

felix

The student 'news'paper of
Imperial College London

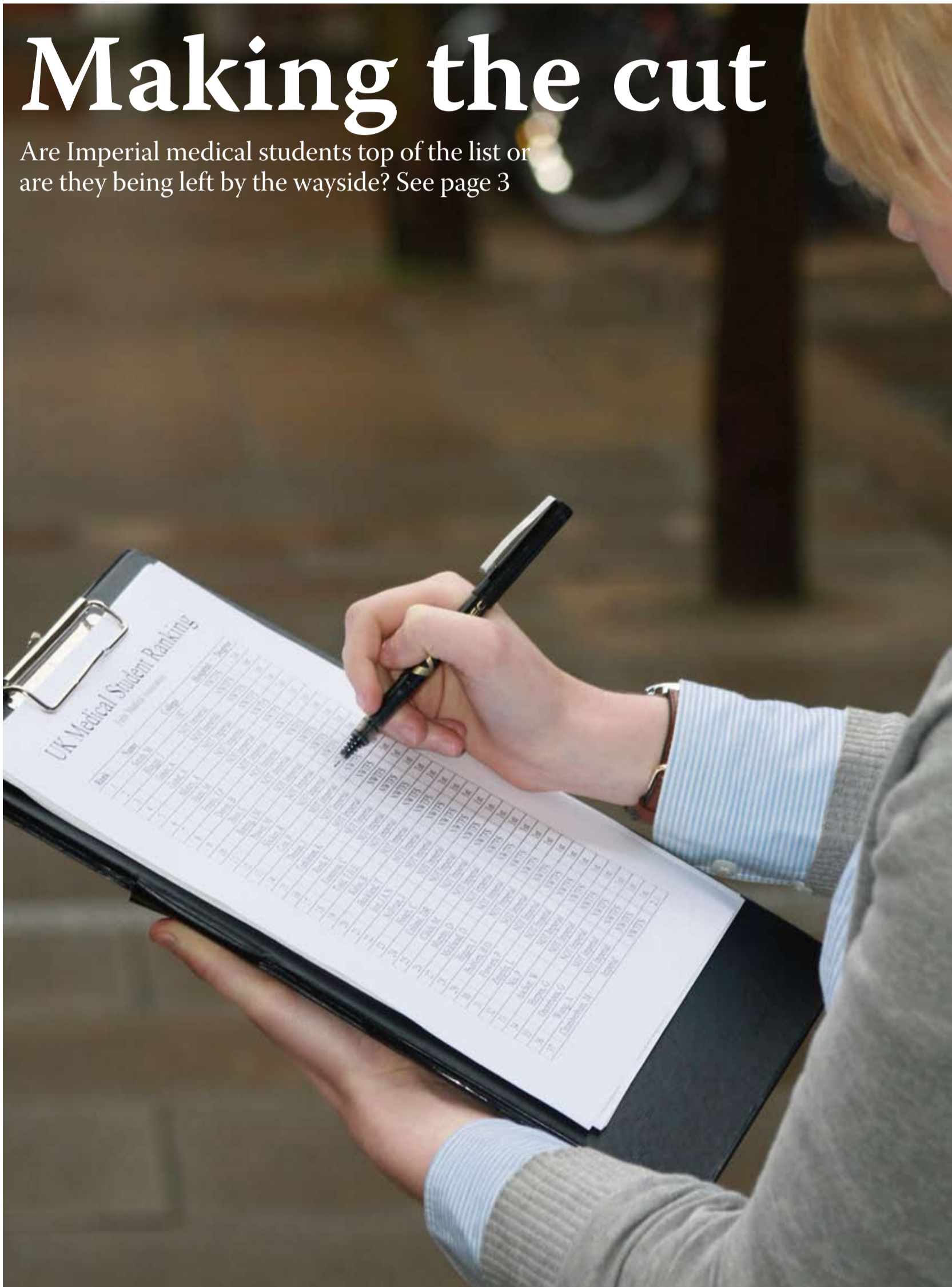
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Making the cut

Are Imperial medical students top of the list or are they being left by the wayside? See page 3



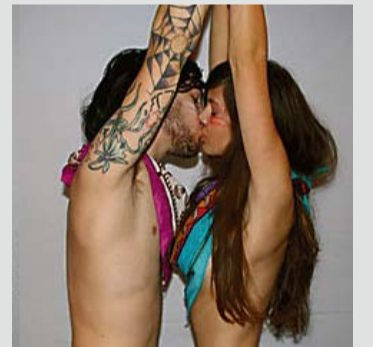
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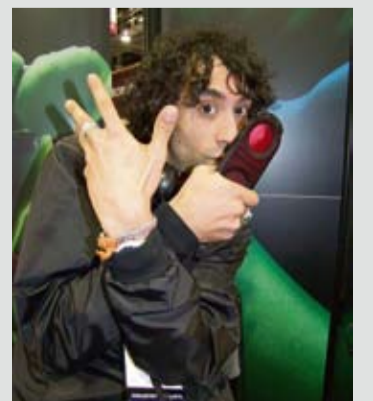
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2009 Science Challenge Launched!!

Professor Lord Robert Winston got the 2009 RCSU Imperial College Science Challenge, supported by Shell, off to a flying start last night, as he spoke at its launch. The event was attended by over 150 Imperial students and even the Rector, Sir Roy Anderson, was amongst the audience, with students and teachers from schools across the United Kingdom also logging in to watch the event live online. Some even made the journey to South Kensington to attend the event itself! Either the free cakes and drinks on offer, or perhaps this year's prizes, must have caught their attention – with the overall winner standing to pocket £5,000 for only 800 words!

Full details of this year's competition were announced at the launch by the Chair, Jad Marrouche, PhD student and former President of the RCSU, who is running the event for the second time after his many successes in 2006-2007. The competition will follow a similar format to previous years, with the aim being to write an 800-word essay in answer to one of four questions, set by a panel of judges, based on a scientific topic and its effects on the wider world. There will once again be two categories: one for students at Imperial College, and another, run in conjunction with Imperial Outreach, for school students across the United Kingdom.

The Prizes

In the Imperial category, the overall winner will receive £5,000 cash, generously sponsored by Winton Capital, with the three runners-up each receiving £1,000 cash and in the schools category, the overall winner will receive a £5,000 bursary to study at Imperial College, with the three runners-up each receiving a £1,000 bursary.

If this wasn't enough, there will also be "experience" prizes on offer for all the prizewinners, including a day shadowing Lord Robert Winston, and

guided tours of the National Physical Laboratory, the facilities at CERN in Geneva and a Shell alternative energy laboratory.

And just when you thought that was all, John Sanderson of the RCSA has once again given generously to the cause, donating 'once-in-a-lifetime (non-scientific!) prizes to the winners – two tandem flights on a paraglider for the winning school student and two trial lessons on a light aircraft for the winning Imperial student...who said science couldn't be fun...?'

The Small-Print

All entries must be submitted online at <http://sciencechallenge.org>, and received by 23.59 on the 2nd March. Imperial academics will judge the essays,

passing onto each judge the top ten essays based on their question. Each judge will then select the winning essay for each of the two categories and then all four judges will decide upon the overall winners, who will be announced at the Grand Final event, to be held on the 13th March at an as-yet undisclosed location. With previous Grand Finals including sell-out events at The Ritz Hotel and The Science Museum, you can bet this will be one not to miss!

The Science Challenge website has also had an extensive re-development and is now available, complete with full details of the competition, previous winning essays and information about how to enter, all of which can be found at the conveniently named <http://sciencechallenge.org>.



Past RCSU President Jad Marrouche at the launch yesterday

The Judges and the Questions

Professor Armand Leroi
Professor of Evolutionary Developmental Biology at Imperial College



"Will Homo sapiens continue to evolve, and, if so, how?"

Dr Martyn Sené
Acting Director of the National Physical Laboratory

"At a time when the public seems to be increasingly distrustful of science and technology and, indeed, of scientists, what can be done to ensure an informed and balanced public and political debate?"

Duncan Macleod
Vice President, Hydrogen and GTL, Shell



"Hydrogen is key to tackling the world's rapidly increasing demand for energy. Discuss."

Professor Tejinder Virdee
Spokesperson for the Compact Muon Solenoid experiment at CERN

"What can we learn from the Large Hadron Collider experiment?"

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Imperial Students lose out in Foundation programmes

Now in its third reincarnation, the selection process for final year medical students has started to produce favourable results for Imperial, but is it fair? *felix* Editor in Chief, Jovan Nedić, investigates the history and what the results say this year.

Almost 86% of final year students from the Imperial College School of Medicine [ICSM] have been assigned their preferred foundation programme this year. Although an improvement from last year's figure of 61.5%, the results released on the 6th January 2009 are still below the national average of 90%. The fears raised by many students and professionals alike is still whether or not the new system, known as UKFPO Version 2.0 which is the 3rd reincarnation of the process since it started in 2005, is a fair process.

The national application process is the method by which medical students are assigned a hospital where they will do their foundation course. In previous years, as part of their Pre-Registration House Officer [PRHO] year (i.e. the final year of medical training as and employee), medical students were matched with a position in the hospital(s) linked to their individual medical school, however this was technically illegal as it was not consistent with employment laws. The system also meant that medical students could not apply to hospitals that were not linked to their 'home' school, unless they had received permission from the Dean of their medical school. This particular method of job assignment had not been legally challenged; however, when the new national selection system came into effect, and where the PRHO year changed into foundation programme, it was inevitable that some people would challenge the selection method on a legal basis, which the medical schools would have lost as the law was being broken.

The General Medical Council [GMC] had in the past recommended that students "undertake a PRHO post associated with [their] medical school", though since the new system came into fruition, this particular line of text has since disappeared from their literature. In the past, it was felt by the GMC that with students remaining with effectively the same institution there would be an educational and pastoral continuity. In light of the fact that the 'old system' was illegal, it is safe to assume that the GMC didn't want to be endorsing an illegal practise.

With the introduction of a national application, it was immediately clear to the medical students in London that they would suffer, since there were more medical students in London than actual places in hospitals. ICSM, in the past, had links with hospitals outside the London area to cope with the excess number of students, however these places have now gone with more and more medical schools opening. The fact that there are more medical schools opening is another fact that has caused concern, due to the lack of uniformity between the medical schools.

When the new national application system was introduced in 2005, known as the Multi-Deanery Application Process [MDAP], students applied di-



Imperial medical students doing their thing

rectly for posts but a maximum of 40. The MDAP was still not 'national' as it wasn't open to all posts in the country, instead students could apply to one of two 'Units of Application' that had a number of schools within them. After one year, the system was deemed to have been a disaster. Each student that applied to a particular post was ranked in order to allocate the position, yet there was no national guidelines for scoring, no academic ranking and poor consultation with senior medical professionals. There was effectively no process in which all the students across the country could be compared to. 20% of medical graduates in the country come from London, and in 2005, 250 London medical students without posts, 44% of the total number of unplaced posts. Of these 250, 39 were Imperial students and after clearing 11 were still without a post; the 11 included prize-winners.

The fear that London students would be displaced seemed to be true, and since it was clear that the MDAP system was not working, a new system was devised in 2006. The Medical Training Application Service [MTAS] gave students the opportunity to apply to anywhere in the country, however they would have to apply to a foundation school first before they could apply to an individual post. Academic ranking was introduced for the first time, with the results from that contributing to 45% of the overall score, something that was felt would benefit Imperial graduates. The problem that now occurred was that many of the Imperial graduates who were already in the bottom 50% of their year, didn't see the point in applying to a North West Thames Foundation School [NWTFS] where all their hospitals are located. This resulted in fewer people applying to a post at a NWTFS, with the lower ranked students opting to apply to a foundation school outside London. As a result 92% of Imperial graduates were allocated to their first choice of foundation schools.

In 2007, the MTAS was renamed the United Kingdom Foundation Pro-

grammes Office [UKFPO]. The previous year saw only 352 applicants for 321 posts in NWTFS, which gave the impression to many students across the country that it was relatively easy to get into a NWTFS. Back in 2007, NWTFS saw 552 applicants for a similar number of places, a figure that far surpassed that of any other foundations school. As a result, only 61.5% of Imperial finalists got their first choice foundation school.

With a new year and a new round of medical students applying for posts at foundation schools, it is time for a change to the application process. Points allocated from academic merit decrease from 45% to 40% which means more of an emphasis is made on the written part. This is of great benefit to Imperial candidates as they have scored higher on average than anyone else in this sector over the past few years. On the academic front, the scoring for Q1 has increased, giving 4 points for a 2.1 BSC, something which most Imperial candidates have.

There is no doubt that with the increased support from the ICSM Students' Union in the form of lectures on filling out the application form, as well as tactical choices made by the students themselves, Imperial was able to obtain a higher proportion of students getting their first choice. What is of main concern still, even after 4 years, is the method by which these positions are allocated. There is no distinction between the qualities of students coming out from the various medical students. Effectively, people ranked in the top quartile at Imperial are considered exactly the same as people from an institution that is lower in the league tables for medicine, who are also in the top quartile at their school. The method of teaching various from school to school, which again means that there will be a difference in the quality of students graduating.

Although the results this year are encouraging, the general consensus across the Imperial board is that things need to change, whether or not that is going to happen, only time will tell.

What the college thinks

"I would of course like every single one of our students to get their first choice of job and although the system is imperfect, at least our students were less disadvantaged this year. London has always produced more doctors than can be accommodated for training in the capital and over the years, even before the current system, many students did choose to start their postgraduate training out of London. We need to help our students create the strongest possible applications to increase their chance of securing their preferred Foundation placement."



Prof. J. Higham
Head of Undergraduate Medicine

What ICSMSU thinks

"Imperial College School of Medicine Students' Union is extremely happy that our final year students fared better this year compared to previous years. North West Thames Foundation School is still a particularly hard school to get into, and we, in collaboration with the other London medical schools, are in the process of investigating how heavily skewed the results are considering so many final years did not apply to our home school as a consequence of last years results. Whilst we are pleased with the result, we will still be pushing for educational continuity in reform to the allocation process."

Mark Chamberlain
ICSMSU President



What the students think

"Not being a huge supporter of the UKFPO application system, I applied feeling apprehensive and unsure of how things would turn out especially after last years statistics for ICSM. I received my first choice deanery but there are still a lot of problems in the system that need to be addressed. The computer system this year worked and did not crash but the system for selecting jobs seemed clumsy and once the jobs were selected in preferences it was impossible to click a link to observe the job details for refining your selection. Maybe this could be reviewed for next year."

Aubery Smith
6th Year Medic

New Sabbaticals for Education and Welfare

Lawrence Weetman
Live! News Reporter

The meeting of Union Council last night voted overwhelmingly in favour of creating a new Sabbatical position to divide the role of Deputy President (Education & Welfare). The paper, presented for the second time in as many meetings, was passed with 36 votes to 2, with one of these votes being made via proxy and therefore not privy to the debate during the meeting.

At the previous meeting in December some members of Council felt that the paper was rushed and ill thought-out and, despite winning over a simple majority vote, it did not receive the two-thirds required to pass. Current DPEW, Hannah Theodorou, said that it was "tough to make a decision on whether to bring the paper back to Council", stating that her reason was not because she thought that the Council had made the wrong decision, but because young undergraduates who "don't understand the ins-and-outs of Union politics" felt upset that the paper had been rejected, and wanted it to be re-submitted.

Council Chair, Afonso Campos, relinquished the Chair during the discussion and vote on this paper as he did not feel that he could be un-biased in his role. *felix* Editor in Chief, Jovan Nedic, stepped up to the position to the objection of Deputy President (Finance & Services), Christian Carter. