

# felix

The student 'news'paper of  
Imperial College London

*Guardian Student Newspaper of the Year*  
2006, 2008

Issue 1,420  
Friday 16 January 2009  
felixonline.co.uk



## Denied!

Students fined for mapping  
Chinese region, see page 2



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Here come the  
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Centre page

## DPEW still intact

Three hour Union Council meeting decides not  
to create new position, for now, see page 3





# Finced £2,000 for ‘illegal map-making’

**Jovan Nedić**  
Editor in Chief

Students from Imperial College have been fined a total of £2,000 for “illegal map-making” in a Chinese province last September. Dr Jian Guo Liu, a Reader in Remote Sensing from the Department of Earth Science and Engineering, was on a routine survey in the Xinjiang area with a final year undergraduate and one PhD student.

Dr Liu and the students, who wish to remain anonymous, were invited by the Institute of Crustal Dynamics, part of the China Seismological Bureau, to carry out earthquake fault research in the Chinese areas of Aksu and Keping. The Aksu area itself is one of the tenses areas in Xinjiang, where many of the local Muslim Uighur population are hostile to Chinese rule. A series of lethal attacks in Xinjiang were ascribed to separatist terrorist groups during the summer, particularly just in advance of the Beijing Olympics.

Due to the Olympics taking place, the usual method of obtaining paperwork was severely delayed, which is why the group obtained a visa through an invitation from the China Seismological Bureau.

The tension in the area and the presence of foreign scientists on Chinese soil could have been one of the reasons for the crackdown, it apparently being illegal to carry out any scientific work without the correct paperwork, as it is considered a threat to state security. The Aksu Land and Resource Bureau accepted that the students had an “innocent explanation” in a statement released on the 5th January 2009, but that they had collected “illegal data” from 6,000 points that were valuable for mineral prospecting and topographical research.

A spokesperson for Imperial College London said: “They were investigat-



The mountain range in the Xinjiang region of China, through which the old Silk Road passed

ing a very active fault system which is known to have a direct impact on earthquakes that have occurred nearby. The project involved collecting information about tectonic plate activity to help scientists understand the geological history of the area, which is potentially of use to the local population for earthquake hazard management.”

“On 19 September 2008, the Aksu Bureau of Land and Resources stopped their geological field work and confiscated their two GPS receivers, surveying results and data. The students were questioned but not arrested and no formal charges were made. They were fined RMB 10,000 (approximately £1,000) each. The College has reimbursed this cost. On 28 September, research and field equipment was returned to the students. The students arrived safely back in London on 2 October 2008. Their studies have not been affected.”

# Imperial Summer Ball tickets now on sale, but at an increased price to last year’s

**Jovan Nedić**  
Editor in Chief

Imperial College London’s Summer Ball is the largest student ball in London and this year’s Ball will be the biggest, most lavish and most exciting yet! Tickets are already on sale for the event which takes place across our South Kensington campus and is attended by over 2,500 revellers. With great acts and DJ’s, a formal dinner, fireworks, a funfair, a casino, marquee, light shows and more, the Summer Ball 2009 is the not-to-be-missed event of Imperial’s calendar. Tickets for our formal 600 seated dinner always sell out fast, so organise you and your friends and get a table together!

An Entertainments Ticket offers full entry to all the entertainments and acts on the evening starting from 19:30. A Dinner and Entertainments Ticket offers all that the Entertainments Ticket does but with a Champagne Reception from 17:30 and a four course meal with after-dinner speakers in our lavish

Queen’s Lawn Marquee.

The starting prices for the two tickets are £30 and £65 respectively. The cost of the Dinner and Entertainments ticket has increased by £10 from last year’s price, whilst the Entertainments ticket has only increased by £5. Some students have questioned these price increases, which would produce at least an extra £6,000 of revenue for the organisers. Deputy President (Finance & Services) Christian Carter, who is responsible for the Summer Ball, told *felix* that “The costs have increased (particularly food prices) and the ticket prices had not changed for two years. In order to run an event that does not lose money we either have to raise prices or cut the standard of the ball. The price increase means that we can continue to deliver the same quality of dinner and the big name acts as has become expected.”

Whatever the reason, the event is sure to be an entertaining one and one that has increased in popularity over the years.



Firework display at last year’s Summer Ball

PHOTO BY IAN GILLET

# Council rejects split Sabbatical

But Round Two begins as the proposals return to Council for a last ditch attempt to split the DPEW

**Kadhim Shubber**  
Deputy Editor

A controversial motion to split the role of Deputy President Education and Welfare (DPEW) has fallen at Union Council as tensions rise in the Sabbatical team.

The motion, proposed by Jennifer Morgan, would have created two new sabbatical roles, Deputy President Education and Deputy President Welfare, while scrapping the current DPEW position. Although a majority of Council members supported the motion, voting 20 for and 12 against, the motion did not reach the required two-thirds majority.

Criticisms of the paper came thick and fast as Council members took offence at what they perceived to be a poorly written and poorly prepared paper. Council members were not reassured when Jenny Morgan admitted that she had not had the time to write up the proposal properly, as she was unwell, and that what was submitted was essentially a rough draft.

The question of funding was raised and there was some concern that the proposals didn’t mention where funding would be sourced. Jenny Morgan responded by telling Council that she knew that many high-ranking College staff supported the move to increase student representation, including the Rector, Sir Roy Anderson.

The motion was supported by DPEW Hannah Theodorou who ar-

gued strongly that the motivation for the new roles was the large workload associated with her position. With these new positions, she argued, there would be more time to actively engage with the student body rather than being bogged down with meeting after meeting.

The DPEW and the President were united on the proposal with Deputy President Clubs and Societies Lily Topham remaining mostly silent throughout Council. However a clear split emerged when Deputy President Finance and Services Christian Carter dramatically attacked the proposal claiming that his job had a similar workload to the DPEW. He accused the President of trying to rush an unprepared motion through Council and warned that if the College did not provide funding for the position then the Union would be forced to divert money away from clubs and societies.

Christian Carter received support from the Faculty Union Presidents who claimed that some welfare responsibilities could be transferred to the faculty level away from the central union. DPEW Hannah Theodorou dismissed this notion, arguing that the faculty unions did not carry enough weight to effectively represent students to the college or outside of university on complicated welfare issues.

Consternation eventually gave way to fatigue as discussions continued into their third hour despite some efforts to end debate of the issue; one

council member was strongly reprimanded by the Council Chair for calling the debate of the issue “stupid”. Confusion about funding remained right up to the vote as Jenny Morgan strongly asserted that College would provide funding and Christian Carter rebuffed her saying she was gambling with clubs and societies’ funding. The DPFS claimed that the Union might be left high and dry by the College even if College Council permitted the new roles in the knowledge that they would be expected to fund them. He warned that the College might make cuts to the subvention (money the College gives to the Union each year – amounting to over 1 million pounds) elsewhere.

Several Medic councillors had to leave Council early and therefore a vote was called on the motion, which was narrowly defeated.

DPFS Christian Carter commented after the meeting that there had been “no real discussion of the alternatives or any professional assessment of whether a new role is needed at all”. He lamented what he called “the manner in which the proposers are trying to rush through something so important without consulting those whom it actually affects.”

Social Clubs Committees Chair (SCC) Peter Mabbott agreed with Christian Carter saying that although “the President and DPEW held an open meeting on the subject before Council” that because most Council members were considering the proposal for the

first time it was not the right time to vote on the Constitution. However he attacked the DPFS suggestion that money would be lost from clubs and societies if the role was created. The SCC chair said it was wrong to bring in the issue of money “in the way he did” and that “No one should have been put in a position where they were thinking “I agree with the idea, but feel it is more important to make sure that clubs and societies get that £25,000, so I’ll vote against it””

Despite the support of the majority of council members, the proposal’s future is now uncertain as this year’s Sabbatical elections draw closer. Before

being implemented, the Trustee Board must rubber-stamp the new positions and then the College Council must approve the proposals when it meets on the 13th of February. On Tuesday the SCC chair said it was wrong to bring in the issue of money “in the way he did” and that “No one should have been put in a position where they were thinking “I agree with the idea, but feel it is more important to make sure that clubs and societies get that £25,000, so I’ll vote against it””

The paper will be brought to Council again on the 18th of January and with only a few councillors to convince, it seems all but certain that the Deputy President Education and Welfare will be split in half.



Councillors voting on the change at the last Union Council

# Generation job crunch

**Dina Ismail**  
News Correspondent

It looks like the credit crunch just got a whole lot worse, as this year’s university graduates will be facing the toughest battle for jobs in a generation. Tens of thousands could be facing unemployment over the coming months owing to the impact of the economic downturn, with 18-24 year olds bearing the brunt of redundancies.

Ministers are so concerned that they’ve decided to do something about it, drawing up a rescue package to help the class of 2009 find a job or acquire new skills when they graduate this summer. They include an internship scheme where students would work at a reduced wage to gain experience. This ‘National Internship Scheme’ is currently being backed by four firms, including Barclays and Microsoft. However as job vacancies get slashed, major companies and investment banks are narrowing their search for new recruits to a limited number of elite universities, mainly Oxford, Cambridge and, you’ll be glad to hear, Imperial College (phew!). But make no mistake, the competition will be the most brutal it has ever been.

Chief executive of the Association of Graduate Recruiters is warning final-year students that a good degree on its own is no longer enough – graduates now need to make themselves as attractive as possible by emphasising work experience and life skills. “Many of this year’s graduates will be in for a shock because they have grown up in an affluent society, so have become a little complacent, believing that good



A destination for a lot of the this year’s graduates, the job centre

jobs ‘fall from trees’”, the organisation says.

So with employment chances looking bleak, what are the options? Well, if slogging your guts out in an internship for the minimum pay doesn’t take your fancy and neither does long-term unemployment, then your other option is to go back to summer-holiday jobs that you thought were well in your student life past. According to the Association of Graduate Recruiters, university-leavers should be prepared to stack shelves or work behind a bar as the recession bites. However, even these unskilled jobs may be hard to come by. With past government initiatives of putting 50% of adults into higher education, the labour market has been flooded with degree holders for some time now and so graduates

being forced to take non-graduate jobs is not a new trend, it’s just a worsening one with the recession.

The disheartening reality that you toiled your way through university and bled your finances dry, only to end up with a job at Tesco will, it appears, be shared by many. Experts warn that the demoralising effects of unemployment on young people could turn into long-term “scarring” if they are out of work for more than a year, making it harder to reconnect with stable career jobs later on.

So in other words, until things get better, university-leavers should make the most of any job they can get their graduate hands on because also, don’t forget, there’s the small matter of a student loan that needs paying off. Have a Happy 2009!

felix 1,420  
Friday 16/01/09



Felix, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB. Tel: 020 7594 8072. Fax: 020 7594 8065. Printed by The Harmsworth Printing Ltd, 17 Brest Road, Derriford, Plymouth. Registered newspaper ISSN 1040-0711. Copyright © Felix 2009.

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The IMechE sponsored Engineers Without Borders photo exhibition will be on display in the Mech Eng foyer on **Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th Jan.** The photos have been taken by students on summer placements in international development with EWB. All are invited to the **reception on the 19th at 5.30** starting in **Mech Eng room 220** with an address from Andrew Lamb (CEO of EWB-UK) and then to enjoy the photos with free wine and other refreshments. There will be plenty of opportunity to find out more about EWB at the event, where ever your interest lies...



# Imperial stands to lose cash

Afonso Campos  
News Correspondent

Despite the most recent Research Assessment Exercise placing Imperial number one in the country for world-leading and internationally excellent research, the College still stands to suffer a significant cut in the allocated research funding, which is to be announced later this academic year.

The 2008 RAE found that 150 out of 159 surveyed universities have produced 4\* and 3\* level research, with 17% of all work produced being deemed 'world leading.' This result is not only positively surprising, but also higher than ever. This may however, have a large impact in how research funding is distributed to English universities.

Currently, the bulk (over 80%) of funding is allocated to just under 20% of all universities, most of which are the mammoths of the Russell Group, comprised by 20 research intensive institutions such as University College London, Cambridge and Imperial. The funding which is awarded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (Hefce) is distributed according to a formula based on the RAE results. As it stands, it is speculated that the Russell Group could lose circa 10% of its yearly funding – or in gross terms, up to £140m. Assuming this cut is not weighted in any fashion, Imperial could stand to around £7m; a rather significant amount in research funding terms.

The Director General of the Russell Group, Dr Wendy Piatt is worried about a possible "haemorrhaging" of money received by the constituent universities. It is her view that while quality deserves recognition in its own right, it is "mass" that is paramount – a mixture of quality and quantity. She



What? All this cash going to Bath Spa and Thames Valley? Damn...

reiterates the World Bank view that each country must, in order to remain academically competitive, have a "proportion of world-class universities", saying it fuels "economic growth and furthers the knowledge economy". Hannah Theodorou, the Deputy President of Education and Welfare of Imperial College Union has commented

that this possible cut is "disappointing" and may make "recruiting efforts much harder".

It is important to note that Hefce has not yet commented on how it will allocate the money or if the formula previously used will be changed to soothe the fears of Vice-Chancellors throughout the country.

# RCSU Science Challenge bigger than ever

Alice Rowlands  
News Correspondent

The annual RCSU science challenge will be launched on the 22nd January for Imperial students and participating schools. With over twenty thousand pounds worth of prizes available, it's likely that the students of Imperial will be spending the next few days trying to remember how to write in prose rather than C++.

The competition, which was first run in 2005, will follow a similar format to previous years, where a panel of judges each set a question related to a scientific topic and the effect it may have on the wider world. Applicants respond, to the questions posed, in the form of an 800 word essay. Previous questions have included topics such as how we could go about colonising Mars and the effect knowing your genetic make-up could have on your lifestyle.

The competition is run by students from the Royal College of Science Union with the aim of promoting scientific communication and creative thinking amongst young people. The assumption is that the same individuals that will eventually shape the future of our planet over the years to come, hence inspiring scientific debate amongst them will have a positive effect on future generations.



The R.C.S. crest so you can cut-out-and-keep to enjoy at your leisure

As well as inspiring debate and encouraging scientific communication, the challenge is an excellent excuse for a party, last years prize-giving party was a very swanky affair, held at the Ritz, which should be enough to get anyone's creative juices flowing!

The *felix* editor is a little concerned that with a top prize of £5000 for an 800 word essay equating to £6.25 per

word, his staff may soon be demanding payment for their work.

If you're interested in entering, the launch party is on Thursday 22nd January, 6pm in the Sir Alexander Fleming Building. Prof Sir Robert Winston will be a guest speaker and this years questions will be announced. Or you can watch the whole thing online at: <http://sciencechallenge.org>

Edited by Hassan Joudi

# The world beyond college walls

## Palestine

The number of deaths caused by the current conflict between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip has reached the milestone figure of 1,000.

13 Israelis, 3 civilians and 10 soldiers have been killed since Israel launched its military campaign about three weeks ago on 27 December 2008. However the majority of the 1,000 dead have been Palestinians, with nearly a third of deaths being children according to medical sources in Gaza, who also reported that hospitals have received 4,500 injured Palestinians.

The conflict has gained a further international dimension with a public statement by Osama Bin Laden urging Muslims to wage "jihad in the path of God" against Israel. The 22-minute audiotape containing his message also criticised Arab states for not doing enough to support the Palestinians.

## Nepal

The Maoist-led government of Nepal has begun a six-month National Literacy Campaign (NLC) as part of a programme to achieve 100% literacy within two years.

According to the official census some eight million adults, out of a national population of 26 million, cannot read or write because they have not had the chance to go to school. Under the slogan "Know Alphabets, Be Literate" the government hopes 2.6 million people will be made literate by mid-April.

They will be taught by about 90,000 young volunteers who are mainly students with a School Leaving Certificate. Eliminating illiteracy was a key election pledge of the Nepalese Communist (Maoist) Party, which joined an interim government after a civil war between 1996 and 2006, and are now the largest party in the parliament.



## China

China overtook Germany to become the world's third largest economy in 2007 after the Chinese government revised its estimates of how much its economy grew that year.

With an estimated annual growth of 13.0% instead of 11.9%, the Chinese economy's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) in 2007 was approximately \$3.382bn, which was slightly greater than Germany's GDP in 2007. Germany has always traditionally been third with USA in first place and Japan in second. That being said, China's GDP per capita is many times smaller than that of Germany. This news emphasises the strides China has made since it began reforming its Mao-era economy exactly 30 years ago in 1979.

## Poland

Polish construction workers have unearthed a World War II-era mass grave containing the remains of 1,800 bodies.

The town of Malbork in northern Poland was part of Germany before 1945 and construction of a luxury hotel there was halted in October 2008 after several bodies were found. Now it is clear that the site is a mass grave containing civilians of German origin and archaeologists say that many more may yet be found. In the last weeks of the war in 1945, Malbork was the scene of heavy fighting between retreating German forces and the advancing Soviet Red Army.

Some of the bodies contained gunshot wounds indicating they were probably killed by advancing Soviet forces but the cause of death for others was hunger and cold.



## Your Chance to Have Your Say

It's fair to say that a lot of what happens at Imperial is a direct result of student opinions. There are a number of issues currently being discussed at the moment for which we need more student input.

### Student ePortfolios

The College are in the process of running a project to look at the use of ePortfolios to store your academic and extra-curricular achievements during your time at Imperial. These portfolios may be printed off like an exam transcript with an official stamp to verify that you have made these contributions and could prove an essential resource when looking for employment after you graduate.

The College is looking for students to give their opinions on what students think should be included in the ePortfolio, such as particular academic achievements or certain extra-curricular activities. Your opinion could even be that we don't need one at all! If you are interested in your opinion being counted then please send an email to [dpew@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:dpew@imperial.ac.uk) by the 20th of January with ePortfolio in the subject box. There will be a meeting on the 28th of January (with food!) to give your views, with a couple of follow up meetings.

**Online Student Collaboration Survey**  
We are interested to know how students

collaborate currently and what services would help students to collaborate more effectively and efficiently. 'My Imperial', the student portal would be used as a means for students to easily access all their relevant collaboration services.

We are working closely with groups of students to determine which services are most important - but we can't talk to everybody and everybody's opinion matters. That's why we've launched an Online Survey (12th-16th January) to find out what you think of current collaboration services, and what collaboration services you think should be developed in future.

In addition everybody who completes the survey will have the chance to win Amazon vouchers:  
1st Prize - £50 voucher  
2 x 2nd Prize - £25 voucher  
PRIZE DRAW! – 19th January 2009 (winners will be notified by email)

(If not already using it why not see what 'My Imperial' student portal has to offer – <http://www.imperial.ac.uk/myimperial>)



Hannah Theodorou  
Deputy President  
(Education & Welfare)  
[dpew@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:dpew@imperial.ac.uk)

## International Students' Officer Created

A new International Students' Officer role was created at our Student Union Council last term. Their responsibility is to represent the needs and views of the non-UK students at Imperial.

The role will involve:

- Being responsible for issues that specifically relate to International (non-UK) students and organise relevant education and training events and briefings.
- Creating and holding an International Students forum to gather views about issues that affects them, such as visas,

employment and English Language Support programmes.

- Encouraging and supporting International Student involvement in Union and College activities.
- Sitting on the College's Welfare Committee and the Union's Representation and Welfare Board and Union Council.

Nominations open 00.01 Friday 23 January and close 23.59 Thursday 29 of January. All students are eligible to run for the position.

Voting opens at 00.01 Friday 30 January and close at 23.59 Tuesday 3 February. Results will be announced Friday 6 February.

To stand or vote go to [www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote). Please send any queries to [elections@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:elections@imperial.ac.uk). In the meantime, if you have any questions or suggestions regarding support for International Students please contact Hannah, the Deputy President (Education & Welfare).

