souk and an aquarium with the largest viewing panel and largest school of sharks on the planet.

Combine all of this with perennial sunshine, white sandy beaches and tax-free salaries, and you may think you've discovered paradise on earth. You wouldn't be the first; there are already 100,000 British expatriates in Dubai. In fact, expats make up 80% of the city's population, most of them South Asian. However, despite its progress and opulence, even Dubai has adversaries from all angles. The launch of Atlantis The Palm was threatened by environmentalists' calls to free "Sammy" the whale shark, one of 65,000 marine creatures in the hotel's aquarium. They claim the shark, which has since been confirmed



Dubai has received criticism from its people and from international organisations for the Atlantis hotel, the latest in a string of lavish projects

for release, was "captured", whilst the resort say it was "rescued", close to Dubai's coast.

Much more voiced, however, are calls from Human Rights organisations to put a stop to poor conditions faced by labourers. Many find it sickening that millions can be spent on launching a hotel which was built by construction workers earning as little as \$10 a day, working up to 60 hour weeks in the stifling heat in often dangerous conditions. Workers are given respite if tem-

peratures reach 50 Celsius. It always seems to be 49. Despite this, the money that they earn goes a long way back home, and many are forced to continue risking their lives on a daily basis to prevent their wives and children back home from starvation. Change in the near future seems unlikely. Migrant workers continue to flow into Dubai at a rate of 800 a day.

Dubai may have become a victim of its own success. Local Emiratis are beginning to feel the influx of foreigners

may cause their heritage to disappear. As one put it, "we are building towers but losing the Emirates." Others have criticised the yo-yoing between the state's culture and its appeal as a playground for the rich. Drinking alcohol on the streets is forbidden, but the guests at the Atlantis launch were treated to Veuve Clicquot champagne.

In September, state-owned Dubai World casino a large stake in Las Vegas casino projects, despite gambling being outlawed as immoral in the

UAE.

Emirates airline boss Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed al-Maktoum calls the UAE "halfway between East and West". In more than one sense, it is because of this centrality, geographical and cultural, spiritual and material, that Dubai is being targeted from all sides.

Malcolm X famously said, "If you have no critics, you'll likely have no success." Only time will tell, but the success of Dubai's future may lie in the way it deals with its criticism.

Food shortages: a growing worldwide dilemma

Hassan Joudi

Do you get your 2000 kilocalories a day? This is the minimum energy intake of an adult from food according to the UN body the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Since you're in Britain, you probably do, but the answer to that question is no for 1 billion of the 6 billion people who inhabit this Earth.

As part of the Ahlulbayt Islamic Society's campaign about the current Economic Crisis, Mr Nafeez Mosaddeq Ahmed, Executive Director of the Institute for Policy Research & Development (IPRD) gave a talk regarding the current crisis in food supplies. Mr Ahmed began by making the point that increases in food prices are causing riots around the world. Although not reported widely in the news, 37 countries have seen food riots, including Indonesia, Morocco and Mexico. Here in Britain the consequences have been less severe with households seeing their weekly grocery bills increase due to fluctuating prices over the past few weeks, which have hit low-income families the hardest.

Since most Imperial students are not farmers, it's difficult for us to remember that the food we eat – that Ploughman's Cheese sandwich sitting in its plastic container or the mandatory cup

of coffee between lectures – actually grew out of the ground at some point. Agriculture is that age-old human activity, but according to Mr Ahmed, it is the unsustainable industrial agriculture practiced across the world that is creating a food crisis. Some of the mechanisms for this, such as soil erosion, were explained. The intensive growing of crops today isn't compatible with the fact that it takes 500 years to replenish 1 inch of top soil, the result is lower productivity year on year. Water scarcity is an under-acknowledged issue; the NewScientist magazine reported that an average hamburger takes 11,000 litres of water to produce, and like topsoil, fresh water is currently being used faster than water tables are replenished. Pesticide Pollution and the effects of Global Warming were also discussed.

Lastly Mr Ahmed argued that monoculture – the growing of only one crop over a large area - is completely unsustainable. Third world farmers face pressure to grow only one "cash" crop to sell to huge corporate agricultural companies like Dupont and Cargill, who in turn sell it to supermarket chains in developed countries. Instead of rotating crops or growing a variety of them, which would supply local markets, huge fields of cocoa or cotton are sown and their produce exported.

Colombia is not short of arable land and its biggest agricultural exports are coffee, tobacco and cut flowers, but the Latin American country must import other food to feed its population, of which 13% are undernourished according to the FAO. India is another paradoxical case where, despite earning \$1.2bn from exporting milled rice in 2004, a fifth of India's population is undernourished.

Overall Mr Ahmed made a compelling argument, but he failed to address several common criticisms. For example many advantages have been gained from the industrialisation of agriculture, like economies of scale and improved yields, and what role would Genetically Modified food would play in a more sustainable agricultural system. Additionally the Peak Oil half of his talk was not as well developed, with a plethora of technical terms clouding his argument.

Terms like a Hubbert curve, Olduvai theory and the opinions of petroleum geologist Colin Campbell, are ones best left for the hours spent browsing Wikipedia.

Worrying about feeding ourselves is something we don't do anymore in a developed country like Britain. Our supermarkets are open 24/7 with a huge choice of food, and the law requires motorway service stations to be open

24/7 to let us refill our fuel tanks and stomachs. And if you're annoyed that the JCR closes at 6pm when you still want a bite to eat, the Imperial College Library Café is open throughout the

night! We live our lives assuming food will always be available, but for many people in the world most of their time is spent ensuring they get their 2000 kilocalories a day just to survive.



Due to high exports, most farmers cannot even feed themselves

Raz Jabary

With the next UK general elections scheduled for 2010, New Labour under PM Gordon Brown is fully operational in order to secure a fourth ruling term. Whereas until recent times there were existing doubts as to the party's leadership and whether New Labour needed a new face, current PM Gordon Brown is found to be more trusted by the British public than Conservative leader David Cameron when it comes to the economy, a recent poll from the McCann Erickson advertising agency has shown.

In a time when Britain's economic competitiveness abroad is being threatened, and the Afghan and Iraqi peoples are in desire of a stable and prosperous future for their countries, a potential Conservative government with no ruling experience for the past eleven years seems to be a conflicting idea. The British people desired change, and change came about at the New Labour leadership stage in June 2007. It seems that most people in Britain would not have a tendency to affiliate Mr Brown directly with the war in Iraq. Rather, during a time when the unpopularity of the Iraq war was at its highest, people perceived the new face of the Labour Party as a sign of hope for change, for it has to be noted that many Labour MPs were actually initially fiercely opposed to the Iraq invasion in 2003, which in-

cludes John McDonnell MP, a senior candidate for the party's leadership.

After the toppling of the Saddam Hussein regime it was New Labour that initiated an attempt of reconciliation between the British and Iraqi peoples with the creation of Labour Friends of Iraq. In an interview with *felix* last month, Dave Anderson MP and Gary Kent, chairman and director of Labour Friends of Iraq respectively, outlined how they and other MPs had visited prominent Iraqi politicians – among which Iraq's PM Nouri al-Maliki – in a bid to increase mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries.

The recent win in the Glenrothes by-election for New Labour meant a substantial stimulus to the party. The seat, which some months before was predicted to fall to the Scottish National Party (SNP), was given away to Labour by residents who had just experienced Britain's vulnerability to a major economic downturn and how national unity ought to be a top-priority in such difficult financial times.

The pre-budget report that was outlined by Chancellor Alistair Darling in the House of Commons on 24th November means an important contribution to business owners and households. A 2.5% cut in VAT (to be Europe's lowest) has to lead to a major boost in the UK economy of over £12 billion, of which over £1 billion will

go to job centres across the country in order to get people back to work and cut rates of unemployment. In a report to Labour party members on the same day of the announcement, Mr Darling wrote of 'providing real help to families and businesses at a time when they need it most'. He further claimed that the Conservatives, unlike Labour, 'would rather turn their backs to these groups and say that we should do nothing'. Tory critics on the contrary claim that Mr Darling's report seems to be 'more concerned with reaching out to

detached Labour voters instead of to the greater benefit of the UK'. On 25th November, the day after the report was announced David Cameron even called for a parliamentary debate on its contents.

With soaring political and economic crises facing Britain in this first decade of the new century, among which most prominent the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, terrorism, the banking system, the devalued pound, the demand for more green, rates of unemployment and rates of crime, the British public

faces an ever-important event ahead in the next general election. Although the greater majority of Britons would put their individual circumstances first when it comes to voting, it has to be recognized that tough challenges ahead for Britain require a strong unity among the people in order to effectively tackle these issues that are facing our society today.

New Labour, determined to seek another term in government, seems to be ahead in providing the essential ruling and leadership experiences for this.



David Cameron in trouble as Gordon Brown and New Labour have a resurgence in the opinion polls



The trouble with being thrifty

Saving might be beneficial for the individual but society has to act to avoid a crash in demand

Daniel Naujoks

Faced with fears of losing their jobs, many might decide it is time to start saving more for an increasingly uncertain future. Even students, I guess, can be affected by worsening job prospects. If it's less likely you'll find a job after graduation you might feel it safer not to expand your student loan by more than necessary (well fine, 'necessary' is a flexible concept). Such thrift is not bad by itself, at all. It's entirely rational. Yet unfortunately greater saving also has the side effect of reducing consumption – as income is equal to saving plus spending. And a fall in consumer spending will mean less revenue for companies.

So what? Who cares if Marks & Spencer, BT and Currys make a little (or a lot) less money? Obviously those holding shares in such companies will care. But even for the rest of us, there are good reasons why it is far from irrelevant. A fall in revenue and demand for companies' products means that they are pushed to cut production and reduce expenses. This might be done by closing some factories, shops and offices, or by reducing their payroll e.g. by laying people off, employing fewer temporary staff, and putting even inflation-matching pay rises on ice. Thus

average income decreases. While a greater proportion of people's income is being saved, this is effectively more of less. Hence, despite a higher savings rate, total savings may rise by less, remain constant, or even fall – a possibility termed the "Paradox of Thrift" by the influential British economist John Maynard Keynes.

Does this imply that thrift is actually a bad thing? From the individual's point of view it's perfectly sensible, but for society as a whole there is a cost to everyone spending less, namely reduced income. It may be thrown in that, surely, this is not in anyone's interest and hence individuals should want to keep spending in order to sustain their salary. Yet it is worth considering that while a person bears the full cost of his own spending, the benefit in terms of increased revenue and income is distributed amongst a huge number of people (a phenomenon known as a "positive externality" to economists). Hence the positive effect of his spending on his own income is minute, and not a reason for abandoning thrift.

A case like this, where the rational action of the individual has negative consequences for society as a whole, can be conceptualised into the "Problem of Suboptimisation" (equally, it could be understood in terms of the related

concepts of the Prisoner's Dilemma or the Tragedy of the Commons). This describes a situation where optimising the outcome for a subsystem (an individual) does not optimise the outcome for the system as a whole (society). How do we get around this problem and ensure demand – and ultimately income – doesn't crash?

"for society as a whole there is a cost to everyone spending less"

As it is society that reaps the wider income benefits of avoiding a demand crash, it should also be prepared to take on the costs – no smaller subsystem will. Arguably, any such collective action can only be taken by our representation, the government. It will need to spend now and repay its debts once the economy is more stable again. If the decision is taken to spend (future) public money, we would certainly like it to be done in a manner that maximises the effect on demand and benefits

as many people for as long as possible.

How do we best achieve this? Should the government just give everyone money, for instance by cutting income taxes? Or is the money better spent directly on public services and infrastructure? Handing out money to households would have the beneficial effect that they can spend it on what they want, and it would be quick to show effects. The problem with this is that if people feel like saving more, they will also save a large part of the money given to them – which is great for them personally, but fails to address our systemic concern with maintaining demand. The alternative, to raise government expenditure directly, ensures that it really is spent and not saved. Yet there are drawbacks, too, as big government projects are likely to take some time to get going – a delay that could leave the economy vulnerable to a short-term slump with permanent consequences. Furthermore, central decisions are often assumed to be more wasteful than those taken by participants of the market.

Evidently, both stimulus approaches have their shortcomings. Hence a mixture of the two is probably best: some tax cuts for immediate effect and public sector expenditure to ensure as much as possible actually reaches the

economy. The recent VAT reduction seems favourable to simply lowering income taxes, since it directly incentivises consumption, making it less likely to get stashed away in personal savings. It also has a broader effect, giving everyone more spending power, including those who don't pay income tax – such as pensioners and those on benefits (and students, incidentally, "wink, wink"). Money spent directly by the government should benefit more than just the immediate providers of the services. Without going into much detail here, education, public transport, healthcare, energy efficiency and infrastructure are just a few examples offering sustainable long-term benefits to society. Not all of it needs to be new expenditure either, but simply planned future investment brought forward by a few years.

