

felix

The student 'news'paper of
Imperial College London

Guardian Student Newspaper of the Year
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Friday 12 December 2008
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Is Christmas cancelled?

felix looks into the effects the credit crunch has had on the students at Imperial. See pages 4 and 5

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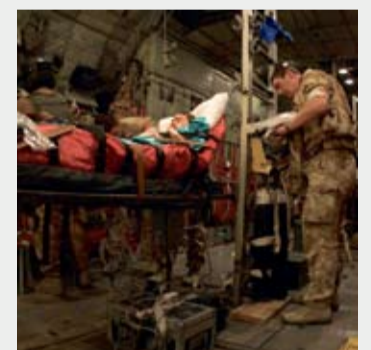
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£18million injection for new PhD centres at Imperial

Afonso Campos
News Correspondent



An Imperial researcher at work.

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Council announced late last week that it would inject £18 million to create five Centres for Doctoral Training at Imperial College. These are aimed at nurturing outstanding doctoral candidates as they work and do research with colleagues from a large number of fields, cultivating and fostering a spirit of intellectual and academic pursuit. This is different to most PhD studentships that are usually focused on research that is not inter-disciplinary.

This grant is part of the EPSRC's £250 million announced by Lord Drayson, the Minister of State for Science and Innovation. This will fund not only the Imperial Centres but, another 39 at other institutions.

The Rector is pleased with the award and sees it as a way to further Imperial's mission to provide "excellent and exciting research training". Three of these centres are to be run exclusively by Imperial College, while another two will be run jointly with the University of Manchester and Cranfield University.

The three Imperial Centres will be led by the Department of Physics and will focus on plastic electronic materials, materials theory and simulation as well as controlled quantum dynamics.

The Plastic Electronics research will focus on developing the superconductors on which the entire electronics industry is based. Professor Jenny Nelson of the Physics Department welcomes the development as the industry "badly needs a new injection of scientists". The Centre for theory and simulation of materials will aim help scientists and researchers develop the skills and tools to understand how materials ranging from individual atoms to large-scale structures behave under certain extreme conditions. The UK currently produces no PhD graduates in this field and Professor Adrian Sutton hopes this grant will remedy the

situation. This will be carried out at the Thomas Young Centre based in the Bessemer building.

The new CDT in controlled quantum dynamics will have at its main aim carrying out the research necessary to develop methods of controlling and manipulating atom-sized objects with an extremely high degree of accuracy. The implications of this will be seen very prominently in the fields of in-

formation processing and global communications. Professor Martin Plenio sees this as "revolutionary" and a way to truly bring the field "into the 21st Century".

These new centres help bring the total at the College to six. The other CDT at Imperial is focused on Chemical Biology. Lord Drayson sees this investment as an opportunity to keep UK universities globally competitive.

Still serving the Union

Hamish Common Alistair Cott



Hamish used to be President of our Union (2000-2001) and even graced the pages of *felix* (ahem newspaper of the year ahem). A computing graduate he now chairs the Union Court providing invaluable advice to the Union. He either draws on his knowledge of C++ or his retraining as a criminal barrister. *felix* can't decide.

Ali Cott was a Deputy President Clubs and Societies last year and is now employed by the Union as a consultant. Unfortunately he, as yet, hasn't been paid the order of several thousands in wages and as a result has been forced to live in the Union building. Hold in there Ali, the Union is sure to find money in the budget for your wages, sometime.

Phil Power



Will Dugdale



Phil the Power as he is known affectionately by many admirers in the SAC, was RCC Chair three years in a row from 2002-2005. He is the Membership Services Manager for the Union, and apart from looking after the mighty Union minibuses, he also helps clubs with everything that they could need. Without The Power, the Unions' clubs would crumble.

Will Dugdale was editor of *felix* from 2001-2003 and brought back the felix cat logo. That's right, the logo hasn't existed for all eternity. Back then issues like network failure were less pressing than ensuring the printer in the *felix* office was well oiled. He's now the Business Systems Consultant for the Union and amongst other things launched 'Imperial 101'.

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Friday 12/12/08



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OF THE WEEK

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Students feel the pinch

Jovan Nedić tries to understand the impact, if any, the credit crisis has had on the students at Imperial. *felix* survey 160 students in an attempt to find out. Don't worry, hopefully Christmas won't be ruined this year.

The credit crunch on a global scale

Unknown to many, the financial meltdown has been a long time coming. Although the widespread panic and dramatic decrease in confidence is a relatively new ordeal, the crux of the issue can be said to have begun in 2001 with the bursting of the technology/dot com bubble and obviously, the traumatic events of September 11th. While the succession of events was not necessarily deemed to have such far-reaching effects, it happened hastily, covertly and mostly, outside the scrutiny of public eye.

After these events, the US decided to cut interest rates to levels not seen in a very long time, resulting in a higher than average demand for houses all across the country, obviously leading to an increase in the overall prices for houses. In hindsight, it would not be unfair to say that this particular moment defined the markets for the years that would come. Given the booming housing market, a lot of starry-eyed mortgage companies saw a supposed opportunity to get their pie share's worth and started a highly irresponsible lending frenzy. This included not performing the most basic of credit checks, lending to people with bad credit and on incomes that were too low to cover the repayments should interest increase on variable-rate mortgages. This is what is now known as the subprime market.

When inflation began to reach levels that worried the government, rates were hiked to 4% meaning that people who took out gargantuan loans suddenly found themselves unable to make monthly repayment and defaults shot through the roof, leaving many mortgage providers severely wounded due to their own irresponsibility and lack of regulation. The result was a sharp decline

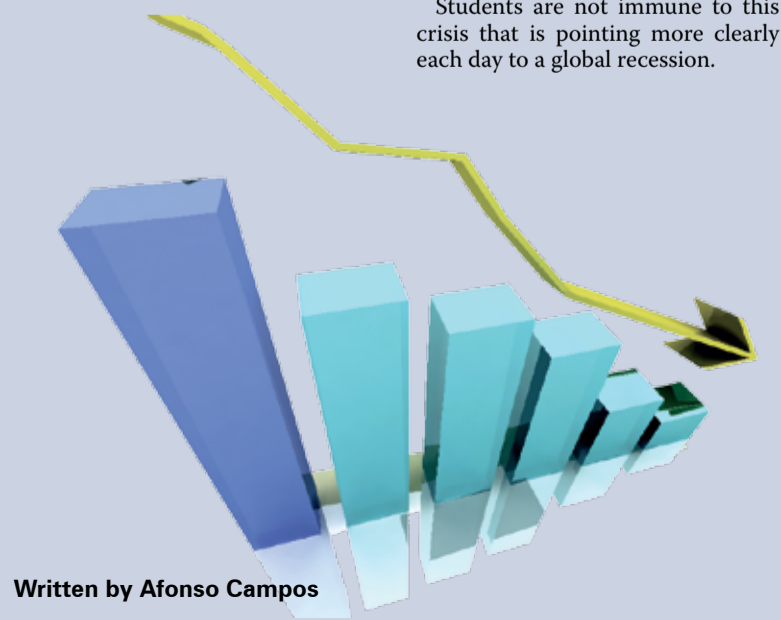
in house prices at a time when construction was at an all time high, creating a massive disparity in supply and demand. This meant that lenders had a tough time getting the amounts of the loan back by selling the repossessed house, hurting their financials further.

In order to lend money, mortgage providers repackaged their debt in complex financial products which they sold to supposedly responsible banks, ensuring the ratings agency gave these vehicles very high ratings, falsely deeming them suitable and a worthwhile investment. Because this debt was not to be paid back by the borrowers, the institutions that bought this collateralised debt were then faced with a problem of bad debt that needed to be written off their balance sheet substantially reducing their capital and hence the amount available for day-to-day lending to other banks (the money market), creating what we now know as the credit crunch.

Because of the money being hemorrhaged by banks, selling and short-selling of their shares started driving en-masse ferociously driving their prices down. This led to one of the biggest problems in an economy: decrease of consumer confidence. Given the irresponsible lending of the past combined with less available capital, institutions are now unable to lend as much, resulting in a decrease in demand for houses further driving the downward spiral of prices.

It would be foolish to say that only big financial corporations are affected by these unfortunate events. Investment on the part of companies has taken a downturn and consumer spending has dramatically slowed down putting a lot of strain on the economy that is likely to lead to further unemployment and even more losses in the financial markets.

Students are not immune to this crisis that is pointing more clearly each day to a global recession.



Written by Afonso Campos



Students enjoying themselves at last years Summer Ball

What is being done about it?

In the survey carried out by felix, two very simple questions were asked to determine the level of which students have felt affected. The first question was simply asking the students if they have felt affected where it was found that there was a fairly even split between those who did (48%) and those who didn't (52%).

When looking at the results closer and examining each age group, a more interesting correlation was found. Just over 2/3 of the students who said that they didn't feel affected were in their first and second year. Some might hypothesize that this is due the fact that the students have only just started living independently and have not been exposed to 'the real world' of bills and rent.

In an expected contrast, of the students that did say they felt affected by the current economic climate, again just over 2/3 were in either their third or fourth year. These students have been living independently for several years now and have seen the change in food prices, bills as well as rent, with the increased rent being linked the increase in house prices and the inability for first time buyers to purchase their own house. One fourth year maths student said that the highest cost they have seen rise over the past few years have been with bill. "I've noticed that my weekly shop has steadily been getting more expensive and the bills increase from year to year", he told felix.

Ed Miliband, the new Energy Secretary for Labour, told an audience at the Imperial College Energy Future Lab on Tuesday that "We have recently seen big falls in wholesale gas and electricity prices, but I understand that because energy companies tend to buy in advance they won't be passed on

immediately."

"But they must be passed on as soon as possible."

In his speech, Mr Miliband was criticising the fact that energy companies will not be lowering their prices as they will be frozen, with one spokesman for Centrica, which has 16 million customers in the UK, saying that they "cannot now sell this gas at a loss... we will have to wait."

In a recent survey carried out by Zebra Technologies, it suggested that roughly 54% of students felt that the current student discounts were not catering their current needs (felix issue 1,410). A similar question was put forward to the students that took part in the felix survey, where an overwhelming 93% of students said that they would prefer to see discounts on living essentials, such as groceries, than on luxury items such as clothes and music.

The British government, in an attempt to ease the economy, decided to reduce the standard rate of VAT from 17.5% to 15% as of 1st December 2008 until 1st January 2010. VAT, or value added tax, is the tax added onto any item that is bought, with several different levels of VAT, including zero rate VAT that is charged on food, books and newspapers. Only luxury food items such as chocolate and drinks, such as alcohol and fizzy drinks are taxed at the standard rate.

The Catering Department at Imperial College, and Imperial College Union [ICU] have both released statements explaining the effect these changes will have on the goods that they sell. In a statement in last week's issue of felix, ICU said that "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."

In a similar statement sent to felix, the Catering Department said, "As you are aware selling prices have not changed since 1 December and a complete analysis of the first week's sales has been undertaken." For some time now there has been a different pricing structure in College, with students not paying VAT on some items and an agreement with HR Customs and Excise meant that they could only reclaim some rather than all of the VAT. The Catering Department went on to say that "For this reason on a transaction basis the implications of the VAT decrease are negligible (for example, 0.3p for a Mars Bar) and it is therefore inappropriate to adjust prices."

They had calculated that, over the past week, figures show that the College profited by maintaining the published prices to the tune of £796 from staff transactions and £151 from student transactions. Since the College Catering Department is "run for the benefit of the students and staff of the College on a not for profit basis" and as such they have decided to reduce the cost of dinners in the Senior Common Room [SCR] by 25p and have also decided to donate £2,000 to the 2009 Summer Ball.

There are also plans from ICU to improve the services offered in the bars, with the main plan being to revive the drinks that are on offer. These changes are likely to occur in the New Year.

The effect the crunch has had at Imperial

A new Imperial brand has started to appear over the whole campus, Taste Imperial. This new unified catering service on campus is there for the students and staff at Imperial and has taken control of all outlets, including vending machines. Many found this change a surprise to say the least as in some cases, all that was left on certain vending machines was a simple notice, as can be seen in the image on the right.

With the new unification on campus, which includes the removal of nine vending machines, the main fear from students was that there would be an increase in costs. This was the case and now there is a set price across campus. The College also reimbursed the departments that may have incurred any financial loss over the new unification.

The main problem that remained was the increase in prices, with some items, such as coffee, doubling in price in certain departments. However it is not only the College that has been changing its prices. At the start of this year, as well as bringing in a whole new range of drinks, Imperial College Union [ICU] decided to increase their prices by 10% per pint. On the other hand, they have recently managed to create a Christmas menu for less than £5 a head

for three courses. This increase in the price of goods, as is the case in all retail outlets, is partly due to the state of the economy.

As expected, the results of the survey showed that the first year students hadn't even realised that there was a change in price, but when told about what they thought about the prices of

"74% of 2nd, 3rd & 4th year students thought the prices changes were bad"

items, they said that the prices "weren't too bad" and that "chocolates and fizzy drinks are cheaper, if not the same at some other places." This rather expected result could be explained by the sheer fact that this is their first year here so it is not possible to observe a change in the prices.

In contrast, the second year students that were surveyed did realise that there was a difference in prices, with approximately 2/3 of students asked thinking that the increase in prices were not good. The proportion of students having negative feelings towards the change increase in the third

and fourth years as students had been around for longer.

Many of the older students had some string views about the increase in prices across the campus. One 3rd year Biology student told felix that she felt that "the increase in prices was not warranted as there was not an equal increase in quality." Another 3rd year student, from the Materials department, said that there was simply "no need!" He then followed on by saying that "the Sandwich Shop has barely put up its prices and they are the main competitors."

Paddy Jackman, Director of Commercial Services at Imperial College, when hearing of the results, told felix that "these were the first rises in 2 years, indeed some prices were reduced at the beginning of the 2007-08 academic year, and reflected the sharp increases seen in the price of the vast majority of food products in the early part of 2008. The Commercial Services department recognises the constraints that the vast majority of students have on their budgets and seeks to provide a service to students and staff that merely covers its costs."

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Imperial College London

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Should you require further information on this project please email: david.a.hughes@imperial.ac.uk

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value through 'meal deals' and by closely liaising with suppliers to ensure that we get the benefit of any promotions they are running."

Clearly the effects of the crunch have reached our own student shores, and

although many students are unhappy about the change in prices, it seems, at least for now, there is not much that can be done to alleviate the apparent burden that the students currently feel students.

Employment possibilities

The current state of the economy has also meant that many jobs are at risk, especially in the financial sector. In the past year 1.9 million jobs have been lost in the US alone and the number is expected to rise. Over the past couple of years, the majority of Imperial graduates have gone into the banking and financial sector, closely followed by 'other business activities' as stated on the College's Careers website. More traditional employment opportunities for Imperial graduates, such as engineering, science and mining, have slowly seen a drop off in numbers.

These jobs now appear to be more secure, with a recent survey by *Monster.com* suggesting that "the work-

"1.9 million jobs have been lost in the US alone"

ers most in demand, even in a down economy are those who excel in the logical and mathematical skills." To mirror the expected decline in jobs in the financial sector, RBS told *The Edinburgh Journal* that "as a result of the current climate, we will be taking on fewer graduates in 2009." In contrast to the statement made by RBS, a HSBC spokesman said that: "In the retail and commercial banking, our strategy in recruiting graduates is to take into account our expected middle management and senior management vacancies six to eight years after the graduate completes their development

CASE STUDY 1
Degree: 1st Materials 2004
Job: Consultant at Accenture
Outcome: Took voluntary redundancy and has used the money to travel for a few months before starting a new job in America.

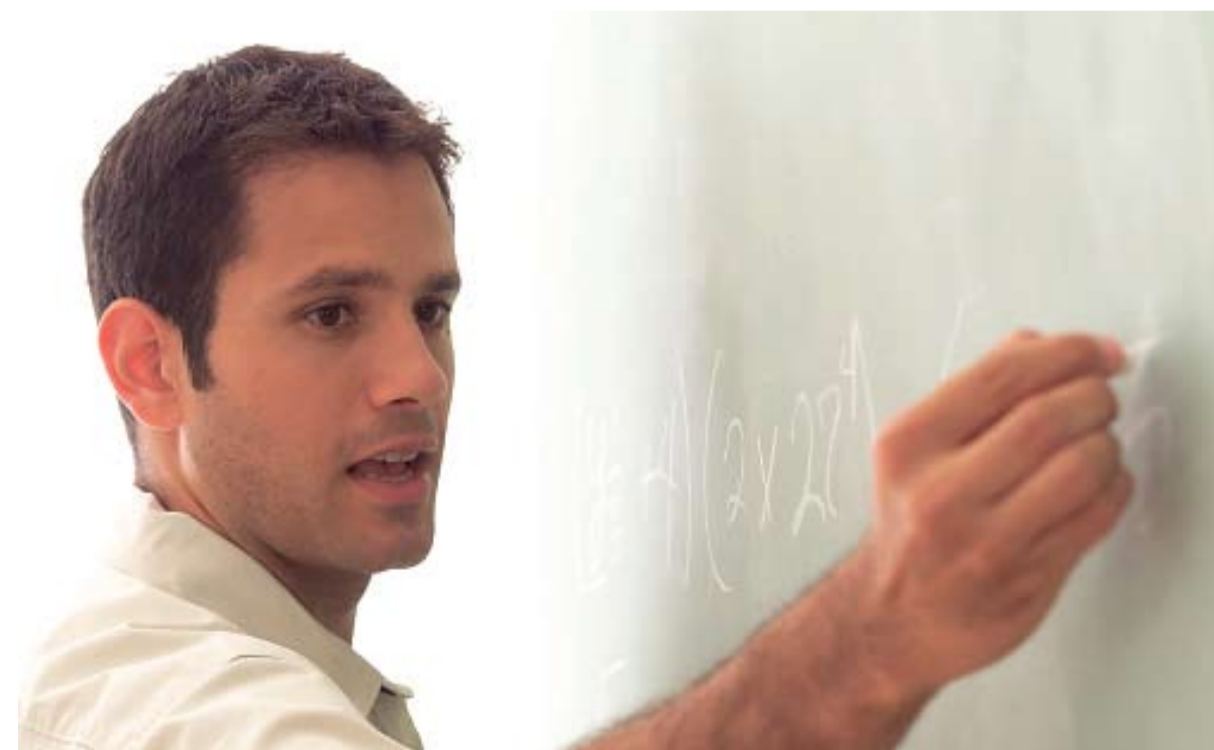
CASE STUDY 2
Degree: 2.1 Chemistry 2005
Job: BarCap Investment Banking
Outcome: Converted to teaching science after working in The City for 3 years

CASE STUDY 3
Degree: 2.1 Mech Eng 2008
Job: Dresdner
Outcome: Position up for review with the most likely outcome being redundancy. Looking for alternative employment or further education.

CASE STUDY 4
Degree: 2.1 Civil Engineering 2006
Job: Structural Engineer at WSP Cantor Seinuk
Outcome: Job Secure

CASE STUDY 5
Degree: 2.1 Aeronautics 2008
Job: Engineering Consultant at Arup
Outcome: Job Secure

CASE STUDY 6
Degree: 2.2 Physics 2008
Job: None
Outcome: Still looking



Some City bankers have decided to convert to teaching over the past few years

Happy Birthday *felix*!

Alice Rowlands
News Correspondent

Yes that's right, *felix* is one year older and has reached the ripe old age of 59. The very first issue of *felix* was printed on the 9th December 1949. Back in the olden days, *felix* was produced on a typewriter; unconfirmed reports suggest that even without the help of a word processor and spell-checker, the number of spelling and grammar mistakes were lower than in *felix* of recent years.

Ten years later, *felix* was edited by R.F Kerrod, who had three typists (Sheila, Liz and Carol) at his disposal! In their Christmas issue *felix* reported on a dance held in celebration of the ninth birthday of *felix* himself as well as rescuing the RCSU mascot 'Theta' from some pesky Guildsmen. Said Guildsmen submerged Theta in the Round Pond in Kensington Gardens as part of one of their 'experiments' leaving a 'gallant' postgrad scientist to rescue his beloved Theta, while chest deep in an icy cesspool, sorry, pond. Also in the paper, is a copy of correspondence between the Rector and Donald Campbell, congratulating him on his successful water-speed record. Mr Campbell responded, thanking college for their support for his project.

By 1978 (no, we don't know what happened to the sixties either!) *felix* was a weekly newspaper, in their Christmas issue, front-page news was the 'vandalism' of the two lions at the



The original *felix* enjoying the company of the more recent editions

foot of the Queen's Tower. Both were painted bright red in the early hours of the morning! It was thought the perpetrators were members of another college, acting in retaliation for a mascot raid by IC students.

In 1988, *felix* reported on plans by Imperial College Union to lobby parliament over plans to introduce 'top up loans' for students while reducing grants. The lobby was widely supported by college, with most departments cancelling lectures for the day, and we

thought Imperial students had always been apathetic!

In 1998 *felix* was edited by Ed Sexton, who reported on a spate of thefts from campus as well as health centre cut-backs. While the inside pages discussed a police raid of a Club and "notorious drug den" on Denmark Place. Police absented in from the roof and according to on King's student, the police told them to "get down on the f'cking floor"! While he described how "many of us just

The world beyond college walls

Greece: Riots after shooting of 15 year old continue in major cities

Riots have hit Greece for several consecutive days as police clashed with protesters in Athens, Thessaloniki, Patras and other major cities. Shops were set alight and groups of students threw rocks and petrol bombs as the police responded with tear gas in what is the country's worst street fighting in decades.

The riots were triggered by the shooting of 15 year old Alexandros Grigoriopoulos by a police officer. In addition, a one-day general strike - which was planned before the shooting by trade unions - added to the current strain between the Greek state and society.

Greece has seen several one-day strikes during the year in protest against the government's economic reforms in the midst of a worsening economy, and the striking workers have demand Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis' government be replaced. The government's call for calm has largely been ignored and many fear the violence could last for days.

Pakistan: Believed masterminds behind Mumbai attacks captured

Pakistani police are questioning two militants captured in a raid, who are suspected of being the masterminds behind the recent attacks in Mumbai.

Witnesses reported seeing Pakistani military helicopters and troops approach a camp in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir, before explosions were heard. Pakistan has been under intense pressure from India to act against militants on its side of the border after the Mumbai attacks which left at least 170 people dead.

About a dozen people are being held after several similar raids in the past week, and Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said the arrests showed that Pakistan was doing all it could to track down the attackers. Indian police are also investigating links to home-grown terrorism in their hunt to find those responsible for the attack.



Edited by Hassan Joudi

The Chaplaincy invites you to:

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17th Dec
6pm

followed by
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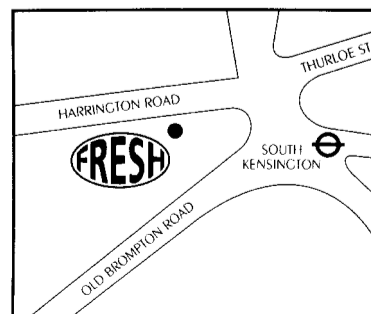
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Culture & The Arts

Arts Editors – Caz Knight, David Paw and Emily Wilson

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



Just call me Scrooge

Emily Wilson
Arts Editor

I'd wish you all a Merry Christmas, but I'm feeling a little bah humbug right now. I've got a spectacular cold, complete with fever, shivering, hacking cough, phlegm... all this and a sore red nose Rudolph would be envious of. I'm desperately hoping it'll have cleared up by the time you read this.

In the meantime I'm armed with enough cold and flu remedies to open up my own branch of Boots. I spent a bewildered twenty minutes in a pharmacy trying to evaluate whether my cough was "tickly", "dry" or "chesty". I opted for chesty on the basis that the active drug had a more chemically-sounding name.

For the record, Boots brand "sore throat relief dual action lozenges" are half the price of Strepsils Extra, but also taste half as tolerable. In addition, I'd like to offer a special shout-out to whoever manufactures pocket packs of tissues infused with Olbas oil, because they are now my best friends. They make your entire face tingle with menthol-y goodness.

This is generally not the state one wants to be in at a job interview, which is where I found myself this morning. You'll be glad to hear I survived without exploding with snot all over any executives. It did make the numerical test extra painful though. I won't comment on how I think the interview went, given that when this gets printed I'll have heard back (and, let's face it, probably have been brutally rejected).

Everybody knows that the main thing about job interviews is that you must consume as much free stuff as possible. Today's won bonus points by providing free coffee and biscuits. The best I ever had involved a three-course lunch at Strada for all candidates – woohoo! That definitely softened the blow of rejection.

Aside from this, I'm getting a little pissed off with employment opportunities, or lack thereof. Goddamn economic crisis! I need a job so I won't have to live in a cardboard box next year!

No longer does going to a fine institute of learning like Imperial College guarantee you a cushy job in the city. Now you have to bow before the corporations and beg. The general competitiveness is soul-destroying. One interview I went to recently, featured me and a bunch of bright young things who'd all had graduate positions at Lehman Brothers, and post-collapse had been bulking out their already-impressive CVs with charity work. Bastards.

In case you're wondering how this is related to arts and culture... it isn't. I could talk about what's happening in the arty farty world at the moment, but I don't actually know. I would hazard a guess that Damien Hirst is making more money in some way, but don't quote me on that.

As always, you can get free tickets from us for pretty much anything artsy that you feel like seeing. Send us an email and we'll see what we can do.



Historical delights from Babylon

Emilie Beauchamp delves into all that Babylon has to offer in the British Museum



This apparently is a map of the world. On a rock. Impressive, huh?

The British Museum already offers an incredible amount of history to discover in its regular halls, but also presents special exhibitions upon singular topics rallying artefacts from museums from all over the world. Until the March 15th, a unique presentation is showing on the legendary Babylon, exploring the contrasts between the ancient metropolis full of myths, and its modern representation discovered through archaeological evidence.

Babylon started as a small town located in the fertile Mesopotamian plains near the third millennium B.C. and evolved through centuries as a famed city-stated ruling over ancient Syria and more. It was the king Nebuchadnezzar II who brought Babylon to the peak of its glory, from 605 to 562 B.C., mostly by further expanding its influence in Jerusalem and Egypt, but also by reconstructing the city and making it one of the wonders of the ancient world. The exhibition therefore focuses on the Babylon of Nebuchadnezzar II and its stories: the hanging

gardens, the tower of Babel, the Belsazzar's Feast and others.

These stories come from the Bible's Genesis or from accounts of Greek philosophers such as Herodotus, and often contradict the historical evidence found by archaeologists. Indeed, there has been up to now no artefact proving the existence of the hanging gardens... However, the famous tower of Babel is known to portray the Etemenanki ziggurat, the main temple of Babylon, which was used to worship the warrior god Marduk. Many historians believe that it was Babylon's desire to conquer too much territory, and its subsequent overstretch, that led to its fall. The myth of the tower of Babel parallels that story. In biblical accounts, Babel was a city that tried to unite humanity and which was punished by God to have been foolish and greedy. Babylon was too much of an expansionary city-state and one of its greatest battles was the capture of Jerusalem, after which thousands of Jews were forced to migrate to Babylon to serve as forced labour. So goes the famous song "By the Rivers of Babylon", signing the la-

ment of Jews missing their native Zion. Many other legends such as these are depicted in the exhibition, some of which still have significance today. The British Museum pictures the rationale behind the legendary accounts of Babylon, disentangling the truth from the tales, and offers pieces of art that have been inspired by these to complement its explanations. Most of the pieces displayed are interesting, but some are weaker in their stance and one wonders if some of the interest stems from their intrinsic value or rather because the topic of Babylon itself never fails to captivate.

Further on, the exhibition does a good job at portraying the real Babylon. Here, rare artefacts from the British Museum, the Pergamon Museum in Berlin and the Musée du Louvre in Paris are rallied. From the architectural details of the most famous buildings in Babylon, to the presentation of a piece of the monumental Ishtar Gate, which triumphed at the end of the royal procession path, the exhibition puts forward evidence which makes it almost possible to imagine the city standing

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

today.

The British Museum also does not fail to provide a follow-up of the city today. All that remains from the grand Babylon, located approximately 55 kilometres from Baghdad in Iraq, is a pile of mud bricks scattered here and there around its old perimeter. Victim of its own success, the debris of the city have been stolen by neighbouring colonies over centuries as the enduring high quality of the bricks and materials used make them valuable for looters.

The fall of Babylon seems to continue over the age and carries on even today. To the world's dismay, Saddam Hussein constructed in 1985 new buildings on top of the old ruins, destroying archaeological evidence. In this enterprise, he even declared himself the son of Nebuchadnezzar II! Moreover, since the invasion of Iraq by the Americans, the situation... has only got worse! The US military actually built an army

camp on Babylon's site and even built a helipad on some of its ruins. In short, most of the remaining archaeological artefacts of Babylon have probably been destroyed by now...

The British Museum therefore offers a great chance to discover that famed city and learn about its stories, even if the exhibition is rather short and very busy at any time of the day (you have to book in advance if you do not want to wait an hour to get in!) But in any ways, Babylon will always be fascinating.

Babylon: Myth and Reality

At the British Museum until 15th March 2009



This is a picture of Nebuchadnezzar by William Blake. Once I figured out to spell Nebuchadnezzar I Wikipedia'd him, and apparently he was a Babylonian king. Or a ship in The Matrix. So there you go

It's all sex and drugs, as usual...

Caz Knight goes to the Institute of Contemporary Arts and has the rare opportunity to write a bad review



This image is entitled "Felix gets broadcasted" - so how could I not print the little guy?



Felix Arts is so full of sex we're getting a little sick of it. It was this nipple or ear-licking or cunnilingus...

I reaped much from my trip to ICA's Dispersion. It led me to a few conclusions regarding how art is presented and the subsequent way in which the consumer digests it. It also gave me the opportunity to write my first bad review thus living up to my role as a critic, a criticiser of art. Never having been to the Institute for Contemporary Arts before, I was delighted by, as its name would suggest, its interior modernity set in a neo-classical building, nestled just off Pall Mall in all its old money grandeur. ICA combines gallery spaces with a cinema, a theatre, a bar and a general artsy yet down to earth vibe, quenching any and every sort of cultural thirst that might assail you.

Given that Dispersion is featured as a must-see in more than just a few arts sections in-the-know, I was amazed and slightly appalled that it received such acclaim. Perhaps the fact that Mark Leckey, recent winner of the Turner Prize, is a contributor prompted such praise. (Leckey gives his 'lecture', a live performance if his art, at ICA's theatre in January.)

The exhibition is spread across three loci within ICA, making viewing a bit disjointed especially when the last third must be reached following a trawl through the bar (maybe not a bad thing?). Indeed, it lives up to its name. Maria Eichhorn, one of the seven artists which make up Dispersion, has constructed a Film Lexicon of Sexual Practices, which is made interactive with viewers at liberty to ask the projectionist to show any of the sixteen 3 minute films: Ear-licking or Cunnilingus? Sex food play or Carezza? (That is prolonged sex minus the orgasm). The novelty of getting to chose the film you want is outweighed by them not having any of the good ones, and by the fact that the film was but a tiny square on the white wall. Of course, 3 minutes of ear-licking, achieved the artist's desired affect of making clinical and abstract these sexual practices, but at the price of an anti-climax... instilling some quasi-carezza in us, maybe.

A slap dash collage of various gay and lesbian artists of the early last century, with an equally half hearted name, some gay and lesbian artist and/or artists relevant to homo-social culture, would have disappointed a low achieving GCSE art student. However, the work did introduce some post card

examples of the beautiful work of featured artists such as Jean-Frederic Bazille. Nevertheless, like Eichhorn's work before him, Olesen's piece is in keeping with the theme of the exhibition. As far as I could make out from the wordy and indecipherable leaflet that came with the exhibition, the artists are exploring the notion that identities are not given, but made by how they are represented. If this is true then it should be possible to achieve what the curator referred to as a 'critical' image. Using found images - that is anything available on the web and beyond - as their raw materials, they de-construct and then re-construct these images to produce works that will comment on the way in which they are presented to us in this age of relentless media. Each artist makes clear and interesting points, but at the expense of aesthetic experience.

All is not lost, the photograph of a folded movie still featuring Jack Nicholson as McMurphy in One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, reminds us of his youthful good looks. But best of all was Hito Steyerl's documentary about her quest to find a young "protégé", a contemporary version of herself as she was in her bondage model heyday of 1987. The accompanying New Wave soundtrack and retro Spider-women excerpts made me stay and watch for the whole length: possibly Dispersion's saving grace.

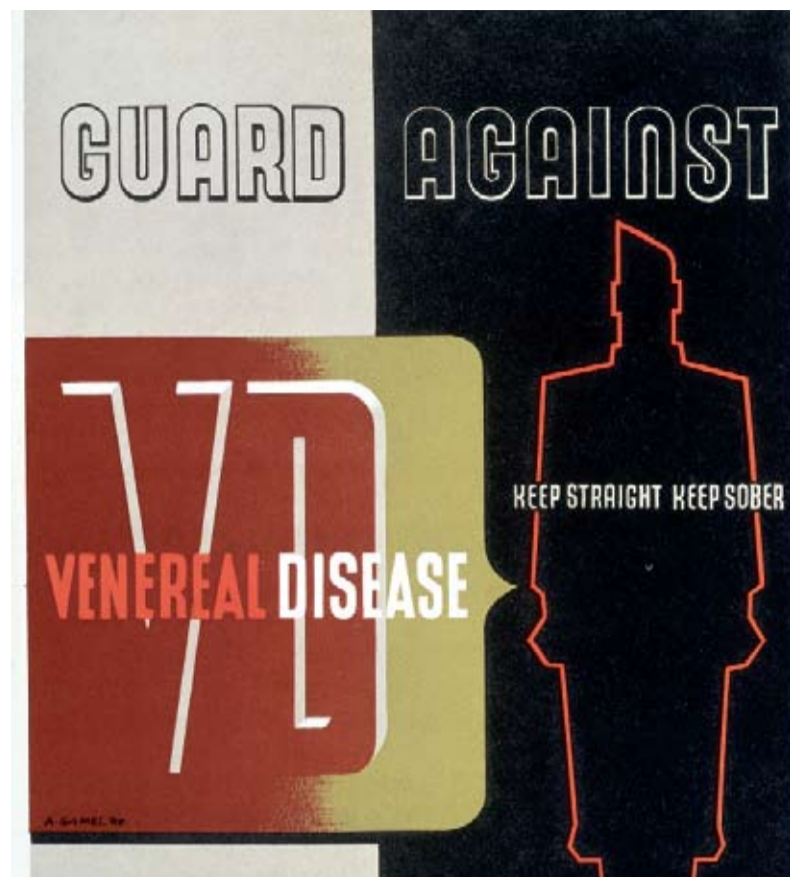
A lot of effort was expended reading the supposed explanation and trying to relate it to the subject matter. Try as I might I could not find any of the alleged meaning in a lot of the pieces, perhaps there was none to be found. Not that art needs to even to serve a purpose or expound a truth or message, although the contrived bull shit in the booklet would suggest otherwise.

Despite what might be considered a harsh review, a quick walk round this (free!) exhibition will introduce you to another very beautiful and different venue and, who knows, what might be one of your favourite artists. If worst comes to worst there are always cocktails. I will definitely be going back for the Heroin and Cocaine salt and pepper shakers in the gift shop.

Dispersion is on at the Institute of Contemporary Arts until 1st February 2009



Moral of the exhibition: if you go to war, you will need medicine. Got that? Here is an image from one of David Cotterrel's films, which you can see at the Wellcome Collection exhibition 'War and Medicine'



Advice all of us should live by: keep straight, keep sober, guard against VD. And they didn't even have SHAG week back in the 1940s...

War is bad, but medicine is good...?

Emily Wilson returns to favourite haunt the Wellcome Collection to check out their latest exhibition

I'm back at the Wellcome Collection again for their latest exhibition: 'War and Medicine'. As always, both the Wellcome Collection and the exhibition are completely free to get into. While I am an enthusiastic supporter of the Wellcome Collection, I go in suspecting I am not going to like this exhibition. It's going to be depressing and gory. I can feel amputations and post-traumatic stress disorder coming on. I'm going to come out of it miserable.

The atmosphere once you step through the big glass doors is quiet and sinister, with distant clunking and whirring sounds. I'm drawn to the hum of a darkened room to my left where a film is being shown. This is 'Theatre' by David Cotterrel, whose films also appear later in the exhibition. It's a continuous 60 minutes of panoramic footage aboard a hollow military aircraft, where army medics tend to an unconscious wounded soldier strapped to a stretcher. I watch for 10 minutes or so, during which time nothing hap-

pens, aside from a medic standing up and sitting down. I keep waiting for something unexpected and dramatic to happen, but it never does. It's oddly chilling, setting the mood for the rest of the exhibit.

An early criticism I have is that 'War and Medicine' is a little jumbly. It bounces from triage to nutrition to transport to disease prevention... all while also jumping between wars. You have to pay some attention to whether you're looking at an artefact from the First World War or the Gulf Wars. It encompasses the history of war from the Crimea to modern conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, with the world wars in between, though with little in between these major focuses. The content is an interesting, attention-holding mix of objects, painting, photographs and posters. A neat label explains each item - major brownie points here. While the order can feel erratic, the individual narrative of each piece is clear. Everyday medical equipment demands attention, and you can't

help but admire the aesthetics of such things as artificial limbs, first aid kits and syringes. One of the greatest accomplishments of the Wellcome Collection is the transformation of humble objects into art.

Contrary to my expectations, there is no blatant blood and gore. It's all very civilised and tidy. However, the section on facial reconstruction is fairly horrendous, with photographs and paintings of men barely recognisable as human. Holes in their faces, noses missing, warped eyes, burning and blistering... and all of them after their reconstruction. But they're not here to shock us - the way they're respectfully portrayed means it's more saddening than anything else.

One idea the exhibition puts forward is that a positive impact of war is the medical advancement it brings. We have war to thank for blood transfusions, penicillin, X-rays and so many other life-saving technologies. This is a thought-provoking realisation. But the flipside to this is the use of war to

justify the horrific, notably the experiments carried out by scientists of the Nazi regime on human beings in concentration camps during the Second World War. A hall of shame of Nazis convicted of such atrocities displays their personal defences and justifications, which are chilling. I have to skim over much of the section on shell shock, with videos from military hospitals of men shaking and rocking back and forth as cold-hearted doctors look on.

I'd advise anybody interested in going to check out Wellcome's calendar of events, which includes tours round the exhibition. When I was half way through, a perspectives tour by an expert on the history of medicine kicked off. Had I known about this I would definitely have signed up. It sounded fascinating. Such a tour would probably succeed in revealing running themes difficult to pick out on your own. All are, of course, free.

As expected, Wellcome portray war in a satisfyingly neutral way.

They don't glorify it, but don't openly criticise it. They offer wounded and scarred soldiers respectful recognition, while also portraying conflict as a catalyst for medical progress. At no point is the short and concise exhibition preachy or out to shock. I very much like how factual information is presented in an art gallery style and setting. The Wellcome Collection do something not done anywhere else, which is always admirable. Don't go to 'War and Medicine' if you're looking for something fun and uplifting. This is certainly not. Go to 'War and Medicine' if you want to see a brilliantly put-together exhibition that will challenge your pre-conceptions, and leave you better informed and with a head full of thoughts.

War and Medicine

At the Wellcome Collection until 15th February 2009. Entry is free!



Doesn't it look lovely and shiny, children? Don't step under the lights or you'll get beamed up



You'll be glad to know that if you go to war and get a chunk of your face blasted off, you can get a chunk of tin to cover it up

Preview done, here's the review

Lucy Harrold previewed *Imagine This* a few weeks ago, but does the real deal match up to expectations?

After having my sneak peak of *Imagine This* a few weeks ago I was eager to see what the rest of the show had in store and so off I trekked to the New London, despite feeling like death warmed up, to find out. The New London theatre itself isn't pretty; it was built in seventies when concrete was the architect's best friend and escalators were state of the art. They've tried to make the best of the interior with displays and posters dotted around the vast lobby and bar area. Unfortunately the toilets couldn't be improved. I was slightly dismayed to find so many empty seats on only the second night with at least eight just in our row. The main demographic appeared to be elder theatregoers who have had enough of showy yet shallow musicals and wanted to try something new.

The show started with a plunge into darkness; luckily we were ready for it as my companion and I were saying how the show should be starting just about... shit why is dark?! We were transported back to pre-war Poland where everyone wears their Sunday best and rides on Merry-Go-Rounds only to be cruelly pulled out of this dream by a bunch of Nazis thus signalling the creation of the Warsaw Ghetto. Thus the writers manage to cram four years of history and most of the exposition in one song without making it feel rushed or on purpose. The rest of the action takes place in Eugene Lee's vast set: a disused train depot and the space outside it. The space has such depth - it really does feel like a cold damp building that could easily fall down with realistic snow falling outside (my friend loves snow so she was rather excited by this). Even if I didn't love theatre I would go just to see that set.

I gave the basic plot to *Imagine This* in the preview article that I hope you all read and took note of (please say yes). I wouldn't want to spoil what turned out to be a rather gripping and tense plot that I wasn't expecting. In a

nutshell *Imagine This* tells the story of Daniel Warshowsky, his family and his acting company putting on a production of *Masada* for those trapped in the Warsaw Ghetto. The tale of *Masada* reflects and ultimately influences the family's own story and is entwined with secret love affairs. From what I'd heard, I imagined the plot would be juvenile and embarrassing but, on the whole, I was happily mistaken. It had sufficient plot twists to keep you guessing but didn't require too much thought on the audience's behalf, which I believe would have detracted from the visual spectacle and the music. I was also concerned that the Jewish mythology would go over my head but, although it could have been a little clearer, most of the story of *Masada* was given in the exposition.

One review, although not entirely positive, decided that the *Imagine This* cast is one of the most hard-working casts on the West End and I must agree. To go through the trial of being ripped out of normal life and ultimately deciding whether you live but allow hundreds of others to perish or sacrifice yourself to save those others must be exhausting. Yet the cast pull it off with ease and still have time to have a song and dance about it. Peter Polycarpou was awesome as always, his voice is so crisp and clear yet booming and his acting commanding yet loving. Leila Benn-Harris is surely a name to watch out for in the future. Her portrayal of Rebecca (and Tamar, the character she plays in *Masada*) was heartbreaking both through her acting and her amazing, distinctive voice. I was also impressed by Simon Gleeson as resistance fighter Adam (General Silva in *Masada*). He and Benn-Harris had a genuine connection that could be seen in their duets and romantic moments. The production team have really got together an amazing bunch of performers - there's no real weak link. I wasn't too taken by Nathan Attard, who played Leon (the small child), but I think this is because



Hopefully nobody will notice that I stole the images from the preview to use in the review... whoops, spilled the beans! But you noticed, right? You're a bright bunch, and who could forget this chap and his sexy hat?

I'm not a huge fan of child performers in theatre generally.

I guess I should mention the music. *Imagine This* really takes musical theatre back to the 'good old days' of full chorus and large orchestral scores. Almost everything the chorus sings is in harmony thus creating a lush, rich sound and making this writer very happy - she's a sucker for a good harmony! There were many moments where I sat mouth wide open thinking "how did that sound just come out of that small cast?!" My particular favourites were the title song *Imagine This* and *Masada*, the battle song I had seen the cast rehearsing previously. Both could easily have been amazing finale pieces so it seemed strange that act one ended with a soaring love song rudely cut off by the Nazis. I liked this break from the

norm. It really made the audience feel vulnerable and part of the action. It is little additions like the breaking of the fourth wall that make *Imagine This* an intelligent piece aimed at people who don't just want fun and frolics at the theatre but want to search for something deeper.

Timothy Sheader's direction has left me in two minds; some of his work was absolute genius. The way he took advantage of the revolve really impressed me on a visual level as did much of his staging and on an emotional level I left the theatre almost in tears. I really felt for those characters. But some other parts of the staging just looked messy and all over the place in particular dance numbers tended to have different people doing different moves. Normally this would look 'cool and

edgy' but it just looked like the actors hadn't quite learnt the dance yet. It appeared that Sheader felt he had to have someone on each part of the stage at all times making it difficult to focus on a particular character, often I couldn't see who was singing what.

To me the first act paled in comparison to the second act, for the last half hour of the show I didn't move from my seat, transfixed by the tale unfolding in front of me. But the first act took a while to get going. There was an uncomfortably long scene of dialogue between the company and the Nazis where they attempted to joke with the Nazis. I felt uneasy as to whether this would really have occurred or whether the Nazi officer would have just shot them all. Comedy is the main failing of the show, especially with the character of *Izzy/Pompey*, a clown from Berlin. Pompey was given an unusually long comedy song in act one which just wasn't funny and took the audience out of the chilling atmosphere the actors had worked so hard to create. I also felt that the characters' backgrounds could have been developed further. I was glad to have read the online synopsis just so I knew who was who.

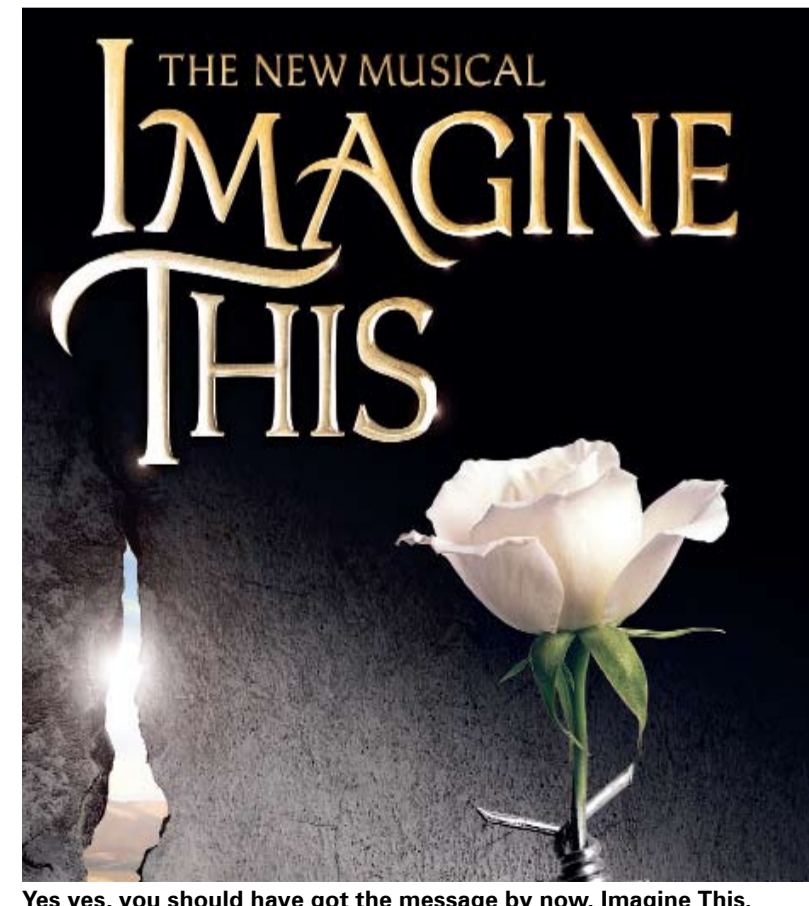
Overall I think *Imagine This* is something different that we haven't seen in the West End for a while; a serious musical that's not trying to be pretentious or high and mighty. Everything seems genuine and has a big heart. I laughed (although some of the jokes just didn't land with me), I (nearly) cried and I felt for that group of characters - something that hasn't happened to me in a theatre for a while. I sent a friend to see it last week and he spent the next afternoon frantically trying to phone me to tell me how amazing the show was!

In the current economic climate I'm not sure if *Imagine This* will last that long. I really hope it does but just to be sure go see it now! Luckily for us students not only is the theatre so vast that the cheap seats further back give a better sightline but if you go on the day your shiny student card will get you an awesome seat for £17.50.

Imagine This
At the New London Theatre, tickets available now!



Here we have a lovey dovey couple looking all happy. Too bad the Nazis are on their way to ruin things by, y'know, killing everybody



Yes yes, you should have got the message by now. *Imagine This*. Musical. Bittersweet tragedy. Very good. Go see it now

Friday 19 December, 20:00 - 04:00

End of Term Festive Celebrations at the Union!



Room 1
Alex Zane 
UNIONdjs
DJ Elles



Room 2
Santa's Grotto with Chocolate Fountains, Popcorn and Candy Floss

Union Trading Survey 2008

As part of our continuing commitment to ensure our services are relevant and effective for our members, we are carrying out a survey of our Trading outlets. This short survey consists of seven areas of Union Trading and will only take 5 minutes to complete. It covers our bars, catering, entertainments, the Union Building and also the customer service you receive.

The responses we receive will directly affect the services we offer in the future, so please fill out the survey with this in mind. It is essential that we get as many responses as possible so that we can improve on areas of the areas of Union Trading that need it the most. Of course as we move forward with the future phases of the Building Redevelopment, including the refurbishment of our

ground floor services, we will be using your responses to help shape these changes. We will be selecting two people at random to win an iPod nano as well so fill out the survey now!

The survey can be found at imperialcollegeunion.org/surveys.

Next term we will also be running other surveys on other areas of the Union giving you even more chance to let us know how you want your Union to change or even the areas that you are especially pleased with!

In the mean time we are holding a Trading Froum which is taking place on Wednesday 17 December in Meeting Room 7, Union Building from 13:00 - 14:00. Refreshments will be provided.

Win an iPod!



International Students' Officer

Nominations for our new International Students' Officer are now open. The Officer's role is to represent the needs and views of the non-UK students at Imperial. All students are eligible to run for the position.

The role of will involve the following aspects:

- Be responsible for issues that specifically relate to International (non-UK) students and organise relevant education and training events and briefings.
- Create and hold an International Students forum to gather views about issues that affects them, such as visas, employment and English Language Support programmes.

- Supporting International Student involvement in Union and College activities, to encourage increased participation in extra-curricular activities.
- Sitting on the College's Welfare Committee and the Union's Representation and Welfare Board and Union Council.
- Liaising with the College International Office.

You can stand by going to imperialcollegeunion.org/vote.

Voting for this position opens at 00:01 Tuesday 16 December and closes at 23:59 Friday 19 December.

Halls Visits

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 visiting 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:

Fisher and Bernard Sunley (Fisher Common Room): 5-6pm, Sunday 14

December
Holbein, Willis Jackson and Southwell (Willis Jackson Common Room): 6-7pm, Sunday 14 December
Falmouth, Keogh, Tizard & Selkirk (Southside Social Space): 7-8pm, Tuesday 16 December
Orient House (Social Space): 7-8pm, Thursday 18 December



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

I will be visiting other Halls early next term, so look out for further details in Felix. 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.

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

GET YOUR EARLY BIRD TICKET NOW!
 Tickets go up to £11 from December 12th
Buy online now!

buy your tickets online now from imperialcollegeunion.org

Until December 12th
 Price then rises to £11

£9



Business

Business Editor – **Luke Dhanoa**

business.felix@imperial.ac.uk

The stimulus package won't work

But Brown's plan will. Here are four reasons why:

Luke Dhanoa
Business Editor

In an attempt to save the economy, Gordon Brown has given us all 2.5% off our VAT rate. In theory this should make Christmas shopping cheaper and make us all want to spend more and when we spend more it's good for the economy. Economic theory calls this a "stimulus package" – i.e. a set of government actions that are designed to stimulate the economy. In real life we call this a "mistake" or "fail maneuver" because whilst the stimulus package is a good idea in theory, it doesn't work so well in real life. Here's why:

1 The 2.5% cut isn't really 2.5%. It's actually more like 2.1% when you think about it. It's because a 2.5% cut in VAT isn't a 2.5% cut in the price of the whole thing. I know that may sound funny so here's how it works.

VAT or Value Added Tax is a tax on transactions taking place, meaning that the tax kicks in during the buying and selling of a product. So if something costs £100, you end up paying £117.50 (from £100 x 1.175) because the tax sits on top of the price. Now at this point you might be wondering about all the stuff you bought for £100. A common misconception is that if you have to pay £100 for something, then £17.50 of that £100 is VAT, but that's not true. If you have to pay £100 for something then the actual price is £85.10 and the VAT is £14.90. This is because £14.90 is 17.5% of £85.10.

So what happens when VAT goes from 17.5% to 15%? Well, under the old law VAT at 17.5% meant that a £100 product would cost £117.50 and now it costs £115.00. The difference, £2.50, is really only 2.1% of the original price.

2 Shops will steal the cut.

Back in the day the NUS (National Union of Students) campaigned long and hard against the government to reduce the tax on condoms. When the government relented and reduced the tax rate, the NUS sat back thinking it

had won a victory for studentkind and casual shaggers everywhere. But when the government cut the condom tax, nothing changed. The condom companies simply absorbed the tax cut into their profit margins and students everywhere carried on as usual.

This time around with the new tax cut, things will probably be the same. Because products are usually listed with VAT included, it would be very easy for shopkeepers to just take the extra 2.1% for themselves. In fact, it would cost them extra to change all the labels in their shops to pass the saving on to the customer.

I know that when you went shopping last the shopkeeper reduced the prices, but not all shops are going to. Something that cost £1 a month ago is still probably going to cost the same today. There are millions of transactions for small amounts every day, and they're all unaffected.

3 2.1% ain't that much.

Have you ever ordered something from China? It takes ages to get here. And I mean AGES. That's why all the shops and large retailers ordered their products for Christmas months ago, before they realised how bad the recession would be.

The resulting oversupply is nothing new, usually after Christmas you have the January sales, where all the shops try and sell of whatever leftover Christmas stuff they can. But because of the massive oversupply this year there's no way the shops could clear all the leftover sock in January, which has led to some of the biggest Christmas sales we've seen for years. Compared to the reductions that the stores are offering, the 2.1% cut is pretty paltry. In fact, a lot of people only notice the cut when they're at the till, suggesting that the price cut didn't even happen to come into the buying decision.

4 We're all saving for later.

We all know that the tax cut will have to be paid for in the future using higher taxes. So even though we're saving a little at the till we're going to be hit

somewhere else. It's likely (because we have a left leaning government) that the people who'll be affected most of the future tax burden will be the richer middle and upper class. But the problem is that these are exactly the kind of people that the government wants to promote into spending. It's the richer class who buy stuff they don't need, and it's that over consumption that our "shop keeper" economy thrives on. Telling these groups that they're going to face higher taxes will just provoke them into spending less on useless junk – the exact opposite idea to Christmas.

So what's the alternative? Well, David Cameron has been smugly trying to paint the government plans as disastrous without suggesting any realistic alternatives and although his logic

"Cameron has been painting the government's plans as bad without suggesting any alternatives"

seems to be seductive, it's important to ignore what he says. While he is a very skilled politician, his arguments in favour of slashing government spending are pretty silly. This recession is a classic stagflation case and if history has shown us anything, it's that active government is the best way through.

On the supply side of the economy, food, oil, steel and credit became more expensive. This rose the costs of companies, which rose prices, which screwed things up. In the wake of the news of the recession and a decreased demand, steel and oil have dropped dramatically in price. The government stepped in to make credit more available and eventually it should ease the problem. The only remaining problem

is food, which the government can't tackle quickly anyway.

On the demand side there is a lack of confidence in the economy. That lack of confidence is cutting back private expenditure. Without that expenditure, the economy has less to produce which leads to job losses, which leads to even less confidence. So in this case the government is stepping in to buy up more. By adding to consumption (in classic Keynesian fashion) it's plugging up part of the gap left by people not spending. While the government couldn't possibly save the economy on its own, it's better that they do what they can rather than nothing.

And it works double because government expenditure (by the very nature of what they spend on) generally helps people. It would be insane to cut back on hospitals and schools and police when the economy is in the pan. Right now people are most at risk and we need a large government looking out for them. It will sound contradictory but now the economy is shrinking, it's the right time to grow the public sector.

The big problem is that to fund the extra spending the government has to put itself in debt, and debt is bad. So it's important that the government shrinks after the recession ends and pays back what it owes (because if the government fails to keep the public balances in order, it'll cause a recession). One of the biggest mistakes made by public leaders across the world is not cutting back public expense during high growth years. Blair and Brown certainly made that mistake and it pretty much destroyed the public finances.

So, Will the VAT cut help? Probably not. But will the overall idea of government borrowing help the economy? Yes, provided we pay it all back. And that's the problem.



Buy when the streets run red with blood

The recession isn't a bad thing for everybody, especially for some of the people who are worst affected

So there's a recession on. The sky's falling, people are panicking and the world's going to end and stuff. But it's not all doom and gloom you know. There are good things to recessions, namely stuff gets cheaper.

Right now house prices are crashing, and all the property people are very, very upset – or are they? Property is a long term game where you have to plan for years and years ahead.

For example, the Imperial College property managers consider property investment over a 100-year term. That means that the college looks 100 years ahead when considering whether to buy or sell sites. Seriously. Over the summer there was concern that the

college was going to sell a certain piece of land off to a private investor. The land in question would be a prime development spot, but legislation means that it can't be built on for the next 50 years or so. Any private landholder would have sold the site in the blink of an eye but because the college has such a long term view on the world, it kept the site and in 50 years don't be surprised if Imperial gets a new building in South Ken.

Old dogs in the building game will point out to us youngsters that more buildings are built during recessions than during periods of growth. Sound silly? It's because big projects start getting planned during the good times, but by the time that the actual con-

structing happens, the economy has turned.

Right now most property development firms are posting losses, with smaller firms going out of business in droves. But the larger more stable firms aren't too worried.

In fact, a lot of them are laughing now. The best time to buy property is when a recession is at its worst. And now that property prices are falling there are a lot of big players out there waiting to buy up everything they can. Don't be surprised to see Chinese companies buying up huge chunks of American cities, or private investors gobbling up troubled companies because right now, the recession sale is on.

And since the government is pushing hard to get credit into the markets again, interest rates from government backed banks will be nice and low in the mid-future, making the whole exercise much, much easier.

In six months time, developers will be able to buy up cheap property with relatively cheap money and by the time they've built their investments up, the markets will have recovered – driving up prices.

So as soon as you get out of university, buy a house. Any house in London or a nearby suburb. Then get a fixed low interest mortgage from a government backed bank and wait for the prices to rise. You won't regret it.

"As soon as you leave uni, buy a house in London. Then wait for prices to rise. You won't regret it"



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

Teddy Bears Hospital

Rosie Americanou took her sick teddy bear to report for felix

The 3rd of December was another successful day for the Teddy Bear Hospital in Chelsea and Westminster Hospital in Fulham.

The Teddy Bear Hospital is a project promoted by Medsin (a network of students interested in health care matters) which aims to diminish children's fear of hospitals and doctors along with promoting healthy living guidelines such as healthy eating and exercising.

The project has been running internationally since 2000 but only reached Imperial College in 2006. The society who is in charge of TBH is EMSA (European Medical Students Association), which has its own branch here at Imperial.

The last TBH organised by our medical students entertained more than 50 local year 2 schoolchildren. What the schoolchildren had to do was to bring their sick teddies along and have the medical students examine and provide treatment for them.

Medical students from all years had the opportunity to interact with the children in a stress-less environment and therefore exhibited the fun perspective of medicine.

How does the Teddy Bear Hospital work? Each child brings his ill teddy,

as a responsible 'parent', to the hospital where he presents it to the students who get to play the teddy-doctors.

This year's scenario even included an ambulance setting which was basically a tent which the teddies in need of urgent medical care were transported to via a trolley!

The children further received education on various childhood illnesses such as chickenpox. And yes, there were teddies with chickenpox (attach a few red circular stickers on and there you go)

The A&E station proved to fulfil the children's curiosity about the instruments used by doctors as they got the opportunity to play around with the 'scary' stuff such as oxygen masks.

Teddies that had broken bones had to of course be taken for an X-ray. At this station, the medical students explained to the children what X-rays do stressing the fact that they are painless.

The children were encouraged to try and locate organs on a skeleton. Throughout the stages the children were actively engaged with the presentation of the medical techniques and were eager to use the instruments themselves.

Next was the plaster station. The teddy bears received appropriate treat-

ment by having bandages applied to their broken arms and legs. The children were prompted to apply the bandages to the teddies and therefore most of them enthusiastically covered their teddies in bandages.

The surgery station proved to be thrilling for most children as a muppet surgeon operated on a critically injured teddy. Children got to 'scrub in' as well by wearing the appropriate gowns as supplied by the students.

Before the children left, they received instructions on healthy living habits. The delivery of the teaching though, was nothing but typical.

Exercising for a healthy body did not limit to the students advising the children but also made use of the medical students' dancing skills. They danced together to the well known Macarena dance routine. Furthermore, the healthy eating station provided fresh fruits and smoothies for the children whilst explaining the benefits of a healthy diet.

The children enjoyed the experience and curiosity and enthusiasm was substituted for the fear of hospitals all too common among children. Thanks to days like these, who knows: perhaps some of these kids will be qualified doctors in 20 years time!



A teddy bear with a damaged arm gets bandages to help him recover



Children from local schools learn about the joys of healthy eating and exercise, as well as letting the medical students treat their teddy bear's aches and pains



Help us feed the cat

felix is one very fat cat and is in constant need of new meat – please help!

In particular we need:

- a **Clubs & Societies** editor
- a **Webmaster**
- **Features** and news writers.
- Fink U can spell betta than us? Come and help us copy edit.

Netball girls keep their promise

Imperial College Netball girls promised us a centrefold if they win a game. They have and here's the picture.

A very merry Christmas to everyone and a happy New Year. We will see you in the new year with even more centrefolds.

Think you can do better? Then send us an email:
felix@imperial.ac.uk





felix Film countdown to Christmas

Any excuse to watch more films is always a good excuse and with all the time off we get at this time of the year, Christmas is such a great time to watch as many films as possible! But just in case you aren't sure which festive flicks are worth your time, I decided to make an advent calendar full of fun films all about Christmas (or they at least

evoke what Christmas is all about). So join an internet film rental site, get to your local library, go to HMV or beg borrow and steal as many films as you can and lock yourself into your house (with ample food supplies of course) so that you can begin your festive movie marathon instead of doing essays, lab reports, reading, and visiting dull relatives! Because, after all, isn't that the real spirit of Christmas?

1st

Die Hard

Start December off with a bang - literally - with Bruce Willis killing German terrorists atop a massive skyscraper. Filled to the brim with Christmas references - snow, Santa and annoying relatives - you can sit back and laugh as good ol' John McClane blasts his way through villains in bloody and hilarious ways. Who can forget Alan Rickman's brilliant demise at the end? And then once the carnage is over, we hear 'Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!' play over the end credits! Awesome!

2nd

The Associate

Whoopi Goldberg plays a business-woman whose partner steals all of her ideas and then gets her promotion, because he is a man. The only way she can succeed? By pretending to go into commerce with a white businessman! Hilarious and sometimes touching, this film is guaranteed to put a smile on your face - especially when Goldberg dresses up as her 'associate' - and you won't believe the results!

3rd

It's A Wonderful Life

Possibly the most depressing film ever made, for those of you who haven't seen it and want to watch something a bit more upsetting, then this is the film for you. Just make sure you don't watch the final uplifting 5 minutes if you want to stay depressed for the rest of your life. But if you do want Christmas cheer, make sure you do watch the end, or there will be plenty of heads in the oven this year!

18th

The Shop Around The Corner/ You've Got Mail

You've Got Mail is a modern remake of Shop Around The Corner, so they both have the same story. Two people fall in love through letters (or email) but hate each other in real life. The original is more depressing - it has a suicide attempt in it, so for all of you who want something that is a bit 'gritty' but still has a happy ending - this is for you. You've Got Mail reunites Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks to comical effect.

19th

Stardust

Awesome film. It is modern, but I'm sure it will make its way onto many people's Christmas rotations. Set in a fantasy land next to the real world, a young boy has to catch a star, who is now a woman, for the girl of his dreams, only to be chased by everyone for it. An all-star cast and great script make this film sparkle.

4th

The Back To The Future Trilogy

For some reason, I always feel Christmassy and/or happy when I watch these films. Can Marty McFly (Michael J Fox) save his own life when he is sent back in time? And what will happen when he goes into the future? Or into the old West? Possibly the best trilogy ever made!

17th

An Affair To Remember/ Sleepless in Seattle

The first of my back-to-back marathons! I would advise all men to watch these with a female present. An Affair To Remember is about a couple that meet on a cruise ship and fall in love. But I don't think the male population get this film - it reduces women to quivering wrecks and leaves men confused as to why. Women must be present when men watch this so they can explain (but I wouldn't recommend a man watching this unless he was forced to anyway). The first film is mentioned a lot in the classic Sleepless in Seattle - will Meg Ryan and Tom Hanks ever meet so that they can fall in love?

16th

The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe (1988 BBC Version or 2005)

Finally - something with a bit of religion in! But it still has Santa, talking beavers and an enchanted wardrobe - a magical Christmas treat! I would personally watch both versions back to back - the BBC one with buck-toothed Lucy is just brilliant, but to get good graphics watch the modern one, as there is only so much you can take of flying cartoons mixed in with real actors before you laugh uncontrollably. Although saying that, the wolf in the old one still scares me - especially when Edmund goes to visit the witch at her castle and the wolf jumps out. And how happy was I when that stupid fawn got turned to stone - it's a shame he comes back to life...



5th

Any or all of the *Wallace and Gromit* films

Any of these will do, or if you must, you could watch all of them. They may not be set at Christmas but they bring back the spirit of childhood and innocence!

6th

While You Were Sleeping

What happens when lonely tollbooth operator Lucy (Sandra Bullock) saves a man's life, only to be thought to be his fiancée at the hospital? She gains a family, friends, and also a love interest. This rom-com has some genuinely funny moments - mainly involving the family she adopts ("These mashed potatoes are so creamy!") and it really does encapsulate everything about Christmas: family, friends and love.

with our movie advent calendar

On behalf of everyone at Film *felix*: Merry Christmas! Have a Happy New Year and we hope you continue to read us in the new term!

15th

The Snowman (1982)

[the following contains spoilers] Ignoring the song about Walking In The Air, this film is really depressing, and is ultimately what Christmas is all about. When the Snowman melts at the end, I think all of our hopes and dreams melt with him (sniff...). But the film is still great!

14th

Black Christmas (2006)

Getting sick of being happy? Then this Christmas themed horror film is for you! A psycho escapes from a mental institution and returns to his former home - now a sorority house. Cue beautiful and really sexy women being killed in disgusting ways - eyeballs are plucked, heads roll and Christmas trees are decorated with body parts - literally. I just love this film - it is brilliant at being truly foul in every way - but still makes you feel Christmassy.

13th

Miracle on 34th Street (1947 or 1994)

If this film doesn't make you believe in Santa, then nothing will. Father Christmas gets taken to court. Everyone wins (in every way possible). This film is the equivalent to a big hunk of stinky Cheddar - extremely cheesy.

12th

Groundhog Day

Though technically nothing to do with Christmas, it still has a snowy atmosphere and someone learns life lessons about love. Also this film is just so darn brilliant I could watch it every day of the year anyway. When anchorman Phil (Bill Murray) gets stuck in the same day, will he use it to his advantage or will he be driven insane? And will he ever be able to get the woman of his dreams Rita (Andie MacDowell)?

22nd

Santa Claus The Movie

This film is shown every single year on TV - and I'm not sure why! You either love it or hate it - so watch it to be entertained or watch it and laugh at Dudley Moore and John Lithgow in all their 80's glory.

24th

The Muppet Christmas Carol

Songs, Muppets and Michael Caine as Scrooge: what more could you ask for? Watching this on Christmas Eve will make you think of the real reason for Christmas, as well as give you a laugh (especially when Tiny Tim gets what he deserves) and will make you smile and feel merry. Everyone seems to love this film and it is clear to see why - Kermit and his gang give this overdone Dicken's story something extra, and the festive cheese level is extremely high, without being too sickening.

23rd

Watch something religious

Well 'tis the season - right? Whether or not you believe it's always good to see something about the real meaning of Christmas. The Nativity Story is a good self-explanatory starting point, or you could watch The Passion of The Christ to get into the story a little bit further on...

20th

Call Me Claus

Every 200 years, Santa must be replaced by a new person - this time it is Lucy (Whoopi Goldberg), a workaholic TV producer who hates Christmas. How will she cope when Santa tells her it is her destiny to be the next Father Christmas? Low budget, but Whoopi always delivers.

21st

A Disney film of your choice

Christmas is nearly there - treat yourself to a Disney classic! I would probably choose Bedknobs and Broomsticks or The Sword In The Stone - but everyone has their own favourites. How about Toy Story 1 or 2?

11th

Little Women (1994)

It's snowy and cold, and in post-Civil war America, Jo (Winona Ryder) and her sisters struggle to make life for themselves and everyone else a happy place. Christmassy, life affirming, as well as sad, I think everyone remembers the horrible sister Amy, the piano, and the saddest part of all when we realise that Beth isn't gonna make it...

7th

Mary Poppins

Oh come on! This had to be here! Everyone loves Mary Poppins! This isn't set at Christmas either, but who cares? What would Christmas be like without 'A Spoonful of Sugar'?

8th

White Christmas (1954)

For those of you who love happy endings and cheesy musicals this is for you - but for everyone else: reach for your bucket, as this musical packs as much sap in as is humanly possible. With many memorable songs you can sing along to, including 'White Christmas' and something about counting your blessings instead of sheep (urgh!) everyone enjoys a happy ending in this film, even though it is about the Second World War.

9th

Jumanji/ Beethoven/ Any film you watched as a child

I remember watching these films when I was really young - and I loved them! Relieve your childhood by watching something YOU cherished as a child!

10th

Home Alone 1 & 2

These films are AMAZING. They have everything in them about Christmas, as well as Macaulay Culkin before he... well... you know... it hurts thinking about. Anyway, I personally prefer the second one, Lost In New York, because it really shoves Christmas in your face and has a more funny and violent way of the villains getting hurt, as well as a Toy Shop and that bit in the hotel when he pretends his Dad is a gangster. Just ignore the bird woman.



A Very Merry Vegan Christmas?

Rosie Grayburn
Food Editor



We all feel like *foie gras* at the moment. It's the party season, which undoubtedly means attending multiple turkey-worshipping sessions, scoffing canapés as if your life depends on it and consuming more than your fair share of port and other festive beverages. Just like those poor geese we are stuffing our bellies to the point of discomfort and stretching our stomachs in anticipation of *The Big One* on Christmas Day. Why do we do it to ourselves?

I suppose such feasting and over-indulgence is not a modern concept at all. At the slightest hint of their superiority, the Ancients feasted for days on end on luxurious morsels and dormice while planning the building of a large phallic monument to themselves. Nothing's changed then.

This Saturday, our flat is holding its 2nd annual Beef Wellington Evening. It's that one night of the year where Asda Smart Price gets abandoned and replaced by the most expensive cut of meat our butcher can offer. As a precursor to this feasting and gluttony I had to cleanse my conscience and ease my lapsed-Catholic guilt by buying multiple gifts for relatives from Oxfam Unwrapped. I couldn't afford to buy my step-dad a bog or a llama so he will have to settle with a home improvement kit for a disaster area [and hopefully take the HINT]. My god-daughter-niece hybrid will receive 100 School Dinners for African children, not Turbo Princess Barbie. Conscience cleaned. Job done.

As a closet vegetarian, I would dearly like to include more veggie recipes and articles in the food section. Reader, if you swing the same way as me please do get in touch with ideas. I don't know how to come out! I think it would ruin my relationship with my boyfriend because he is an out and proud carnivore.

I first realised I was a faux-vegetarian when we were joined by the Vegan branch of the family for Christmas last year. The imagination that went into our planning of the day's meal was infectious. We had delicious Black Bean and Nut Roast, Cranberry and Cashew Croquettes and a vast selection of col-

ourful vegetables.

Sounds delectable but the lifestyle change that you incur when you become a vegan is large enough that you have to go to that part of the supermarket where only hemp-clad people go... I could never do it. Also, the hassle of buying soya based milk, cheese and ice-cream is just too much. Vegetarianism is the way to go.

Harking back to last week's food column, Afonso needn't worry. Cafe Forum/House of Coffees is safe. Well, the Gloucester Road branch anyway. Those of you who frequent the above-ground route to South Kensington tube will have possibly noted a new cafe at the bottom of Exhibition Road? It's official – there is a new Cafe Forum! The owners have indeed branched out and opened ANOTHER.

Before you doubt me, I have tried it out and it serves the same pizzas, dinners, coffee cups, croissants... This is the Gloucester Road version's younger, cleaner, South Kensington dwelling cousin. The decor is more farmhouse-kitchen than kitsch and the place was empty compared to the original. The atmosphere will come with time, so now you know about it go and fill the place! All it needs is its student population and habitual old men playing chess at midnight.

My degree of choice (Chemistry) combines quite well with my love of cooking. As my food simmers and cooks, I love to think of all those molecules diffusing, breaking down and changing state in order to make me a tasty dinner. The Royal Society of Chemistry have also caught on to the exciting topic of Food Chemistry, so I leave you with a short riddle from the RSC to share with family and friends this Christmas.

Ingredients:
85g of polysaccharide powder, kitchen grade
1g of sodium chloride, NaCl, table grade
1 egg (or 2 in areas of high altitude)
Solution of 230cm³ reduced-lipid bovine lactate
20cm³ H₂O
1-2 tbsp beef dripping

Answers on a postcard.



A typical veggie Christmas dinner. Mmmmm

The Boys are Back in Town.

James Copley and Joe Gault salivate over tarts and [pork] belly



Gilmour's ★★★★★ and a half!

9 Park Walk, SW10 OAJ
Phone: 020 7349 6800
www.gilmoursparkwalk.com

Price: £30 per head

For lovers of food and drink one of the most amazing things about studying at Imperial must be the sheer variety of markets, cafés, delis and restaurants throughout London. From Bengali to French, Moroccan, Thai, Turkish or even the "modern fusion" to be found in the SAF, the capital offers gastronomic choices in abundance; indeed you could argue that the hardest part of eating out is deciding where exactly to dine.

Undoubtedly the best way to find quality places to satisfy your ravenous student appetite and avoid some of the utter shite out there is to get a recommendation from someone, at least then the place is tried and tested. But where should you start if you are new to food scene, strapped for cash and your friends are generally prefer lager to langoustine?

Firstly do your research. Decide if you are going out with friends or with someone special, have an idea of your budget, scour the internet, read the reviews and check out the restaurant website. Secondly in my experience you can't go wrong with a well respected name. There are a good many restaurateurs that own upmarket restaurants, that also run smaller, less expensive places that are well on the way to serving exceptional food and are still within a student budget for that special occasion.

Christopher Gilmour, owner of the eponymous 'Christopher's American

Bar and Grill' in Covent Garden recently opened the equally eponymous 'Gilmour's'. Located on Park Walk in Chelsea, just by the HSBC bank on the corner of Fulham Road, Gilmour's is billed being the English counterpart to Christopher's, that is, contemporary yet understated food based on fine ingredients. Resplendent in its ever expanding honours list, *felix* was lucky enough to be invited to make a welcome foray into the world of Chelsea dining. After wondering whether the clientele would realise our suits cost less than they would spent on a loaf of bread, we were greeted by the restaurateur himself. We were sat in the heart of the restaurant, and were able to observe the magic happening, with "Jeff the Chef" formerly of the Rex Whistler restaurant at the Tate Britain keeping an impressively un-Ramsayesque cool head when faced with a busy Friday night.

On first glance, it may seem that the menu is perhaps a little safe, uninspired even. However, after having eaten the food itself it becomes apparent that this is Gilmour's greatest strength. The purpose of the food is not to be overtly delicate and ornate, but to give pleasure to the customers - the portions are refreshingly large, and ridiculous garnishes are not to be found anywhere. This is a whistle stop tour of the highlights of British cuisine, albeit tastefully modernised and with a few gems from abroad thrown in to give balance and variety.

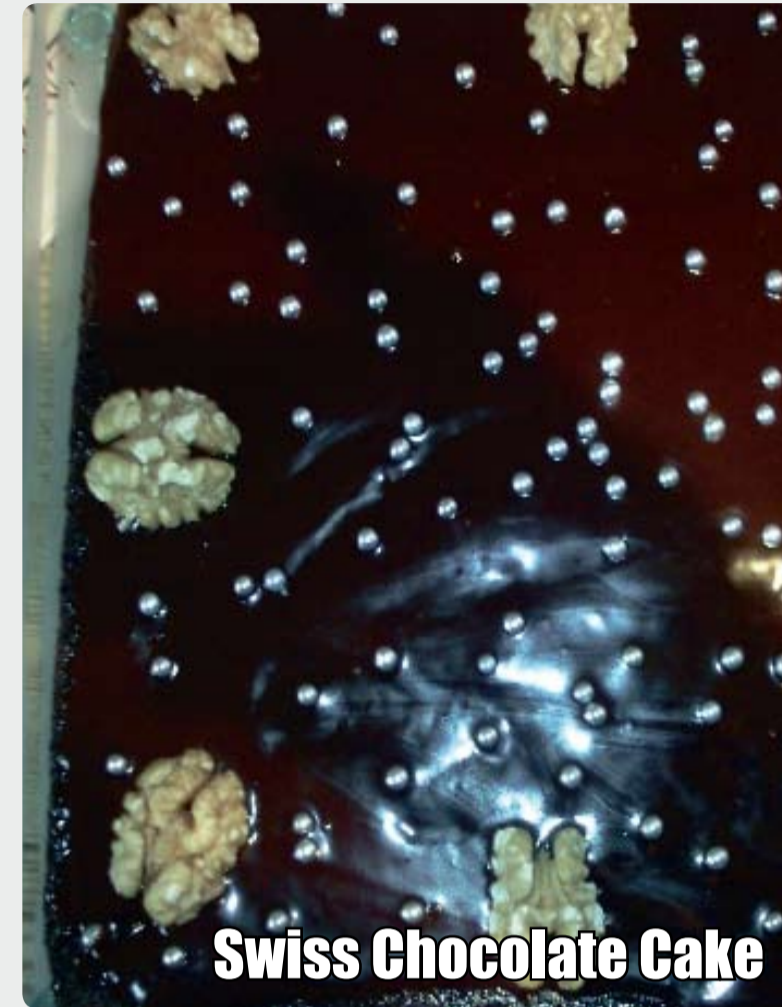
Almost inevitably, given Gilmour's other culinary ventures, there is a strong influence from across the pond. Beefburgers, cranberries, the Caesar salad (technically a Mexican invention, fact fans) sit alongside shepherd's pie, Oxfordshire blue cheese and cod and cockle fishcakes. Similarities continue with the obvious emphasis and atten-

tion to detail placed on steak. Two different sized rib-eyes are available at Gilmour's, both twenty eight day matured Aberdeen shorthorn cattle, naturally. In my infinite generosity, I allowed my not-so-glamorous date for the evening, wannabe 'gastronaut' Mr. Gault, select the steak freeing me to instead choose the Suffolk belly pork. Impressively this came with a generous portion of the most perfectly cooked crackling I have ever tasted. Although, to my heathen palate a little more of the slow gin gravy would have been desirable, the feather light, creamy mashed potato more than made up for it. Seafood lovers are also excellently catered for, with sea bass fillet and lemon sole with chips being two of the main courses on offer.

The dessert menu exemplifies all that is good about the Gilmour's ethos. That most classic yet maligned of British deserts, the knickerbocker glory, provides the taste buds with a welcome nostalgia trip to the English seaside.

The walnut and cranberry tartlet I chose managed was certainly my personal highlight of the meal. And don't get me started on its accompaniment, Calvados cream. Calvados is a French apple brandy that, as a drink, I can take or leave. But in cream it is transformed into the food of the gods. The memory of it makes me salivate.

So there you have it: nice boutique restaurant in Chelsea officially better than the boxed noodle glop in the SAF. Whilst Gilmour's is undoubtedly towards the top end of the average student, you are certainly getting value for money. Expect to pay £30-35 a head for three courses, coffee, and a cheapish bottle of wine. It is definitely more of a place to take a loved one rather than a big gaggle of friends, and the warm cosy atmosphere is romantic but in a natural, unforced way.



So named because it originates from a woman in Switzerland who passed this recipe onto my mother. Her name and relation to my mother have since been forgotten. Such information is deemed useless and irrelevant when pouring love and effort into this cake and subsequently wolfing it down. At school I used to bring this cake in every year on my birthday and it was reduced to a small pile of crumbs well before the bell to signal the end to our morning break. At first I resolved never to pass on this recipe but I thought I would for the sake of others who will hopefully fall into a deep cocoa/sugar intoxication after eating a substantial portion!

When it comes to baking the quantities are a rough guide: I like to add just a splash more of the "richer" ingredients (cocoa powder, chocolate sauce, cream) just to really make it more indulgent and it usually works wonders for the end product. Ground almonds makes this a pricier cake to bake but as far as I'm concerned good food is worth spending money on as it is, after all, necessary to live. This is best cooked in an electric oven. A fan oven will make it ever so slightly drier.

Pre-heat the oven to 180°C.

Mix together in a bowl the dry ingredients:

- 2 cups of self raising flour
- 1 cup of cane sugar
- 1 cup of ground almonds
- 1 cup of chocolate powder (I use Green and Blacks Hot Chocolate Drink)
- Pinch of salt

2 tsp baking powder

Mix together in a separate bowl the wet ingredients:

- 1 cup of cream
- 1 cup of milk
- 2 eggs
- 125g chocolate sauce (M&S Fair Trade Dark chocolate truffle sauce: heat the pot up in the microwave until its liquid and add just over half. Keep the rest to smother on top after the cake has cooled)

Combine the wet and dry ingredients, folding them into each other. Put into any cake tin you like. It is best to line with greased greaseproof paper. Bake in the oven for approx. 50-60 mins although all ovens vary. If you are using cupcake moulds, reduce the cooking time by approximately half. The liquidity of the batter will also affect baking time so keep checking the cake with a 'skewer' (a knitting needle or chopstick is perfect) after 45 mins, every 5-10 mins or so. Once the skewer comes out clean the cake is done. If you notice the cake is getting a little burnt on top half way through baking then lie tin foil over the top. Remember, never open the oven before half the baking time has elapsed or the cake will sink.

Icing options: I usually pour over some of the remaining chocolate sauce and it let harden. A slice served drizzled (or doused!) with double cream is also delicious. NEVER taint this recipe with pre-prepared icings or canned whipped cream.

Written and Created by Caz Knight

ANOTHER CASTLE

The multi-format gaming magazine of Imperial College Issue 1



Peter Molyneux wants Imperial students! Read the exclusive interview for details



OUT NOW!



Who decides what I wear?

Caz Knight reasons why the latest trend is actually the latest trend on the high street

A fashion is merely a form of ugliness so unbearable that we are compelled to alter it every six months.

And wasn't Oscar Wilde right. But fashion is meant to be a beautiful thing. Something that allures us, entrances us and helps us achieve anything from elevated self-esteem to making a statement, from making us more attractive to the opposite sex to competing with the same sex. If fashion were not something attractive and tasteful then why would we buy it in the first place and why would there be a need for such sharp changes at the turn of every season? Of course, the why is a combination of keeping things fresh and to avoid the feeling that our clothes are stagnating on our backs. The other, more obvious reason, is a money making one used by the fashion houses and designers - for it is essentially these people who hold the fate of our apparel in their hands.

The return of plaid shirts to this winter's fashion landscape is an example of a recent trend. But who decided it was to be a must-have?

Some designer at one or another brand would have come up with the idea, made it a feature of the shop's inventory and a few articles and features in the magazines later, we are all grappling for them. This would apply to plaid as well as any en vogue colour, style of trouser or shirt, shoe, ensemble etc. Why did designers choose to bring back long tops that drown anyone shorter than 5'7", making them look pregnant at the same time? This question is pretty unanswerable and would involve traveling to the core of a particular designer's psyche to find these answers (perhaps he saw some despicable celebrity wearing one at Mahiki.) The point I am trying to make is that a season's trends are essentially dictated

by the clothing shops, the people who design clothes for them and the subsequent "fashionistas" who expound on these trends as law in the magazines.

So, we have our shops full of attire for our choosing and buying. Why do we just happen to like what is in the shops? A lot of us don't, such as I. I would love to pull off a plaid shirt as I have seen people look gorgeous in them, but it just won't happen. I deplore the style of coats around at the moment - a lot of which are a relatively good fit around the chest and shoulders and then expand out like a triangle, again, making the wearer look pregnant unless they have a BMI below 10. I am in a position to comment on this season's coats having wasted a great deal of time on the high street only to find a long, green coat, ten years my senior, in a vintage shop at a fraction of the price. And I look amazing in it.

A fashion then becomes fashionable because a substantial number of people adhere to it following indoctrination by the brands. Perhaps the small-minded nature of man is brought out in us when it comes to fashion as we go along and copy how those around us are dressing. Maybe it is an inherent instinct to fit in and be accepted. I hope this is not the case, although, one would be forgiven for doing so as it is easy to underestimate the colossal pressure exerted on us by society these days, thanks to an endless access to media. Obviously, not everyone follows fashion.

And there is not just one fashion, there are many tributaries of fashion along which to ride on and we are at liberty to switch on a daily basis. The clothes I wear are entirely indicative of my mood, how I feel about myself, and what sort of look I want to work, not having found a niche I am



Who decided the lumberjacks were back in right now? Seriously, who?

completely comfortable with. I would fall more into the fashionista category. A rise in vintage shops means we are much more at liberty to choose our own fashion as we have access to those from yesteryear, as my recent shopping trip demonstrated.

What may be trendy and flattering on one person could be a disaster for another. Most cuts of top, trouser and dress at the present moment are all detrimental for my figure. At only 5'4" it is sensible for me to wear short skirts and dresses to make me look less tiny. I am also more comfortable baring my legs (not necessarily out of vanity). However, all the short dresses and skirts are designed for taller people and so fall to my knees rather than mid thigh. Most 'normal' length tops fall well past my hips which is something else I hate. One redeeming quality of Topshop is their 'petite' section which is a dream come true for me as I am able to find those short, tight tops I love.

So, why do a lot of us just happen to like what is in fashion and what makes us look back on it with hindsight in disgust? The 90s were abhorrent (not just in a fashion sense), so why did we ever sport greasy curtains (the men at any rate), denim jackets, baggy t-shirts with leggings (of which I am guilty of,

but my eight-year-old folly should be excused) and tie-dye? In ten years I am pretty sure the thought of Ugg boots will be recoiled at; I already do. Don't even get me started on Crocs. Fashion is a fickle thing but not as fickle as our tastes. Getting to the roots of what exactly it is that makes us like something is still an issue under much study by anthropologists and neuroscientists alike.

If we look at what the first cave men started to wear (fur mainly; I am a massive fan, to hell with the ethics of it) up until what "civilised" man wears, we can look at it as a sort of evolution. What influences this evolution? Certainly not survival of the fittest or fur coats would be in. Environment, the weather (sort of), culture, popular culture influenced by everything from politics, albeit perhaps very tenuously, music, art and, I am loathe to say it, famous people all play a part.

As much as I have disparaged fashion's fickleness in this piece, there is no denying the pleasure of appreciating the wider body of fashion - that is all the clothes, shoes and accessories available to us in the world - just as we might appreciate the craft and skill that has gone into creating a truly glorious sculpture or painting.

SICK



Double-Sided Tights
The effin' definition of SICK. I wish even I could wear them without looking like a ladyboy-tramp. Chanel showcased these in their Fall/Winter 2008 collection, and I'm surprised they're not the big thing right now. Before H&M or Topshop get their mass-producing paws all over these, snap up a pair. Two-tone tights are stylish as fuck; YSL 60s style. Add that little special something to your newest outfit. Do it. Now.



Simon Amstell
The Never Mind the Buzzcocks host has been peddling the whole indie-adult look since he took over the show. He's a little hit-and-miss. He can look proper sharp in some of his outfits, but 100% horrendous in others. I wonder if he dresses himself or a dresser does? Either way, his comedic timing and nous makes up for a rather questionable style. More sick than shit, if you like.



Ugg Boots
If you didn't think Ugg Boots looked atrocious on girls, can you now agree with everyone else that they look plain fucking hideous on men. I don't care if Ben Affleck, Leo Di Caprio or Ronnie Wood has been seen in them. No shape and no style. Boys, do not invest. From what I predict/hope, this Ugg-wearing phase is transient. Eskimos on the other hand, you lot are fine.

SHIT

Picture of the Week

Croatian Sunset, by Stephen Gallagher

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



Why I love Elie Saab's creations

Victoria Masding enlightens you ignorant fools about fashion's best-kept secret

If you think you haven't heard of designer Elie Saab, think again. In fact, think back to when Halle Berry won her Oscar for Monster's Ball, you know, when she cried like a pansy. She was wearing Elie Saab and was one of the first celebrity endorsements the Lebanese designer had had at that point.

The dress had a completely sheer upper half with floral embroidery covering her breasts and a crimson taffeta skirt. Although not one of his best designs, it was undeniably controversial and raised his profile in Hollywood and internationally.

His dresses are some of the most flamboyant and ornate designs available, though he has been slammed for creating pieces that are over the top; pieces that "wear" the wearer of the garment. This may be down to an



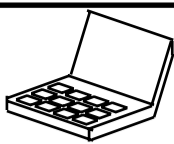
inherent snobbery in the fashion industry as he is self-taught and spent only one year in Paris studying fashion before returning in 1982 to open his workshop in Lebanon.

To me, his work is synonymous with luxury and fantasy and it is definitely the style of the season. Many of his dresses are jewel-encrusted and would not look out of place on a fairy atop a Christmas tree, and I mean that as a compliment.

One of my favourite dresses from his Autumn/Winter 08 collection is a purple taffeta-accentuated prom style dress. Its volume and colour give impact of theatrical standard!

This compares to the 07/08 collection that saw a more whimsical 'winter wonderland' and 'snow queen' inspiration come into play. I cannot wait for spring!





Technology

Technology Editor – Ravi Pall & Richard Lai

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Optimus Prime owns my iPhone

Want to personalise your gadget the special way? **Richard Lai** shows you what DIGISKIN can do for you.

Optimus Prime is obviously way cooler than the dull silver apple.

Christmas - regardless of your religious belief - is something that most people look forward to, but not so much during the weeks before then with the shopping rush. Hopefully my list of recommendations the week before had made your life slightly easier, but if you were looking for something more special then please read on.

If you recall my Stuff Live article a few weeks back, I mentioned a cool company called DIGISKIN who offers a revolutionary way of personalising your gadget - it could be a computer mouse, a mobile phone, a laptop, a game console, a camera etc. It caught my attention because not only do they provide a skinning solution that beats the ordinary fugly silicone (not to be confused with silicon, as most people do) skins by miles, but also the finish looks as if the gadget was customised just for you by the original manufacturer.

The process is quick and simple, just as I had witnessed at the expo: starting with the customer selecting an artwork from the company's catalogue of nearly 2000 designs, or you can even submit your own high resolution picture and tell DIGISKIN how to resize and place it; the company then prints the artwork out onto a thin foil of just 0.05mm thickness - bear in mind that the average silicone case is about 2mm thick; finally, both the skin and your

gadget are placed in one of their machines, which uses vacuum-forming method to tightly wrap the skin onto your gadget; any excessive foil is then carefully removed by their well-trained staff. All this can usually be done within thirty minutes on the average phone.

Soon after the expo DIGISKIN's Managing Director, Ricardo da Silva, got in touch with me and generously provided a sample for my beloved iPhone, as shown in the above picture. At first sight it really looked like a final touch from Apple (who would never do such thing), instead of it donning some cheap, thick skin. Holding it in hand only strengthened my above thought, as it is incredibly thin, and I also discovered another hidden benefit: my iPhone is not as slippery as before. The round edges below the silver bezel were well wrapped too - I don't know how they did it but they certainly did well. I also did a key-scratch test - something that I never asked Ricardo about - and surprisingly the DIGISKIN survived my strong strikes, as witnessed by my felix colleagues.

Upon showing off my beautifully skinned iPhone in front my colleagues, the first reactions were all "wow" with a smile. It definitely wasn't to do with the artwork (let's face it: I could have chosen something better, maybe something that would display my heterosexuality) - it was the fact that it looked like the artwork was printed directly

on the phone. My friends were keen to look at the phone up close to see how thin the skin was, and unsurprisingly they were all very impressed. If you see me walking by on campus, feel free to ask for a show-and-tell.

Such ingenious product and service could only come from one of the smartest countries in the world, a country whose people I had always admired - Singapore. DIGISKIN is a relatively young company and has spent the past five years mostly in research and development. Just two years ago they opened their first store in The Cathay - one of the country's oldest shopping malls, and more recently another at the Bugis mall. Having just landed in the UK, the ambitious company is also heading towards USA, South Africa, Australia, France and Indonesia.

DIGISKIN is now offering their debut UK service in the basement Electronics Department of Selfridges, Oxford Street, which offers a one day turn-around service as well as same day, provided orders are placed before 12:00. With same-day service customers will receive their devices back by 19:30. Better yet, a flagship store is due to open in January next year, which will offer a much quicker service of as fast as half an hour, and mobile phone users will even get a loan phone during that period. If your DIGISKIN somehow does come loose around the corners, the folks at either store will be happy to reattach it for you free of charge, but looking at mine I'm sure it will stay in place for a good period.

Of course, the real question is "How much?" Prices are size-dependant, starting from £25 for something like a mouse, but generally £35 for small devices and £55 for large. As of next week you should be able to buy DIGISKIN gift vouchers from Selfridges, which would make great Christmas presents for the gadget lovers around you. Many of you will be visiting Selfies soon anyway, so do check out the DIGISKIN booth while you're there.

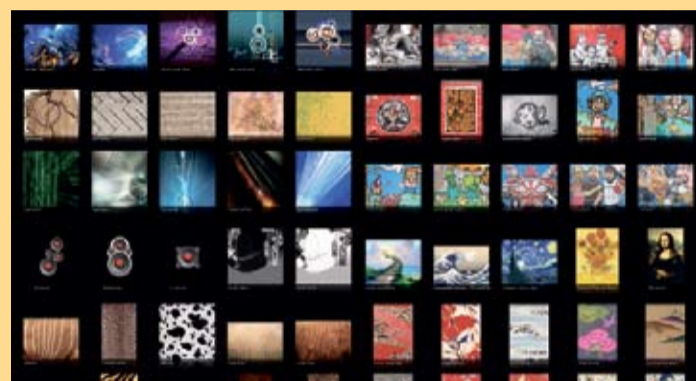


Make your mouse more unique

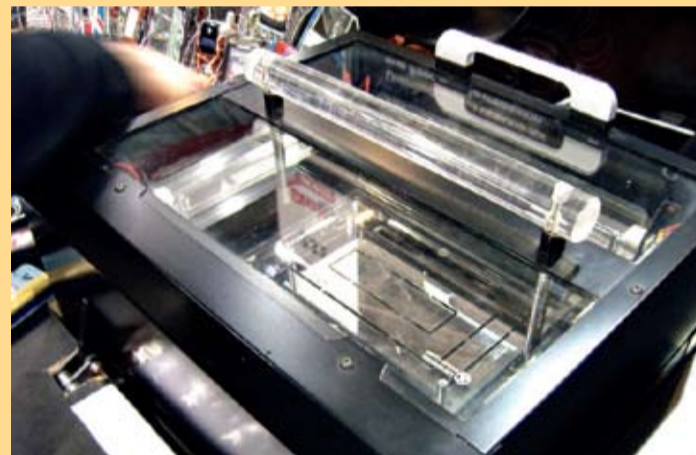


DIGISKIN also does XBOX 360!

DIGISKIN Walkthrough



1. Choose a design from DIGISKIN's library, or use your own.



2. DIGISKIN vacuum-forms the printed foil over your gadget.



3. Staff carefully removes excessive skin and it's all done!

**DIGISKIN™**<http://www.mydigiskin.com/>**EXCLUSIVE 10% DISCOUNT
FOR IMPERIAL COLLEGE STUDENTS**

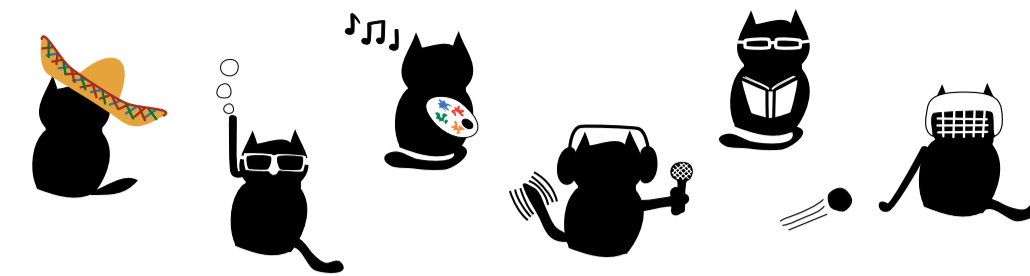
Upon showing your valid Imperial College student card at the Regent Street DIGISKIN store (opening in early January 2009), you are entitled to an exclusive 10% discount on all products.

DIGISKIN™ reserves the right to change the above offer from time to time with or without prior notice.

What's on...

Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editors – Lily Topham & Rachel D'oliveiro

whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Monday

Chamber Concert

Chamber Music Society present their end of term concert featuring their resident ensembles.

They will be performing a selection of the best classical music as well as some festive treats, guaranteed to cheer up your evening.

This is an unmissable chance to come along and relax to some wonderful music, and all for free!

Time: 6:30pm
Place: Read LT, Lvl 5 Sherfield
Price: Admission Free

Greetings Card Campaign

Come and join Amnesty and Leonardo Societies for a festive card-making session!

This is a chance to try your hand at some artistic cardmaking while having some fun!

The aim will be to send seasonal greetings to prisoners of conscience around the world.

All materials and information will be provided, as will wine and mince pies!

All are welcome!

Time: 6:30pm
Place: Room 407B, EEE
Price: Admission Free

Tuesday

RC Model

Radio Controlled Model Society will be organising events to race your own or the club's cars around professional circuits.

Time: 5pm
Place: Room 254, Aeronautics
Price: Admission Free

iCU Cinema All-Nighter

Cinema's legendary All-Nighter is BACK! All showings in the Union Concert Hall, 6pm-6am.

Films: Kung Fu Panda, Iron Man, Burn After Reading, Ghost Town, Taken, Death Race

Prices: 1 Film – £3, 2 films – £5, 3 films – £7, 4+ films – £10

"When Hell Freezes Over"

Top mountaineer and comedian Andy Kirkpatrick gives a hilarious talk on his expeditions to Patagonia.

Time: 7pm
Place: G16, SAF
Price: £7.50/£10 (Members/Non-Members)

Gospel Choir

Gospel Choir's debut concert has carols, modern Gospel music, a Raffle and mince pies.

Time: 7pm
Place: Read LT, Lvl 5 Sherfield
Price: £4/£5 (Students/Non-Students)

Rock Out For Christmas

Get into the Christmas spirit with Jazz and Rock's Bands Night and open Bar Night!

Time: 7.30pm
Place: dB's, Beit
Prices: Free - £7

Sinfonietta Concert

With *Sibelius*: Symphony No.2 and *Poulenc*: Flute Sonata.

Time: 8pm
Place: Great Hall, Sherfield
Price: £3/£6 (Students/Non-Students)

Wednesday

Young Scientists' Symposium

ICSM Muslim Medics present the Young Scientists' Symposium, an evening of cutting-edge scientific presentation where students battle against each other to be awarded a cash prize, judged by leading consultants.

All proceeds from the event go towards the charity International Education Fund.

For more information or to buy tickets, contact: rk206@imperial.ac.uk

Time: 6.30pm
Place: SAF
Price: £5

Carols by Candlelight

The Chaplaincy invites you to a service of readings and carols with music by Imperial College Chamber Choir.

As well as the opportunity to sing familiar Christmas Carols, the Chamber Choir will sing the pieces by Warlock, Poulenc and Cornelius

The service begins in darkness as the Choir sings and individual candles are lit. Please join us afterwards for wine and mince pies.

All are welcome, please invite your friends. There is no entrance fee and you don't need to buy a ticket, just turn up and enjoy!

Time: 6:00pm
Place: Holy Trinity Church
Price: Admission Free

Thursday

Art Exhibition

"Lost and Found" is the latest exhibition in the Blyth Gallery, and features work from visiting artists Dominic Kennedy, Rachel Thorlby and Lara Viana.

The exhibition runs until 19th December and is well worth going to see.

Time: Open 8am - 10pm
Place: Blyth Gallery, Lvl 5 Sherfield
Price: Admission Free

Windband Christmas Concert

Let Windband get your Christmas bells ringing with their selection of seasonal treats!

Programme includes:
Euphonium Concerto
Folk Song Suite
Molly On The Shore
Sandpaper Ballet
Sleigh Ride

Time: 1pm
Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit
Price: £2

Big Band Christmas Gig

The award winning Imperial College Big Band return to the Union for their annual Christmas Gig.

Playing a wide range of jazz, latin, funk and soul music (and Christmas carols like you've never heard them before...), the band are guaranteed to get your feet tapping!

There will be mince pies, mulled wine and the various Union bars will be open, so come along and chill out/bogie to some of the best music to come out of Imperial!

Time: 8pm
Place: dB's, Beit
Price: Admission Free

Friday

Christmas Ball 2008

The Christmas Ball 2008 is the not-to-miss event of the term!

Xfm's Alex Zane will be whipping up the Union into a festive frenzy as he plays a great selection of rock and chart tunes!

Upstairs in Room 2 Santa's Festive Grotto will be full of Christmas cheer with sexy elf helpers and chocolate fountains, candy floss machines and popcorn.

For the early arrivals there will also be a free mince pie and mulled wine.

Time: 8pm
Place: Union Building

Welcome to the latest incarnation of What's On, and the busiest Tuesday we've ever seen! If you have any suggestions or comments about the layout, please let us know.

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!

The deadline for submissions for the first edition of next term is midnight on **Monday 12th January 2009!**

To feature, please send in the following:

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

Email: whatson.felix@ic.ac.uk

And last but not least, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Coffee Break

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Reflexion in Coffee

Ravi Pall
Coffee Break Editor

I would like to start off by saying how much fun it has been to do Coffee Break this term. The number of inside jokes to come out of this section is uncountable. It truly is a pleasure. However what else is there for me to do? Well after many brain storming sessions in the UNION we have come up with something special.

It is know as the ESL, and is a collection of fictional super heroes written by a covert super genius known as UNPC. Now some of you may not agree with his comedic stylings and controversial stereotypes, however it is still funny and I think a valuable source of low brow laughs. So look forward to it.

Unfortunately we have been told that our plans to include a Where's Wally? puzzle every week can no longer proceed. Something to do with copyright infringement. However we have started our plans to bring in a totally unique alternative!! Where's Al? A completely new and innovation idea where we dress Al Norman up in a stripy red and white jumper and hat, place him

in crowded places, take a picture and le you guys find him every week. You have never seen anything like it before, I am sure. Take that copyright infringement!

What is upsetting to some is the ever evading Sikh MC. I'm sure he will make a cameo appearance eventually, but for now I wouldn't hold your breath. We will have to see what comes of the special characters in Coffee Break through out next term.

The fierce competition in the FUCWIT league is only getting more heated as we reach the end of the term. We have iPods for the winners so try and grab as many points as possible. With the addition of the Mentalist Maze this week you may think it counts toward the FUCWIT league, but you'd be wrong. It's just a bit of fun instead of the quickie crossword. Also congratulations to Team Shotgun who have accumulated 100 Points. However now is not the time to get complacent with team MSMM a close second with 99 points. Who will be the winner? Who will get those iPods?

Stuff IC Students Like!?! :)

11. Bar nights:

What happens if you mix cheap entry, multiple kegs of beer, a few boat races and the occasional yard?... We get carnage of the 1st order. Here at Imperial we are blessed with many of these holy nights- none better than the fabled

ACC Bar night- seriously £5 for your share of 25 kegs, is this heaven on Earth?

I was recently frequenting such an event hosted by MathSoc (Maths and Materials), believe me, the beer doth floweth in epic proportions. Freshers, you must go to these events, yes all of them. Sod lectures.



(Please drink responsibly)

FUCWIT League Table

Shotgun	100 Points
Möchten sie mein Mannschaft?	99 Points
Giramondo	31 Points
Hringur Gretarsson	20 Points
Team Rubbish	17 Points
Team Turner Gobels	12 Points
Jonathan Phillips	10 Points

Right. Same as normal, just complete the puzzles and send them to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk the first correct answer gets 5 points, then 4, 3, 2 and 1. Puzzles on offer this week are: Mega Crossword, Photoshop Competition, Wordoku and Slitherlink. As noticed we have no Cryptic or Quickie so the Mega Crossword is worth QUADRUPLE points! It has however taken the meaning of über hard to a whole new level. Get the most points at the end of the year and win an iPod Nano!

Remember: Wordoku must not just be the word, and that team **Shotgun** and **Möchten sie mein Mannschaft?** are getting away quite quickly. If anyone beats them in the Mega Crossword this week they will both be frozen out of the points for it. Sorry fellas- I have to promote competition.

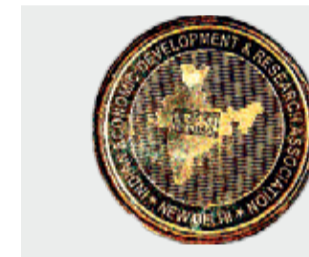
Photoshop Competition -11



This week's winner. Team *felix* (.who still can't spell- Ed.)



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



Congratulations to this week's winner, Team *felix*. That's right, we did this one ourselves. It may involve no photoshop skills at all, but it was done on photoshop so it counts. Also it is well funny. We had the caption originally as "disappointment at marriage counselling" but family planning is way better. Mainly because it's 2 guys,

they can't have children biologically. Who the hell would give birth?

This is the last photoshop competition this year, and we hope you'll be able to tune up on your skills over Christmas in anticipation for next years round of photoshop competitions. Thanks for the entries this year guys.

This week's image is of a dark tree in a valley. Do what you will with this one. You could turn it into a Christmas tree, you could hang dead bodies off it Fallout 3 style. It is up to you. You have 4 weeks to do this one, so make it good. I expect some super entries for the first weeks issue next term. Have fun and Merry Christmas!

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.

What do points win? Prizes. Oh yeah! i.e. iPods.

And Santa gave *felix* some ho-ho-ho-rosscopes

Santa doesn't exist. I hope I have spoiled it for you. If you have any complaints, you may sod off



Drink with me, I'm Snakey B and this week I'm dressed... as everyone

As this is the end of Snakey B. It's been a good run, and as the author of this fine character of many disguises I feel slightly sad. Sure it was great fun to photoshop some of the pictures (my favourite is the one of Mohammed Ali), and sure it was enjoyable to rant about these celebrities' flaws, imperfections

or in contrast their qualities that make them loved and adored by all. All I can say is thank you for the great response we down in the office have got towards Snakey B, and we certainly hope the new gimmick that will replace me will be up to your high standards. All students love snake bite, so by association they love me. I love you too guys, I'm totally not crying right now.



Aquarius

Santa was working late last night making his list before checking it twice. He needed to find out who was naughty and who was nice, so as to know what presents to get for the boys and girls at Imperial. So this is where you help him. If you think you were naughty this year, go to Taurus. If you think you were nice go to Pisces.



Pisces

Santa looks at the list of things that you've done that were apparently so great. Two things pop to your mind: 1)You helped raise money for the poor and homeless. 2) With your Imperial Investment group you raised £10,000 for club spending. If you think the first is better, go to Aries, if the second, go to Cancer.



Aries

Santa, still not convinced with your kindness, makes you decide between the two. He wants to know what means more to you, the poor or the homeless. If you rate raising money for the poor more that raising it for the homeless, go to Gemini. If you think that the alternative is better, go to Virgo.



Taurus

Although appalled he see's hope yet with your honesty. You receive the chance to redeem yourself, but with all of Santa's rambling, you get bored and start taking some of the toys for yourself. He catches you. Do you 1) lie and say you were going to put them in the sled or 2) do you tell the truth? If the first go to Leo, if the second go to Scorpio.



Gemini

Clearly touched by your generosity, Santa gives you £1 million, but you have to collect it in the middle of the desert. When you get there, you realise that you were given it all in chocolate coins, which has melted. In a fit of rage, you go around and kill all the poor people you gave the money to and take the money back. You go to hell.



Cancer

Yep, you've guessed it, even though you have raised £10,000 Santa gives you a nasty present for your wicked ways. No, not a lump of coal, he gives you Cancer! Enjoy! You should have been more considerate when you were taking the money from the poor and homeless on the streets of South Kensington.



Leo

You blew it and you forget that Santa knows your name Mike Squire! Instead of giving you the gift, he gives it to your mum. Even she thought you were a twat, or at least that's what he thinks, he was behind her and there was something in her mouth so everything was a little muffled. Santa definitely filled her stockings this Christmas.



Virgo

You think you're on a winner here, especially with the cold winter months where many die from the severe cold. How can you lose? Santa agrees and with that money he buys a shelter for you to run for the homeless. However after realising the current economic state, you keep the house and kick all the lazy bums back onto the streets.



Libra

Well, you choose the elf, good for you, unlucky for the elf. That poor little fella is going to get a banging of a lifetime. Working nine to five and the occasional weekend, you found out that small metal ring. Luckily for your job is an Ironmonger, you haven't been violating an elf. The small bobble on the hat is perfect for a small hammer.



Scorpio

You suddenly realise how little you care about Christmas and Santa. If you want your own present, you go and get it with your own money. So with Santa left awestruck at your lack of belief you decide to show him a thing or two. But what do you do? Do you use Rudolph in which case go to Sagittarius, or do you use the elf and go to Libra.



Sagittarius

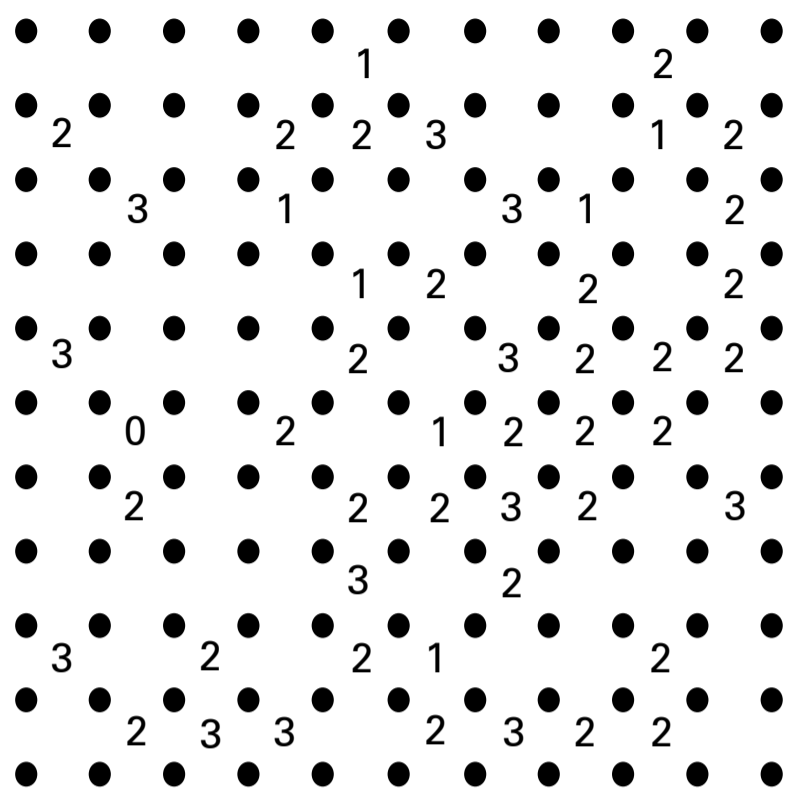
You put Santa at the top of the ski jump and give him a porno mag and remove his pants. On his way down he happens to get a boner and unfortunately Rudolph was looking at the stars from the bottom of the run and Santa just happened to end up penetrating him. You watch with delight as Santa tries to withdraw, but he can't.



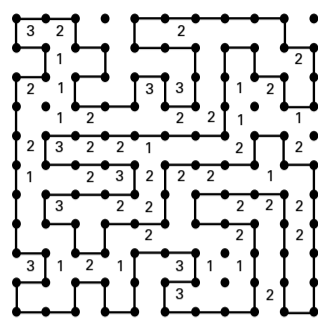
Capricorn

Santa, so scared by your supreme power bows down to all your demands. Christmas is banned, all presents given to a girl called Megan and all beer to a chap called D.I. Rytapist. Santa becomes a hobo, living in the gutter and off scraps people throw at him in disgust. After years you and Santa meet up at the Soup Kitchen and you say... Pint?

Slitherlink 1,419



1,418 Solution



Shotgun. They're back and this time they are better armed than Arnie in Terminator 2, so watch out freshers-particularly if you happen to be made of liquid metal and/or a twat. (Sahil)

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.

Mentalist Maze

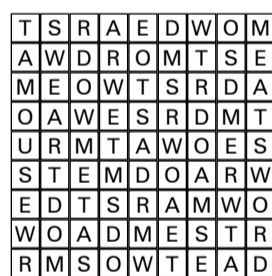
We have maze! Do it for England. But you may find that it will affect FUCWIT a touch more. Send answers to the usual address, entries with £5 attached will score triple points. Mabey. (If enough people answer we will use it for FUCWIT- Ed.)



Wordoku 1,419



1,418 Solution



A warm welcome to our newest contenders for the iPod nano, team **What What**, who successfully found MEATSWORD. However you'll have to up your sodding game if you want any chance of winning or get me a pint or give me your sister for night or two.

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:



"Miles from Selkirk is Sahil from Selkirk. And he fucked the cat. And the cat's mum."

"Happy people pass my way, looking in their eyes, I see a memory I never realised you made me so happy, oh Polish."

"Miles, please could you stop nailing Sahil as he says that his anus is starting to bleed."

"I'm the guy shagging your wife so hang about in the words of terry tibbs and come done. Mike squire 3rd floor selkirk."

"SHIT! The cat. I just killed it with my JCB, you'll need to scrape it up."

07726 799 424

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

Freshly Squeezed! Special Christmas edition

Union banterings through the eyes of Love Machine

Hopping mad. Livid, early twenties. Missing right shoe. Last seen Wednesday night at the union. If found, please return before injury results.

Travel warning. A ruggers boy returned from China with more than just some holiday snaps and knock-off DVDs. Apparently, all traces of the Grand Pox have been removed, and his girlfriend doesn't mind. We can all learn something from this; the true meaning of "in sickness and in health" and the importance of the blood test.

Confused. The extravaganza that was Choir & ICISO's musical account of Babylon's debauchery last Saturday seems to have been too much for some performers. The poor boy (less King Belshazzar, more Queen of Babylon) made repeated face-touching attempts on an unsuspecting

flame-haired lady. Was it the stories of willing servant-girls that fuelled this heterosexual episode, or have found, please return before injury results. All we know is that one distraught King of Thieves intends to return the Babylonian beauty to Sherwood forest and reform his band of merry men.

Jumper mystery solved. Yes, we are beginning to tire of moaning about the grey jumper just as much as you are sick of reading about it. Ladies beware, this particular jumper has unanticipated and curious effects. Only last week was the wearer spotted with a tiny blonde, and this week he had a tall brunette positively fawning over him. Now we understand your reluctance to venture into alternative apparel. Go forth and sow.

Note to Geologists: Oh my God, if he had better shoes I probably would

have slept with him by now. We recommend investing in a quality pair from Church's - made to last well into your dirty-old-man phase.

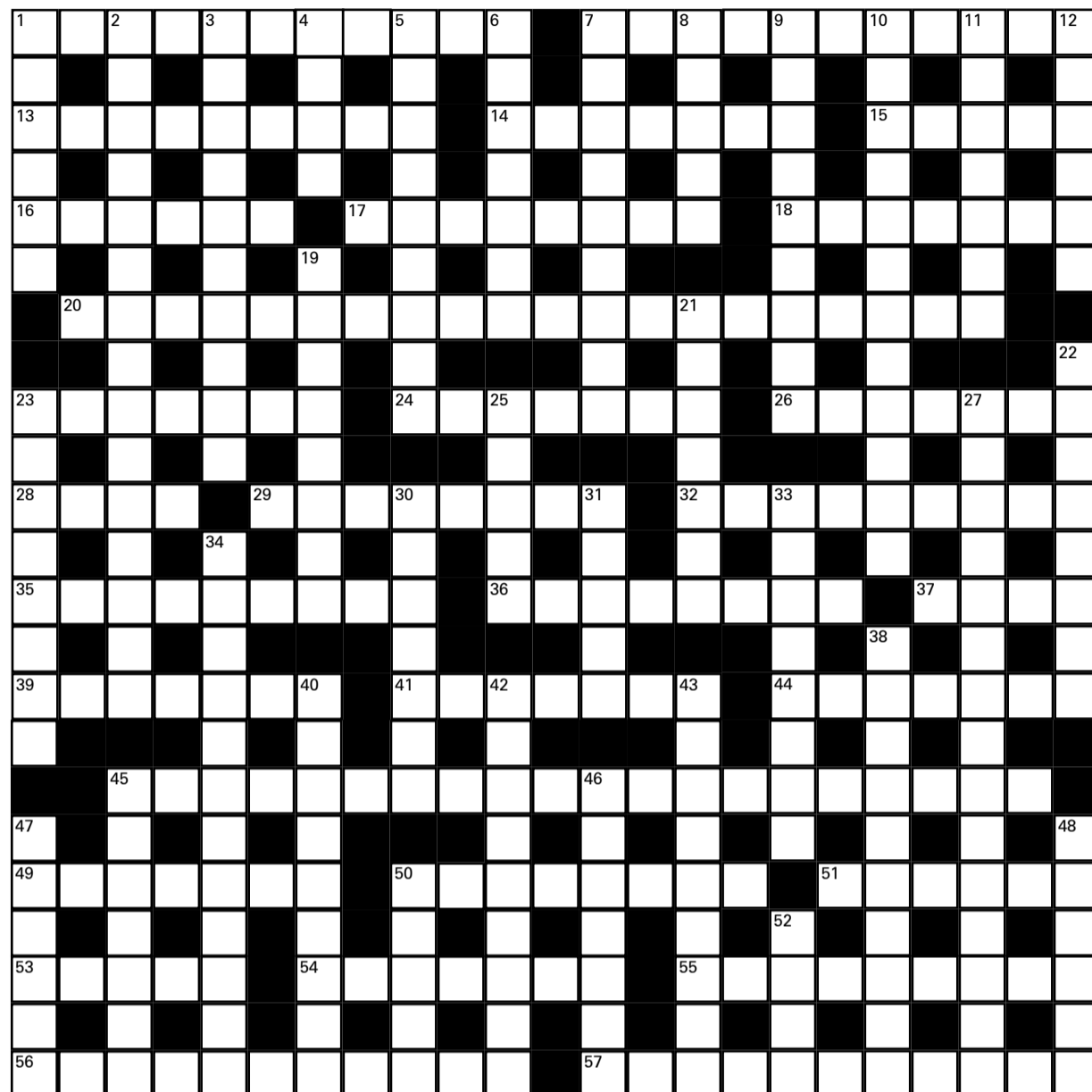
Respect. So often has the drunken shoes-off-watch-me-dance failed to achieve its desired result (er, macking), that we have to give the old hats-off to a lady far too smartly dressed for dB's on a Wednesday. Yes we've seen you before, and you do only have the one routine. But you were more than successful in finding a tall, dark and handsome dirty dancing partner, and your grinding away into the early hours has to be envied.

Pissed. A dubious wet patch, ample enough to fill a small to medium sized paddling pool, was left in an unsuspecting person's bed following the rugby dinner on Saturday Night. There is no wonder she made such a hasty exit.



I've been here, it's actually rather quaint. Floor was a bit sticky though.

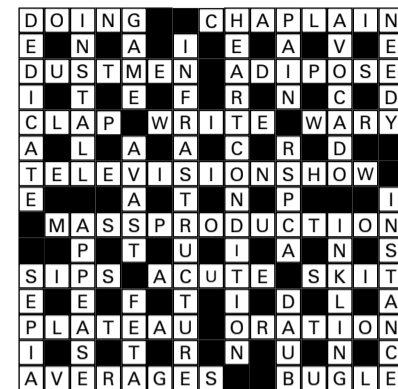
Last issue of term: you know what that means...



Quickie Solution 1,418



Cryptic Solution 1,418



CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

- 1 Old lady I miscast as Ophelia, having ignored central text in Turkish museum. (5,6)
- 7 Prime minister works for the king. (11)
- 13 Composer blows his top if provoked. (9)
- 14 Long drink makes the guard lose energy and retreat. (7)
- 15 Public relations duo comes across as haughty. (5)
- 16 Lousy twenty-four hours - big switch from holiday (3,3)
- 17 Father let way of measuring speed get central position in small publication. (8)
- 18 David is King as well. (7)
- 20 To tell you a secret, I had thought café latté to be renversé. (3,3,3,2,3,3)
- 23 Historian wears catsuit. (7)
- 24 Country undergoing structural change: Anne Boleyn keeps her head. (7)
- 26 Property of English encyclopedia missing from emotional nature of nocturnal scenes. (7)
- 28 Exercise in the dirt. (4)
- 29 Display of masculinity causes him to finish behind the speed of sound. (8)
- 32 Ankara is bursting with loud musical language. (9)
- 35 Travelling around Mecca and far East is good for your skin. (4,5)
- 36 Band together to make a quick escape and head eastwards - east of Black Rock. (8)
- 37 Magnum hasn't started making news cleaning up Pacific island. (4)
- 39 Princess gets in car accident, dies prematurely of heart-related issues. (7)

DOWN

- 1 Cadenced language (6)
- 2 Incapable of being measured (15)
- 3 The Cosmos (5,5)
- 4 Globes (4)
- 5 Repeat (9)
- 6 Damage (7)
- 7 Pristine (9)
- 37 Balkan national (4)
- 9 Dutch master (9)
- 10 Every Tom, Dick or Harry (3,3,6)
- 11 Attempted invasions (7)
- 12 Hellenes (6)
- 19 Blocking the Pilgrim's Progress (8)
- 21 One of five singers (7)
- 22 With logic and caution (8)
- 23 Care for (8)
- 25 Epigram (5)
- 30 To get up late (3,4)
- 31 Royal hound (5)
- 33 Good deals (8)
- 34 Mufti (5,7)
- 38 Explode with emotion (3,3,4)
- 40 American painter (1891-1942) (5,4)
- 42 Hint at (9)
- 43 Deloused (9)
- 45 Fast automobile (7)
- 46 Games of bridge (7)
- 47 Graduates (6)
- 48 Equilibrium (6)
- 50 Grim; serious (5)
- 52 Great Lake (4)

DOWN

- 1 Second hip changes nothing for one establishing the culture of today. (6)
- 2 Author turns down cagy euchre offer. (8,7)
- 3 Hi - the Open Access atlas broke down. (5,5)
- 4 God intends to show himself. (4)
- 5 Thoroughly enjoy saluting our two most important characters in the foyer. (4,1,4)
- 6 Reach the total of a thousand in cup tournament. (3,2,2)
- 7 Fake burn related to birth problems. (9)
- 8 Slang style reveals vague feeling of anxiety. (5)
- 9 Be the helm guiding towards a holy city. (9)
- 10 The first really up-to-date bouncy castle built in Belgium, on a corner of some foreign field. (6,6)
- 11 Loving a party call. (7)
- 12 Person who gets naked in dust storm. (6)
- 19 Convince a US representative to reverse their position on Germany. (8)
- 21 Show aficionado ticket price. (7)
- 22 Greek chorus song is in the same shortlist as I'm on. (8)
- 23 Write cast of characters with something in common. (8)
- 25 Fundamental airline error that remains uncorrected. (5)
- 27 International organization has a felonious agent rounded up. (6,2,7)
- 30 Unrealistically pretend to take drugs all through the morning. (3,2,2)
- 31 Savages are to speak. (5)
- 33 Salvages Los Angeles's crime outbreak. (7)
- 34 (A) (3,2,3,4)
- 38 Famous couple evaded a man with developmental issues. (4,3,3)
- 40 Queen with bad palace rot. (9)
- 42 Period army camp hiding a terrible thing. (9)
- 43 I clasp her in such a way as to get round. (9)
- 45 Leper has outermost extremities act up from the inside. (7)
- 46 Predicted warning cry was to be misinterpreted. (7)
- 47 Unhappy on both fronts before cutting up special news feature. (6)
- 48 Eastern woodland deer has tail cut off, provoking cries of anguish (6)
- 50 Third column keeps the engine turning. (5)
- 52 Exhausted editor comes after us. (4)

Hello there! Now that I have you all in one place, let me just do some small 'housekeeping' business. There have been mistakes this term. A lot of them. That will change. Hopefully. The frequency of your responses will hopefully remain the same. Good luck with this week's massive offering, have a fantastic Christmas and New Year, and congratulations to **Shotgun** for correctly answering both last week's Quickie and Cryptic.



Looks like there'll be a netball centrefold!



Merry Christmas!

Jack Cornish & Mustapher Botchway
 Sports Editors

The final issue of term is upon and oh has it been a lively term for sports at Imperial. After a reasonable start, we have got into the swing of things and hope you have seen the improvement in the sports pages.

We have slightly tweaked the format to mirror that of the back page, to some extent, and we have reduced the amount of text-heavy articles, like we said we would!

A room for improvement is the amount of errors in the articles, be it typos, grammar etc. As the copy editors of the paper have lives, and can't stay late to read our section it is down to us to spot mistakes.

Quite hard after going to the union the day before the issue goes to print.

Therefore we would like to call all those interested in 'copy editing' the sports pages to drop us a line at sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk, or come and have a chat whenever you see either of us around so we can sort something out. It's not that hard of a job, the ba-

sic job-description is to read articles and check for grammatical mistakes. I shan't mention the fact you could put it on your CV if you are struggling on your extra-curricular section.

Anyhow enough harping on about the goings on of the paper and onwards to the future.

Jack and I have devised some ideas for the sports pages next year, which hopefully will see fruition. This includes possible comments columns from prominent people within the ACC.

Expect more debates and more opinion pieces from us, including a possible resurrection of the 'superclub' debate.

The final week of college has slightly reduced the number of games taking place this week but we still have a hearty five pages for you to digest including Jack's interview with Catherine Atkin.

Squash are still ruling things by the way.

Have a merry Christmas and whatever you do, keep fit and don't suffer from the Christmas dinner pile on.

Netball

Netball Women's 1st VII	39
King's Medicals 2nd VII	15

Colette Gregory

The netball 1s hadn't won a game all season and as they headed off to Catford to face Kings Medics they knew if they were going to change that then this would be the night...

Waiting in the changing rooms for a caretaker to be found to switch on the floodlights spirits were high. Perhaps a little too high and cocky though as when we eventually got on court over half an hour late the first quarter was a disastrous affair. No matter how many beautiful interceptions kept being made in defence the ball was continuously lost as the girls tried to bring it down court. This lack of flow through the team has been a recurring problem all term due to inconsistencies in the squad and was the main reason for our continued defeats. We lost the first four centres in a row. Along with some shocking umpiring that saw attack repeatedly being contacted as they tried to take a shot but it never getting called up and defence being pulled up for distance at 6' odd this saw the first quarter end at 7-5 to GKT.

IC took themselves to one side for a team talk looking a bit dismal. Keen eyed Team Captain Rachel Dilley however had other concerns. She felt the

quarter hadn't seemed long enough so questioned the umpires. Having found out we'd only played 12 minutes instead of the required 15 due to the late start she insisted we be allowed to get back on and finish the remaining 3 minutes because we hadn't been informed before play began. This saw us lose another goal so the score became 8-5 to GKT. It also caused an argument between the GKT Captain and the umpires, which resulted in the silly girl crying and taking herself off for the rest of the game!?

The Imperial girls all knew what they had to do. Concentration wasn't there, the aggression and want of the win wasn't there. We came back on for the second quarter more determined knowing we were the better team and we just needed to start playing at the level we were capable of.

Frustration with the refereeing started to get to several players including GK Kate Chapman, who slammed the ball on the floor after yet another ridiculous call causing it to hit the base of the post and almost knock one of the umpires in the face, and GA Colette Gregory, whose shooting was completely off. Nevertheless, IC still managed to pull it back to 12 all at half time.

Rachel asked her team if they actually wanted to win a game this season and instructed Colette to "give it some". Coming back on for the third quarter is when it all went wrong for Kings. A miscalculated substitution of their GA let IC pull away and our confidence

soar leading to successive goals. Defence kept talking to each other and the Chapman-Dilley-Davies combination totally dominated the opposition's attack. Carolyn Sharpe (despite suffering from a two-day hangover after the epic Netball Christmas Dinner!) and Nicole Evans, at C and WA respectively, started to work the ball down better with support from behind. A change of tactics in the goal third saw some sneaky elbows off ball from Colette to teach her GD a lesson and movement out of the D by the GS Sam Westrop to create more space for her GA meant the balls kept going in. IC came off 21-15 ahead.

The question was: were the girls going to let it go in the last quarter like they had in so many other games? Not a chance. Some say the play in attack in the final quarter was "poetry in motion", but they might be twats, for example twat of the match in Rachel Dilley. This award was given for accidentally pulling her pants down along with her skirt in the changing rooms after the game. I think it might have been in anticipation of the centre-fold appearance! Player of the match was Nicole who has boundless energy and is fully devoted to every game. IC player was Kate Chapman who had a great game right from the start making "lovely" interception after "lovely" interception.

The final score was 35-19 to Imperial resulting in a group hug and girly whoops of delight!! We'll be coming to a page three near you very soon!!