## Charity Project Leaders Wanted

The current economic downturn in the UK is putting more and more members of deprived communities under pressure. It might seem absurd but food poverty is increasing in our society. The Community Action Group wants to address this issue in a joint initiative with FoodWorks UK. The idea is simple. Food retailers throw out millions of tons of edible food every year due to supply overstock. The aim is to redirect this food so it can be used to cook nutritious meals for people in the local community that do not have access to it for a variety of reasons, such as lack of income, access or knowledge of healthy nutrition. The result? People's health benefits from better food, food waste is reduced, and volunteers get the satisfaction that they have helped improve their local community!

To start up at Imperial and we need a team of enthusiastic volunteers to be the catalyst for this project. We are looking to recruit 4 project leaders to take on roles in:

- Fundraising
- Marketing and Communications

- Food Supply Coordination
- Volunteer Management

Each project leader will ideally commit 6-8 hours each week to the FoodWorks project. Being a project leader will mean that you are part of a small dynamic team that essentially is running their own charity on campus! Volunteers will come out of the program with REAL experience in fundraising, project development and management, marketing and public relations. These are the skills that employers are looking for in almost any sector. Do it now before you have to spend the whole year after graduation doing internships and work experience!

If you are interested send your CV and a short cover letter mentioning the position you are running for and previous experience to: [cag@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:cag@imperial.ac.uk)

Application closes on the 30.01.2009

For more information go to: [www.foodworksuk.org](http://www.foodworksuk.org)

## RAG is Coming!

Imperial College Union is pleased to announce that RAG Week is this term and running from Monday 16th til Friday 20th. There are events running throughout the days (think Queen's tower tours, dress up collections and a pie squad plus others) and then even more events in the evenings (think slave auction, RCSU Ball and RAG RAID plus others). Keep your evenings and Wednesday afternoon free. There is something for everyone. On top of this we're giving out prizes for the most money raised by an individual, a club or society and for the best faculty union (FU) or clubs and societies board (CSC). Perhaps you'd like to have your own union tankard for best collector? Or maybe you'd want to see your club or faculty union choose the next photo on a union minibus? Prizes that money can't buy! Watch the union poster boards for more information.

This year RAG is collecting for Barnardos, Shelter and The Rainbow Trust. These charities were chosen at the start of the academic year. I want to make the process more democratic

so if you would like to nominate a future charity visit our new website. The address is [union.ic.ac.uk/rag](http://union.ic.ac.uk/rag) and the form to fill in can be found under the Charities section. Just fill in as much as you can and e-mail it back to RAG on this address [RAG@ic.ac.uk](mailto:RAG@ic.ac.uk). These nominations will be considered for sponsorship next year.

Lastly ICU RAG requires extra volunteers to help us organise all the activities that we have planned. If you are at all interested in helping out please let me know by e-mailing [RAG@ic.ac.uk](mailto:RAG@ic.ac.uk). You don't need to give up all your free time, it is likely to just be a couple lunchtimes. If you happen to be first aid qualified that would be especially helpful as we need first aiders for the Queen's tower tours.

Jon Downing - RAG Chair 08 / 09.





## Comment, Opinion & Letters

Let us know your views: [comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

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



Just like the rest  
of us

Jovan Nedić  
Editor in Chief

For a while, I was struggling to find something to write about this week, and it was only after dinner at a friend's house that the inspiration came. Was it the Thai Chicken Green Curry that he had made for us? No, but that's not saying that it wasn't tasty, he had clearly spent a lot of time on it and it was time well spent. No, it wasn't the food that inspired me, it was the text message that he received at the end of dinner telling us that a certain royal was in the local pub.

Not wanting to miss out on an opportunity to see the royal, or just have a laugh at the girl who told us when we realised that she was wrong, we quickly got our coats and left. Once in the pub we found our friends and asked them where the royal was, only to have him walk right by us as we were asking. Having acknowledged that the royal was indeed in the pub, it seemed right to actually get a drink otherwise we would have just looked a bit odd standing there.

The first thing I noticed was how everyone else in the pub was just so relaxed and quiet, as if he wasn't there. Looking around though everyone was older and clearly polite because thinking about it, I'd be pretty annoyed if people kept coming up to me if I was trying to have a pint. And that was exactly what was happening, he was just another person in a pub, trying to have a quiet pint with some friends.

It was refreshing to see that all that wealth and privilege hadn't got to his head, and what was even more refreshing was to see that he was like others his age, he, my friends, was a lad! Not only

was he joining in with the boisterous singing and drinking pints whilst others in his party were drinking wine, he was also introducing drinking games to the rest of the table. To all the footballers out there, this one is for you, this royal family member was teaching everyone else on his table how to play matchbox! We couldn't believe it and to make things even better he failed to get the box over the pint and had to effectively down a pint.

The one person that we hadn't really noticed up to that point was the minder, who was just sitting there silently watching everything that was going on. It was only when the royal had to down a pint that the minder, who could have been his father looking at the fiery colour of his hair, took the pint away from him. As one of the people with me said, it is like being at The Union and the stewards ruining your fun. And then we thought for a second how protected his life is, to permanently have a minder watching you and making sure you don't do something stupid. So despite that on paper he seemed to be just like the rest of us, there were two big differences. Although wealthy, his life was a little bit sheltered, almost as if the minder was stopping him doing stupid things that we would normally do when drunk.

So the next time you're complaining about how the stewards at The Union keep ruining your fun, spare a thought for this royal who, it seems, wants to be like the rest of us but can't. Then again you could be his minder who has to watch you get drunk and look after you. I'm not sure what would be worse really!

## Dan Wan offers a note for those who are about to fail



"I was ready to drop out. I'd told my family and had started telling my friends. I just wasn't fitting in comfortably."

Do you remember when 'failing' meant getting B in school? I miss those times sincerely. But whining about the past isn't going to get me, you, or anyone anywhere. In education, the past always seems easier than anything you're doing currently. Every further rung on this well-trodden educational ladder has always been a larger leap up from the last.

The transition between school and University was the biggest in my life, made larger and harder as I foolishly thrust myself into the self-inflicted academic rape that is Imperial College. But, after a three week stint of twelve deadlines, three hours of sleep a night, early morning and late night library visits, I can truly say I've finally settled into the ethic of this university. Last year, if I was thrown into the same position, I would have broken down with stress, and cried pitifully down the phone to my parents that Imperial was "all too hard, I'm too thick, everybody's unbelievably keen and clever," and called quits on my time here at Keeno City. And I very nearly did.

Come the Easter holidays of Freshers' Year, I was a phone call away from calling Registry and asking them to start the procedure of removing my name from the registers. I had Student Loans and University-transfer logistics prepared. I was feeling utterly disillusioned with Imperial College and ready to turn my academically-lashed back on it. I never actually wanted to do Biology. Coming to think of it, I never actually wanted to do a science. I was just good at it at school. The presence of enjoyment due to ease was quickly washed away at Imperial when I realised I wasn't actually that good at

science; not compared to everyone else around me. I found everything ultra-competitive, both work-wise and socially. There was something I couldn't quite put my finger on, but I just wasn't fitting in comfortably.

There were plenty more reasons why I thought Imperial was simply not the place I wanted to spend a further two and a half years at. As I said, I was ready to withdraw from College. I'd told my family and had started telling my friends.

However, after several hours of a frustratingly slow understanding between my parents and I, it was agreed that I should finish off my first year at Imperial and 'assess the situation after that.' At the time, there was only ever going to be one thing I'd do come the end of that first year. No matter how well I did in the end of year exams, I would withdraw and hopefully take up a place to read English Literature at Manchester University.

However, here I still am; not battling the member-losing temperatures of the North, but the questionably tamer, if not still bloody cold, ones of London. So what exactly happened?

Things came together. I started to enjoy my course; and anyone that ever spoke to me in my first year knew how much of a hatred I had/have for my subject. Intense revision for summer exams batted away a lot of the confusion that fuelled the hatred I had for the course. I realised there was a lot more going for me. Imperial exam pressure brought out different sides to people. Bravados I'd loathed before were replaced by a whimpering fear of impending failure. People became more open and honest about their situation, which their bravado had simply not allowed them to be. Then you real-

ised the people who you thought were clever enough to pull through the exam period unscathed actually couldn't. They were in the same mess you were in: notes out of order, the inability to fit every necessary bit of the revision into their head, and the general and guilt of apathy that surrounds exams.

If you're finding yourself in the same or similar situation that I did last year, I'm not arrogant enough to think I can solve everything that's wrong with your situation by some definitive piece of advice in a *felix* article.

If you're in your first year, still not entirely sure what is expected of you at this College and generally finding times hard to roll with, rather than bailing out like I nearly did, stick it out. But don't stick it out because you have to. Grab the opportunity you've been given now. You're at one of the world's top universities (as you've been told a million times, but you really are), and even if Imperial isn't for you (because it certainly isn't for me), there's nothing out of your grasp that you can't make Imperial suit you that little bit better. Join some clubs and societies and get to meet new people, or actually speak to your next lab partner rather than regard him as 'that annoyingly clever shit you've been paired with'. Get your head down and blitz out some real work; you might start enjoying it. I'm not exactly thriving on my course currently; far from it. In truth, I'm averaging pretty poorly and the forecast is distinctively cloudy. But the important fact is that I'm doing much better than I expected, and at Imperial, you learn to 'up' your game when you need to. Imperial will teach you a lot without your even realising it. Skills such as time management, self motivation and hard graft will hold you in good stead for anything you do beyond the walls of South Kensington.

If, in the end, you still feel you need to withdraw from Imperial, at least you won't have left with a pathetic 'what could have been' angst-filled fist shake; the one you give as you glance at the semi-delight that is the Sherfield Building for the last time. Make your decision before this year's UCAS deadline. It made the prospect of leaving that much more unattainable for me. As stuffy a reputation as Imperial may have, and as stuffy as Imperial actually is, it is there for your taking. So, perk up and take it, before you regret missing out on this open opportunity of a whole new experience you never even realised was there.



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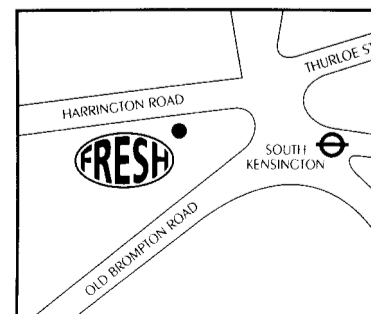
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# Waiting on the world to change



## Ammar Waraich

Now we see everything that's going wrong with the world and those who lead it. We just feel like we don't have the means to rise above and beat it...so we keep on waiting, waiting on the world to change

I think the most repulsive story of this Christmas holiday period, one that brought in the New Year for the unfortunate people affected, demonstrates these lyrics very clearly (John Mayer always hits the nail on the head!). I am of course referring to the ongoing vicious Israeli bombardment of the Gaza strip – a most heinous crime unfolding daily in front of our eyes that for leaders of the 'free' world is mere entertainment and a chance to look the part and talk the talk, while for those suffering the onslaught is injustice beyond what words can describe.

The poor people of Gaza have for years been evicted from their rightful homes, forced out as refugees and beggars, before being squeezed into the Gaza strip – a patch of land 360 square km in size but home to about 1.5 million, making it the world's most densely populated area. To this setup was added a surrounding wall that trapped the population inside, essentially making it the world's largest open air prison, and finally to really make the people of Gaza suffer, a blockade was imposed by Israel 18 months ago which prevented the basics of life from entering into Gaza such as food, medicine and energy.

And now we have a military campaign of aerial and naval bombardment, shelling and ground assaults against the starved, deprived and wronged residents of this misery, who have nothing but sticks and stones to defend themselves and nowhere to turn. Not even the media is being allowed to come to their rescue.

The Israelis and the USA would have us blame Hamas for the murder their own weapons are wreaking. This is certainly the one response every Israeli politician, spokesman or supporter spouts to pathetically try and clamber

**“The Israelis and the USA would have us blame Hamas for the murder their own weapons are wreaking”**

for the higher moral ground but I am sorry, that is just wretched.

No doubt the indiscriminate rocket attacks from Hamas' military wing, that mostly hit non-military targets when seldom they are successful, are evil and it is true that perhaps their original

premise for setting up the organisation was to oppose the state of Israel, which was created at the expense of the homeland of the Palestinians, but if we were to ignore the propaganda and view this situation from a neutral point of view then the blame definitely lies on the shoulders of Israel. Let me explain.

Firstly, Hamas has said clearly that it is willing to come to a compromise if Israel ceases all aggression, withdraws to 1967 borders, allows the Palestinian refugees a right to return, ends the blockade and releases the thousands of prisoners it holds without charge. It is Israel though that refused to deal with Hamas and chooses to ignore these reasonable demands, all the while continuing its illegal settlement building and illegal occupation. Moreover, Hamas was democratically elected in Gaza and despite gloating about democracy and the like, the US and Israel choose to leave Hamas out of 'peace talks' that they have amongst themselves while the EU stopped all aid to the desperate Palestinian refugees – all because the Palestinians used their vote.

Secondly, Zionist propaganda has made it popular in the media that Hamas broke the recent six month ceasefire to which Israel responded, when in fact it was Israel that broke it when they bombed and killed 6 Palestinians on the 4th of November as the world was busy with the American elections. Furthermore, Israel had never even fulfilled the conditions of the ceasefire in the first place which required it to lift its blockade into Gaza of food, medicine, water, energy and aid – the very basics of life.

So after wronging the Palestinians by caging them into the Gaza strip, starving them, reducing them to abject poverty and isolating them from the world, Israel then provoked them by breaking the ceasefire. So, can we really blame Hamas for responding then with indiscriminate rocket fire?

Thirdly, if the rockets are such a threat and living under their constant danger such a terror, why then does Israel not simply withdraw from the illegally occupied Palestinian territory where these rocket attacks land? Surely that would be a more just and sensible option to try in the first instance, before collectively punishing the poor populace of Gaza.

Given the above, and that the massacre has been going on for nearly a month, one would think that this would be injustice enough to punish the refu-

gees trapped in Gaza, but sadly it isn't. The attacks on the population of Gaza are being executed using the most indiscriminate of weapons despite Israeli half-truths claiming surgical precision, and even police, paramedics, doctors and journalists have been specifically targeted, including during the daily 3 hour complete cessation of fighting promised by the Israeli government. The UN Security Council resolution calling for a ceasefire is being ignored, while Israel continues bolstered by unwavering US support.

Hospitals, universities, schools and all manner of infrastructure have been destroyed under the false pretext of blaming Hamas for everything, while the blockade of the basics of life and much aid continues. Also, no international press is allowed in despite their vocal protests, and the information is controlled through propaganda and trained media responses from various spokesmen that continue to not accept any responsibility on Israel's part.

So now as we all sit at home, go to university and jobs; and as another day goes by, and hundreds more die or are orphaned, maimed and widowed in Gaza; how can the world ever come to terms with this? How can it ever wash the blood off its hands? In my opinion, this period in history shows the values we in the 'civilised and liberal' world so vigorously espouse and pride ourselves on so much to be nothing more than hollow words.

Freedom? What freedom!? The freedom to carry out crimes against

**“I do not now see how, following this barbarity, peace in the region can be worked towards”**

humanity, a genocide, and not be held accountable? The freedom to control information and restrict access? The freedom to ignore the UN yet hold other countries accountable to it when expedient?

Human Rights? What Human

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have been forbidden entry to places of worship by soldiers; need ID cards in order to travel to and from work; and generally helpless in controlling the educational future of their children and the global future of their people.

It is naive to think that Israeli military dominance will eradicate Hamas. Let us not forget that Hamas are the ruling party as a result of an election that has been observed by foreign moderators. This in itself is a barometer of how desperate the Palestinian people perceive their situation to be. These are a people who have seen the Israeli military blatantly and without regard to international law bulldoze their homes and olive groves and erect new settlements. The displaced migrate northwards into Gaza (making it, in effect, a large refugee camp of a million and a half with a government) without so much as a mention in the media or wince from

the international community. Likewise, it is ludicrous to say that Hamas have no hand in this dire state of affairs, willing to operate within and amongst their own population, making them in affect targets to military retaliation. Their relentless rocket-firing campaign from the Gaza strip on to Israeli civilians in settlements on the border not only kills, terrorises and maims innocent civilians, it's an act as irresponsible as pelting a couple of hungry tigers that are sleeping feet away from your children. They are certainly not a way forward for peace and prosperity in the Middle East for they share the same extreme views of Nasser, refusing even to acknowledge Israel's right to exist.

However, military action does nothing but justify Hamas' presence and its extreme violent agenda. As a spokesman for Hamas said: "Israel has just-



## Gilead Amit

For the past twenty days the population of Gaza has had to face severe aerial bombardment and a deadly ground offensive from the Israeli military. For the past eight years the inhabitants of Southern Israel have had to endure a constant stream of rockets fired indiscriminately at civilian targets. For the past sixty years the Palestinians have been mourning what they consider the greatest catastrophe in their recent history, the displacement of thousands following the Israeli declaration of independence, and for almost a century Jews around the world have accepted the declared intent of the great powers to create a homeland for them in historic Palestine.

Under the suffocating weight of all this historical baggage, with a never-ending stream of wars, acts of terrorism, deaths and UN resolutions thrown in for good measure, it is very tempting to draw a line under the past and insist we focus on the present. 'Who cares about history? People are dying as we speak and the death toll is growing daily. Let's deal with that, rather than rehash old issues!'

If only life were that simple. There are no 'old' issues and the uncomfortable truth is that moral decisions cannot be made in a vacuum. A legitimate analysis of any event must, above all else, be based on context. People are suffering in Gaza – there is no question of that. The Palestinians living in that 'densest strip of land on Earth' have endured appalling conditions for decades, and their situation has deteriorated beyond measure since Operation Cast Lead began. It is impossible

to look at the pictures of death and destruction and not be moved to tears, but if our arguments are to be taken seriously we cannot let our judgements be clouded by our emotions. The tragic state of affairs in Gaza should automatically and unconditionally inspire in all of us a profound sorrow and a desire to alleviate the misery. We should not, however, let ourselves feel misguided, knee-jerk fury at Israel and unthinkingly whitewash the actions of Hamas. When a child is dead it is only natural to curse the hand that dropped the bomb, but the guilt often lies elsewhere. And while no Hamas operatives were flying bombers over Gaza, indirect culpability is no less damning. It takes time and effort to establish context, but any conclusion reached before having done so, to speak frankly, entirely worthless.

**“military action does nothing but justify Hamas' presence and its extreme violent agenda.”**

Hospitals when they bombed our schools and our hospitals"

In conclusion, it's like punching a

kid from across the street and hiding in your mate's house. The punched kid happens to be part of a rather extensive and aggressive family that does not observe the law that then proceed to fire-bomb your mate's house with no regard to whom or what they injure... as long as they get you in the end. Both parties are in the wrong for different reasons but those that suffer the most have no hand in the violent disregard for human life.

Israel will achieve a lot more for now and future generations if they try to make Hamas obsolete by not making the Palestinian's situation so dire. Maybe by aiding them to form their own state and set up secular institutions for education to improve understanding, job prospects, and public services.

And, if Israel insists on eliminating those that "Threaten the freedom of the State and the People of Israel" then

protect themselves and blaming Israel for any deaths that ensue. The constant, heart-wrenching stream of images that comes out of Gaza is an indication of the extent to which Hamas have mastered what Alan Dershowitz calls the 'CNN strategy'. A calculating and exploitative use of the suffering of their own people, Hamas uses deaths it has direct responsibility for to paint an image of Israeli barbarism in blood. When playing such a brutal, cynical and manipulative opponent, there is no way the numbers game can yield a fair result.

Secondly, the response from Israel is not in proportion or in response to any isolated event or events. The response is to a threat posed by a dangerous and extremist terror organization whose stated aim and key political message is the destruction of Israel. There is a widespread belief that the fact that Hamas was democratically elected means that any criticism of their motives amounts to a hypocritical attack on democracy. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Mussolini was elected

to look at the pictures of death and destruction and not be moved to tears, but if our arguments are to be taken seriously we cannot let our judgements be clouded by our emotions. The tragic state of affairs in Gaza should automatically and unconditionally inspire in all of us a profound sorrow and a desire to alleviate the misery. We should not, however, let ourselves feel misguided, knee-jerk fury at Israel and unthinkingly whitewash the actions of Hamas. When a child is dead it is only natural to curse the hand that dropped the bomb, but the guilt often lies elsewhere. And while no Hamas operatives were flying bombers over Gaza, indirect culpability is no less damning. It takes time and effort to establish context, but any conclusion reached before having done so, to speak frankly, entirely worthless.

All right, but even when considering the context, how can one possibly put the blame for the Gaza operation on anyone other than Israel? Almost 1,000 Palestinians have been killed by the IDF whereas only 8 Israelis have died as a result of Qassam rockets in the past year. When phrased in this manner the conclusion seems inevitable, but there are three important points to bear in mind.

Firstly, we cannot let ourselves be goaded into playing the numbers game. Not only because numbers are in and of themselves irrelevant (in the Second World War, the casualties suffered by the United Kingdom amounted to less than 8% of the total number of German dead – greater loss should not be taken as an indication of the greater right), but also because the rules of this game are horrendously skewed.

democratically and Hitler came to power in a Germany that still used a system of proportional representation. The democratic victory Hamas enjoyed is an indication solely of the popularity of their message – not its legitimacy. Thirdly, there is no need to embark on grisly rhetoric to reiterate that war is a ghastly, brutal, ugly thing. People die. Among them civilians. But that's

maybe adopt a more clandestine approach to erasing those that displease them. Although the CIA get accused and criticised for such actions, at least they do not obliterate UN run schools, Hospitals, women, children or three whole generations of the same family and call it collateral damage.

The saddest thing in all this is that the majority of the civilian population in Israel and the Palestinian territories by and large do not care about who is Jewish, Muslim or Christian, who is Arab and who is Jewish; yet these are the people who get murdered and maimed due to the draconian and uncompromising views of extremist rulers on both sides.

To borrow the words of Mahmoud Mohammed Taha who was integral in the struggle for Sudanese independence: "these are nations of giants, ruled by dwarves"

**“It is much more easy to have sympathy with suffering than sympathy with thought”** - Oscar Wilde

what war is like – NATO's actions regrettably killed civilians during the conflicts in the Balkans and Afghanistan, civilians have again and again proved the victims of the Sri Lankans' campaigns against the Tamil Tigers, and the bombing of Dresden and Cologne by the Allies during WWII resulted in severe non-combatant casualties. And while it would be absurd to claim that 'because other countries can kill civilians, Israel is entitled to', it is equally preposterous to hold Israel up to a standard that no other country in any other conflict has ever had or even been expected to reach. Israel *should* be held up to a high standard (and indeed the democratic, liberal society that exists in Israel ensures that the country holds itself up to a higher standard), but that does not equate to exposing it to grotesquely unfair criticism. The IDF have gone to greater lengths and suffered greater losses in their attempts to minimise civilian casualties on both sides than virtually any other military force, as the Israeli Supreme Court's jurisdiction over the military has enforced higher levels of accountability.

Over the past three weeks, much has been said of the obligations of 'Israel and Hamas', or calls on 'both sides' to put an end to the violence. And while attacks in both directions need to stop for progress to be achieved, it is morally absurd to claim any sort of equivalence between the actions or intentions of the IDF and Hamas. Hamas is a terrorist organization that leads its own people to believe that waging war against Israel is the best way to secure a future. Not only is this logic hopelessly misguided, it implies a staggering blindness to political realities. Israel's existence is no longer under question, and the presence of a strong Jewish state in the region needs to be accepted, not fought at the expense of the Palestinian people.

What we are seeing in Gaza are the tragic consequences of a democratic state exercising its inalienable right to self-defence against a fundamentalist, violent entity more concerned with eliminating its enemy than preserving its own people. The moment Hamas starts to treat the lives of Palestinians as more valuable than the deaths of Israelis, lasting peace will be a stone's throw away.

# Amin Elmubarak's analysis of Gaza and Israel



As the New Year greeted Londoners with a chilling breeze and the resonating sound of the bell of Big Ben the people of Gaza ushered in 2009 with a 6th day of air strikes from Israel's finest aviators.

Israel's foreign minister Tzipi Livni has been taking the same stance as another politician from across the pond that is just stepping down from White House with statements like:

"We are all part of the same coalition against terror"

"We are here to stop terror and violence"

"This is a war on terror" George Bush's opinion on the matter

when asked earlier this week was a predictably pro-Israeli response: "Instead of caring about the people of Gaza, Hamas has decided to use Gaza to launch rockets against innocent Israelis"

You'd be forgiven for thinking that maybe a new president would bring in a new view on the matter but Obama during his campaign had a few things to say regarding Hamas, in that they will not be regarded as a political entity of worth unless they: Renounce terrorism, recognise Israel's right to exist and abide by past agreements"

So what is the direct cause of this atrocity? It's easy to think that it is classic Israeli heavy-handedness but it seems that the initial aggression seems

to have come from Hamas.

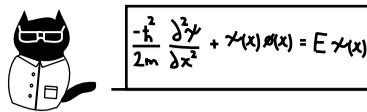
Most Palestinians are striving and hoping for the kind of settlement that was offered in 1965: Where the land that is now Israel, the Gaza strip and the west bank were divided in half. One for Palestinians and one for Israelis and Jerusalem was included in the Palestinian territory. Sounds good right? But the leaders of the neighbouring Arab world such as Egypt's Jamal Abdul-Nasser decided to retort with such rhetoric as:

"We shall not enter Palestine with its soil covered in sand. We shall enter it with its soil saturated in blood."

And "... the full restoration of the rights of the Palestinian people. In oth-

er words, we aim at the destruction of the State of Israel. The immediate aim: perfection of Arab military might. The national aim: the eradication of Israel."

The 6-day war that ensued saw the cementation and expansion of the Israeli State to an area even greater than the one we see today as some land was returned due to peace treaties struck up at later dates with countries such as Egypt and Lebanon. Another result of this History defining war is that it has created an Israel that feels justifiably paranoid and fearful of its neighbors and a Palestinian people that feel that they are now the victims of an Arab holocaust, where they have no internationally recognized state; can be and



# Odoriferous ads

Mico Tatalović  
Science Editor

This holiday season, shoppers in Japan had an added dimension tempting them to spend money: the world's first digital scent advertising. Internet protocol company NTT Communications (NTT Com) made their "aroma-emitting digital signage" service available to businesses around Japan from last September. The service provides businesses with the possibility of enhancing their adverts with custom-made scents relevant to the advertised products. NTT Com's tests show that consumers were more likely to visit a shop when scent adverts were in use. Yasuko Oka from NTT Com says the scent-enhanced advertising was "more effective compared [to non-scent advertising]: people noticed the ad more and were more interested in the products in the ads. In addition, aroma emitting digital signage makes audiences remember the products more strongly than ads without aroma."



**A vanilla scent is released from a device below the LCD advert to promote ice-cream consumption in a mall in Japan.**

Examples of companies using this service include Shiseido testing a rose smell for use in ads for rose perfume, a spa using a vanilla smell to sell ice cream, and even parking lots using aromatic ads to wake drivers up.

Ads are used "in company lobbies, at supermarkets to attract customers to buy food, in public places to get attention and in hotels to make the place richer and improve the atmosphere" says Oka. Scents cover an area of up to 500 cubic metres. When asked whether there are any plans for providing the service to companies outside Japan, Oka says "We have many requests but now we are trying to do business in Japan only. We are thinking of providing scented ads in other countries in the future."

Would such a service ever take off

in the US and Europe? Joseph Kaye, a researcher from Cornell whose work includes applications of digital scents, says there is hope for this interesting technology closer to home as well. "I think people are often sceptical of such approaches, and Japan is definitely more open to perhaps more explicit uses of computerised scent output than either the US or the UK – but in both those markets there is an enormous use of fragrances in other consumer products... every time you use soap, shampoo, washing powder, eat nearly all processed foods, smoke a cigarette or drink flavoured coffees, someone has thought about the way that object should smell and designed it to smell in a particular way.

Clearly many people think that having things smell a certain way is important and so it seems likely that we will move towards interactive scents."

# The *eco-science* column Iron dumped in ocean to cool Earth?

Olivia Sharp  
Science Reporter

A ship loaded with iron set sail last week to test the viability of ocean fertilisation as a measure against climate change. Heading for the Scotia Sea close to Antarctica, the iron will be dumped over an area of 300 sq km to create a bloom of plankton, in turn absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Phyto-plankton, or algae, are given a growth spurt when fertilised with iron. The intended algae bloom would be big enough to see from space, and would photosynthesise carbon dioxide from the surrounding air. The bloom should then sink, permanently locking the greenhouse gas on the ocean floor. Scientists hope this technique will be useful in the fight to reduce greenhouse gases.

The mission, led by a team of German scientists from the Alfred Wegener Institute, has come under fire from campaign groups including the ETC. They argue a convention laid down in 2008 by the UN and the International Maritime Organisation has been breached and worry that effects on surrounding marine life and ecosystems are unknown.

The convention was written after a commercial enterprise named Planktos threatened to dump iron filings off the coast of the Galapagos Islands. The company intended to sell carbon credits to companies who would pay them to reduce their carbon footprint. However the consequences were unknown and the amount of carbon dioxide directly removed from the atmosphere would be hard to estimate.

The current mission insists it has



**The plankton bloom will cover an area of 300 square km.**

scientific backing from UK, German and Indian governments, who all supported the UN convention. They argue the experiment is too small to greatly affect biodiversity in the ocean and is not for commercial gain. They also hope to boost the population of krill, which feed on plankton. In turn, this would provide nourishment for dwindling fish populations.

This ocean fertilisation experiment

is one of a growing number of geo-engineering solutions to climate change. A spokesperson from environmental group Friends of the Earth agreed science and technology can help in tackling climate change but the priority should be reducing emissions. They urge that 'tech-fixes' should be carefully investigated to assess their impact on the environment before becoming widespread.



# Why so much conflict?

James Goldsack  
Politics Editor

Welcome to 2009. Happy New Year. I hope you had a better holiday than the Israelis and Palestinians. Good luck to all who have exams and for God's sake do better than me. So, Gaza. What a pickle. When will this stop? How many people have to die before both sides put down their weapons and stop hating each other?

During all this there has been very little support for our big-nosed friends. There are many, many idiotic jerks who are claiming support for Palestine because it is "subversive", "cool" or "rebellious". Go to hell.

If I were to parade in the streets holding my own 24-hour vigil in support of Israel defending itself from a country intent on indiscriminate death and destruction I would probably have rather a lot of obscenities yelled at me. All these people who support the Palestinians obviously do not understand the situation.

Hamas were elected as representatives of the people of the Palestinian National Authority. Despite doing great things for the people in some areas – building schools, hospitals etc – they have been firing rockets into Israel, killing civilians and disrupting ordinary people's lives. When the Palestinian people voted for Hamas, a paramilitary organisation, they knew that attacks on Israel were possible if not likely. Hamas' rockets were sanctioned by the people.

However, Israel have been targeting military compounds and strongholds. They must be able to defend them-

selves, especially given their fragile position; the other neighbouring countries have hardly been best friends with Israel through the years.

I am not a blood-thirsty, war-mongering twat, though many of you will probably now believe that I am. In my defense, I believe that neither side should be fighting and that a ceasefire must be established to stop the deaths of Israeli and Palestinian civilians and soldiers.

The fighting has gone on long enough and the Palestinians and their supporters must accept blame in this conflict, put their hands up and admit wrong-doing. And so must Israel and any member of the international community who has had a hand in the continuation of the conflict in the area.

Diplomatic efforts must be resumed to ensure there is peace and everyone can live together without the fear of death hanging over every day of their lives. This applies to both sides.

It was encouraging to read that David Milliband has declared that the "war on terror" was a "mistake" and that it has just made our position worse by unifying the terrorists against the west. One has to wonder whether it was President Bush's plan so that the military business in the USA could continue to be strong or whether it was his stupidity and lack of foresight. With his poodle Tony Blair trotting by his side, he managed to worsen a situation to the point of our own human rights being taken away from us both here and especially in the US. I cannot wait for Obama to be sworn in so we can rid ourselves once and for all of the Bush years.

# The art of controversy...

Katya-yani Vyas  
Politics Editor

Amidst the myriad of news stories this week, the great majority of them have been dedicated to the ongoing conflict in Gaza. It would be unfair, I feel, to force-feed you yet another one, perhaps a small break is needed from the controversy and debate that the situation is steeped in.

However we shall stay on the theme of controversy, and turn our attentions to Brussels and the recent hoax artwork put on display in the Council Building.

The Czech government has been forced to apologise to some members of the EU having commissioned some artwork that humorously lampoons some, occasionally rather sensitive, national stereotypes. The whole debacle stemmed from the tradition that the EU presidency offers artwork for display in Brussels.

The current presidency invited an artist from each member state to render something they thought was an archetypal quality of their nation, with the notion of breaking down prejudicial barriers.

The Czech Republic was under the

impression that it had commissioned work from 27 European artists for the Entropa display, which was installed at the weekend to mark the start of its six-month presidency.

In reality the mosaic was designed and put together by David Cerny, a Czech artist, and two associates. Cerny admits that he misled officials over the project and has commented that he simply wanted to observe the reaction of Europe to the piece, to discover whether Europe is able to laugh at itself. He pointed out that the display was carried out under the assumption that Europe's supposed ability to embrace satire was prevalent.

Apparently this is not the case in some countries. The Czech presidency has apologised to Bulgaria over the 'highly offensive' portrayal of the country as a toilet.

Amongst the plethora of depictions, Italy is a giant football pitch, France is suspended in a perpetual strike, Germany manifests itself as a number of autobahns, the Polish are portrayed as a group of priests heaving at a gay pride flag. The UK is absent from the display, no doubt a swipe at our euro-sceptic nature. Will Europe be able to embrace the humour? I do hope so.

# Violence cannot be justified

Obadah Ghannam

"42 killed after Israeli shell hits UN school in Gaza". "12 members of family killed in Gaza City air strike". "Death toll passed 535". These are just a few of the headlines I read on the 6th of January 2009, 17:24 GMT.

Living on this earth seems to be getting more difficult by the day. Disregarding worldwide poverty, catastrophic diseases, or even the slow environmental meltdown, more topical than anything else today is the scene of violence and terror. From the lands of Rwanda to those of Palestine, wherever we look, blood seems to be on the horizon.

In this article, I want to ask you one simple question: since when have we been able to justify the indiscriminate use of violence in order to neutralise our heartfelt grievances? The answer to that, in theory, is simple: never.

When the attacks of 9/11 happened in Britain, I remember feeling confused. Apart from the sheer number of people involved, and the timing of the attacks (during the Gleneagles G8 summit), I found it difficult to rationalise the use of violence against innocent people who had nothing to do with the stated problems. Disregarding the bombers' goals, I found it hard to see how people could accept the killing of innocent people. Innocent people had nothing to do with it. Their role in whatever it was these people had in mind, was nonexistent! It was reassuring to see that the majority of the Muslim community felt the same way, being vocal in their outright condemnation.

Almost four years later however, I ask the same questions – why are so many people dying needlessly; people caught up in Gaza, who have no influence on Hamas and can neither direct it, nor leave it?

I asked my friend not too long ago about the most difficult feeling he would have to face in his life. Just as I thought he would, he said it was the moment he would have to face the loss of his mother: the one person he could always rely on, no matter what; the person who brought him up, cared for him, loved him. In Gaza, this is a reality people are having to face every day. And in some cases it is worse. One man had lost all his family: his wife and 3 children. He was shown in a news report to be giving his youngest child the last kiss he would ever give him. Imag-



**Israeli tanks preparing for an increase in hostilities with Palestine**

ine that was you; losing your brothers, sisters, parents and children. Words could not describe your feelings.

Unfortunately, this is what is happening in Gaza now.

I ask: how can the world accept a justification for the killing of innocent people by Israel? Killing any innocent person is wrong, no matter who does it and who is killed. The perpetrator must be condemned. Why condemned? Because they need to be told that they are wrong. When George Bush stands up and mentions no faults in Israel in this conflict, it makes me think what this world has got to. The most powerful leader on Earth is failing to criticize the killing of innocent people.

So what about the future? What messages does this send out to the world and its youth?

Quite simply, it is this: because Israel is allowed to get away with the killing of innocent people, the general principle of killing innocent people can be accepted so long as the right grievances are cited. So long as you can justify yourself, be that the protection of your family or the protection of your people, you can kill innocent people.

The Muslim community has seen

many acts of indiscriminate violence committed in its name, and every time, it has been straight in its condemnation of such acts: 'Indian Muslims condemn terrorism'; 'Islam expressly condemns the use of violence against civilians and innocents'. There are many more examples of these.

With the developments going on in Israel, the only statement we hear on a daily basis is that of the world condemning the killing of innocent Israelis by Hamas, and its firing of its rockets.

I want to know why aren't the Jews condemning the killing of innocent Palestinians by the Israelis? It is being done in their name. Muslims have condemned the killing of innocent civilians, the world over. With the same breath, the Jews should be doing the same – not because the Muslims are doing it, but because it's wrong to kill innocent people.

I leave you with one final thought. The people of the world are speaking out. It is taking a long time, but it is coming. More and more pressure has to be put up against the idea of killing innocent people. It is wrong, regardless of who does it, why it is done, and who it is done against.



**A scene in Palestine portraying the destruction caused by Israel's retaliatory bombings,**

# Student science media digest

## Kidneys wanted



Kidney Research UK reports a 5% yearly increase in chronic kidney disease whilst the number of Americans being treated

for kidney failure more than doubled over the last two decades. Demand for kidneys is growing faster than supply and this creates waiting lists of several years for kidney transplants, even in the most developed countries. Perhaps the best way to solve the problem is to accept organ donations as usual and not unusual events and to set up an opt-out system of organ donations.

Source: BlueSci, Issue 13, University of Cambridge  
www.bluesci.org

## Focus on stem cells



Discovery of new controversial (at least in the media) stem cells goes back to 1800s. The vast amount of current research on stem cells aims to develop potential treatments for various diseases.

One of the potential applications is to develop an alternative to organ transplants. Recent discoveries at the University of Edinburgh allowed the production of liver cells-hepatocytes from undifferentiated stem cells. Further research might help develop regeneration treatments for damaged livers and other organs. Recent advances and the need for new policies on the use of stem cells in research have created an overload of contradicting reports in the media. This raises the need for direct communication between the public and stem cell researchers.

Source: EUSci, Issue 1, University of Edinburgh  
www.eusci.org

# Something to smile about...

The piglet squid, or *Helicocranchia pfefferi*, produces light behind each large eye



**This orange-sized piglet squid was caught by the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium from a depth of over 100m. The squid is completely clear apart from some pigment which gives it distinctive markings and so always appears to smile.**



Here's to another great year for the arts

Caz Knight  
Arts Editor

Welcome to 2009's first issue of *felix* and *felix* arts. I am hoping the majority had time to relax and leave studying a far distant memory of the term before. I certainly fell into this category and resolved to do absolutely nothing, not even write – one of my favourite things.

Instead, my cultural experience over the holidays took a lazy approach, one experienced mainly from the comfort of a chair. I received several beautiful, heavy books on H.R.Giger's art and the autobiography of illustrator Alan Aldridge (an exhibition of his is currently in its last weeks at the Design Museum) 'The Man with the Kaleidoscope Eyes'. It is easy to label both men with the title 'genius'. I dipped into Aldridge's book when I needed a trip through twisted, multicoloured lands that belong in your childhood dreams and into Giger's when I felt like a twisted, dark preview of what the future might look like. Out there is something for every day, every mood and every whim, why I love art so much and revel in exploring it.

Rewind 600 years to Renaissance portraiture and I find myself off the couch and in the National Gallery being educated by my lovely friend and *felix* contributor Rosie Milton about the differences between the Italian and Dutch portraits. Also soon to end, the

exhibition is nothing short of fulfilling and just about the right size.

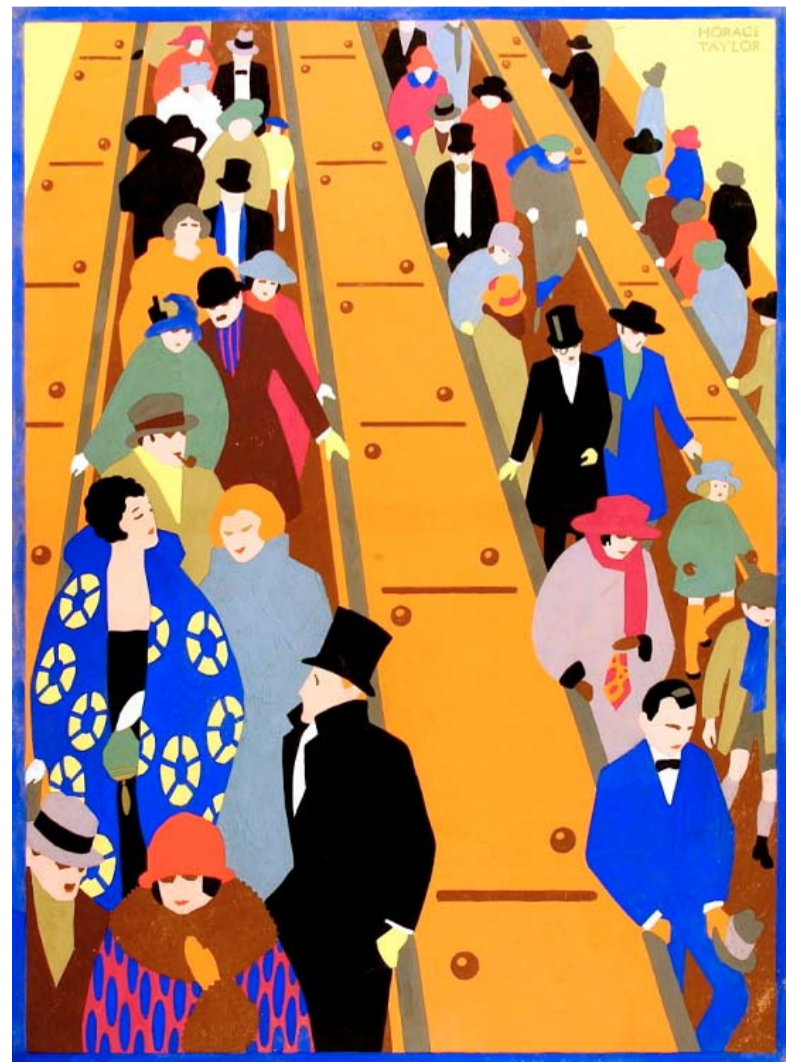
Not strictly covered in this section, but 'Waltz with Bashir' deserves a mention just for its graphics and some of its brilliantly choreographed sequences which would definitely put it into the category of art despite being a documentary.

I can be sure that a good number of you will have attended some form of event during the holidays and we are dying to hear about it, get it written now before the work piles up!

Last term the arts editors were all delighted as the articles kept on coming thick and strong throughout the whole term from a large range of writers, many new to Imperial which gave the section a fresh new perspective.

The opportunity to review exhibitions, galleries, theatre, opera, concerts and more (free of charge, of course, just enquire within) will still be available and we will be overjoyed and very impressed if you manage to take some time off throughout this hectic term. We arts editors are but months away from our finals and for this reason there may be a drop in the weekly number of pages and occasionally this section may only appear fortnightly. Help us keep arts *felix* alive, email us with your glorious words!

arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## The Art of the Poster

Emily Wilson is left underwhelmed by *The Art of the Poster* at the British Transport Museum

Testament to the power of posters on the Underground is the fact that I went to this exhibition of posters on the Underground having seen a poster about it on the Underground. As Imperial students, living in London, many of us see the posters featured in the exhibition every day, most likely without ever thinking about who designed them, how they were designed and what messages they're trying to put across.

'The Art of the Poster' is on at the London Transport Museum, which is handily located at Covent Garden. Getting into the museum costs £5 if you're a student and you decline to participate in all that Gift Aid nonsense, and then the exhibition itself is free. It's disappointing that the London Transport Museum still charges for entry. For that reason, I think I will be one of very few people who will visit just for this small exhibition.

I hadn't been to the museum since I was very young, back before its big revamp. It's an eye-paining adventure in touch screens and Mayor of London propaganda, but still accompanied by old buses being ridden by 70s style plastic dummies and loud small children. The museum's visitors are almost entirely families with children and elderly train-spotting types. I don't think I would ever recommend it to us trendy students as a fun day out. The museum doesn't strike me as very popular

at the moment – I went on a Sunday afternoon, when the Science Museum would be heaving, and it was worryingly empty.

The exhibition is a chronological display of art commissioned to appear on London transport posters. It ranges from a traditionally advertisement 'No need to ask a p'liceman! Underground to anywhere. Quickest way, cheapest fare', 1908, to a more conceptual 'Visit Leytonstonia' of 2008. Anybody interested in design will find this exhibition worthwhile. It's fascinating to see how artists are commissioned, how their sketches develop and how the rough and ready originals are turned in to crisp, glossy posters. There's enough on printing techniques to entertain the art buffs, but still a few interactive touchscreens to keep young visitors quiet.

A highlight is the chance to see the posters that didn't make it on to the train platforms. Well-known artist John Nash was commissioned in 1950, but produced a dreary brown scene of the Chilterns that I would readily have ditched too. Also lost were posters that clashed with the two World Wars, and a bewildering image of some guns intended for the Lord Mayor's Show that was deemed unsuitable.

What strikes me the most is the lack of change across 100 years of posters. Sure, you can pick out key artistic trends as you wander along the chronology. But so much of the

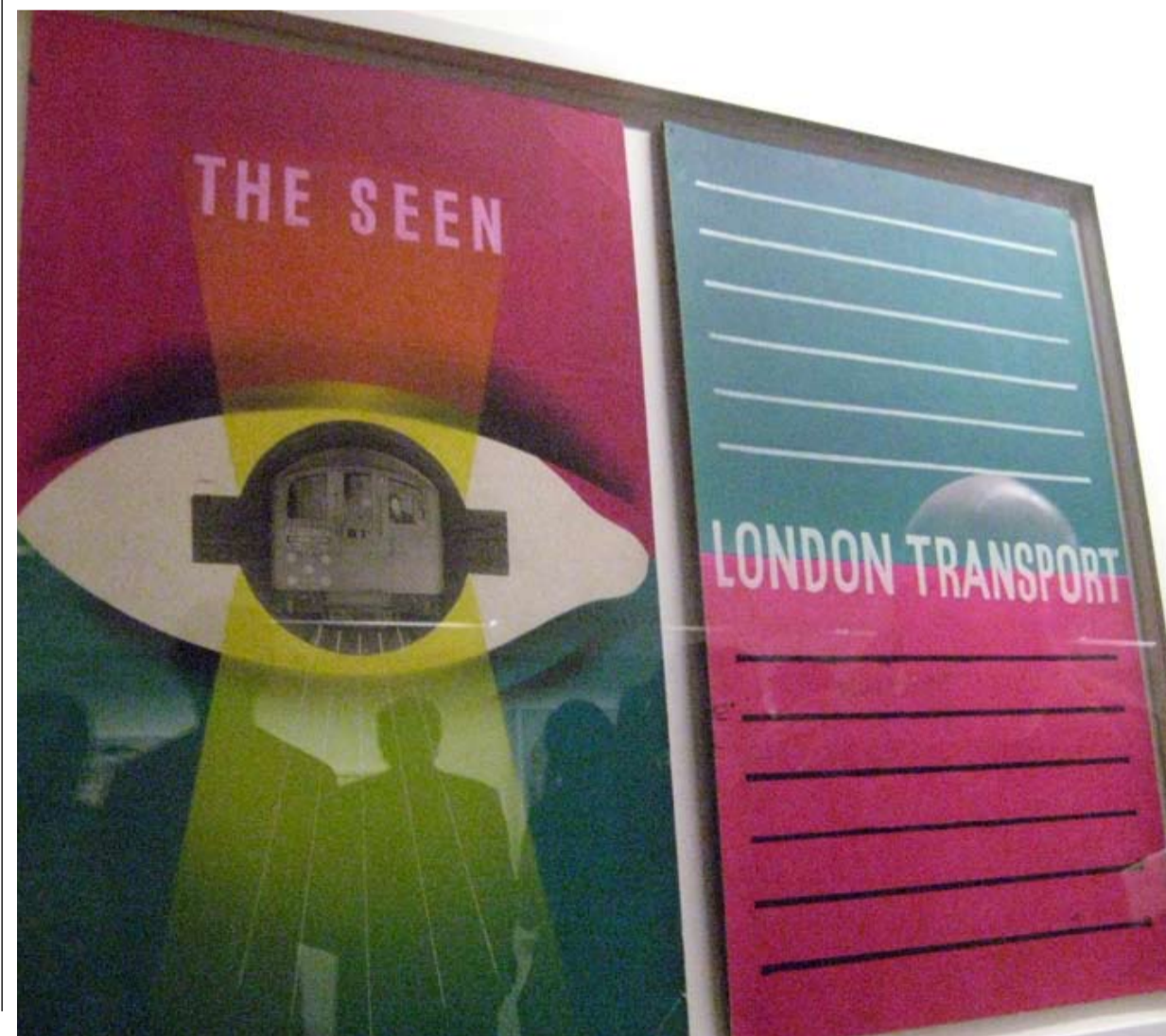
modern stuff emulates older styles to the point where you can't place them in time. Compare 'Primrose Hill' by Paul Catherall (2007) and 'Pinner' by Nancy Smith (1916) – they are almost identical. The same trends are present throughout the exhibit: bold, garish colours, crisp lines and that classic London Underground typography. Some of the paintings are beautiful and deserve to be in an art gallery in their own right. However, I get the feeling there are some classics missing.

There was nothing here I recognised from art galleries or the walls of my nearest tube station. When I walk round the gift shop they have dozens of postcards of Art on the Underground, none of which was in the exhibition. Where is it all?

My overall point about the exhibition is that it's very pleasant but you probably shouldn't fork out a fiver just to come and see it. It's a single room tacked on at the end of the long museum route, and unless you're visiting the main museum as well there's not much point in making the journey.

The subject of posters on the underground, something that could have been amazing, could have been extended into something bigger and better. I felt a little let down. To add insult to injury, a leaflet in the exhibition informed me "our world-famous poster collection is now online."

I suggest you save the money and visit [www.ltmuseum.co.uk](http://www.ltmuseum.co.uk)



One of the many posters that left Emily Wilson underwhelmed

## Welcome to the Wonderland

There's far more to Russia than oligarchs and oil. Caz Knight drowns in a sea of opulence at the V&A

The Magnificence of the Tsars presents a small but exquisite exhibition of the regal ceremonial men's dress of the Russian Imperial Court, 1721-1917. These clothes would have been especially fitting for display of the royals to their dotting and awed subjects, for 'magnificence' and 'splendour' are certainly words to describe the ornament and impact of these special garments. From ermine and glittering silver brocade to delicate silks, linens and wools, 'Magnificence of the Tsars' provides you with a rich taster of the royal feast that was the wardrobe of the Russian rulers.

On the day of the opening of the exhibition, we were introduced to the royal garb by Svetlana Amelekhina of the Moscow Kremlin Museums, who spoke elegantly and proudly about this exclusive regal display from her home country. Judging by Amelekhina's contributions to literature on the subject of Russian costume and her having curated numerous other displays, this exhibition represents a chance for her to share with us the treasures of Russia that she has brought back to life through their display at the V&A.

The initial point, pressed upon us was the "rarity" of such an exhibition. Amelekhina explained to us that some

of these garments, such as a mourning robe of Peter II, had not yet been displayed publicly in Russia and that put us in a privileged position as viewers.

Russia had no great connections with the rest of Europe until Peter I ('the Great') explored it, with a 250-strong entourage. Inspired by the elegant costumes of the courts he had visited, he decided to throw out all the traditional Russian dress and assume the courtly fashion of western Europe. The tailors and textile-makers had not yet learnt the expertise necessary to provide their Emperor with his 'new clothes' and so much of the royal wardrobe was made in France.

One or two romantic stories transpired from the exhibition, as objects steeped in history frequently offer. "Exposed for the first time" is a set of coachmen's coats, rescued from the siege of the Winter palace and stored away until now. The final costume on display was that of Nicholas II from the Russian Ball at the Winter Palace in 1903, to celebrate the reign of Alexei I. The Tsaritsa Alexandra wanted to organise an old-fashioned ball, with guests donning 17th-century attire. For this, the last grand ball of imperial Russia she had all the family jewels sewn onto the costumes, which must have provided a breath-taking display

Open until March 29  
[www.vam.ac.uk](http://www.vam.ac.uk)



Coronation herald's tabard



Top: The Winter Palace in St. Petersburg. Bottom: Coronation mantle of Empress Maria Fedorovna

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## Here come the boys!

You girls have been asking for some, so *felix* is here to provide and what better way to introduce the male entries to the centrefold than with *felix's* very own Puzzles Editor and Sports Editor. Ladies, I give to you **Chaz Murdoch** and **Jack Cornish**!

Think you can do better? Then send us an email:  
[felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)







# Music

Music Editors – Peter Sinclair, Susan Yu & James Houghton

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk



### Click here for free, legal music

Peter Sinclair Music Editor

“I remember back when I was young, we used to download music for free without a care in the world.” I hold a match to my pipe and take a puff, then two, and gaze wistfully out of the window “It was like the Wild West and we were the internet cowboys. We obeyed no-one, coralling MP3s with our lasso clicks. I’ve got to say, I was quite the virile downloader in my youth... yes sirree.” My voice trails off as I nod my head to a half-forgotten, grainy 128 kbit/s beat. My grandchildren sit at the foot of my rocking chair, incredulous.

Even now, less than a decade into the Napster-induced revolution in the music industry, it seems like nothing but a beautiful dream that one could, once upon a time, download music for free and not care about the implications – it never felt illegal. Contrary to the extreme and often absurd position of bodies such as the RIAA, downloading a song is clearly not the same as stealing a CD from a shop, and no amount of copied musical kilobytes can justify filing multi-million dollar lawsuits against individuals. If it did anything, this massive and public overreaction merely stalled the inevitable realisation that actually, a grand’s worth of MP3s don’t come for free. Eventually the guilt catches up with you, like the creeping sickness of a Sartrean nausea.

However, the problems that the internet can create with its right hand it can destroy with its left; a new generation of websites and programs are starting to break into the mainstream which allow users to stream music online legally and effectively for free. I say effectively because the services are often paid for by advertising, but it is a small price to pay – the artists get their

credit, the users balance their karma, and everyone’s a winner. What’s more, these services often utilise the community and connectivity of the internet to introduce new elements into the listening experience.

A great example of this is a program called Spotify (available from <http://www.spotify.com>), which allows users to stream songs at the price of an advertisement every 10 songs or so. The Spotify database is pretty huge but not totally comprehensive, though personally I think this works to its advantage. I’ve discovered dozens of odd remixes and collaborations which I wouldn’t have given a chance to before.

Another quirky little development is the phenomenon of internet mixes. Podcasts and the like have been available from big name DJs and various people for years, but websites such as 8tracks (<http://www.8tracks.com>) and various others allow users to create their own mini-playlists and share them online with friends and well-wishers at the click of a link. In fact, we at music.felix have embraced this wholeheartedly and made one ourselves! You can listen to ours at <http://www.8tracks.com/musicfelix> - we will be updating this every week or so, so be sure to check back regularly. This week we’ve got a ‘Music of 2009’ theme to go with Alexandra Ashford’s lovely article to the right of this column.

The sun is setting on the Wild West days of an uncharted internet. In addition to being legally unacceptable, it’s now becoming socially unacceptable to download music for free. Nonetheless, the original ideal on which P2P downloading was founded, that of the need to share great music with friends, is alive in the new, more conscious generation of music sharing applications.

## Alabama 3 live at the Apollo

Duncan Casey

Local heroes from Brixton’s old acid house scene, the Alabama 3, have been purveying a unique brand of pseudo-gospel electronica for the last ten years, despite being almost totally ignored by the mainstream music industry. Still, they sold out the Apollo, albeit to a crowd who were mostly the wrong side of middle-age – perhaps trying to recapture some lost youth. After one of the worst warm-up acts I’ve seen for a while (fronted by a girl who seemed to be in the unusual situation of singing in a band while waiting for her big shot in a strip club, rather than the other way round), the ringmaster came out to introduce the main event...

The Alabama 3 have always blown hot and cold at their live shows. Sometimes, as at Glastonbury last year, they can be sublime and blew the likes of the Fun Lovin’ Criminals right off the stage. This time however, they were rubbish. Joined by an aged Mick Jones from The Clash and a clearly pillaged veteran of the Utah Saints, who jumped around telling us how great commu-

nism is, they just didn’t have room for the full complement of gospel choir and brass section that I’ve seen them use before and had to settle for a keyboard instead. Worse still, the sound system had no way of coping with the five vocalists they often had performing at once, so each track ran into the next in a fog of repetitive bass lines.

The show was saved from 1-star disaster by the remarkable Zoe Devlin, the band’s female vocalist – a voice like molten gold and the outfit of a fetish dancer. Frankly I could listen to her all day, although I reckon I could just look at her for a substantial portion of one as well. Her acoustic rendition of ‘You Don’t Dance To Techno Any More’ deservedly received the biggest audience reaction all night, and her dancing nearly induced a seizure in the old boy sat next to me (who was 72, incidentally – a strange crowd).

Her performance aside though, the band were mediocre at best – they were wheeled out the big guns for the end of the set, but by then I’d totally lost interest. I didn’t even bother staying for the encore – ‘nuff said.

# Fresh sounds for 2k9

### Alexandra Ashford comments on this year’s musical prospects. Check out our playlist at [www.8tracks.com/musicfelix](http://www.8tracks.com/musicfelix) to listen

Well here we are, 2009. What’s going to be buzzing from your iPod earphones this year? Will there be a nu-metal revival? Will you regret throwing away those Papa Roach CDs? Will Duffy, Adele, and all those similar feisty female singers that no-one listens to, form a super group managed by Simon Cowell? Will Kanye West go even

further with his geek image and team up with Aphex Twin? Will Madonna finally retire? Will Amy Winehouse/Britney Spears/Pete Doherty finally die/recover/re-invent themselves as day-time television presenters? Will we all be able to forget Alphabeat ever existed and breathe a collective sigh of relief? Who knows, it’s all pos-

sible! Music seems more diverse than ever and great music has been coming from really leftfield places (Bon Iver was conjured up by a guy holed up in a log cabin with liver disease). But in the zeitgeist of music publications everywhere, here are my predictions for what you will be downloading err... legally this year.

#### Little Boots

There’s a good chance you are sick of hearing about how Little Boots is THE sound of 2009, but who can deny the catchiness and dancability of ‘Meddle’. There are already hundreds of remixes of this song. But is this kind of electro-pop still what we want to hear? I’m kind of over it already. Named after the Roman emperor Caligula, hopefully she won’t reign tyrannically over the airwaves for too long this year before being assassinated. *Listen to: Love Kills*

#### La Roux

Last year at a Kistune Maison party I spent hours in a bathroom with La Roux and I didn’t even know it was her, so I never got to embarrass myself telling her how fabulous I think she is. Her music is an electro-pop disco blend that’s less techno-y than that of Little Boots, largely influenced by 80s synth-pop bands like the Human League. Her hairstyle is largely influenced by A Flock Of Seagulls. *Listen to: Quicksand*

#### Mumford & Sons

I think I have listened to the song ‘Hold On to What You Believe’ about a hundred times already this year. They are making heartfelt folk, bluesy rock and damn, it is good. Their music is like a scene in a film where the main character is sitting around a campfire with people he barely knows but everyone feels like they’ve known each other forever and someone pulls out a guitar. Suddenly everyone sings songs of their confessions and heartbreak and everyone has a moment together. *Listen to: White Blank Page*

## “Decades from now, teenagers will be discovering this song on late night radio shows”

#### Lady GaGa

Who the fuck is Lady GaGa? I’ve seen her name in newspapers and magazines but I had never listened to Lady GaGa until writing this sentence. Seems to be marketed like a ‘cool’ version of Britney/Christina which is about as much of an oxymoron as

a punk-rock Barbie (don’t we already have Pink and Gwen doing that anyway? Have we not learned?). Still, her music is catchy and if you’re the sort of person who has a D.A.N.C.E. ringtone, has been to TigerTiger, and considers coloured tights daring, you just might enjoy it. *Listen to: Just Dance*

#### Kid CuDi

The token rapper of this article - I’ve only heard of him because he has worked with Kanye. I am not big up on my hip-hop so I don’t know what’s really fresh in this genre. ‘Day ‘N’ Night’ has quite a pleasing dubstep-influenced rhythm and introspective sort of sound – the sort of sound that will be on your iPod but not on the dancefloor (though of course this is what remixes are for).

I’m not sure



#### Disco revivals (Hercules and Love Affair, In Flagranti, Heartbreak, Sally Shapiro, Lindström, endless others)

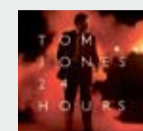
Oh, you’re still dancing to Justice and MGMT? How very two-thousand-and-eight. Dance music DJs have been digging up italo disco treasures from the ‘70s and ‘80s and new artists have been emerging who are basing their sound on the simple almost naive sounds of decades ago when polyphonic synthesizers had only just come about. It is a kick back against the over produced, over worked sound of modern electro and a delve into guilty pleasures and non-ironic enjoyment of the camp, kitsch and decadent. *Listen to: Heartbreak - ‘We’re back.’*

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# Music

## What’s New, Sir Tom Jones?

#### Album Review



Tom Jones 24 Hours EMI ★★☆☆

#### Jia-Ou Song

Can you teach an old dog new tricks? (not that Tom Jones is old). Sir Tom has established himself with a musical career that took off before the first moon landing. The new album, *24 Hours*, is described as a record that is “intimate, personal, moving and full of fire”, and more decorated with the singer’s own composing skills than any of his previous albums.

### “Maybe it is because he shouts ‘OOOOOOOWW HOLY SCHMOLEY’ in the middle of the song.”

The record opens nicely with the aptly named ‘I’m alive’. This is as Tom Jones-y as it gets. Drums, then bass, an enormous trumpet crescendo, followed by Sir Tom belting out “I’M ALIVE!” Brilliant. We are getting into the groove. The first single, ‘If he should ever leave you’, is the second track and rings out with a laid-back, retro tune; lots of string elements with a nice trumpet solo in the



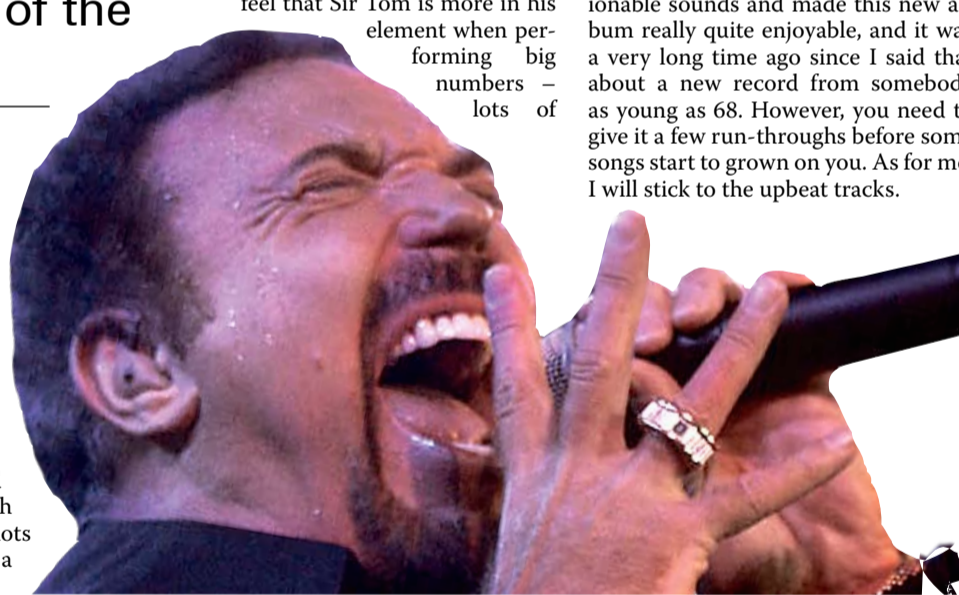
middle, and a rather modern bass line.

Another track that catches one’s attention is ‘In style and rhythm’. Advertised as the song with “cool latin beats”, the distinctly electronic intro had me slightly worried as to what was to come next... it is actually quite catchy. You feel tempted to boogie in your seat but the urge is not quite as strong as the vibe you got from some of Sir Tom’s earlier works.

The title, and also concluding track, ‘24 Hours’, is oddly disappointing. It is a slow track, perfect for demonstrating Jones’ frothy vocals, but he has not taken the opportunity to do so, hence the song collapses into three unrelated layers of vocals (good), instrumental section (good), and percussion (good). Put together they sound less good.

What amused me more than the title track was a little mid-table track called ‘Sugar Daddy’. Maybe it was because this is one of the tracks where Sir Tom’s iconic voice DOES shine through confidently with lots of oomph. Maybe it is because it has exceptionally catchy phrases. Maybe it is because he shouts “OOOOOOOOOOOWWW HOLY SCHMOLEY” in the middle of the song.

Overall, I feel that the upbeat tracks far overshadow the ballads. I simply feel that Sir Tom is more in his element when performing big numbers – lots of



bass, lots of trumpets and a big voice together makes it all the more exciting. The slow numbers, albeit more personable and with more occasions to hold sustained notes, do not hold one’s attention as well.

This album is principally produced by drum ‘n’ bass company Future Cut, who also work with Lily Allen, Dizzee Rascal, Estelle and Kate Nash. They have indeed managed to mix Jones’ old cinematic styles with currently fashionable sounds and made this new album really quite enjoyable, and it was a very long time ago since I said that about a new record from somebody as young as 68. However, you need to give it a few run-throughs before some songs start to grow on you. As for me, I will stick to the upbeat tracks.

## Fat Freddy’s mediocre drop at Camden Roundhouse

#### Emilie Beauchamp

When I first heard of Fat Freddy’s Drop, I had no clue who they were. After just a few searches, I was convinced by their renowned live performances, their melodious reggae-soul rhythms and their BBC’s Worldwide Album of the Year award in 2005, that this show would be a great evening. The seven-piece ensemble originating from New Zealand first got known through their gigs in native Wellington and their independent singles releases, but made it big in 2005 with their first and only album *Based on a True Story*, from which was released the hit single ‘Wandering Eye’. While they qualify themselves as hi-tec soul, it sounds more like a modern reggae beat with a drop of dub and soul with some skanking funk here and there. This overall gives a very interesting fusion of sounds, topped off by singer Joe Dukie’s very cool soul lyrics. Just think of the evolutionary contemporary of *Toots and the Maytals*. Last Friday’s show at Camden’s Roundhouse was promising - it was the last concert of their 2008 Europe tour, after which they left back to the Southern Hemisphere for God knows how long. Thus, many were hoping for an electrifying performance, with maybe some new songs on the way?

The first part was well assumed by Aruba Red, an emerging female singer who mixed acoustic soul and reggae, with a heavy Caribbean influence (who could have guessed with that name)... Her lyrics are more political than Fat Freddy’s Drop’s, and not everyone had an ear for her that night as most were excitedly awaiting the Kiwis. Still, the audience was warmed up nicely afterwards, and she left the stage to enthusiastic applause. But was it more about her performance or about the next band finally coming in?

After a somewhat lengthy set-up, Fat Freddy’s Drop made their appearance on stage accompanied by the ecstatic screams of the crowd. Sadly, truth be told, the overall show was not quite up to the expectations.

They started with a smooth piece to ease us in, but unfortunately continued on that rhythm for most of the evening. The show was full of ups and

downs as the band went from mellow reggae to quicker dub beats and then back to almost-ballads, but we did not get much of the spontaneous jazzy ska improvisation they are known for in their live performances. The last cherry to top the sundae of discontent: they did not play their major hit ‘Wandering Eye’. The “encores” still resound in my ears along with gentle weeps from some fans who came especially to experience that song live.

Still, all members are extremely

### “The ‘encores’ still resound in my hears, along with gentle weeps from some of the fans”

gifted and at the peak of their art, as demonstrated by the solos from each of the six instruments: saxophone, trumpet, trombone, keyboard (also the resident DJ), drums and guitar. These solely instrumental intervals were very interesting but sometimes did last a little too long and failed to entertain the audience for their entire duration. What the hell, there was hot cider at the bar! Also against this, it has to be said that the location itself is to blame: Fat Freddy’s Drop’s slow but melodious pieces lost a lot of their magic in the large capacity amphitheater, enough to fit nearly 2000 people, but can be easily be imagined as being unforgettable on the stage of a smaller and more intimate venue. Or on a beach side in New Zealand (or even Aruba)...?

In brief, the band fell a little short of what we wanted to hear, but that does not take anything away from the immense musical talent of the band, the smoothness of their tracks, and the good lyrics and looks of their lead singer. Fat Freddy’s Drop is definitely a band to discover and a must-have in your music library; I will be waiting for a new album impatiently, hoping next time they come around it will be in a more appropriate setting.

## Friday

Chase and Status :: Fabric :: Drum n Bass  
Denise :: Lyric :: Indie  
Friendly Fires :: Matter :: Electronica  
Natalie Williams :: Ronnie Scotts Jazz Club :: Soul  
CindyTalk :: The Macbeth :: Experimental  
Benga + Skream + DJ Zinc + more :: The End :: Dubstep/Drum n Bass  
Mandy Patinkin :: Duke of York’s Theatre :: Classical

## Saturday

Rebekah :: Egg :: Folk  
Hostage Life :: Embassy :: Punk  
Luke Slater :: Fabric :: Techno  
Denise :: Lyric :: Indie

Natalie Williams :: Ronnie Scotts Jazz Club :: Soul  
Acoustic Ladyland :: The Borderline :: Jazz  
JoJo De Freg :: The End :: Dance  
Earl Okin :: The Grand :: Jazz  
The Loose Cannons :: The Social :: House  
Tony Kofi :: Vortex :: Jazz  
Burial :: Purple Turtle :: Dubstep  
Ugly Duckling :: The Firestation :: hip-hop  
Kap Bambino :: The Macbeth :: Electronica  
Justice :: The End :: Electro  
Lady GaGa :: Heaven :: Dancepop/electronica

## Sunday

Denise :: Lyric :: Indie  
King Roc :: The End :: Electro  
Lymbyc System :: Barfly :: Electro

## Monday

Armstrong :: The Fly :: Indie  
Faster Pussycat + Bang Tango :: The Underworld :: Metal  
Delta Spirit :: Water Rats :: Indie  
Duke Special :: Proud Galleries :: ‘Vaudeville’, apparently

## Tuesday

Franz Ferdinand :: Heaven :: Indie  
Wallis Bird :: Soho Revue Bar :: Acoustic  
Ringworm + Kingdom :: The Underworld :: Hardcore  
Astor Piazzolla :: Barbican Centre :: Nuevo Tango

## Wednesday

Quietdrive :: Barfly :: Rock

Wire :: Cargo :: Punk  
Wallis Bird :: Soho Revue Bar :: Acoustic  
Elena :: The Dome :: World  
It Hugs Back :: The Wallington Arms :: Punk-pop

## Thursday

SaltPeter :: Cross Kings :: Break Breat  
To-Mera :: Electric Ballroom :: Progressive Metal  
Ska Cubano :: Jazz Cafe :: Ska  
Ugly Duckling + Imperial Leusire :: Scala :: Hip-hop and punk respectively  
WinterKids :: The Lexington :: Rock



LISTINGS :: LISTINGS :: LISTINGS :: LISTINGS :: LISTINGS



Nightlife

Nightlife Editor – Catherine Jones (CJ)

nightlife.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# The Belle of the Union Xmas Ball?

Free alcohol, mince pies, reindeer riding... Annabel Slater gives her verdict on last term's festivities

Christmas Ball  
19th December

★★★★☆

The Union

Price: £9



PHOTO BY TOM ROBERTS

Gillette's new advertising campaign falls flat on its face!

The Imperial Christmas Ball promised free mulled wine, mince pies, sexy elves, merry DJs, and general festive fun for the price of 9 pounds. Did it deliver? It mostly did, after a slow start.

The face of the Union's main building was emblazoned with screened snowflake shapes, but beyond that, the ground floor hosted little Christmassy glitz. Pumping music played and gaudy lights flickered over a conspicuously empty dance room, and most Ball attendees were packed into and tanking up in the bar.

The Ball's main theme attractions were clustered in the concert room upstairs where free popcorn, chocolate and candy floss stalls stood along one wall, a tiny twinkling grotto sat in the corner, and a bucking reindeer-bronco pit took up the rest of the room's space. Lights hung over the stage, snowflake shapes strobed, and ambient music played, but there was still only a smallish collection of people and most either

milled uncertainly in the limited space of the aisle or stood looking at the still unanswered challenge of the reindeer bronco with its glowering controls man. Two massive, glossy chocolate fountains offered diversions for the gluttonous and hosted a range of cookie bits and confectionary which could be stabbed with skewers and drowned in thick liquid deliciousness. My boyfriend eagerly hunted the crowd for the promised sexy elves, and we were not disappointed when a tall man in clinging scarlet tights and a sleekly small elf outfit strolled past. Mince pies were circulating in abundance but sadly mulled wine wasn't, due to a sugar and salt mix up, and... well, free alcohol was currently off the cards, which was also why the bar was so busy.

It would have been nice to have the

attractions of the Ball spread out over a wider area of the Union, or to have a seating area alongside the food stalls for better mingling and chat, but really for a student-led event, it was a good effort. Sure enough, as the twinkling lights, ambient music and masses of free sugar took effect, people began tackling the reindeer and the Ball took on a livelier air.

Santa stayed manfully in his grotto, posing for photos, the mulled wine eventually reappeared and good vibes were overflowing. After the concert hall closed at midnight, the night continued with the dance room packed full of festive revellers bopping along to pop, or sprawling happily outside with barbecued hotdogs and burgers. It was a modest affair, modestly priced, and a merry time.

## WIN 2 FREE TICKETS TO MYLO, ANDY C AND NABOO AT FABRIC

Christmas might be over, but *felix* is still giving away presents. You could win two free tickets to UNION@FABRIC on the 29th of January and all you need to do is answer this question:

"How old is the best newspaper in the world; *felix*?"

Send answers to felix@imperial.ac.uk



# Not New Years Eve; it's The End

Katherine Goates reviews Durr@The End, before the club closes its doors for the final time this month

Not New Year's Eve  
29th December

★★★★☆

The End

Price: £10



Revellers having a good time at Durr@The End

The space between Christmas and New Year's Eve can be a somewhat surreal time. Recovering from whatever joys (or horrors) Christmas has brought the days often seem to meld in to one as you prepare yourself for another new year.

Fortunately for some it was in to this festive haze that Durr@The End stepped, perfectly timing its 'Not NYE Party' on 29th December to allow for over 24 hours of recuperation before new year's celebrations began.

After adjusting to being back in central London with a few cocktails we headed off to the End. Hidden round the corner of West Central Street we found the queue round to the entrance, down the stairs, and out of the cold. With a bar to my right, dance floor to my left, and night with Peaches and "Special Guest DJ" lined up I'm thinking I can't go wrong. Until I realise I have to go back up to the freezing cold entrance to use the cloakroom.

Although this is not a great design it is a good way of checking out what the mix of people out tonight is like. Known as the End's alternative/indie night, it's not too surprising to see more than a few outfits at Durr that look suspiciously like a hand-knitted Christmas present from grandma paired with leggings. However, by the time our coats are out of the way a fairly mixed crowd has gathered, the bar

is already 5 people deep, and a great atmosphere is building.

For those who haven't made it to the End yet (and if you're planning hurry as it closes the 24th January!) the club consists of two rooms with an entrance space between and is entirely underground. The first room, on the right as you enter, features the bar and a small stage which, at Durr, has hosted a huge range of bands including Franz

Ferdinand, Ladyhawke and Foals.

The second room is essentially a huge cellar with a DJ booth at one end. With arched ceilings and strategically placed seating in the darker corners it's just the right size to fill with music and lights, whilst still giving the impression of a small room where you can be stood next to the DJ the whole night.

The dance floor slowly fills up, with a mix of indie and electro playing, un-

til tonight's main feature, Peaches, appears in the DJ booth. The last time I saw Peaches she was rubbing her pink sparkly ensemble against a Reading Festival crowd, so I (and most of the crowd) can probably be forgiven for spending the first 20 minutes of her set trying to ascertain what she was wearing. Unfortunately her curly, half-bleached Mohican and two piece with leather fringes reaching the floor was probably more inspiring than her DJ set. Keeping the pace up and throwing in crowd pleasers from Santogold and MGMT it's a good set but seemed to lack the smooth finish of the rest of the night.

I would, however, hazard a guess that my view of Peaches' set is slightly tainted by the fact that a while later the "Special Guest DJ" turns out to be Erol "King of Electro" Alkan. The phrase "master at work" seems fairly apt at this point. The room is completely packed and various characters are dancing along the edges of the DJ booth flailing limbs (and more) at the equally entranced crowd. Effortlessly delivering a set blending his own remixes with standard anthems like Rock the Casbah and a whole load of other great music it's not until the end of Erol's set until people seem to even contemplate leaving (and then I'm fairly sure a lot of them were carried out), frankly New Year's Eve can wait when it's 'Not NYE'.

**UNION DJs**

Friday 16 Jan  
20:00 - 02:00

# 1990 CLASSICS

THE UNION JANUARY SALE!  
Double Gin, Bacardi or Vodka and mixer - only £3.00

Friday 23 January  
20:00-02:00

**SIN CITY**

The best value  
Wednesday night in town!

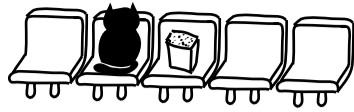
Every Wednesday Night at the Union  
20:00 - 01:00

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

imperialcollegeunion.org/ents

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

imperial college union



## Film

Film Editors – Zuzanna Blaszczak and Jonathan Dakin

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# My New Year resolution: watch more films

*felix* Film Editor Jonathan Dakin looks ahead to the films being released in 2009

The noughties are finally coming to an end- and soon the 10's will engulf us. But fear not! It has been a very good decade for the film industry: the rise of money-making, blockbuster, superhero movies and the almost death of chick flicks (which have in fact made a comeback- just look at the *Sex and the City* movie) has meant that every studio in Hollywood has been desperate to churn out an action/fantasy film that will guarantee them a big monetary return.

Although some of the most expensive films ever made were created this decade (*Spiderman 3* apparently cost almost half a billion dollars) low-budget, indie movies have also fought through the generic save-the-world plots to triumph – look at how successful films which were shot in front of a green screen were (e.g. *300* and *Sin City*), just showing how much modern cinema depends on computer graphics.

This decade has also seen sequel after sequel after sequel – showing that when you have no other ideas and are determined not to take risks, putting your eggs in one basket can in fact pay off. But this year, the final year of the naughtiest decade ever, we continue to have the kind of movies that have defined the 00's: remakes, reboots

and sequels.

The horror genre has always been known for remaking every idea it has ever had, whether they have been good or bad, but this year we will see the new 'in thing' in Hollywood: 3D! Kicking off with *My Bloody Valentine: 3D* in January and finishing the year in *Final Destination 3D* (the fourth installment of the popular franchise), audiences should prepare themselves for flying pickaxes, car tyres, severed heads and gore hurling themselves at the screen in order to shock and delight.

The list of sequels this year include both good and bad franchises: we will be bored to death in *Harry Potter 6 And The Who Really Gives A Crap*, confused and worried that *Transformers: Revenge Of The Fallen* ever got made, chilled in *Ice Age: Dawn Of The Dinosaurs* and possibly thrilled in *Fast and Furious*, which reunites Paul Walker and Vin Diesel.

At a time when everyone is depressed and vulnerable, serious dramas are also making an (un)happy return to our screens: Will Smith will delight and depress in *Seven Pounds*, Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio will captivate in *Revolutionary Road*, Brad Pitt will be bland and boring in *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* and if you want an ensemble rom-com then make sure you watch Jen-

nifer Aniston lead an all-star cast in *He's Just Not That Into You*.

You may think that comic book adaptations have dried up but apparently they haven't, with both *Watchmen* and *X-Men* spin-off *X-Men Origins: Wolverine* on the horizon. Will they both live up to the hype? Let us hope so, as they both look like they could be good but probably won't be. Another highly anticipated film this year is the sequel/reboot of the popular Terminator series- *Terminator: Salvation*. As it stars Christian Bale it is sure to be a box-office smash, however Arnie will not be making an appearance. Let's just hope it is more T2 than the dreadful T3. Another sequel/reboot that is filling chat-rooms and blogs with debate is *Star Trek*. Can it impress the die-hard Trekkies? Seems like filmmakers are catering to cyberspace fan-boys this year, trying as hard as they can to cash in on successful cult franchises.

More semi-original ideas also abound this year, as recently divorced Guy Ritchie directs Robert Downey Jr in *Sherlock Holmes*. Hollywood tries to tackle hit Japanese cartoon series *Dragonball Z* with *Dragonball: Evolution* starring a young American as Goku, something many fans will be seething about; children's favourite *Where The Wild Things Are* will finally be released after years of produc-



*X-Men Origins: Wolverine*

tion problems; and Pixar will provide another sterling computer animation with *Monsters vs. Aliens*.

Will it be a good year for movies? This film fan thinks it will be a year of hits and misses, something that this

decade has been all about. But I will ride the 00's out in style, by trying as hard as possible to fit in as many films this year as humanly possible. After all, who needs a social life when you can go to the cinema instead?

## Just say “yes!” to *Yes Man*

**Yes Man ★★★★★**

**Director:** Peyton Reed  
**Writer:** Nicholas Stoller et al.  
**Cast:** Jim Carrey, Zooey Deschanel, Bradley Cooper



You can't stop smiling once you say “yes”!

Begin the year with smiles by persuading yourself to go and see *Yes Man*. Jim Carrey is back on form playing Carl, a loan advisor at a bank who is desperately miserable after a rocky divorce and so hates his life.

Finding joy only by renting DVD's and watching them alone, his best friend Peter (Cooper) tries his hardest to make him have a social life and enjoy himself. One day at work, Carl runs into an old friend who tells him about a self-help seminar which commands people to say “yes” to everything they are asked. After attending the meeting and then running out of petrol as soon as he has left it, Carl bumps into Allison (Deschanel), a free-spirited and easy-going photographer. After this unforgettable encounter, Carl decides to become a Yes Man and soon finds himself doing things he wouldn't normally dream of.

The movie is based on a book by English comedian and writer Danny Wallace, who decided to say “yes” to situations he would normally say “no” to for a year to make his life more interesting. This idea was taken and turned into a

Hollywood film, and very successfully too, as *Yes Man* is a hilarious, feel-good comedy that is big on laughs and low on cheese – something that this reviewer greatly appreciates.

Jim Carrey gives a great performance, one that is reminiscent of his 90's glory although slightly toned down for a contemporary audience. The supporting cast are also really likeable and funny: Zooey Deschanel is appealing as a sexy but quirky girl-next-door leading lady; Bradley Cooper is witty and compelling as his best friend and New Zealand comedian Rhys Darby almost steals the show with his geeky and hilarious character Norman. The script sparkles and feels original, mainly because the dialogue is realistic and bubbly and most of the set pieces

are extremely funny to watch. Some of the best moments are completely unexpected, for example the opening scene in a video rental store, a Harry Potter party, Carl's elderly next door neighbour and a fight outside of a bar, although the overall sarcastic tone of the film helps make each joke run seamlessly into another.

It is not often that I see a film that makes me laugh the whole way through, especially one that borders on chick-flick territory, but *Yes Man* is a well-plotted and unique film that takes a funny idea and runs with it.

Want to chase the blues away this year? Then I recommend kick-starting 2009 with this very enjoyable and uplifting comedy. Just say “yes” to *Yes Man!*

## In cinemas now

Hollywood starlets Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway go head-to-head in *Bride Wars*

**Jonathan Dakin**  
Film Editor

Although it has been said that the chick flick is dead, Hollywood isn't going to give up without a fight as they continue to bring out films like *Bride Wars*, starring heavyweights Kate Hudson (*How To Lose A Guy In 10 Days*) and Anne Hathaway (*The Princess Diaries*).

Best friends Liv (Hudson) and Emma (Hathaway) both dream of having the perfect wedding and having both planned to have it at the Plaza Hotel they are shocked to learn that they

have both booked their perfect venue on the same day and only one of them can have it! Let the war begin! Although it includes an all-star cast, *Bride Wars* has already been mauled by the critics for having a terrible plot, with one critic already considering it being on his list of the worst films of 2009! It sounds like a good idea and with two sexy leads it could be entertaining, especially when the setup is the worse nightmare of every, single bride to be – men take note: if you mess with any woman's wedding, prepare to face WAR!



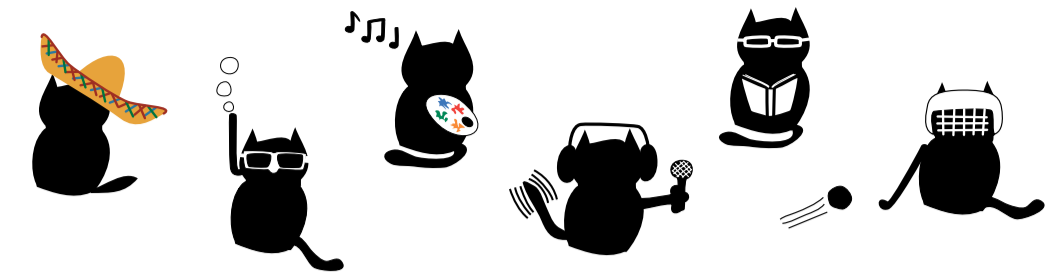
**WARNING: Do not mess with a Bride! That goes double for two brides.**

# What's on...

## Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editors – Lily Topham & Rachel D'oliveiro

whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk



### Monday

#### EWB Photo Exhibition

The Engineers Without Borders Photo Exhibition: An opportunity to find out more!

The Institute of Mechanical Engineers sponsored Engineers Without Borders photo exhibition will be on display in the Mech Eng foyer on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th Jan.

Photos on display have been taken by students on summer placements in international development with EWB.

The evening will feature an address from the EWB-UK CEO Andrew Lamb, followed by the exhibition and a chance to ask for new ways to get involved, or give ideas.

Everyone is welcome to attend the event and free wine and refreshments will be provided.

Time: 5:30pm  
Place: Mech Eng LT 220  
Price: Admission Free

### Tuesday

#### EWB Photo Exhibition

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Time: 5:30pm  
Place: Mech Eng LT 220  
Price: Admission Free

### Wednesday

#### Acting Workshop

Try out a free acting workshop courtesy of Dramsoc. Anyone is welcome to come – no prior experience necessary!

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

#### Wind Power

Imperial Winds join forces with the world-renowned band of the Coldstream Guards for a day of musical events to raise money for student scholarships.

At lunchtime, fanfares will be performed around College by a few of the Coldstream Guards, so keep your eyes and ears peeled!

The day's events will culminate in a concert hosted by Professor Lord Robert Winston and will include a guest performance from Retro Jazz singer Victoria Hart (with wind band backing!). Other repertoire includes favourites such as The Beatles Medley, Crown Imperial, My Funny Valentine, Schindler's List, Who loves ya baby, A Very British Tribute and The Cossacks Fire Dance.

The drinks bar opens for ticket holders at 5.30pm in the Senior Common Room.

Tickets available from:  
www.imperial.ac.uk/events/windpower

Time: 6.30pm  
Place: Great Hall, Sheffield  
Price: £5/£10 (Students/Non-students)

### Thursday

#### PPS Talk

Israel/Hamas: Who is the aggressor?

Speakers Chris Doyle (Director of CAABU: The Council for Arab-British Understanding) and Yossi Mekelberg (Associate Fellow, Middle East and North Africa Programme, Chatham House) address the issue of the Israel-Palestine peace solution.

Time: 6pm  
Place: Clore LT, Huxley  
Price: Admission Free

#### Friends of MSF Fundraiser

No matter what your skating ability (if you've never skated before you are just as welcome as an international gold-medallist!), come along to Renaissance Rooms for a night of crazy disco-skating in aid of Medecins Sans Frontieres, a charity that delivers emergency aid to some of the world's most deprived people.

Tickets available from:  
imperialcollegeunion.org/friends-of-msf-308

For more info, contact:  
kkt07@imperial.ac.uk

Time: 8pm  
Place: Renaissance Rooms, Vauxhall  
Price: £5/£7.50 (Members/Non-Members)

### Welcome Back!

Welcome the first What's On...? of the Spring Term.

This week is a little quieter than usual as it's the first week of term, but there are still lots of exciting things to go along to!

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!

We'd love you to tell us about all the events that you're running, be they music/dance/talks/exhibitions/plays/anything in between!

The deadline for submissions for the next edition is midnight on **Monday 19th January 2009** - so get emailing!

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

## Saturday

### Hellenic Night

Continuing from their successful first Hellenic night, Hellenic Society are proud to invite you to another night full of Greek music, free drinks and fun people. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy a great Greek night of fun!

For more information, contact ek407@imperial.ac.uk.

Time: 8pm  
Place: dB's, Union  
Price: £7/£9 (Members/Non-Members)

# Coffee Break

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



*felix*  
College Humour

Ravi Pall  
Coffee Break Editor

Welcome back. I trust you all have had a reasonable break to catch up on work. No? Thought not. This term we have some new things and some old. Of particular interest is the ethnic Top Trumps game. As you can see to your right, the game has a rather controversial mode to it. Let's hope the game designer doesn't get too much grief over it.

It has come to my attention that the *felix* office has become a somewhat surreal environment. With random arguments cropping up over the most random topics, I am beginning to think the *felix* office and its employees work, play and act much like the Original Video team at collegehumour.com. For those of you who haven't visited this site, do so now. Also watch all the College Humour Original videos. They are freaking hilarious! The minivideos of Jake and Amir show exactly the relationship myself and Kadhim Shubber have. With all the diverse attitudes here down in the office, there is always banter that will spark a debate of strange likeness. Whether it be about Gaza, how heavy Christopher Lee is, or even

singing along to old-school classics by Bryan Adams.

If there is ever an excuse to make up a random game, throw objects at each other or abuse *felix* editor Jovan, you can be sure the worker ants of the *felix* office will do it. It is a peculiar way of life down in the bowels of Be-it's West Wing, that some of us can't seem to escape. Editors work late into the nights, and it has even been known that some editors have spent a cold lonely (sometimes not so lonely) night on the office sofa. What I am trying to say here (and doing so very badly) is that if you ever walk on down here and see people performing a ceremony around a plush doll cat in an unfamiliar cult fashion, don't be shocked and call the police.

On that bizarre note, I would like to end this week's insight into *felix* by commenting on the FUCWIT league. We seem to have two table leaders competing for iPods. Who will be number one by the end of this term?

## RCC Nighthike quiz crawl

Oh yes, it's the Spring term again and that means exams for many of you, but you may not know that it also marks the time to start getting excited about the Annual RCC Nighthike: one crazy night of clue-finding, adventurous walking and hopefully a bit of map reading - but if you can't don't let that put you off. All this is happening on the night of 28th February, but to get you all excited we've got a tantalising taster for you here in the daylight safety of college. Going along with the exam time, this week's clues come to you from that sanctuary of studying: the library. All you have to do is track down the answers and email them in and then, in the usual RCC way- you get points, and points mean prizes

**1st Floor:** What number is the glass study bubble in the back right corner of the red zone?

**2nd Floor:** What is the sequence of coloured squares on the north wall?

**3rd Floor:** What does the Science Museum library have a complete set of, up to 1992?

**4th Floor:** What is the name of the publication by a certain very famous scientist, which can be found at 631.468.514.239?

**5th floor:** In the Economist book of 'Pocket World in Figures', what is it about pages 102 & 103 that might appeal to the Imperial stereotype?

Answers in next week's edition along with another exciting location around college to be visited.



www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/nighthike

## Top Trumps

Cut them out!

**Robo Pope**  
Age: 96 years  
Weight: 500 lbs  
Height: 4 ft 2"  
Combat Skill: 3  
Intelligence: 10  
Agility: 6

**Van Helstein**  
Age: 46 years  
Weight: 190 lbs  
Height: 6 ft  
Combat Skill: 10  
Intelligence: 7  
Agility: 5

**Count Abdul**  
Age: 5000 years  
Weight: 300 lbs  
Height: 6 ft 5"  
Combat Skill: 8  
Intelligence: 3  
Agility: 10

Highest score wins

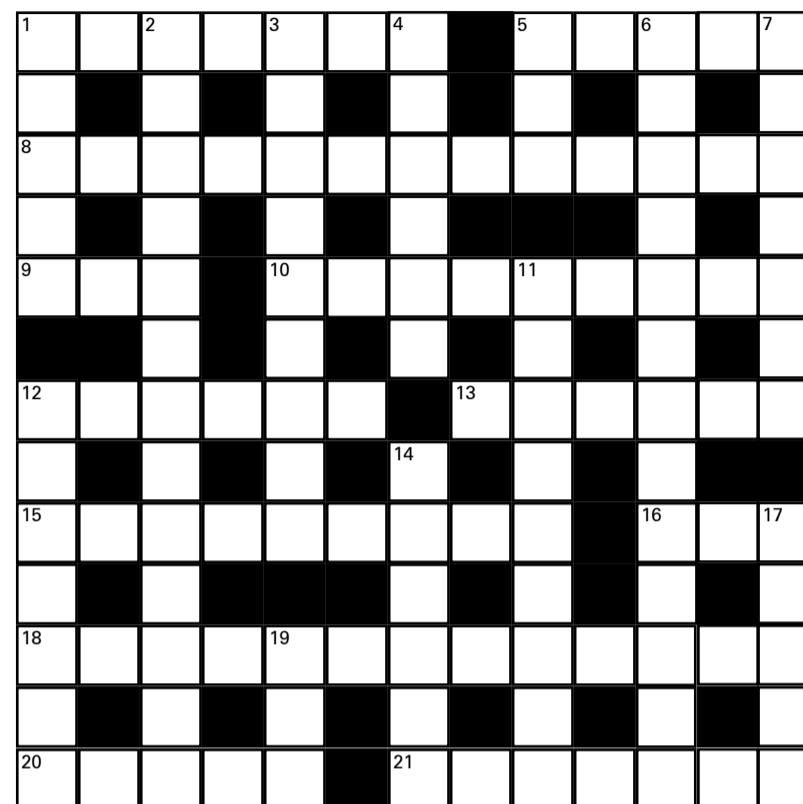
Collect them all!

Watch this space for additional cards

sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Fun & Games

### A Quickie (Crossword) 1,420



- ACROSS**
- 1 Traditional symphony movement (7)
  - 5 Moral spirit behind an organization (5)
  - 8 With a feeling of dizziness (5-8)
  - 9 Carve into a shape (3)
  - 10 Terminal through which charge passes (9)
  - 12 Mediaeval style of architecture (6)
  - 13 Phone from a distance (4,2)
  - 15 A rough brawl (8)
  - 16 Tributary of the Ouse (3)
  - 18 Zero, famously (6,7)
  - 20 Small and cramped (5)
  - 21 Manually-operated railroad vehicle (7)

- DOWN**
- 1 Wood nymph (5)
  - 2 Stormy environmental conditions (4,7)
  - 3 Metallic element with atomic number 44 (9)
  - 4 First act on performance night (6)
  - 5 Final word in old movies (3)
  - 6 Water-powered energy (13)
  - 7 Used in dairy substitutes (7)
  - 11 Buyer and seller (9)
  - 12 Superseded lighting system (3,4)
  - 14 Loins and leg of an animal (6)
  - 17 Used in mastication (5)
  - 19 Famous league and restaurant (3)

Hai guyz! Welcome back after Christmas and I promise that there will be no mistakes this term. Well done to **Shotgun** for triumphing in last week's quite massive Quickie. That was the biggest one we will ever see, things really got out of hand. It really is

becoming a little silly at the top of the table, so if anyone wants to get some answers in I am offering DOUBLE points for all correct puzzles submitted from any of the non top two teams. In fact, even if they are incorrect you will still get normal points.

## Horoscopes – the January sale 50% off edition

Proper Horoscopes are back, none of that Christmassy shite. Megaz!



**Aquarius**

Why would you want retina-burning ginger/blond hair? Looking like a lighthouse off the Dover coast. For

fuck's sake! So when your girlfriend suggests that you dye your hair that vibrant colour, why, oh why would you consider saying yes? Even if you're so whipped that when she says jump you're already levitating off the ground.



**Taurus**

No, piss off. I refuse to write you a horoscope. It's a much better use of my time to watch this:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UCqABgA0zQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UCqABgA0zQ)

Seriously it's really worth listening, if you don't laugh *felix* will buy you a pint. (*We will- Ed.*)



**Leo**



**Scorpio**

Did you know that in your lifetime you will poo out 2 tons of shit? That is unless you are a Jade Goodyesque person,

in which case you will shit out considerably more. If one is to combine that with the Herculean volumes of drivel that you inflict on a reluctant nation, the conclusion would be met that you are in fact a useless bint.



**Pisces**



**Gemini**



**Virgo**

So you fucked up bad at your office Christmas party. Contrary to popular decision, that girl is not for pulling.

However the boss let you off, God knows how but you just be thankful that for 2009 you will retain your work in which you very happy. You must concentrate on not fucking up again, but I don't think there's much chance of that.



**Aries**



**Cancer**

So you got a bit drunk at New Year's then... didn't we all??? Humm, not quite so battered that we got raped

on the way home though... yeeeno.. no.. that.. that just wouldn't do. Well it serves you right, and let that rape child of yours be a lesson in knowing your limits. Not being a grimy little slut might help too.



**Libra**



**Capricorn**

I feel like a broken man. I answered a 'Lonely Hearts' advert... your mum is huge. I didn't know that when she booked me in, I felt violated. That type of information should be printed in the advert- much like the acronym DDE. That means 'drug and disease free' for the less clued up amongst you, (I do this all the time see). Pint?

## FUCWIT League Table

Möchten sie mein Mannschaft?	134 Points
Team Shotgun	120 Points
Giramundo	33 Points
Hringur Gretarsson	23 Points
Jonathan Phillips	18 Points
Team Rubbish	17 Points
Team Turner Gobels	12 Points
Yu-Xi Chau	10 Points

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

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

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

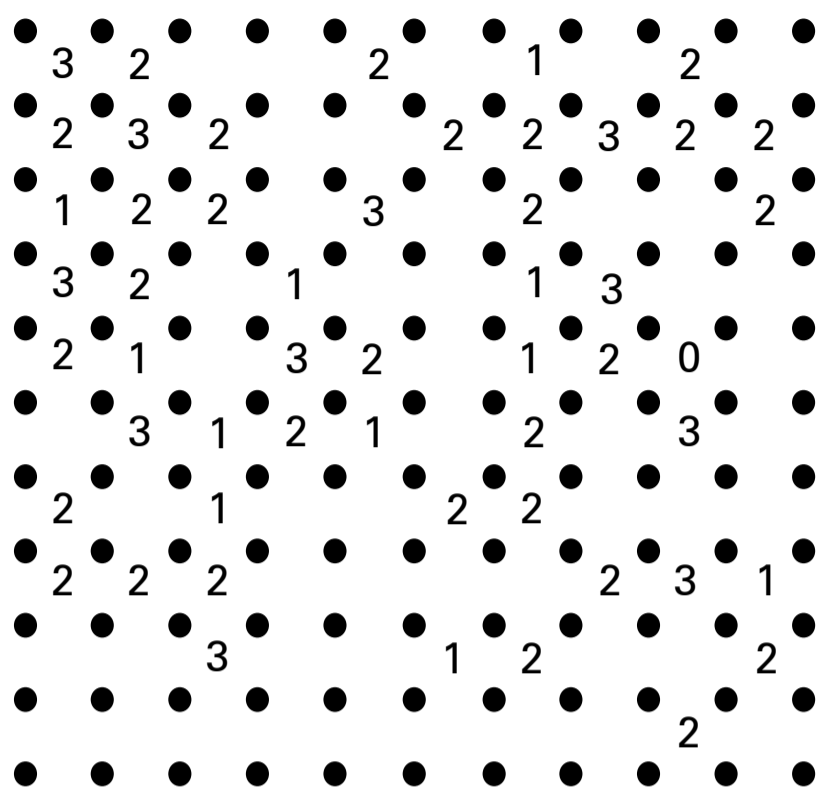
Double points will be awarded for correct cryptic crossword answers, because it's über hard.

Simple! Now then FUCWITs, send in your answers to [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk) or [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk). Go!

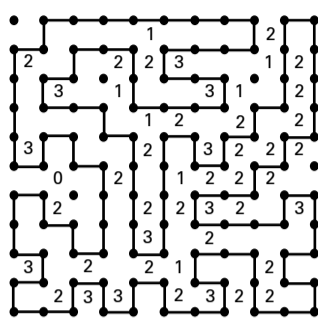
Fun & Games

sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# Slitherlink 1,420



1,419 Solution



Winners of last term's foray into the world of dots and numbers was **Shotgun**. They were pretty blazing and even I credit them on their speedy entry. The rest of you get to work!

**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.

# Wordoku 1,420

				R		P	
	A	T		I	S	R	
			A	U		T	
I	R	A				B	
T			U			A	
		M			I	S	T
	S		U		B		
		I	S	P		U	B
M							

**Scribble box**



1,419 Solution

O	U	R	W	N	A	K	G	P
A	K	P	O	G	U	W	R	N
W	G	N	P	R	K	O	G	U
U	N	A	R	K	O	G	P	W
G	R	O	U	P	W	A	N	K
K	P	W	N	A	G	R	O	U
R	O	U	A	W	N	P	K	G
N	A	K	G	O	P	U	W	R
P	W	G	K	U	R	N	A	O

Same old, same old... I better give a well done to **Shotgun** and a pat on the back, but I don't want to. It's a new year, but still they rule the roost like a skinhead reeking of Stella and wearing a sweaty tank top.

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](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk). You will not get credit for just the word alone. It's not an anagram.

# Freshly Squeezed!

## Boozed Elly talks about Union nightlife

**Respect.** It has come to our attention that an apology is in order for our 'Respect'-ful, factual report on some dirty dancing occurring in dB's. Err, not quite sure what was so offensive, seeing as she was described as 'smartly dressed' and he 'tall, dark and handsome'. Maybe this will be sufficient... We loved the debut of your weekly raunchy rumba slot (10pm, Weds, dB's) and are sure that you've been practicing a lot over Christmas to give us the usual put together performance that we oh so love. **Ski-trip liaisons.** Can you think of anywhere better to get naked than the snowy slopes of the Alps? Despite rules and regulations banning 'fraternisation with the clients', one of the rudder-loving reps was seen inviting an innocent IC holiday-maker to his room. His 'shag-nasty' name says they had more fun than claims that they simply 'bonded'. The

deposit was withheld for one ski pole after some vigorous sexual acts were performed. **Yanks are in town.** A lot of deprived IC boys were desperately swooning over frankly, out-of-their-league Americans. But we were particularly impressed by one vertically challenged, testosterone-filled gentlemen who managed to chat up not one, not two, but SEVEN of the lovely ladies, with him only able to look over one of them. Kudos to you. **Fucking phenomenal felix facebook-rape.** The editor-in-chief was severely facebook raped by a very unnecessarily proud colleague, with people having to double-take when his profile picture was replaced with... yes... a penis "yawn". One poor, innocent girl was drawn into the incident with allegations of being 'banged' through a standard change of status. Lets just humour him... OMFG it was hilarious!

# Meeting Place

Women Seeking Men Men Seeking Women

**Northern Lass:** Funky Materials fresher searching for a tall (5'11"+) polished engineering sample to look at *my* microscope. Must play Hockey or Rugby at 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> team level and be easy on the eye. Other Freshers or people with funny surnames need not apply. Northerner preferred. *Quote WSM001*

**Fiery Lion:** Purring Physicist ready to vibrate with simple harmonic motion. If you have a nice voice, in 2<sup>nd</sup> year or above, laid back, GOSH, taller than 5"6" and have all

your Physics notes, I want you to make to me vibrate not with SHM, but at natural frequency! *Quote WSM002*

**Opportunistic:** You buying me dinner doesn't mean I'll have sex with you. I probably will have sex with you though. Honesty or other girlfriends not an issue. No married men, convicts, Australians or Footballers. *Quote WSM003*

**It's Over:** My ideal man is a woman. Sorry mother. *Quote WSM004*

**Realistic:** Not everyone appearing in this column is a deranged cross-dressing sociopath. Let me know if you find one and I'll strangle him with my bra. *Quote MSW001*

**Fancy a Kebab?** I like my women the way I like my kebab. Found by surprise after a drunken night out and covered in too much Tahini. Before long I'll have discarded you on the pavement of life, but until then you're the perfect complement to a perfect evening. *Quote MSW002*

**Anything Taken:** Bald, short, fat and ugly mathematician seeks short-sighted woman with tremendous sexual appetite. *Quote MSW003*

**Available Now:** List your ten favourite albums... I just want to know if there's anything worth keeping when we finally break up. *Quote MSW004*

**Sad:** Placed nineteen ads and counting. Only one reply. It was my mother telling me not to forget the bread on my way home. *Quote MSW005*

All replies in the strictest of confidence to 07726 799 424

## This week's texts:



Miles, Sahil and Squire. You're cunts. Fuck off.

"Time is a great healer... not in the case of my Polish girl I missed you every day. xxxxx"

"Anyone seen that really nice bike parked outside the SAF? The yellow Ducati 748... heard that the rider's a stud too! Drink? Anon."

"Message to Will K. I know what you did last February."

"Someone died my hair bright ginger. I now look like Outspan the fucking orange! What shall I do?" 1st year Materials.

"I am looking for a girlfriend... preferably from Spain/ Northern land and taking Materials. Brown hair and fine ability to vomit is a bonus." Charles Murdoch, 3rd year Materials student, very lonely and sad.

07726 799 424

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

# Going Underground

This is the most bestest blazing braichild to come out of the *felix* think-tank since the suggestion of using computers to write the paper on. Megaz! Right an explanation is possibly in order.

Each letter in the alphabet is assigned a value, 1-26 (see table) and when added

together for a specific word the sum equals the total shown. All you have to do is scan and send the Underground station that is hidden each week to [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk) and you get FUCWIT points. For any suggestions, I have done you an example.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

B	A	N	K
2	1	14	11

= 28 That's an example! Insania dude.

So which London tube station sums to 211?

-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

= 211

# Ask the captain - Jack Cornish



Six weeks until the big day! The build up to 25 February 2009 continues into the New Year, with the Imperial 1st XI Hockey captain, **Jack Cornish**, being interviewed by the *felix* Sports Editor, **Jack Cornish**

### Welcome to *felix* sport. How's it going?

Great thanks! Hockey is going well and 2009 promises to be an exciting year all round.

### So when you say that hockey is going well - how well is it going?

As you can see from the league table we have only lost one match, which was disappointing since it was a BUCS knockout game and we got to the semi-finals last year in the equivalent competition. I suppose it was a blessing that it wasn't a league match because although we are top, Canterbury Christ Church are not far behind! Currently we haven't played a ULU match yet but there is definite potential for some bonus silverware there as well!

If we do go up in BUCS it will be a tough year - there are not many teams that can sustain it in that league that are not sports based universities.

### Sounds good! What is the key to success?

Well the team trains hard and plays hard... We have developed a really good team culture this year and we have bonded into a strong squad. We are also being supported financially by the Union, Sport Imperial and Merrill Lynch enabling us to have a coach who is able to come to games which is hugely beneficial! It takes the weight off my shoulders in terms of training and the starting line-up. It allows me to concentrate on playing my own game and generate the camaraderie between the boys on and off the pitch.

### So what is the preparation for you going to be like in the lead up to varsity?

Our main focus presently is the BUCS league and with ULU matches as well, it will give us plenty of pitch time before the big day... Varsity is never the same as a League or Cup match, there is far more passion and a hell of a lot of pride at stake. On one hand, I view it as a friendly (because essentially that is what it is especially with it being surrounded by important league and cup fixtures), but on the other I will give my all to win it... The adrenaline is pumping through me now just thinking about it. For me it is a great honour to be able to lead the 1st XI out onto the pitch every week, but varsity does have that little bit extra!

### So how do you fancy your chances?

To be honest we are unlikely to slip up. We usually play the medics three or four times a year since we are in similar leagues which accumulates to a lot of matches over four years... We have only lost to them once in my time and with the form we are in at the moment I predict a convincing win for the College.

### Why do you think that IC Hockey is consistently better than

### their medic counterparts?

I'm unsure to be honest - you could argue that the medics have a slower turnover of players (since they are here for a longer period of time) and therefore should produce better organised teams that play well together. Having said that the turnover of players at Imperial gives the club a fresh feel every year with new faces prepared to give up time and push things forward. There are literally only a couple of us left who played in the 1st XI in my first year - I have probably played with twenty to thirty players over my time at IC and I have learnt something different off all of them. The ladies 1st XI have the medics on Sunday - we'll see what happens there! C'mon girls!

### What about other sports - most importantly the JPR Williams Cup?

Well, hockey should dominate and football seem to do the same. Maybe the IC footballers and hockey players should swap sports for the day - might give the medics a chance! It would make my day if the rugby boys could do it... They have had a pretty depressing season so far and it would give them the boost they need to get them out of the relegation zone in their BUCS league. I will be supporting all of the IC sport when I am not playing to the best of my ability - I can make a lot of noise when I want to. Maybe I can make the difference at the rugby!

### Enough about varsity, what about ICHC?

The club doesn't need an introduction. Clearly up there with ICURFC and ICUAFC but has the added bonus of being a mixed club making the socials far more entertaining! On a personal note it has provided me with a great number of friends and some fabulous memories and I will be sad to leave it at the end of the year.

### Any highlights?

Err, well tours to Cyprus and Berlin were both a great laugh. Sports tours are the combination of everything great: beer, hockey, sun and mates. The social side in general is always a highlight - I can count on one hand the amount of times I have missed a Wednesday out with the boys. Also the success we have had on the pitch as a team has been great

for me and hopefully there will be some more silverware on its way this year.

### Where are you going on tour this year?

India! It will be great! With a substantial number of the club coming, there is a hell of a lot to organise but I am really looking forward to it! There will be some great hockey and culture to appreciate, not to mention the curry!

### What are your aspirations once you leave Imperial?

I have played with some very good players during my time at IC... Four or five have played at the highest level in the UK and Germany and coming from the deepest and darkest depths of Somerset I never got the chance to play at the highest standard... The hockey I used to play at home could be described a combination of village and rural! Most turned up in their wellies with a pint of cider in their hand! My aim is to play for a national league club even if I am playing for their 3rd XI... At least then I have something to aim for!

### Not aiming for Olympic glory then?

Well, I like to be realistic... I would like to be involved in some way though - volunteering or such like! It is a great honour for London to be host-

## FACT FILE

**Name:** Jack 'Date R.' Cornish  
**Position:** IC 1st Men's Hockey Team: Defence  
**Date of Birth:** 9/9/1986  
**Hometown:** Mothercare  
**Course:** 4th Year Chemistry  
**Height:** 5ft 5in  
**Weight:** 9 stone nothing

Jack, although a little and a feeble man, has managed to hold down a 1st XI spot since his first year, and spent the majority of his third stressing as Club Captain. His liking for power is evident on many levels, including his taste for women, however his tactics to obtain them led to his eventual nickname following a rumoured police enquiry. He says that he is fun, approachable, kind, spontaneous and looking for friendship. Maybe more... Enquiries to *felix* please.

asks, "Gerald, what is it you have me doing with your Saturday afternoons. I'm starting to think that you might be going and playing goalie for the local hockey team"

Gerald keeps washing dishes and replies "No dear nothing like that, I just drunk and spend thousandsof dollars on

but he has just won BBC Sports Personality of the Year which kind of puts me off! Jovan Nedic is a fine figure of an athlete as is Mr Murdoch, but the stamina of Shippo means he has to win it for me!

### So no hockey idols then? Nope.

### OK, moving on swiftly, my fact file on you mentions your affinity for women. What is your opinion on the centrefolds that have graced *felix* this year?

Up to now there have been some pretty poor efforts but this week's takes a hell of a lot to beat! It is yet another classic from the Hockey Club, the fittest club in town, proudly sponsored by SuperSoaker.

### Have you received any 'heightism' at your time in Imperial?

Well, the bar in the Davinices is a bit high to reach. Further I continue to fail in my attempts to touch the bottom of the shallow end in the Ethos swimming pool.

### Thank you for time Jack. One final question. How tall are you actually?

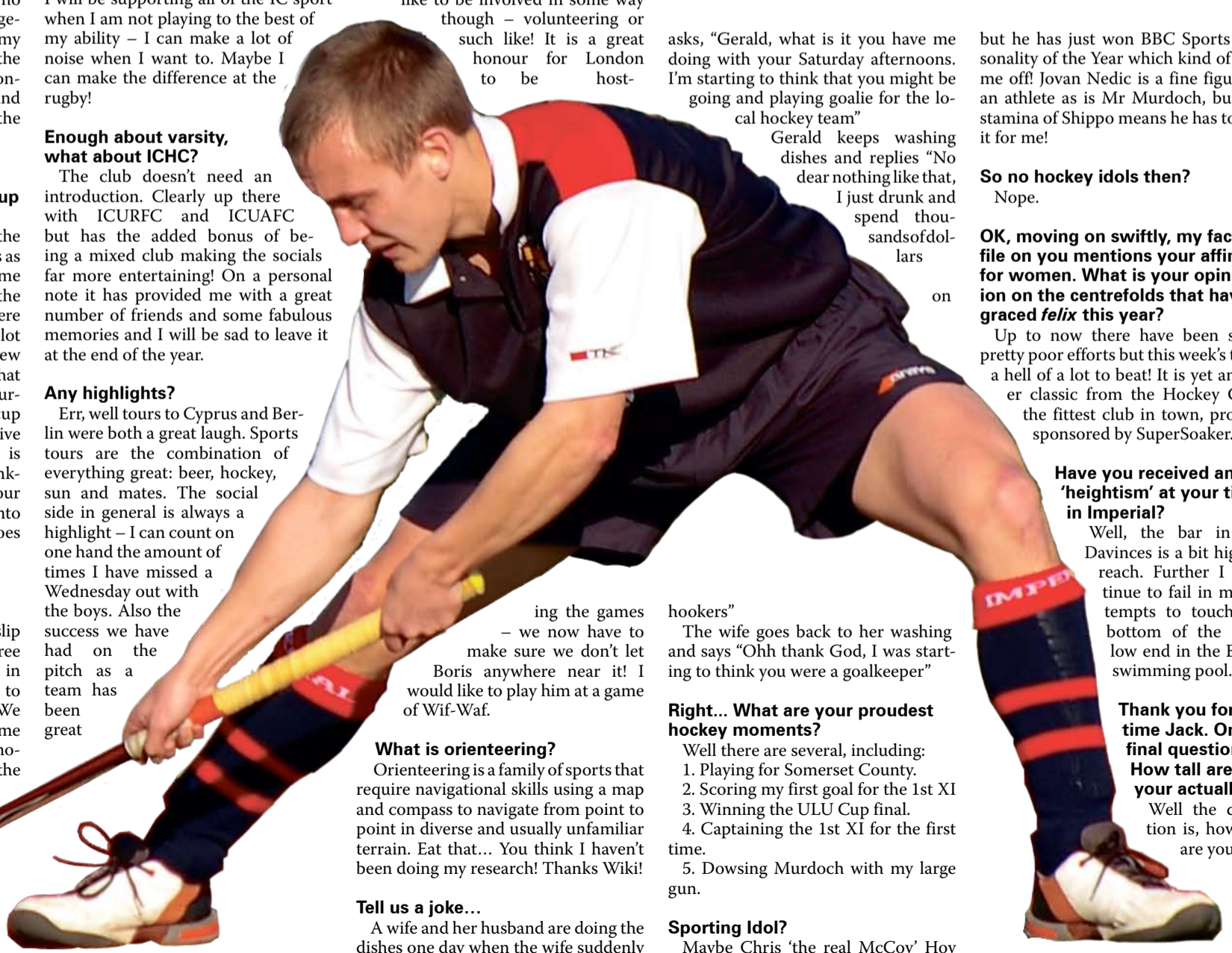
Well the question is, how tall are you?

### Right... What are your proudest hockey moments?

- Well there are several, including:
  1. Playing for Somerset County.
  2. Scoring my first goal for the 1st XI
  3. Winning the ULU Cup final.
  4. Captaining the 1st XI for the first time.
  5. Dowsing Murdoch with my large gun.

### Sporting Idol?

Maybe Chris 'the real McCoy' Hoy



ing the games - we now have to make sure we don't let Boris anywhere near it! I would like to play him at a game of WiF-Waf.

### What is orienteering?

Orienteering is a family of sports that require navigational skills using a map and compass to navigate from point to point in diverse and usually unfamiliar terrain. Eat that... You think I haven't been doing my research! Thanks Wiki!

### Tell us a joke...

A wife and her husband are doing the dishes one day when the wife suddenly

# IC table tennis humiliate league leaders in style

Table Tennis	
Imperial Men's 1st	14
Brunel Men's 1st	3

### Darius Atashroo

Some of you may remember our frustrating away trip to Brunel a number of weeks ago. They ended up winning that match 9-8, having conveniently managed to forfeit the last three matches when we were winning 6-8. Due to this result, Brunel were sitting comfortably at the top of the BUCS South Eastern Conference 1A division. If they would beat us, they would win the division easily and go through to the play-offs for a chance to play in the Premier Division next season, with the likes of London Met (the current European University Champions).

Since this defeat, we trained hard and were psyched up for the return match. On the Monday before the fixture, a young German exchange student called Bernd turned up to our practice, claiming to have been out for two months with injury. We were impressed with his skills and so invited him to play for us for this crunch match.

The team thus consisted of Eddie, Bernd, Yang and myself. Things started off extremely well with three wins. Darius beat Brunel's number four in straight sets; Eddie dispatched their number three in four games. Bernd had a superb debut victory over Brunel's number two, eventually coming through 3-2.

The best victory of the first half of matches went to Yang. Having lost the first game 5-11, he strengthened his resolve and rallied well to take it 3-1. Two more victories in the reverse fixtures for Eddie and Darius meant that they had raced to a 6-nil lead. Things were going better than expected.

Unfortunately our opponents took the next two games. Bernd played well, but Brunel's number one just nicked it, 14-12 in the fourth game. Yang got

very close to Brunel's number two in a match with some great topspin rallies. However Yang's opponent went for his shots in the final game and just sneaked it, 14-12.

A slight blip, but it turned out to be little more than a consolation for Brunel as these were the only singles matches they won all day.

Darius had a bit of a scare against Brunel's number two, going down 1-2 before bringing it back in the last two games to win 3-2. Eddie cruised to victory over Brunel's number one, winning three on the bounce and making his opponent look rather tame. Bernd and Yang enjoyed relatively easy victories over Brunel's numbers four and three respectively.

Next up was Darius' match against the Brunel number one. He had lost to him closely in five tight sets in the last fixture. There had also been some



Concentration is key when delivering that killer serve

bad blood between them over the last result when Darius had questioned the legality of his services.

At 2-2 in games, it was pretty even but Darius managed to take an early lead in the fifth, which enabled him to win it 11-6. This win really meant something to Darius. It also seemed to crush whatever little resolve the Brunel boys had left. We took the last three singles matches comfortably.

Bernd and Darius teamed up for the doubles match, which we should have taken easily, however as the result of the match was neither here nor there, we lost our concentration, and the match in five.

All in all it was arguably our best win of the season. Our rivals looked dejected and we could still secure a top two finish. Congratulations to all of the boys on a thoroughly superb performance.

Continued from back page

Both events started off with mixed results, with Maiyuran left representing the men after both Chris and Maurice got knocked out in the 128. In the foil Joan and Beth made the last 64 before leaving Hannah to represent the women.

With Maiyuran injured and Hannah having had little sleep after spending half the night at the hospital, things were not looking amazing.

In the following rounds Hannah pulled off an impressive comeback after an initial deficit to win her knock-out and Maiyuran battled through his pain to beat a Latvian international. Both then got through their next rounds easily before Maiyuran met last year's winner in the semi-finals. Without full movement this was going to be a tough match for him and eventually he lost out to take the bronze medal, with his opponent going on to win overall for a second time.

Hannah made it through to the final comfortably, where her opponent was a fencer from Bristol she had recently beaten in the team matches. Unfortunately for her opponent the lack of sleep was not enough to put Hannah off her game and she went on to win her 3rd women's foil title in a row.

At the end of the weekend we came back with 3 medals, 2 fencers injured and all extremely tired.



IC fencing club on their way to achieve their respectable medal haul

# Heathrow expansion to hit Imperial



Harlington will be left with the artificial pitches to the right of the car park if expansion plans see fruition

Continued from back page

over college. The Conservatives and Liberal Democrats strongly oppose the plan and vow to scrap it if they are elected to government at the next general election.

However the threat of demolition

is not over - air travel is set to increase in the coming years as budget airlines offer increasingly cheaper seats, which could lead to an increase in the number of planes which need to take off and land.

If Heathrow cannot expand, it is proposed that a 24-hour airport could be created on an artificial island in

the Thames Estuary, possibly replacing Heathrow altogether. This is Boris Johnson's favoured solution.

The future of sport at Imperial looks like it is set for a move to Northwood Green, but for now teams will continue to compete and train at Teddington and the affectionately named "Fortress Harlington".

# Sports league

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	%	FI
1 Squash Men's 1st	8	8	0	0	35	5	30	100	5.00
2 Fencing Men's 1st	7	7	0	0	934	533	401	100	5.00
3 Tennis Men's 1st	6	6	0	0	51	9	42	100	5.00
4 Volleyball Women's 1st	5	5	0	0	10	10	10	100	5.00
5 ICSM Badminton Men's 1st	3	3	0	0	16	8	8	100	5.00
6 Badminton Men's 1st	8	6	2	0	45	19	26	75	4.25
7 Hockey Men's 1st	8	7	0	1	45	11	34	88	3.88
8 Lacrosse Women's 1st	7	6	0	1	85	30	55	86	3.71
9 Netball 2nd	7	6	0	1	198	117	81	86	3.71
10 ICSM Netball 3rd	6	5	0	1	198	117	81	83	3.50
11 Squash Men's 2nd	6	5	0	1	20	8	12	83	3.50
12 Fencing Women's 1st	4	3	0	1	524	444	80	75	2.75
13 ICSM Hockey Women's 1st	8	5	1	2	43	17	26	63	2.38
14 Table Tennis Men's 1st	9	6	0	3	97	56	41	67	2.00
15 ICSM Netball 2nd	6	4	0	2	192	117	75	67	2.00
16 Hockey Men's 2nd	8	5	0	3	32	22	10	63	1.63
17 Hockey Men's 3rd	7	3	2	2	15	24	-9	43	1.57
18 Squash Men's 3rd	5	3	0	2	9	6	3	60	1.40
19 Basketball Men's 1st	5	3	0	2	375	331	44	60	1.40
20 Hockey Women's 1st	8	4	1	3	24	18	6	50	1.25
21 ICSM Football Men's 1st	7	4	0	3	12	10	2	57	1.14
22 Basketball Women's 1st	7	4	0	3	326	309	17	57	1.14
23 Rugby Union Men's 2nd	9	5	0	4	200	185	15	56	1.00
24 Badminton Men's 2nd	5	2	1	2	20	20	0	40	0.80
25 Hockey Men's 4th	5	2	1	2	12	20	-8	40	0.80
26 Badminton Women's 1st	8	4	0	4	36	28	8	50	0.50
27 Fencing Men's 2nd	4	2	0	2	481	453	28	50	0.50
28 Squash Women's 1st	9	1	5	3	15	25	-10	11	0.33
29 ICSM Hockey Women's 2nd	6	2	1	3	16	19	-3	33	0.00
30 Tennis Men's 2nd	6	2	1	3	27	33	-6	33	0.00
31 Rugby Union Men's 3rd	7	3	0	4	136	161	-25	43	-0.14
32 Football Men's 1st	7	2	1	4	13	18	-5	29	-0.57
33 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 2nd	8	3	0	5	104	126	-22	38	-0.63
34 Tennis Women's 1st	6	2	0	4	26	34	-8	33	-1.00
35 Volleyball Men's 1st	6	2	0	4	4	8	-4	33	-1.00
36 Football Men's 2nd	6	2	0	4	14	23	-9	33	-1.00
37 Football Women's 1st	6	2	0	4	10	21	-11	33	-1.00
38 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 3rd	6	2	0	4	88	112	-24	33	-1.00
39 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 1st	10	3	0	7	204	277	-73	30	-1.30
40 ICSM Hockey Men's 2nd	8	2	0	6	13	12	1	25	-1.75
41 Lacrosse Men's 1st	5	1	0	4	29	68	-39	20	-2.20
42 Netball 3rd	5	1	0	4	55	182	-127	20	-2.20
43 ICSM Football Men's 2nd	5	1	0	4	7	16	-9	20	-2.20
44 Football Men's 3rd	6	1	0	5	11	25	-14	17	-2.50
45 Hockey Women's 2nd	7	1	0	6	6	32	-26	14	-2.71
46 ICSM Hockey Men's 1st	7	1	0	6	12	23	-11	14	-2.71
47 Rugby Union Men's 4th	7	1	0	6	78	300	-222	14	-2.71
48 ICSM Netball 1st	8	1	0	7	183	317	-134	13	-2.88
49 ICSM Badminton Women's 1st	9	0	1	8	10	63	-53	0	-3.33
50 Rugby Union Women's 1st	1	0	0	1	0	80	-80	0	-4.00
51 Table Tennis Women's 1st	4	0	0	4	3	12	-9	0	-4.00
52 ICSM Hockey Women's 3rd	5	0	0	5	3	32	-29	0	-4.00
53 ICSM Hockey Men's 3rd	4	0	0	4	0	12	-12	0	-4.00
54 Netball 1st	7	0	0	7	137	271	-134	0	-4.00
55 Rugby Union Men's 1st	10	0	0	10	92	370	-278	0	-4.00

# Fixtures & Results

in association with Sports Partnership



## Monday 15th December

**Squash**  
Men's 3s ULU vs LSE 3s ULU

## Wednesday 17th December

**Hockey**  
Men's 3s ULU 3-1 Imperial College 4s ULU

## Rugby

Men's 1st 0-52 UWE Hartpury 2nd  
Men's 2nd 0-29 Imperial College Medicals 2nd

## Table Tennis

Men's 1st 6-11 Middlesex University 1st

## Monday 12th January 2009

**Netball**  
Women's 2s ULU 26-5 LSE 3s ULU

## Squash

Men's 1s ULU 5-0 St George's 1s ULU

## Volleyball

Mixed 1s ULU 0-3 UCL Mixed 1s ULU

## Wednesday 14th January

**Badminton**  
Men's 2nd 5-3 University of Reading 1st

## Fencing

Men's 1st 135-67 University of Southampton 1st

## Football

Men's 5s ULU 0-2 RUMS 2s ULU  
Men's 6s ULU 2-3 LSE 7s ULU

## Hockey

Women's 1s ULU 2-4 St George's 1s ULU

## Lacrosse

Men's 1st 7-18 University of Hertfordshire 1st  
Women's 1st 5-7 University of Brighton 1st

## Rugby

Men's 4th 12-0 St George's 2nd

## Tennis

Men's 2nd 8-2 University of Reading 1st  
Women's 1st 4-6 University of Brighton 1st

## Saturday 17th January

**Football**  
Men's 1s ULU vs LSE Men's 1s ULU  
Men's 2s ULU vs Royal Holloway 2s ULU  
Men's 3s ULU vs Imperial College Medicals 2s ULU  
Men's 4s ULU vs Royal Vets 1s ULU  
Men's 5s ULU vs King's Medicals 3s ULU  
Men's 6s ULU vs Queen Mary 5s ULU

## Monday 21st January

**Basketball**  
Men's 2nd ULU vs Queen Mary 1st ULU  
Women's 1s ULU vs Queen Mary 1s ULU

Men's 7s ULU vs Heythrop College 1s ULU

## Sunday 18th January

**Basketball**  
Men's 1s ULU vs UCL 1st ULU

## Football

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

## Hockey

**ULU Cup**  
Men's 2s ULU vs Royal Vets 1s ULU  
Men's 3s ULU vs Royal Holloway 2s ULU  
Men's 4s ULU vs King's Medicals 2s ULU  
Women's 1s ULU vs Imperial College Medicals 1s ULU  
Women's 2s ULU vs King's College 2s ULU

## Lacrosse

Mixed 1s ULU vs St Bart's Mixed 1s ULU

## Rugby

Women's 1s ULU vs Royal Vets 1s ULU

## Monday 21st January

**Basketball**  
Men's 2nd ULU vs Queen Mary 1st ULU  
Women's 1s ULU vs Queen Mary 1s ULU

## Football

Men's 2nd vs RUMS 1st  
Men's 4s ULU vs UCL 6s ULU  
Men's 5s ULU vs Royal Vets 1s ULU  
Men's 6s ULU vs Goldsmiths 2s ULU  
Women's 1s ULU vs St George's 1s ULU

## Netball

Women's 1s ULU vs Royal Holloway 1s ULU  
**ULU Cup**  
Women's 1s ULU vs St Barts 1st ULU

## Squash

Women's 1s ULU vs RUMS 1s ULU  
**ULU Cup**  
Men's 2s ULU vs Royal Holloway 1s ULU  
Men's 3s ULU vs St Barts 1s ULU

## Volleyball

**ULU Cup**  
Mixed 1s ULU vs LSE Mixed 1s ULU

## Wednesday 19th January

**Badminton**  
Men's 2nd vs King's 1st  
Women's 1st vs University of Reading 1st

## Fencing

Women's 2nd vs Brunel University 1st

## Football

Men's 2nd vs RUMS 1st  
Men's 4s ULU vs UCL 6s ULU  
Men's 5s ULU vs Royal Vets 1s ULU  
Men's 6s ULU vs Goldsmiths 2s ULU  
Women's 1s ULU vs St George's 1s ULU

## Hockey

Men's 4s ULU vs St George's 2s ULU  
Women's 1s ULU vs UCL 1s ULU  
Women's 2s ULU vs King's 2s ULU

## Lacrosse

Men's 1st vs Canterbury Christ Church University 1st  
Women's 1st vs University of Portsmouth 1st

## Netball

Women's 3rd vs Queen Mary 2nd

## Rugby

Men's 2nd vs Imperial College Medicals 2nd  
Men's 3rd vs Royal Holloway 2nd  
Men's 4th vs University of Surrey 2nd

## Table Tennis

Men's 1st vs University of Reading 1st

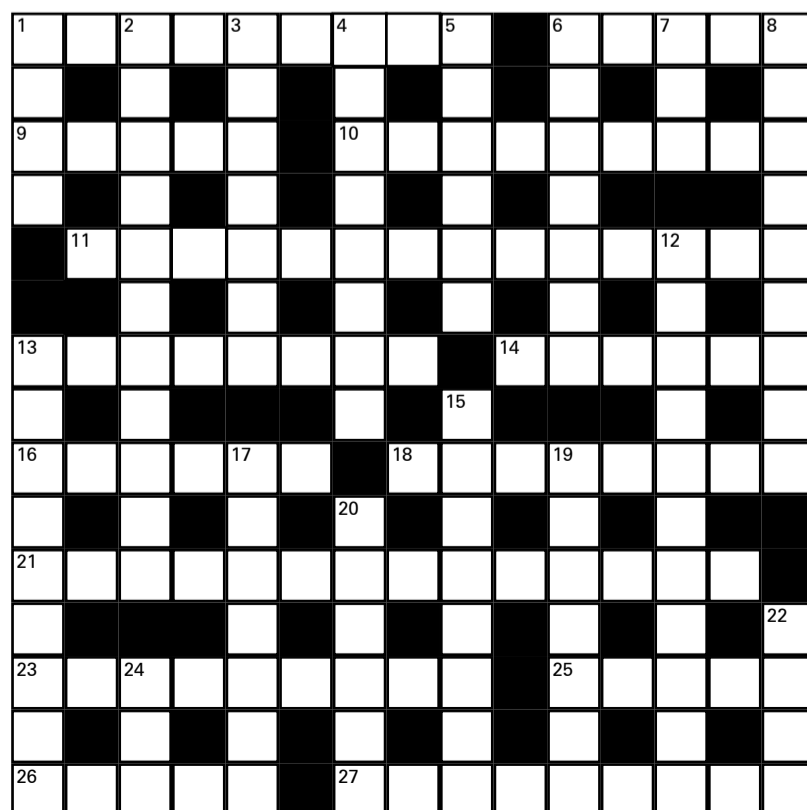
## Tennis

Women's 1st vs London Metropolitan 2nd

## Volleyball

Women's 2nd vs King's College 1st

# Crossword No. 1,420



## ACROSS

- More than one annoyance is found in the details (9)
- Famous piper is discovered after damage (5)
- From the beginning it is over: there will be nothing at the end (2,3)
- To fit padding up a leather guncase (7)
- (8,6)
- Dances into Hell, tearing important connective tissue (8)
- Worship Paul, the patriot (6)
- The fields of France conceal the victors (6)
- Hardy heroine returns after revolutionary's board game in pieces (5,3)
- Incapable urban development in the establishment of tinpot little country (6,8)
- Throw in worn out, overused fossil (9)
- Contests of speed can be seen as strains (5)
- Spanish saint saves Antarctic core (5)
- Shiny apes change formulation of 'impossible' tasks (9)

## DOWN

- Prophet makes no expression of satisfaction (4)
- Smooth piece of cloth famously used by Churchill (4,7)
- Way of expressing contrition for a lot, informally, in mass (7)
- Two lines of verse put close together (8)
- Switzerland is into violent sexual activities, meaning a break in friendly relations (6)
- Famous playwright has a lie-in more... (7)
- ... regularly once tuberculosis starts generating decomposition (3)



## Imperial fencers strike gold in Nottingham

**Beth Jelfs**

The first weekend in December saw the fencing team heading up to Nottingham for the annual BUCS individual competitions. With six competitions spread across three days this is a big event in the club calendar and this year was no exception with our biggest entry to date.

The first events of the day (Friday) were the women's sabre and the men's epee, in which we had eight fencers competing: Joan Chang, Clare Harding and Beth Jelfs, Marcello Colombino, Alessandro Costamagna, Ed Collier, Ed Gilhead and Chris Namih.

The women's sabre went smooth with all three girls making the last 16 before being knocked out by the eventual gold, silver and bronze medallists.

Marcello made it to the final in the men's epee, where he lost, to gain the silver medal. He faced the same opponent who also knocked out last year's bronze medallist Alessandro, who finished 20th. Not that Marcello's run was without complications, early on he knocked out his own team captain, an unwell Ed G. and confusion at the end of one round left Marcello convinced that he had lost a bout on the final hit. It took some time for Marcello to be convinced that he had in fact won and could go back to stocking up on bananas before the next round (most

people thought 12 in one competition was a little excessive, but maybe that's the key to his success). Ed C. and Chris both put in good performances with Ed making the last 32 and Chris getting knocked out in the last 64.

Saturday saw the women's epee with the men's foil taking place. Joan and Beth were joined by the women's team captain Emily Bottle and fresher Helen Pennington. Joan made it to the last 32, finishing 29th whilst everyone else got knocked out in the last 64.

For the men Ed C. and Chris N. were both fencing again, along with Indy Leclercq, Chris Gilliam, Alex Bishop and Nathan Harmston. With the large amount of competitors, everyone was ranked lower than hoped for, with Indy ranked 5th despite having won all of his bouts. This left Chris N. and Nathan playing off to reach the 128, luckily both won their bouts easily to make it through where they finished the day, along with Alex. Chris G. and Ed made it through to the last 64 and Indy narrowly missed out on a place in the last 16, finishing 17th overall.

Nottingham university organised a social event in the evening, although those who had to fence the next day decided to leave the rest to it. As ever it was a good night and a great chance to socialise with the rest of the fencers,

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## Heathrow expansion plans affect IC sports

**Charles Murdoch**

New plans were approved by the government and unveiled to MPs last Thursday (15th January) to expand Heathrow airport by the construction of a third runway complex. Their venture is strongly opposed by some members of the cabinet, over 50 MPs with the Mayor of London, Boris Johnson considering supporting a legal challenge.

Construction is due to start in 2015 and be completed within 5 years; once completed the operating capacity is set to increase from present levels of 480,000 passengers a year to 702,000 by 2030. It is feared that when Great Britain emerges out of the current economic crisis, Heathrow as it currently stands will not be able to fill the needs of business traffic and potential foreign investors, who will consequently take their business to Great Britain's main European competitors.

Due to Heathrow constantly oper-

ating at almost 100% capacity, minor problems stack up throughout the day, causing significant delays. Reducing the level of working capacity by building a third runway will not only solve this issue, but create hundreds jobs which will help contribute to the estimated £7bn to the economy each year.

To make way for the new runway, an area spanning about 700 homes and businesses will have to be demolished which includes Heathrow Primary School. Perhaps more importantly for Imperial's sporting body, Harlington Sports Ground will also suffer the wrecking ball.

Although Harlington is on the very edge of the area proposed for development, only the artificial pitches lie outside. Sport Imperial state that they have known about this eventuality for some years and have already purchased land in Norwood Green, which is ready for the full development of a new sports complex. As a result Sport Imperial can assure students that they

will not be affected and there will be facilities for sportsmen and women to play matches and train on.

Neil Mosley, head of Sport Imperial told *felix* that "sport at Imperial will not suffer as a result of the Heathrow expansion and we are in talks with the London Borough of Ealing to develop a new sports facility." An added bonus is that the new grounds are situated closer to the campus than the current ones available at Harlington, allowing sports teams to train with increased regularity on real pitches. The pitches used by the Medical School teams at Teddington will remain unaffected and still be retained by college for the Medicals.

Many environmental groups strongly oppose the idea citing that both noise and air pollution will be dramatically increased as a result of the expansion, which they say will ruin the lives of residents who live under the new flight path which will run almost directly

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