The Bank of England is already doing its bit by lowering interest rates, and the VAT rate but the situation also calls for expansive fiscal measures (lower taxes, higher government expenditure). Yes, this is a lot to ask from a taxpayer who might feel that the current economic woes are the result of other people's reckless behaviour. Yet as I have tried to argue, it is the lesser of two evils, where the benefit of action outweighs the cost of inaction.



The dollar value of a human life

Luke Dhanoa
Business Editor

One of the fundamentals of economics is the idea that everything has a value. Everything from the air you breathe to the food you eat to the clothes you wear. The trees, the birds, the seas, the clouds, the houses, the ground, all of it has a price. Even people. Especially people. For economists, people are the most interesting things to value in the whole wide world.

How much is your life worth? Take a guess. Seriously, guess. What did you go for? Thousands? Tens of thousands? Hundreds of thousands? Keep that figure in your mind.

There are about 27 million slaves in the world today, but because of the underground nature of the slave trade, it's a bit tricky to get a truly accurate figure of how much a person sells for. That said, lots of groups estimate that your average slave costs about £60 (or \$90), with the cheapest slaves available in Mali, where you can get a young adult male labourer about £27 (or \$40).

Now, it's worth taking in to account that at these prices, you're not going to be able to buy premium quality slavery. Sure, a £27 slave can talk, feel, think, hope, dream, love, fear and whatever, but they're probably incapable of doing anything really useful like reading

or writing fluently, nor will they be guaranteed to be free from disease. Higher quality human lives are more costly and their prices depend on what they are needed for. For example, a HIV-free, young, female slave (suitable for brothel work) can cost £669 (or \$1000).

So immediately we can see that being female, young, attractive or disease free makes you a more valuable human being, but even so £669 is actually quite cheap. If we look at trade transactions from the last 150 years we can see that in 1860, a human male would sell for something between \$450 and \$1000 dollars. Today, that's about £7,725 to £17,170. So, one American slave in 1860 was worth the same amount as 461 equivalent slaves today, or 207 average modern slaves or 18.6 contemporary brothel slaves.

To put his into even further perspective, a quick search on www.eupz.co.uk shows that a retriever (a breed of dog) costs about £750 on average, 12% more than a HIV-free, young, human,

female.

So using the slave-gauge we can see that not only is a basic human very cheap, but it has also decreased in value by about 99.679% over the last 150 years. Assuming that humans have decreased by a constant rate, we can go on to work out the value retention rate of human life to be about 0.9625 a year, giving us a human life inflation rate of 3.75%. Or in other words, the value of human life halves every 18 years.

Depressing, isn't it? But don't worry so much because according to the government, your life is worth millions of pounds. Yes, millions of pounds. The US government puts the life of an American at \$6.9 million. Here in the UK, the government is a bit more discreet with the figures, but it's safe to assume that you're worth at least £4m to her majesties civil service. To BP though, a human life is worth significantly more, with the average person being worth about £13.3m. But to an insurance company, you're worth a lot

less.

Want to know why? It's not because you've got more skills than a slave. It's not because you can read, write or whatever. It's not because you're healthy. It's because unlike the people who have been kidnapped, you've got rights. The major value added to a human life comes from our ability to argue our case in courts of law and our societies recognition of the value of life. BP assesses human life so high because that's the average cost of an out of court settlement per person. The government assesses human life at about £4m because that's how much it is willing to spend to save your life if you're in danger. Insurance companies value your life based on how outraged you would be with small settlements.

We are valuable almost purely because you were born in a western country that bestowed you with rights. Without those rights, we lose the majority of our value. As far as the market is concerned, our lives are cheap, but our rights are expensive.



International Students Officer

Recently at Council, it was decided that a new International Students Officer should be created to represent the needs and views of non-UK students at Imperial. From next year onwards, this Officer will be elected in a cross-campus ballot in the summer term elections.

In the meantime, we need an Officer for this academic year to ensure that the needs of International Students are met. The role will involve the following aspects:

- Be responsible for issues that specifically relate to International (non-UK) Students and organise relevant educational and training events and briefings.
- Create a hold an International Students forum to gather views about issues that affect them, such as visas, employment and English Language Support programmes.
- Supporting International Student involvement in Union and College activities, to encourage increased

participation.

- Sitting on College's Welfare Committee, the Union's Representation and Welfare Board and Union Council.

If you are interested in running for this position, nominations will be open at 00.01 on Tuesday 9 December and will close on Friday 12 December at 23.59. Voting will open Tuesday 16 December and will close Friday 19.

Go to imperialcollegeunion.org/vote



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

to stand after Monday. Anyone can stand for the position, but as decided by Union Council, only International Students will be able to vote.

SOLE - Have your say!

SOLE, the Student Online Evaluation Survey, is running from 8-22 December and is available for all students to fill in. It is designed to be an anonymous method of providing feedback on individual lecture courses which is fed back to the Department. These comments are always taken seriously by the College and the information is available to students following the survey on the website – the more people that fill it in, the more weight the data has and the more likely it is that significant changes will happen as a result.

If you are unhappy with a particular course it is important to state why. This could be because the teaching wasn't interactive enough, or because

there was repetition of material that has already been covered or even that lecture slides haven't been uploaded when you were expecting them to have been. Don't feel that you should only fill in the survey if you don't have anything to complain about – it is a really important way for good teachers and lecturers to get recognition of the good work they have done and give the College a good understanding of what teaching methods students are responding best to.

It is important to remember that your course exists as it does now because of student input before you.

To access SOLE log-on to www.imperial.ac.uk/newssole.

Visits to Halls

Back in October over 3,000 of you moved into Imperial Halls of Residences in a flurry of induction lectures, parties and endless tours of London. Now that the excitement of moving in and freshers' week has died down a bit, I'm keen to hear your views about your experience of living in halls. I'll be coming down to each individual halls of residence to talk informally to the students. I'll be passing your views onto residences, hall managers and wardens as appropriate so they know what you really love about living in halls and what you think would improve your time there. Issues could include anything from the number and type of events, cleaning, availability of welfare advice in halls – basically, whatever you like! I'll be armed

with nibbles and drinks so pop along even if it is for just 10 minutes at your relevant hall:

Beit Hall (Beit Common Room): 7-8pm, Thursday 11 December
Fisher and Bernard Sunley (Fisher Common Room): 5-6pm, Sunday 14 December
Holbein, Willis Jackson and Southwell (in Willis Jackson Common Room): 6-7pm, Sunday 14 December

Look out for future dates in next week's Felix, Union email and in publicity in halls. Normal Halls Committee will resume next term so if you have comments tell your hall rep and information will be passed on to me in the same way.



Do you

- want your best lecturer to get the recognition they deserve?
- feel like having your say about the way your course is run?
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is easy to use, anonymous, and the College will take notice of your comments

8-22 December 2008

www.imperial.ac.uk/newssole

Student
Or
Line
Evaluation



MTSoc 'Don't tell Mama'

Emily Wilson previews the Musical Theatre Society's newest production 'Don't Tell Mama'

I'm trapped in a room full of dancing and prancing in the Huxley building, with the aim of presenting my faithful readers with a cheeky sneaky preview of the Musical Theatre Society's imminent production 'Don't Tell Mama'. I'm treated to a full run-through, but first I am forced to sit through their warm-up exercises, which are terrifying. It's a bit like watching a primary school PE lesson. I get somebody's arse in my face a couple of times, but I try not to take it personally. My initial impressions of MTSoc is that there's more of them than I expected, they seem to really enjoy what they do, and they sing unbelievably loudly. In this tiny little room it's almost deafening – and yet during their actual performances they use microphones.

The first song is 'Good morning Baltimore' from Hairspray. It's a catchy song and difficult to fault. I did feel that at times the performers are fighting to out-sing each other, particularly the more confident ones, so it often reached ear-splitting levels. It's hard to tell whether that will do better or worse on stage.

The next song is a solo: 'Taylor the Latte Boy', sung by Katie Clemence. It's an amusing, witty little ditty. Clemence is very good, with a sweet voice suited to the role perfectly, though she was a little quiet. This is one of the songs I'll look forward to revisiting on the night. At this point I had to ask "erm... is this supposed to have a storyline?". The answer was no. It's a cabaret thing. Which is fair enough, but I hope they make this a bit clearer in the performance or otherwise the audience will be left bewildered.

'I Can Make You a Man', of Rocky Horror fame, is more MTSoc's usual

"Having seen many of their performances, this one ranks quite highly"

camp comedy style. It's a hysterical number, bound to be an early show-stopper. 'Don't Tell Mama', the show's title song, is another funny one. The choreography is top class stuff, but the female company is sloppy. To their credit, the directors knew this and told them so. If they can pull it together during the week it will be amazing. The duet 'I am Adolph' is another comic number, and is very amusing. Barry Whiteside and Elizabeth Fritsch are both very talented, but have a quiet confidence that really makes it succeed. Whiteside, in particular, truly comes alive on the stage. 'Snooky Ookums' is another duet, but is a charmingly funny song that doesn't need the hammed-up slapstick prevalent in the rest of the show... Like 'Afternoon Delight'. Yes, the song about afternoon love-making from Anchorman. MTSoc's rendition of this ticks all the raunchy gay cliché boxes. It will make every straight man



The company on stage during their recent performance of 'Don't Tell Mama'

in the audience want to run for the nearest emergency exit. I can hardly believe they have the guts to do this sort of thing – it's utterly astounding. I enjoyed it, though others might find it a step too far.

Matt Stringer has a subtle but pleasant voice and does a respectable job of 'If I Didn't Believe in You'. It's difficult for a show to swing from homoerotic piss-taking to something more serious, so this song could end up underappreciated. We're back on to the sex again in 'Toucha Toucha Touch Me', another Rocky Horror. "There's no use in heavy petting, it only leads to trouble and seat-wetting". Hum. Laura McCaughey is very good but risks being smothered by a loud female chorus. If she can be louder and less delicate this could end up being the best song in the show.

'Sarah Brown Eyes' is a beautifully romantic song. I don't get to see the female part done by the real person, so I can't comment on that, but Phil Raymond nailed the male part perfectly so I've got high hopes. For the record, Lucy Harrold was an excellent stand-in and did a thoroughly believable job of it. We're getting towards the end of the production now, with everybody coming together for some finale action. There were some voices in 'Being Alive' that I would have liked to have heard more of in their own songs. Perhaps these hidden talents will be revealed in the next production? The whole company comes together nicely with some beautiful harmonies, bar the occasional high note making me wince. The final song is 'Fame'. Now, in their favour, the whole lot of them clearly

adore this finale. It's full of passion and excitement, with fun and funky choreography that would be beyond most of us, coming together in a grand climax. But why 'Fame'? It's such a clichéd and predictable finale! I felt bad for disliking it, and I wish they'd come up with something equally impressive but a bit more original.

Of course, I was watching a rehearsal. What I saw was riddled with mistakes and inappropriate giggles, out of costume and away from the stage. A lot of people with solos weren't there. All in all, I certainly didn't get the full effect. But on the other hand it was fascinating to watch MTSoc interact with each other, and to see all the hard work that goes on putting on these shows. I was in awe of some of the musical talent that comes out of a university of science and technology. In my opinion they all deserve a major pat on the back.

Having seen many of their past performances, I also think this one ranks quite highly, so MTSoc should regard it as a triumph. But should I recommend it to you? Many of you, I'm sure, are already set in your hatred of what is regarded as a lower art form. It's crass and immature, and entertains with its sexual innuendo, fluffy gayness and cheery tunes.

MTSoc's production conforms to all the usual musical theatre stereotypes, so if that's something you despise then don't expect to have your mind changed. However, 'Don't Tell Mama' is a perky little production that makes for an uplifting night out, so is a must for pre-existing musical fans or anybody in need of some light entertainment.



The cast at one of the photo shoots for the performance

DramSoc's Merry Persons steal the opening night

Jonathan Dakin reviews the opening night performance of DramSoc's Robin Hood

This year's Christmas pantomime from Imperial's Drama Society is Robin Hood, but don't expect strong men running around saving the poor and fighting the bad guys: this is a rather different story.

The play begins with a weak and scatterbrained King John talking to his Freudian psychiatrist about how bad things have been for him lately. It seems that everyone has been hit by a money crisis (mirroring contemporary times), including royalty. In turn, we then meet all of the unusual characters: an alcoholic and arrogant Sheriff of Nottingham, a stupid and ditzy Robin, a sexist and short tempered Friar Tuck, an angry and hot-headed Wil(helmina) Scarlet, and a spoilt and self-centred Marian. It seems that everyone is out for themselves: the Sheriff forces Marian to woe Robin in order to make him steal from the rich for her, but instead of giving the money to her evil Abbot uncle and the Sheriff, she plans to run away to Paris with her long-suffering maid Sizeable Joanna, taking all of the goods. Although this is a very different take on an overused idea, let's not forget that this is a Pantomime, and so good should triumph over evil... or will it? It is hard to tell how it will end, especially when every single character

has questionable ulterior motives.

Robin Hood has some funny moments, including a sexual encounter between Little John and Sizeable Joanna and a fight between Kung Fu Fighters, a band of Pirates and a group of Monks. It is also interesting to see that it is actually Little John and Wilhelmi-

"They make a good attempt at a hard task, and even when heckled, they used it to their advantage"

na Scarlet who are running things, not Robin Hood, who thinks that he is the one in control when everyone else knows he isn't.

There are also some good performances from a few of the cast. Lakshmi Sreenivasan who plays Brudo, a sword-wielding midget, gets most of the laughs, mainly because of her

short-statured caricature, and Shomini Bundell, who plays Maid Marian, does well to convince the audience that a spoilt selfish woman can change for the better. The Ensemble are also good at being funny, although sometimes not intentionally. It is a shame that the cast mainly played their roles seriously, they almost seemed to forget that this is a Pantomime, and that their characters should be over the top and played for laughs. It could be first night nerves that got to them, but I would have liked to see a bit more energy and I am sure that if they all relax and take it less seriously, then a lot more humour would come through.

But saying that, it is not easy to do Panto, especially when much of it depends on audience participation, and the fact that they are all amateur actors. They made a good attempt at a hard task, and even when the audience heckled them, the cast seemed unfazed and used it to their advantage.

The real highlight of the night was the audience, who were all very involved in the play, and enjoyed playing along to the Panto elements e.g. 'He's behind you!' If you went with a group of your friends, looking to have a fun and humorous time, then I would say that as long as you, your mates and the rest of the audience are willing to get involved, you will have a good laugh.



Prince John and a merry person, no euphemism intended



Come and see the show tonight or tomorrow night in the Union Concert Hall



Film

Film Editors – Zuzanna Blaszcak and Jonathan Dakin

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

There's nothing Jolie in *Changeling*

Clint Eastwood impresses as a director yet again with this mystery melodrama that chills to the core

Changeling ★★★★★

Director: Clint Eastwood
Writer: J. Michael Straczynski
Cast: Angelina Jolie, John Malkovich, Jeffrey Donovan

Zuzanna Blaszcak
Film Editor

If you want to spend two hours stressing yourself out watching the lowest of the low scumbags presented to you in typical Hollywood fashion with no shades of grey, this movie is for you. If you want a story with no clear resolution and one that leaves you despising humankind that bit more, Clint Eastwood has fulfilled your wishes. Finally, if you want to see what is most likely an Oscar winning performance, Angelina Jolie doesn't disappoint. But if you want a movie that is honest and unpretentious, one that will stay with you after you've left the darkened cinema room, don't put all your hopes into *Changeling*. You'll feel like shit coming out of the movie theatre, even the gloom of London's autumn is enough to dispel the only slightly lingering feeling of unsettlement.

Telling a true story of one woman waging a war against the corrupt and brutal Los Angeles Police Department in 1928 in order to find her missing son, *Changeling* is definitely not light entertainment. On 10 March 1928 Walter Collins, the son of Christine Collins (Jolie), disappeared from his home. After a 5-month search the police announced that the boy had been found and subsequently reunited mother and son. However, it turns



Those are not tears of joy as Jolie realizes the kid found by the police juvenile departement isn't her son.

out the LAPD has made a mistake, the boy is not Walter. But one of the most corrupt police forces ever, one whom bad press is the last thing they need, cannot own up to making a mistake. They ignore Christine's allegations, bribing doctors and specialists to proclaim that it is possible for a growing boy to suddenly lose 3 inches under stress and that the fact that the new found boy is circumcised doesn't prove anything. Prompted by the local

reverend (John Malkovich's forgettable role), whose goal in life is to uncover the constant breaching of the law by the police, Mrs. Collins makes her fight more public. And she suffers the consequences. Interwoven between the story of the morally putrid LAPD and Christine Collins' unwavering fight to find Walter is the mortifying tale of a young psychopath and the 20 or so kids he slaughtered with an axe.

To say the least, the movie is very disturbing and the subdued way in which the story is presented makes the punch even harder. Angelina Jolie's performance is particularly effective because the actress doesn't fall into the trap of expressively showing every single emotion. When Christine is left with nothing but despair, Jolie skillfully demonstrates despair rather than the, easier to act but more annoying, hysteria. Despite a morally satisfying

conclusion to the drama, Clint Eastwood doesn't offer any comfort; gloomy scenes of a death sentence being carried out immediately follow scenes of a battle won in the courtroom. The movie is filmed not in black and white, but in extremely bleak, washed out shades of green and grey, interspersed with contrasting yellowish and brownish shots of the American outback where the grisly crimes take place. Overall, however, the cinematography is boring and forgettable, used only as a medium to seamlessly tell a story.

The director clearly put the script above all else; the dramatic events that unfolded are shown without redundant flair, which is a very good idea that unfortunately backfires slightly. The musical score doesn't overpower the scenes but it doesn't enhance them either. The restraint of the main character in openly showing strong emotions, adds to the undeniably depressing mood of the film but also makes it that much harder to care about the movie after the credits roll. Eastwood took a chance by giving us a story in this cool and slightly aloof manner – it partly works, partly doesn't, but it wasn't a mistake. What I can't accept on the other hand is the one dimensionality of the police characters; even Christine Collins is to some extent flat. The bad guys are clearly bad and the good are nauseatingly good. I also wasn't impressed by the fact that everything in the film is given to us. We get it all nicely served on a silver plate. The distinction between the good and bad, the moral and unethical, is too sharp and too pronounced to get you thinking. The most irritating thing about *Changeling* though is how markedly it was created for your consideration only; it's a film that knows it's meant for the American Academy and the upcoming Oscars.

New, innovative and moving, simply a must see!

Waltz with Bashir ★★★★★

Director: Ari Folman
Writer: Ari Folman
Cast: Ari Folman, Ron Ben-Yishai, Ronny Dayag

Zuzanna Blaszcak
Film Editor

This incredibly original film is an autobiographical account of the director's attempt to recover his memories of the Israel-Lebanon war in 1982. As we learn at the beginning, Ari Folman suppressed the memories from his soldier days for 20 years until a meeting with an old friend jogs his subconscious. The friend's retelling of a recurring dream about the 26 dogs he killed during the war prompts Ari to suffer his first flashback and starts him on his quest to remembrance.

The Israeli-Lebanese conflict started in 1981 when violence erupted in South Lebanon and North Israel. South Lebanon at the time was a state within a state with a population of 300,000 Palestinians and a very active Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which made numerous, attacks on Israeli

border villages. Israel responded with a bloody bombing of the PLO headquarters in Beirut and the fighting continued until July 1981 when a ceasefire was agreed upon. But the seemingly calm year was in reality filled with strenuous tension. Ronald Reagan at the time received a report in which his Secretary of State informed him that Israel was ready to start a full-blown war against Lebanon at the slightest provocation. The provocation inevitably came and Israel attacked the civil war ridden Lebanon in 1982. The resulting war is now mainly remembered for the massacre performed by the Christian Phalangists in the Palestinian districts of Beirut. It is this massacre that our protagonist knows he witnessed but can't remember what part he played in it. The movie is filmed as a documentary; Ari visits and interviews both the friends that he believes served with him as well as soldiers from other regiments and people involved in the war who can shed some light about the events that led to the massacre.

Although the interviews at first seem a bit random, they imitate the way in which the protagonist's memories came back (i.e. in fits and starts, in disconnected snippets of images) and a clear picture of the war steadily builds itself as the movie continues. Obviously

the theme of memory is very prominent in the film and at the start we are rather explicitly told that memories should not be believed, the brain easily deceives our recollection of the past. This unobtrusive reminder that what we're watching and hearing isn't necessarily true is reinforced a hundred fold by the fact that *Waltz with Bashir* is animated!

That's right, animated. And what a painstakingly beautiful animation it is. The mise-en-scene is minimalist; the artist draws in only those bits that are vital to our understanding of a shot, but nothing else. Close-ups and yellow colours dominate, with the characters drawn in hard clear lines while the background is slightly washed out. This visual style creates a dreamlike feel to the movie, which borders on being poetic.

The animation is what makes the film stand out and what allows the movie to deliver such a powerful punch, because it forces the story to be told without any acting. All the scenes are simply visualisations of the stories told in a plain, monotonic, almost unemotional way, by the interviewees. The result is a brutal clash between stunning and emotion-inducing images, a very expressive soundtrack and the cold narration of the atrocities of



Visually breathtaking, *Waltz with Bashir* will leave you stunned.

war. What we're seeing doesn't directly correspond to what we're hearing and the feeling that this is unreal, all made-up, persists. And then bam! The movie reaches its end and suddenly the animated scenes of wailing women and abandoned corpses are replaced by

historical footage and we can no longer delude ourselves that the war, the fighting and the massacre never happened. That's when the screen goes dark, the audience continues to sit speechless and you realize this is the best movie to come out in a long time.

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Film

Films we love at Imperial

Imperial College students, lecturers and staff share their treasured movies with *felix*. This week: *Back to the Future*

Catherine Luckin
Student

How can you beat Michael J. Fox skateboarding through town holding on to the back of a truck, to the sound of Huey Louis singing Power of Love, as the opening sequence to a movie? Quite frankly you can't, and hence my favourite film has to be *Back to the Future*.

A mad scientist, a time machine and the one and only MJ Fox are woven together by the likes of Robert Zemeckis and Steven Spielberg into a masterpiece of cinematic history.

I'm sure we all know the story, but for anyone deprived during their early years, here's a very brief overview, albeit one which simply cannot reveal the brilliant intricacies of the plot. We begin with the entrance of the fabulously good-looking Marty McFly (so handsome, in fact, that he later lent his name to a boy band who certainly did not live up to its legendary status). Following a phone call from his mad scientist friend, Doctor Emmett Brown (Doc, to his mates), Marty realises he is late for school, at which point the aforementioned skateboard scene proceeds. Where to go from here? Fear not: Zemeckis has answers.

Marty later meets Doc in a car park, where he reveals a beautifully sci-fi looking car: a DeLorean. He then informs Marty he has transformed it into a time machine. After sending his dog, Einstein, one minute into the future, Doc offers a brilliantly scientific explanation for this feat. I should probably consult one of the many Imperial physicists before I ascribe its brilliance, but



Why can't our lecturers be a bit more like Doc? Or maybe they are?

oh well. It has something to do with a flux capacitor.

Unfortunately, to create said time machine, Doc has stolen Plutonium from some terrorists, who turn out to be quite unhappy about it and shoot him, leaving Marty to escape in the DeLorean. However, in the process, he accidentally travels back to 1955 and has no plutonium with him for the return journey. Only the energy of a lightning bolt can power the flux capacitor enough to send Marty 'back to the future', but of course he has to consult the Doc of 1955 and consequently risk breaking the space-time continuum, which he foolishly does on a number of occasions (will he never learn?). For example, he meets his mother and stops her falling in love with his father, leaving his entire existence in jeopardy.

Clearly, this needs to be corrected, and although he only manages to do it just before he is due to travel back to 1985, it's nice to see he still has enough time for a Johnny B. Goode guitar solo.

OK, there might be a few holes in the storyline and the continuous mention of flux capacitors and the space-time continuum may grate slightly, but who cares? Doc has a DeLorean that can take you back in time: does anything else matter?

With classic quotes including, "Are you telling me my mum has the hots for me?" and "My God Doc, you vapourised Einstein!" brilliantly thought out inventions of the future and a classic soundtrack, *Back To the Future* has surely become a timeless classic. If you haven't seen it, watch it; if you have, watch it over and over again.

Try before you die: Secret Cinema

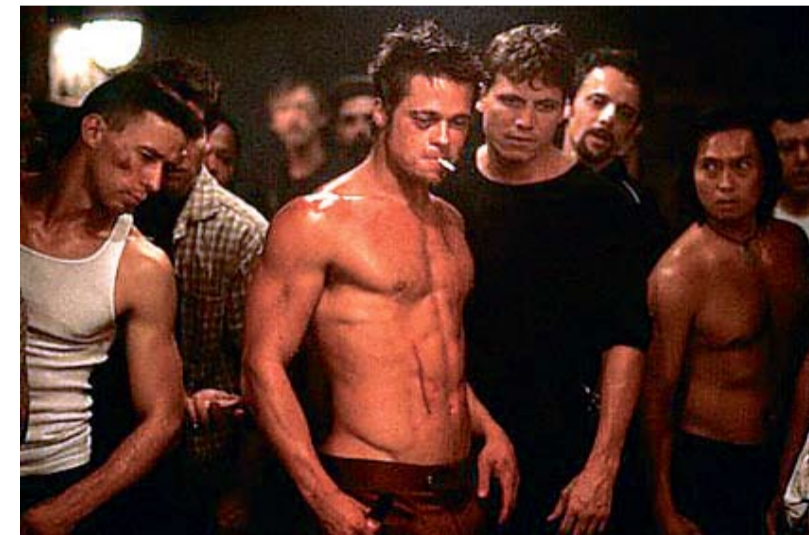
Mico Tatalovic

Look behind you...Is anyone there? Ok... Please read on.

The aim of Secret Cinema is to surprise the audience. Before the actual day of the screening, the audience doesn't know where the screening will take place, what film will be shown, and what sort of side programme (with special guests) awaits them.

An e-mail message on the day of the screening reveals the assembly point, and this is where you come and meet all the other secret moviegoers. The organisers then take you to the place where the screening will happen. I say 'place' because this could be practically anywhere: out on a farm or in a garden, on a rooftop of some downtown building, at a hotel parking lot, in a garage or in a tunnel.

The whole concept of the secrecy is aimed at bringing back the mystery to the cinema experience; it is aimed at adventurous cinéphiles who despise going to the same old monotone multiplexes to see the same old Hollywood trash. Tired of such cosmetic 'know-what-to-expect' experiences, the Secret Cinema team decided cinema deserves to be more exciting. Secret cinema started in London in December 2007 and takes place once a month. Given its popularity despite their somewhat expensive tickets (up to £18), perhaps audiences really are getting tired of boring and predictable



My GOD, that is one sexy man. I mean WOW.

cinema experiences.

Another interesting concept of making the cinema experience a bit different is the 'Bad Film Club' organised in an art-house cinema, Chapters in Cardiff. Here you find two knowledgeable people commenting on the film as it is being screened. Those of you who watch your DVDs with the commentary option 'on' might not find this as much of a novelty though. Are these two concepts perhaps the birth of a new wave of trying to attract audiences back to cinema in today's world of YouTube and Internet TV? I don't

know, but it is exciting: the closest secret cinema I ever got was sitting in an open air 'summer' cinema on an island in Croatia wondering whether the rain was going to spoil the ending of the film for me!

For those of you who want to know more and like being let in on a secret check out the following internet sites (secret or not, the internet has it all): "http://www.secretcinema.org/" and "http://www.chapter.org/13283.html".

By the way, if anyone asks, I didn't say anything.

P.S. Remember, tell no -one.

Coming Out Soon

Revolutionary Road sees DiCaprio and Winslet reunited, but don't be fooled

Jonathan Dakin
Film Editor

Directed by Academy Award Winning Sam Mendes (*American Beauty*), and starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet, *Revolutionary Road* looks set to be a show-stopping powerhouse of superb directing and acting.

Based on a novel of the same name, *Revolutionary Road* is about a married couple, Frank and April Wheeler (Diaprio and Winslet) living in 1950's America who want a better life for themselves. April is an aspiring actress who dreams of moving to Paris, and alcoholic Frank wants to quit his dead

end job and continue having an affair with his mistress. Although a gloomy premise, the film centres on the couple's relationship falling apart and I am sure that both DiCaprio and Winslet will provide stunning performances and will make the film commanding from beginning to end.

This is the first time Winslet and DiCaprio have worked together since *Titanic*, but the plot could not be more different (thank goodness). With Winslet's husband, Mendes, behind the camera, I hope that this film provides us with something like award winning *American Beauty* than flop *Road To Perdition*.



This time Kate and Leo exchange selfless love for an unhappy marriage

Competition

Last time the competition didn't go as well as planned and now I find myself still stuck with three DVD copies of *Asylum*. So let us try again, and remember, all you need to do is send the answer in an email, we'll do all the work, track you down and hand you the prize. This week you can win *Pineapple Express*.

A new side-splitting comedy produced by Judd Appatow (*40 Year Old Virgin*, *Knocked Up*), *Pineapple Express* harnesses the riotous comic talents of Seth Rogen (*Zack and Miri Make a Porno*, *Knocked Up*) and James Franco (*Spider-man Trilogy*, *Milk*).

Also starring Rosie Perez (*Do The Right Thing*) and Gary Cole (*The Brady Bunch Movie*), *Pineapple Express* follows a pair of druggie losers as they reach the top of the hit-list when one witnesses a mob murder and drags his buddy into a crazy flight from mobsters bent on silencing both of them permanently.

Lazy stoner Dale Denton and his dealer Saul Silver end up having the adventure of a lifetime after witnessing a murder by a crooked cop. When they realise that their rare strain of weed called *Pineapple Express*, left behind at the scene, is so rare that it can be traced back to them, they really do have to run for their lives.

Simply answer the simple question below and send your answer to film.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

The Noble has its less serious equivalent called the *Ig Noble*, what is the Oscar's flippant counterpart?

Winners will be announced in next week's edition!





World AIDS Day

1/12/08

www.joinred.com

*if your club or society
are interested in being
in Sexy Centrefold,
email
felix@imperial.ac.uk*



Nightlife

Nightlife Editor – Catherine Jones (CJ)

nightlife.felix@imperial.ac.uk

You cannot escape New Year's Eve

Don't just sit around. Force yourself (or someone else) to organise New Year's Eve plans before you end up alone... again



Mince pies down!

Catherine Jones
Nightlife Editor

Put the mince pie down (carefully). Momentarily step away from the tinsel. It's time to start thinking about making those dreaded New Year's Eve plans. Here is a fine selection of events in the capital for those wishing to start the year in style.

As the clocks strike midnight, there is one place guaranteed to have the ooooh factor; that clock in Westminster. Everyone has seen Big Ben, and the spectacular fireworks detonated above the Thames on television, year after year. Will it meet up to expectation in real life?

Clearly the main problem with this otherwise sensible plan, loutish crowds. Revellers need a bar to provide the essential alcohol, shelter and warmth. Hypothermia is not a good look or way to start a new year. The WalkAbout Bar near Temple Tube Station is the obvious choice to meet your needs. It faces onto the Thames, so the midnight fireworks are on your doorstep. The unpretentious Australian theme, with DJs, relatively affordable drinks and a modest entry fee should make for a good all round experience.

Matter
What can you say? Once again, the superclub at the O2 has the mother of all line-ups. 2ManyDJs are headlining the celebrations with an electroclash DJ set. For a duo with a DVD called "Part of the Weekend Never Dies", I expect there to be many fond memories of frenzied midnight dancing. I wish you a happy pilgrimage all the way to North Greenwich. Get home safely children.

Peaches
May I suggest adding a new celebration to the calendar? An inspired club pro-

motor has booked Peaches to perform a DJ/MC set at Durrr's "Not The New Year's Eve". The self-titled "electrocrap queen" seems the perfect antidote to tiresome Christmas cheer. I pronounce that the 29th December shall henceforth be known as New Year's Eve Eve. Why has no one thought of this before? Hmmm.

How to describe Peaches? Well, she's on a different planet to the likes of Dido. She is glam-shock, provocative, vulgar and obscene. Perfect for rebelling against nostalgic festive tweeness. Indocriate yourself with the unofficial videos for "Fuck the Pain away" on YouTube. Gossip Queen Perez Hilton's Miss Piggy version of this track is an excellent intro for beginners. I'm sure she will be wishing "Goodwill to all men" this Christmas.

Guanabara
I don't know about you, but I'd quite like to be at a beach party in Rio on New Year's Eve. Pyrotechnics, live music and waves gently lapping on the beach. It's an image of perfection.

Back home in London, you can still live the dream at Guanabara, a Brazilian late night venue near Drury Lane. Revellion is the Brazilian new year's event, a celebration originating from the traditions of the Umbanda religion. This Afro-Brazilian faith is based on a mix of Catholicism and Spiritualism. Revellers dress in white, float candles in the sea and offer flowers to Iemanjá, the Queen of Seas, in return for blessing the new year.

At Guanabara, DJ Mark Robertson from Spiritual South, Limao and D.Vyvor will be on the decks playing Brazilian sounds. Mandinga, samba popsters and London School of Samba will be playing live.

If none of these events interest you, alternatively there's a house party at David J Paw's abode. Check next week's issue for the full details. The dress code is "16th century surrealism".



2ManyDJs will be wrecking up Matter and they are so good that light literally shines out of their arses



Peaches isn't technically at The End on New Year's Eve but December the 29th is close enough



If you aren't lucky enough to enjoy Rio's floating Xmas tree, then Guanabara near Drury Lane is for you

COLIN MURRAY
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&
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Friday 5 December
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Technology

Technology Editor – Ravi Pall & Richard Lai

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Artificial Intelligence

Joseph Letts wonders if it an essential tool for students?

I'm sorry to seize you in with such an irrelevant title! It took me a while to work out what my first (possible) article for *felix* would be, and after some wild guesses I went with Artificial Intelligence. We all see robots in the movies, and computers which can take over the world (insert: Arnie and Skynet) and although it is not at the front of everybody's mind, sooner or later on an empty day, you start wondering, what would it be like if computers could think for themselves?

So, the first question is: what defines artificial intelligence? When we think about artificial intelligence in terms of its popular culture reference, we tend to think that it revolves around the idea of machines which act self-dependently from humans, capable of premeditated murder (think iRobot), and with general megalomaniac tendencies (e.g. the Matrix). A useful scientific definition I have found states:

Artificial intelligence is the study of the computations that make it possible to perceive reason and act.

Extract from: Chapter 1, Artificial Intelligence by Patrick Henry Winston (3rd Edition).

But what does that mean when it is at home? Essentially, it means that artificial intelligence describes the field of study which enables technology to react and carry out decisions based on inputs from its environment. During my web research about AI, I've realised that it covers a much broader topic than I anticipated, branching off into different sections. Some forms of AI are already being implemented, examples being route finding systems for complex transport networks, handwriting recognition software and speech synthesizers. These systems are capable of learning and making decisions, e.g. text-to-speech systems which study patterns in language to improve their chance of synthesising words, or handwriting recognition systems which can adapt themselves to a user's handwriting to reduce the probability of mistranslation.

However, there are some problem areas of AI which still cause trouble to our scientists in the present day. One of these is the problem of perception, which would enable a machine to determine its place in its current environment and plan a suitable route for navigation to certain areas or for escape. The ultimate application of this would be the futuristic motorways in movies, where cars drive on auto-pilot (how ironic) at high speeds without any trouble at all.

While some parts of this problem have been simplified, one of the main stumbling blocks involves the way in which machines view the environment. As humans, we naturally see the world in terms of distances, and objects (with which we can interact) because our brains do all the work for us. In comparison ma-

chine processors only receive what they see by analysing data received from visual inputs (i.e. cameras). The machines then have to calculate the perceived location of objects in their vision (easier with two cameras than with one) as well as classify these objects.

Humans have an easy job of classifying families of objects; it has been hard for researchers to quantify the process involved, and so making it harder to simulate the process on machines, leading to large databases of images, stored for the sole purpose of object recognition.

An interesting advance seen in Artificial Intelligence which is close to home is the Painting Fool. A project started by Dr. Simon Colton (Doc) in 2001, the painting fool is an AI program which makes artist's impression of pictures of people and landscapes. The program has recently been enhanced with help from Michel Valstar (DoC PhD 2008) and Dr. Maja Pantic (DoC), who provided another AI computer vision program which uses a video feed to detect the emotion on a subject's face. This information is then fed to the painting fool, which uses the input to paint an abstract portrait, using different colours and perspectives for each emotion.

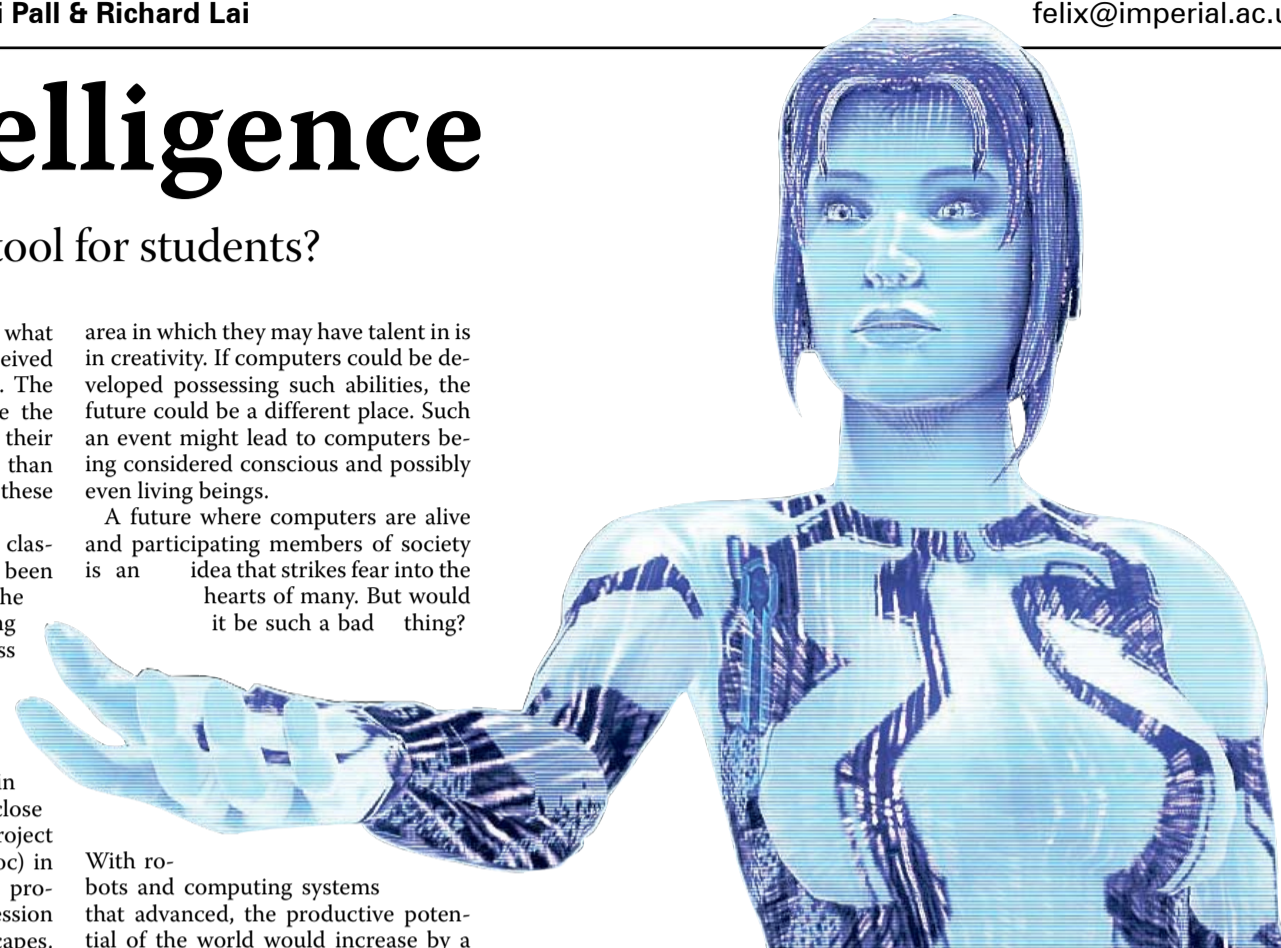
The next goal of the painting fool is to become creative, i.e. become able to paint new pictures without an input.

This brings forward the topic of machine consciousness. The examples that I've discussed so far all concern systems which are used for individual purposes, generally to aid humans achieve their goals. However, the most interesting part of AI concerns computers which think by themselves and create their own goals. These machines are said to show true artificial intelligence, which resembles the intelligence of humans. These machines would show capabilities including problem solving, rationality and learning.

Another

area in which they may have talent is in creativity. If computers could be developed possessing such abilities, the future could be a different place. Such an event might lead to computers being considered conscious and possibly even living beings.

A future where computers are alive and participating members of society is an idea that strikes fear into the hearts of many. But would it be such a bad thing?



With robots and computing systems that advanced, the productive potential of the world would increase by a great magnitude. With robot workers being tireless and able to work for long periods without rest and without pay, production would become more efficient, leading to cheaper prices for consumers as a wider stock of goods to choose from. Also, if robots were chosen for menial and dangerous jobs (such as cleaning or quarrying), people who would have worked in poor conditions or little pay would be free to search for more rewarding and fulfilling careers.

Not to mention that

“Would people even bother to provide an education for their children if machines could do everything?”

It would be interesting to see how we would function as a society, if people have no careers in the future would there be a communist economy, with no difference in wealth and circumstances? Would society be happy that way, or will there always be people who strive to differentiate themselves from the masses. Would people even bother to provide an education for their children, if machines could do everything anyway?

If that happened, a disaster may occur if the machines broke down and could not be fixed by other machines. It could even lead to a dark age, with humans having to learn from scratch. Or has this already happened?

An even more worrying

problem might occur if the computers of the future develop emotions and personalities. Would they be content to do all that we ask them? If these computers will be able to create their own goals and solve problems, would there be a stage where they decide that their goal differs from the general goal of humanity, which is to advance ourselves in terms of knowledge, creativity and society? What would happen if this new goal required the disappearance of humans? Would we be able to fight of this new enemy, who aim to destroy us using our weapons and unbeatable strategies?

Many academics are split of the likelihood of a machine conscious, an argument which has spanned over many decades. It can be simplified into an argument between two sides, between dualists and materialists.

The dualist philosophy is a belief that thought and conscience are products of a nonphysical substance, while the materialist philosophy holds the belief that all mental actions can be explained by interactions between physical matter (i.e. chemicals). Dualists argue that as long as intelligence is established by a nonphysical substance, man cannot create artificial intelligence in machines in any manner. Materialists oppose this by saying that is the mind is made of purely physical matter, then it is possible to create an artificial intelligence in machines that approximates human intelligence.

But how do we know when a machine has reached a suitable level of cognisance to be seen as truly intelligent? Well, there have been a few tests proposed to answer this question, the most notable being a test devised by the father of modern computer science, Alan Turing. The Turing test determines a computer to be intelligent if a human judge cannot between a computer and a human in separate one-on-one conversations. Both conversations would be carried out in text, to make each participant anonymous. But this is a theoretical test which has its criticisms.

At the end of the day, we can only speculate about the contents of the future as (thankfully) we haven't it quite reached a stage where these things are possible yet. Our computers are only as good as the code that instructs them. Or are they? 01010?



Picture of the Week

Slapton Sands, by Alastair Isaacs
2nd Year Physics

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



Food

Food Editors – Afonso Campos & Rosie Grayburn

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Is my cardigan like totally awesome?



Afonso Campos
Food Editor

You know that little place? The one one on Gloucester Road in front of Nando's and some rancid fish and chips dive? The one supposedly no-one knows about? Rosie wrote about it at some point... No? Brilliant. I'm glad you don't. Why is it refreshing that you have no clue about it? Mainly because I like it. Because my friends like it. Because normal people who go there like it. I have been going there since my first term at Imperial and immensely enjoy how peaceful it can sometimes be. I usually like to go there late at night to grab a pizza and read any paper that is not overly commie, or have a quiet chat with my friends. There's something special about it. I don't know what it is – perhaps the feel of a place that knows itself and does not need to try to be just another run-of-the-mill expensive coffee shop, sacrificing real-world authenticity for those extra bucks. Or pounds. Whatever. The point is, the place is authentic, unpretentious, and well... nice. Pretty nice.

Because of that, I don't especially love it when the place is filled to the brim with Imperial students being loud and obnoxious. Please don't get me wrong though – everyone is allowed to go wherever one wants, whenever one wants. Except if you are not an avid reader of this section, or start reading *felix* from the back page (ie: sports pages). Ta-da! Christmas came early for some of you, as I will be dishing out some better-than-average advice. And guess what? For free. Go

to Starbucks. Seriously dude, it's right there and you will look much cooler drinking your triple venti eggnog latte with a shot of vanilla, no sugar, extra foam, low temperature rabbit's sperm and Jesus' tears than you could ever at House of Coffees.

I know we reviewed this place, but I seriously don't want you there. Also, since when does a review constitute an invitation? This clear misconception has led some of my favourite places in London to be inundated by ... ugh... I'll just leave it there.

- On the other hand, if you are one of:
- uncontrollably cool
 - in love with comedy by Bill Hicks
 - an appreciator of the sartorial arts
 - stupendously good looking
 - Miranda Kerr

you are more than welcome to come over. My friends and I may even invite you to sit with us following a questionnaire reminiscent of the Spanish Inquisition or a GCHQ interview.

All joking aside now, of course I don't mind anyone going to House of Coffees. In fact, I encourage you to do so. I ask however, that if you do go, you respect the people who make it either their comfortable second living room or enjoy the very simple pleasures that place somehow brings to those that manage to find beauty in the supposedly banal and mundane.

On a totally unrelated note; how awesome is my cardigan? For further discussion on the issue, please email food.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

David Paw eats steak



Sophie's Steakhouse ★★★★★

29-31 Wellington St, WC2E 7DB
Phone: 020 7352 0088
www.sophiessteakhouse.com

Best: Incredible meat-binge
Worst: The fries... oh those french fries
Price: £25/30 per head

The second outpost of the venerable institution on the Fulham Road, Sophie's Covent Garden screams "NYC" from the moment you step through the front doors. Everything from the space itself – a single huge, expansive room more SoHo loft than Soho squat – to the luxurious banquettes and oversize vase dominating the front entrance, gives off an irresistible party atmosphere. The room's liberal use of dark woods and gorgeous, earthy reds paired with a mass of elegant, spiralling hyphae-like LED lights adds to the mood, giving an impression of a party deep in a forested grotto. Front reception are frantic dealing with impromptu attendees (the restaurant has a no-booking policy to push the casual factor up), and bar staff rush back and forth mixing oversized martinis.

They needn't worry though. While half the evening's clientele sink their teeth into enormous, perfectly cooked steaks, the other half are sat back soaking up the buzz and kicking back at the bar. You don't get a vibe this relaxed at Gaucho. We put down a reservation when we arrived, and we were told it would be about 30 minutes before our number would flash up on one of the small electronic boards dotted about the walls. So, we went through a few very acceptable mojitos. Open until 2.30am, long after the kitchen closes, the bar itself is an attractive proposition. Therefore, it's such a pity that they have to do with so little space when the other key ingredients – drinks, atmos-

phere, service – are available in spades. Grab a table if you can – table service is quick and efficient, and takes any potential stress out of the proceedings. After just over the 30 minutes had elapsed, we were shown to our seats. The setup at Sophie's – unlike so many space-starved London eateries – is a welcome relief. The tables are perfectly placed for people watching and come with a claustrophobia-free guarantee. While this isn't the perfect setup for an intimate date, I would hazard a guess that watching a previously-attractive girl/boy devour a plate of near-raw meat could be quite a turn-off.

The a la carte is a carnivore's delight, and almost everything on the menu was a tempting proposition. The list of starters was mercifully abbreviated too,

"My steak started dark pink but became intriguingly and deviously darker (...)"

offering perfectly rendered classics like calamari and dressed Cornish crab. But of course, the star attraction was what we, and most of you, will venture to WC2 for, and though the list wasn't as comprehensive as other steakhouses (say, either a gargantuan 20oz piece, or a proportionally-challenged 8oz cut), at least it was to the point.

Between us, we ordered the Porterhouse and two portions of the Cote de Boeuf. After a very brief wait, the waitress set down what can only be described as three monstrous slabs of bovine joy on our table. With a smile

and wink she chirruped "Enjoy!" and left us to contemplate the task at hand. However, unlike cooking a steak at home, which almost inevitably turns out too well-done, too cold, too-underseasoned, and almost always with a lacklustre accompaniment (in my case, a couple of glasses of Cooper's), restaurant steak is always a tongue-searingly delicious, melt-in-the-mouth, disgustingly tender and perfectly balanced experience. My steak started dark pink but became intriguingly and deviously darker as I moved towards the centre of the cut, gaining in intensity and flavour. It was so easy to cut I could have eaten it with a pair of chopsticks, and the flavour so satisfying the accompanying fries and salad was only resorted to during moments of guilt at the overindulgence.

Speaking of which, despite the quality of their beef, Sophie's really need to do something about their chips. If the most hard-up, fiscally-challenged chipshop in the most Godforsaken part of Northern England can conjure up pure potato magic with a deep fat fryer, a sack of Tesco's value spuds and some salt, then I do not think it is too much to ask a respected establishment like Sophie's that charges £2.50 for a paltry squirt of Coke to produce something decent from whichever laboriously selected supplier provides them with potatoes. Hot. Crispy. Golden. It isn't brain surgery, chaps.

Despite the oversights on the part of the kitchen however, Sophie's is still a worthy affair. It has the right ingredients to be a resounding success. The management understand that no one wants to get dressed up to eat what is essentially the most primitive and basic meal of them all, and that while too formal is bad, not formal enough is worse (no novelty steak sauces or balloons in sight). Sophie's has hit the right balance, and has integrated the bonus of a great bar. Let's just hope they get those chips right next time.



VEGETABLE THAI GREEN CURRY

INGREDIENTS: (serves 3/4)

- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- 2 tbsp green curry paste
- 300g oyster mushrooms
- 10 stalks of broccoli
- 1.5 courgettes
- 1.5 tbsp soft brown sugar
- 1 tin coconut milk
- 2-3 stalks of lemon grass
- juice of one lime
- coriander to garnish
- thai jasmine rice
- light soya sauce

Heat the oil in a large frying pan or wok. Add the curry paste and sugar and for roughly a minute on fairly high heat. Add the lemongrass and reduce the heat slightly. Stir in the vegetables until completely coated in the sauce. Add the coconut milk and soy sauce, bringing the entire concoction to a simmer for about half an hour until it's thick(ish). Chuck in the coriander and lime juice and more soy sauce if you think it needs it. Leave to sit for a while until slightly cooled. Serve with the jasmine rice that you have cleverly cooked taking into account how long the rest of the stuff takes to make.



Clubs & Societies

Clubs & Socs Editor - Alice Rowlands

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

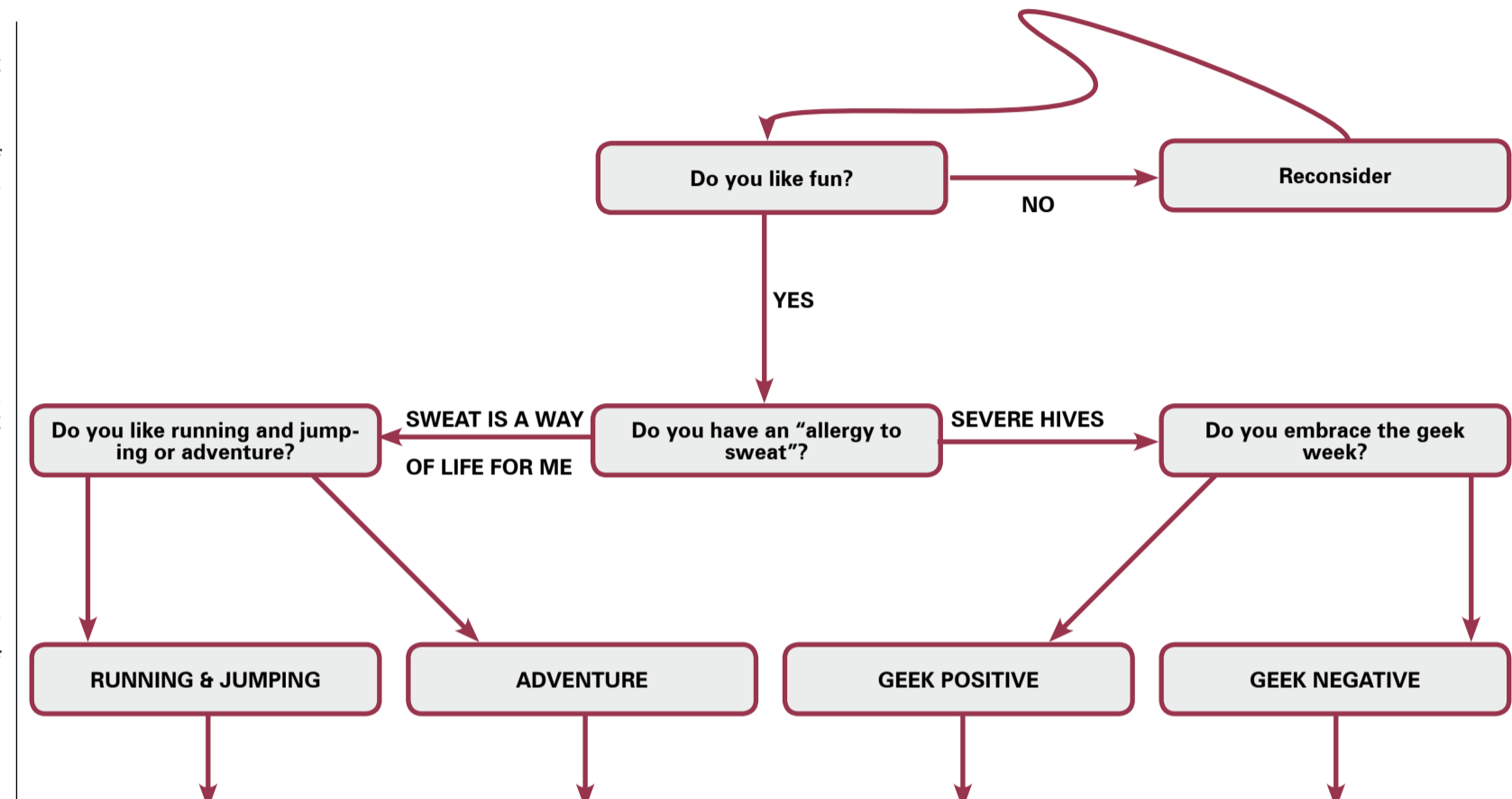
clubsandsocs.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Spotlight on the Recreational Clubs Committee

RCC Chair Jenny Wilson and chums go through the ins-and-outs of the recreational side of student life

Have you ever found yourself having fun/ wanting to have fun whilst at Imperial? If the answer is yes then the chances are that you are/ want to be a member of a club that is part of the Recreational Clubs Committee. Those of us in the RCC make our sole purpose in life to cater to the needs of the hard working Imperial student by providing you with opportunities to maximise those rare occasions when you find yourself with some 'free time' (read: not a deadline tomorrow). In short, the RCC has a plethora of fun activities to suit your every whim- from Belly Dancing to Wargames, Surfing to Mah Jong, and Caving to Wine & Fine Drinks (but preferably not at the same time) as well as our newest addition, Radio-Controlled Modellers. In essence, the RCC represents an eclectic mix of (occasionally quirky) clubs that satiate this college's craving for that Holy Grail that we all must strive for: a life.

Now that we've convinced you of your need to join one of these clubs, we've prepared a handy flow chart to help you decide which one/ones to join. Its worth noting though, that this is by no means an extensive list- our diversity is so diverse that it's simply not possible to include them all, but that's not to say that its niche you're seeking, we can't provide- because we can. Do you sometimes find yourself yearning to look after a 100 year old fire engine? Or do you find Windows Vista the bane of your life and have become an apostle of Linux? A full list can be found at www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc. And if you still feel there aren't enough hours in the day for fun, we've also got the annual RCC Night Hike for your delight and amusement. Coming to you this February, it is always a night of fancy dress, frustration (the good kind) and frolics; guaranteed to leave an indelible mark on your hippocampus.

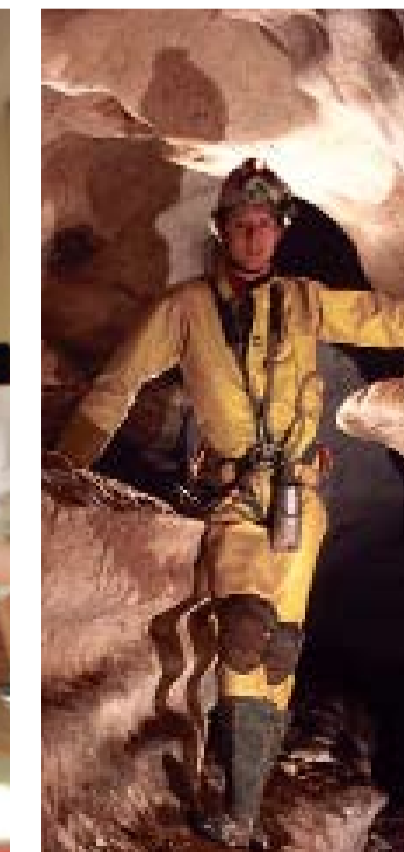
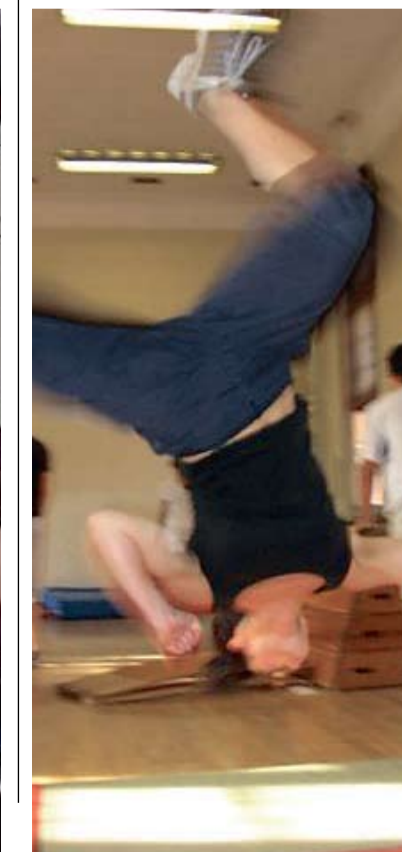


Why not try Parkour or Gymnastics: these could both accurately be described as the skilled art of running and jumping over obstacles. A more subtle difference is the nature of those obstacles. If parkour is your style, say goodbye to brick walls stopping you in your tracks, for it becomes a question of which way to go around/over the wall? On the other hand, if you are more of a traditionalist then gymnastics is for you, where you can conquer your fear of cartwheels and have a legitimate excuse for wearing a leotard. If gravity is what's holding you back Synchronised Swimming is another option, particularly if you want more from a swim than badges.

For you Lara Crofts/Indiana Jones' we have a range of adventure clubs covering sky (with Gliding and Parachute), sea and rivers (with Canoe) and land (with Outdoor, Fellwandering, Exploration and Mountaineering clubs, though admittedly the last pre- to traverse vertical surfaces). And if you've had enough of over-ground, we also have Caving club to take you underground, or Underwater society for those of you more aquatically inclined. These provide the perfect chance to really leave the city life; distance isn't really a consideration for these adventurers as long as there is fresh air- even in a tank. Whatever the weather, they always return with some exciting tales.

Fairly self explanatory in their nature, why not join Wargames, Chess, Backgammon, Mah Jong, Gaming (as in computers and consoles) or Web Design & Software if your style is more relaxed. These clubs provide an indoor haven for those who don't require frostbite, trench foot or reality to have fun. That's not to say of course that they don't induce a similar adrenaline rush to their more physical counterparts, from cerebral achievements alone. That's right, with these sorts you could work towards taking on Deep Blue (the chess playing computer) or hack the main frame with your new superior Perl or C++ skills (read: computer skills for geek negatives).

AstroSoc and Street Magic could be just up your alley. Think of it like transforming your life at Imperial to one akin to a life at Hogwarts, and simultaneously fulfilling that fantasy of yours/mediate your disappointment that there wasn't a Hogwarts Uni option on UCAS. AstroSoc does more than just looking at the sky- they have things like 'star parties' and regularly hear from astronomers as well as going on excursions to our Wye campus to watch solar eclipses. Or for those of you who need a better party trick than reciting pi to 100dp, knowing a bit of Street Magic is a much cooler alternative. If you're lucky, they'll even teach you to conjure a lab report.

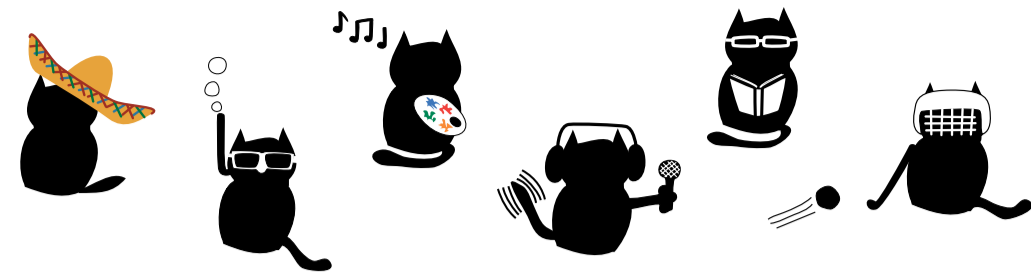


What's on...

Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editors – Lily Topham & Rachel D'oliveiro

whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Carol Service</p> <p>Christian Union and Gospel Choir invite you to share free mince pies and hot drinks from 6pm followed by a traditional carol service. The evening will also feature performances from IC Gospel Choir starting at 6:30.</p> <p>Time: 6:30pm Place: Main Dining Hall, Sheffield Price: Admission Free</p> <p>MTSoc Cabaret</p> <p>Musical Theatre Society presents a Musical Cabaret featuring songs from Anchorman, Rocky Horror, Hairspray, Fame and more! Why go to the West End when you can have it all without leaving campus?</p> <p>With a charity collection for Crisis and Les Enfants De Tchernobyl.</p> <p>Time: 8pm Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit Price: Admission Free</p>	<p>London Street-O</p> <p>Join Orienteering Club for a street orienteering event in central London.</p> <p>Street-O is a fun way of exercising and may resemble a well organised treasure hunt. No prior navigation skills required, though bringing a torch is recommended!</p> <p>Afterwards, all are welcome to come along to the pub and the club's Christmas social.</p> <p>For more information, email: orienteering@imperial.ac.uk.</p> <p>Time: 7pm Place: Putney Price: Admission Free</p> <p>Charity Concert</p> <p>PASS Society invite you to a classical and jazz concert to raise money for the Overseas Chinese Students Children Fund (OCSCF). This charity helps meet the educational, developmental and medical needs of underprivileged children in Tibet and Sichuan in China.</p> <p>To reserve tickets, contact: hkpassoc@imperial.ac.uk</p> <p>Time: 7pm Place: Read LT, Sheffield Price: £2.30/£3.50 (Members/Non-Members)</p>	<p>Self Defence Session</p> <p>Come to a FREE Filipino Martial Arts taster session in practical and effective self-defence. It has been especially designed for those with little or no experience of martial arts but who wish to learn about personal safety. Suitable for all and no prior experience necessary.</p> <p>For more information, email: filipino@imperial.ac.uk.</p> <p>Time: 1 - 2pm Place: Union Dining Hall, Beit Price: Admission Free</p> <p>Film Screening</p> <p>Friends of Médecins Sans Frontières present 'The Invisibles', a film of five stories about five forgotten crises produced by Oscar winner Javier Bardem.</p> <p>Time: 6:30pm Place: G34, SAF Price: Free/£1 (Members/Non-Members)</p> <p>iCU Cinema</p> <p>Film: How to Lose Friends and Alienate People</p> <p>Time: 9pm Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit Price: £3 (Members)</p> <p>Membership can be bought at the door for £3 pounds and includes the first film watched for FREE.</p>	<p>Art Exhibition</p> <p>"Lost and Found" is the latest exhibition in the Blyth Gallery, and features work from visiting artists Dominic Kennedy, Rachel Thorlby and Lara Viana.</p> <p>The exhibition runs until 19th December and is well worth going to see.</p> <p>Time: Open 8am - 10pm Place: Blyth Gallery, Lvl 5 Sheffield Price: Admission Free</p> <p>Welcome to the latest incarnation of What's On! If you have any suggestions or comments about the layout, please let us know.</p> <p>As usual, this page will feature club and society events running from Monday to Sunday of the following week, so get in contact to let us know what you are up to!</p> <p>The deadline for submissions for next week's edition is midnight on Monday 8th December.</p> <p>To feature, please send in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Club name - Event name - Date(s) & Time - Place - Price (if applicable) - Short description of the event (max. 30 words) <p>Email: whatson.felix@ic.ac.uk</p>	<p>iCU Cinema</p> <p>Film: Eagle Eye</p> <p>Director: D.J. Caruso Cast: Shia LaBeouf, Michelle Monaghan, Rosario Dawson, Billy Bob Thornton, Julianne Moore</p> <p>Plot: Jerry and Rachel are two strangers thrown together by a mysterious phone call from a woman they have never met. Threatening their lives and family, she pushes Jerry and Rachel into a series of increasingly dangerous situations, using the technology of everyday life to track and control their every move.</p> <p>Time: 9pm Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit Price: £3 (members)</p> <p>Membership can be bought at the door for £3 pounds and includes the first film watched for FREE.</p> <p>Film Night</p> <p>West Indian Society host a festive film night featuring "Cool Runnings" followed by a special Christmas film!</p> <p>Free snacks provided.</p> <p>Time: 6:30pm Place: Pippard LT, Sheffield Price: £1/£2 (Members/Non-Members)</p>

Saturday

String Ensemble Concert

A new year, a new conductor and some fabulous music. Come along and listen to Imperial College String Ensemble playing Elgar's Serenade for Strings, Finzi's Clarinet Concerto and Bartok's Rumanian Folk Dances. Conductor: Jonathan Mann, clarinet soloist: Chris Turner.

Time: 8:30pm
Place: Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road (next to the Union)
Price: £3/£6 (Concessions/Full Price)

Sunday

ICSM Music Society Carol Concert

The traditional annual Medical School Carol Service with free mulled wine and mince pies. All welcome. Free entry with retiring collection. Come along for some end-of-term festive cheer.

Time: 6:30pm
Place: Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road (next to the Union)
Price: Admission Free



Christmas is over rated

Ravi Pall
Coffee Break Editor



Term is almost over. A good thing for some, it gives you time to catch up on hours of missed work. However many seem to underestimate the down side. The Christmas break is very lonely. Sure you can go home and see you family and friends, but what about all those good times you spent with your friends here at university? You'll miss all those times you could just walk into the UNION and drink yourself silly, while being with people who actually understand you, and what your about. No your not emo, but you are a geek. We all are, and there is no use denying it. Chances are, while the company you keep back home are extremely fun and enjoyable to be around, they won't adhere to the elitist views your time at Imperial College has given you. Think about it. Next time you out with your school mates you'll have a thought at some point that roughly goes like this. "Back at uni we'd be doing "blank" right now." This may seem an awful thing to think, but this merely means you miss

uni life, and why wouldn't you? You can do whatever you feel like, when you like. No parents nagging you to do this, not erroneous family members visiting with complete ignorance to your intelligence. Happy days.

For those of you who are staying in London this holiday, Well done. You've become an independent person who will carry on doing whatever they like (that or you can't gather the dollar to get the train/bus/plane home). Look forward to things like the Winter Wonderland in Hyde Park, or the New Year fireworks at the London Eye. Sure you won't get any presents, but you're probably not religious anyway, or if you are, unlucky. I say unlucky, more like grow up. You're over 18 and know Santa doesn't exist. If you really want the presents and food get it mailed to you. That's right I just suggested mailing food. It's my idea and I'll make millions (or not). In conclusion to this rant, I would just like to say that Christmas is too much of a commercial holiday to get wrapped up in, so don't worry about it.

Stuff IC Students Like!?! :)


10. Ravi Pall:

Don't be coy, I know you secretly adore the felix editor with the longest hair. How could you not?

He has everything you could possibly want in a mate/boyfriend/casual acquaintance: a live now (die a hor-

rible death later) approach to life and an unhealthy disregard for sport, work and his survival in general.

Of course none of this matters, as a re-app he's built an impressive army of freshers who will come in very useful when Ravi's organs finally fail from continuous, intense alcohol abuse. (This is all total bollocks- Ed)



Drink with me, I'm Snaky B


and this week I'm dressed as Bruce Lee

I am Snaky B. I am Bruce Lee. I am the dragon. I am the warrior. I am the killing machine. Seriously though, wait until I roundhouse kick you liver into next week. Not just that, but your kidneys too. Ha ha ha ha. Joking... Not! POW!

Now I have your attention with my sweet ass moves I would like to make an important message. The real cause of my death was due to the excess intake of alcohol. Alcohol, while fun to consume responsibly, can have detrimental effects on your body, especially when used long term. If you think you may be an alcoholic, or consume more than you should, go and see a doctor. They will me more than happy to put you right back on track.

Now where was I? Oh yeah. Did you see that movie I was in one time. I was awesome. I kicked so many people in the teeth it was bad ass. Some say I could win in a fight against Jackie Chan and Jet lee. I believe these people. I know I'm a corpse and wot not, but zombies kick ass. So being a martial genius and a zombie is mega kick ass.

That's it for this term guys, that was the last time Snaky be will be dressing up, but come back next week where we review all my previous costumes.




Photoshop Competition -8



This week's winner. Team Shotgun!



Next week's RAW image for you to go wild. See www.felixonline.co.uk



Congratulations to this week's winner, Team Shotgun I'm loving the Christmas theme here guys. Sure it's an over rated holiday, but beards and mats make everything better. Also I do believe Jovan with his smoke pipe has caused a LOLOCAUST!

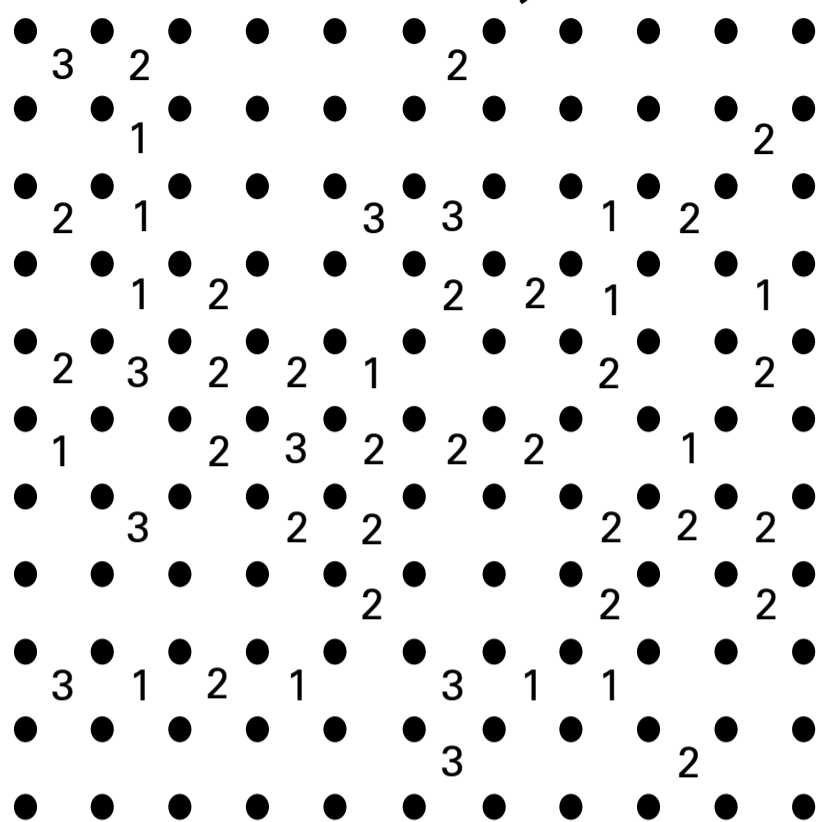
Keep up the good work, and please enter next week. It's good to see more entries in this week, especially after last week's epic fail.

This week's image is of Alex McKee and Medic president Mark Chamberlain sitting in the office of our beloved DPEW. What are they doing though? Also what is up with the look Mark is giving Alex?

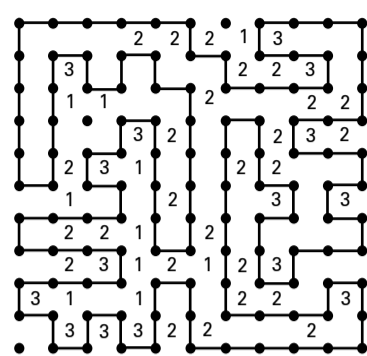
The high res picture can be found online. Click on Coffee Break in the sections tab. Email your entry to coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk with your team name and .PSD file and you'll be entered into the FUCWIT league.

sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Slitherlink 1,418



1,417 Solution



So, it appears that my rant last week worked. Mochten sie mein Mannschaft? handed Shotgun their arses on a plate. Good. Well done to you, I think I may give double points too...

How to play:

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 continuous line. Any cells with no numbers can have any number of lines. Look at the solution above for help.

Freshly Squeezed!

Mining for love. Despite the rivalry, proof that love knows no boundaries is rife in the RSM this week. A geological gem sparkles whenever a certain ceramic Pott is in the vicinity, living up to her 'jewel-ey' nature.

LOST. 4.67 billion year old meteorite. Needed for PhD. If found, don't step on it. Seriously.

FOUND. Dignity. Belonging to Captain Condom. Please collect; it clashes with our décor, and is destroying our Persian rug.

Jumper Watch. So Messr. Mech-Eng, we see you took our advice and have banished your grey garment to your chair-drobe (we understand that your gender prevents you from using furniture correctly).

But the basis of last week's advice was for you to develop some sort of jumper repertoire, not just to replace ol' reli-

able with the same thing in navy. We'll be watching...

Bio-Med Man Whore. Will he be able to stop his lecherous ways now that his mail-order bride has arrived from the other side of the world?

Having been spotted reconnecting with his French roots in the meantime, will the kangaroo now be able to oust the frog?

Lecture Totty. Biology students are queuing for extra-tuition. Burning post-lecture questions anyone?

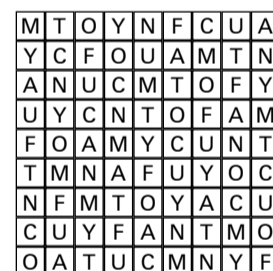
Con Artists. CSSA have been charging membership fees, then spending the money themselves rather than paying into the club account. Nice one. Except that they got caught red-handed, oops.

Indian Summer. Biologist and Chemist finally get together. If your curry was as old as your courtship was lengthy, it would be near-decomposed. Took you long enough.

Wordoku 1,418



1,417 Solution



As promised we are back to immature words. Unfortunately Shotgun won it again, you are becoming like serial killers. But with word based puzzles and not prostitutes. I hope everyone else found (some) FOAMYCUNT, and as it why it's foamy I don't know.

Wordoku is identical to Sudoku; we've just replaced numbers with letters. Complete the puzzle and then send the whole grid to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk. You will not get credit for just the word alone. It's not an anagram.

This week's texts: "Don't feed the fucking cat, the food is 4 ur mum." "Don't send me shit about sandwiches or I will come over there and insert the whole baguette up your arse." "Send me the number of one of the page 3 girls or ur mother will b fucked up her ass by a dog without any lube." Miles 3rd floor Selkirk "Oh Polish well you came and you gave without taking, but I sent you away oh Polish." "Miles. I will actually fuck your mum in the arse using the pointy end of a traffic cone. Enjoy."

Jov says: I'm going to split Hannah in half, that's a given



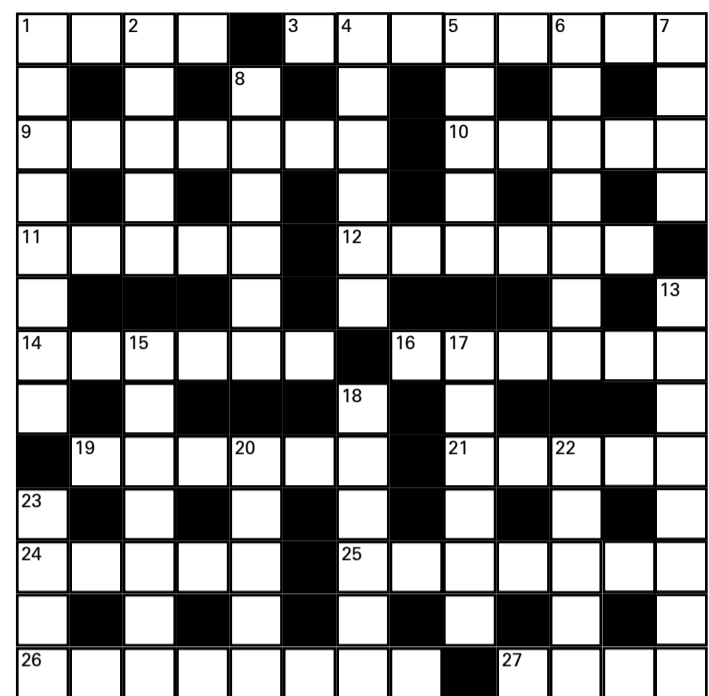
Good morning my socially challenged chums! And good afternoon to my social butterflies who only got up at noon. Yours truly is here to sort out your problems, while making it look so easy Jodie Marsh would be ashamed. This week has been rather busy for your resident shoulder-to-cry-on, Dear Tamara, I have recently been hit in the face with a hockey ball. The swelling and bruising are really quite bad - people keep turning to stare in the street! I'm afraid it may have harmed my Sean-Bean-esque chiselled looks. How will I cope? Bashed-in-babe, I had a similar problem when a bottle of Stalla Artois. I found that if I was brave, pushed my best assets forward and went out. Having a bit of a bump on my face was an excellent conversation starter and was a source of such sympathy that free

drinks were pouring in. Dear Tamara, I worked hard to get good GCSEs so I could get good A levels so I could go to a good uni and get a good job. Then, I worked very hard for my A levels so I could get into a good uni and get a good job. Then I worked hard at Imperial so I would get a good job. Now, I am in my graduating year with no job prospects. It's not fair! Crunched up, I know, I know, it's not fair, is it? All you can do is keep applying everywhere and hope. Alternatively, you could give up on uni and concentrate on getting a sugar daddy/mummy to sustain you through these difficult times. The second route may actually make more economic sense. Dear Tamara, I recently returned to a sticky keyboard, that Chaz Murdoch had just vacated, and a picture of my bottom on the screen. What should I do?

Violated, Leave the country. Dear Tamara, What is the natural frequency of a pendulum of mass, m, and length, l, if it has a spring of stiffness, k, attached at the centre of it's length? Mass Damper, The way to approach this problem is first to find the moment of inertia about the pivot of the pendulum. According to the parallel axis theorem, moment of inertia, I = (L^2)m. Then, take moments about the pivot, there are found to be = -mgL*(theta) - kl(theta), if l is the length to the centre of the rod and theta is the angle of displacement of the pendulum. The equation of motion is 0 = I(theta double-dot) + k(theta). And the natural frequency is found by omega-n = sqrt(k/m), this equates to = sqrt((mgL + kl) / mL^2) = sqrt((g/l) + ((k^2(L^2))/

(m*(L^2))) Easy. Dear Tamara, I can't seem to arrive at the destination during intercourse. Things are fine manually but as soon as a girl is involved I can't seem to unload my protein shot. Clogged pipes, Either the girls you try with are too ugly or you prefer boy bit to girls! There is a third option where you should see a doctor but that is out of my expertise. Option 1, ugly girls: You need to up your game and get with. Option 2, you are gay: You will find that you have a lot more success with members of the sex you find attractive. It may come as a shock if you have managed to reach such a mature age without realising which way you swing. Life is all about self discovery. Got a problem, contact Tamara at felix@imperial.ac.uk

A Quickie (Crossword) 1,418



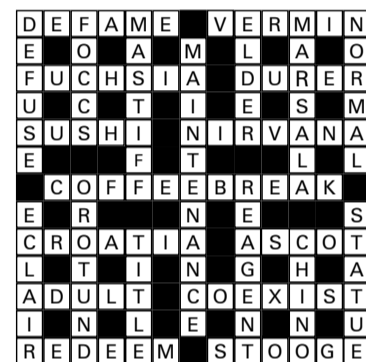
ACROSS

- 1 Fool; slang for any narcotic (4)
3 Pork dish (8)
9 Facial hair (7)
10 High-flown (5)
11 Area for emergency parking (3,2)
12 Card game (6)
14 The environment (6)
16 Came to a favourable conclusion (6)
18 General knowledge (6)
19 Waste time (6)
20 Mythological beast (5)
21 Even (5)
22 Lifelike (5)
23 Illustrate (4)
24 Took the Underground (5)
25 With relation to (3,1,3)
26 Refuge (8)
27 Chances of an event occurring (4)

DOWN

- 1 Home (8)
2 Devotion (5)
4 Tin alloy (6)
5 Religious artifact (5)
6 Judge (7)
7 Turkish administrators (4)
8 Form of worship (6)
13 Worships (8)
15 Type of cot (4,3)
17 Waterproof shoe (6)

Solution 1,417



Well done to Mochten sie mein Mannschaft? it was a spirited and momentous victory. You battled on though the mud and the rain to record a crushing defeat against the mighty Shotgun. Men died, homes burned and you women raped but you stuck with your biro until the bitter end. For your bravery I award you the highest prize, no, not a loose lady but five points for the FUCWIT league.

FUCWIT League Table
Mochten sie mein Mannschaft? 80 Points
Team Shotgun 76 Points
Giramundo 31 Points
Jonathan Phillips 18 Points
Hringur Gretarsson 17 Points
Team Rubbish 17 Points
Team Turner Gobels 12 Points
Yu-Xi Chau 10 Points
Barbie's Castle 8 Points
Right then, the Felix University/College-Wide Invitational Tournament League is officially back, and it's about time we explain what the hell is going on. Basically, you get points for doing all the various puzzles and challenges, and at the end of the year, the winning team will win an iPod nano! Pretty cool right? The scoring is as follows: 5 points for the first correct answers for Slitherlink, Wordoku, Photshop Competition and Quick Crossword. 4 points for second, 3 points for third, 2 points for fourth and 1 point for fifth. Double points will be awarded for correct cryptic crossword answers, because it's über hard. Simple! Now then FUCWITs, send in your answers to felix@imperial.ac.uk or sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk. Go!

Horoscopes, known to be one of your five-a-day

Here in felix we pride ourselves on our award winning paper. I don't think they saw this part

Horoscope grid with signs and text:
Aquarius: So I go to my departmental café for a bacon bap. What do I get? Two bits of crackling shoved between
Taurus: I move onto AIDs. Apparently you get them from not strapping it up before slapping it up, "always wear a
Leo: Mate. This week you're fighting off the opposite sex. They are going to be all over you like a dirty rash. Is it your
Scorpio: Phil Collins. What a load of shit. Seriously I have an overwhelming urge to bottle him. I'd take that jail
Virgo: I received a complaint about Virgo's last horoscope. A charitable (read twat) inhabitant of
Sagittarius: When you make love, do you look in the mirror? Who do you think of, does it look like me? Do you tell lies and say
Gemini: Next big story of the week concerns the fact that you appear to be having copious amounts of sex with your older
Capricorn: "Ohh look at me I'm Tomo Roberts, I won Journalist of the Year and Paper of the Year. I'm so cool!" No mate, all



PHOTOGRAPH BY BJOERN LEHNERT



Outdoors in France



A cold old week!

Jack Cornish &
Mustapher Botchway
Sports Editors

This week we have moved on from the rugby boys and met the IC netball captain, Colette Gregory. I think you will agree that she provided some interesting and yet very entertaining answers in her interview with Jack.

On a week where the temperature dropped dramatically, we have seen many matches postponed/abandoned due to frozen pitches and other similar circumstances.

This leads nicely on to the ACC bar night on Wednesday. Except for the frozen gas regulator at the bar which put the free beers on hiatus for a short while, we are both sure that all the sports teams enjoyed themselves and spectacles such as the infamous boat race are sure to be repeated in the upcoming bar nights.

Gracing the sports pages this week are reports from fencing, the outdoors club, lacrosse and ultimate frisbee, which barring the hockey report are some of the smaller sports and activities amongst Imperial. This by no

means detracts from the fact that they have experienced recent successes and are currently joint top of *felix* sports table. A special mention to the ICSM badminton men's 1st team who are also top and beating their college counterparts. Only time will tell if they can keep it up as they play more games.

This paragraph is now going to focus on what we politely require from you. Firstly, in order for the table to be as representative as possible we need to make sure that all results are in to Alissa Ayling (Sport Imperial) as soon as possible. At the time of going to print, we are still missing a few results, which definitely have an impact on the table. So get your results in and you can be sure that the most deserving teams and clubs will be rewarded! Another request is hi-resolution photos to accompany your reports! They need to be at least 1MB in size (for the back page - though this is a basic requirement).

Get snapping, get winning and get drinking!

Jonathan Phillips & Rob Porter

After the twenty hour journey from London, it was quite a relief to be finally stepping off the bus as we digested our first views of Chamonix, our home for the next six weeks.

The first thing we saw was a McDonalds. It wasn't very French but the places we stopped by on the journey hadn't sold anything in the way of real food. After surviving the journey on chocolate, ice cream and a tin of pâté, a McDonalds breakfast seemed like luxury.

The first few days saw us finding our feet and finding what Chamonix had to offer. Once the supermarkets, Maison de Guides and pub had been located we went off for an acclimatisation climb up on l'Index.

The ascent was easy as fortunately there is a cable car most of the way, topping out with a scramble up to 2600m. This felt quite high at the time, at least compared to anything in Britain, but we had much grander aspirations. After descending, plans were made to move our camp up to the Vallée Blanche glacier where the team would spend the next few days.

The team went for a quick acclimatisation climb up the Cosmique Arete, a popular mixed snow and rock route up to the Midi cable car station, before descending back down to camp.

The team split up the next day. One team chose the voie normale on Mont Blanc du Tacul (4248m), which despite pushing some to their personal altitude

record at the time, turned out to be uneventful and quite dull. The other team decided to descend the Vallée Blanche. This had sounded like a good idea at the top, but it soon became less so. After some delicate down-climbing, falling through snow bridges, and avoiding multi-tonne blocks of ice falling across the route in an epic adventure that Indiana Jones would have been proud of, we made it back to the campsite.

After that character building day out some bad weather prevented us from returning up high and so a few days were spent recuperating in the valley.

Coinciding with our tour, the Climbing World Cup was being held in town, with both leading ability and speed climbing being tested in separate events. China did extremely well in the speed climbing with one of their team climbing 15m in 7.97 seconds.

During the spells of bad weather the team spent time at the many sport climbing crags along the Chamonix valley. This gave us a chance to explore and we even walked to Switzerland one day to get at some more crags! Every imaginable style of route was available from crack climbing or friction slab to steep overhanging routes, in grades to suit any level of experience. It's no wonder that Chamonix is so popular.

We got back up high when the weather cleared, and established a new camp on the glacier. By this time there was quite a community up there, with many other climbers choosing the economical option over the comfort of the

Alpine huts. It was from here that the group divided into smaller teams.

One team headed off to Italy on the and successfully reached the summit the Dent du Géant (4013m) and also investigated the Arete de Rochefort. The other team attempted the Midi Plan traverse however turned back due to poor snow conditions. As a consolation they climbed the Rébuffat on the South Face of the Midi, and managed to fit in some glorious rock climbing on lovely Chamonix granite.

An attempt was made on Mont Blanc at this time; however lightning and a blizzard caused the team to retreat.

In the third week of our stay we were told about a memorial lecture for Sir Edmund Hillary, who had died earlier in the year. Seeing as this coincided with a couple of days of bad weather, we decided to go along.

The three speakers were each a part of climbing legend, playing major roles in historic climbing events. They were Maurice Herzog, George Band and Doug Scott CBE who were the first man to climb an 8000m peak, the youngest person on Everest with Hillary and Tenzing and the first Brit to climb Everest respectively. It was a privilege to hear these men speak about their experiences in the mountains, and spurred us on the bigger and greater things during our trip.

The team now made an attempt on Mont Blanc (4807m), this time up the

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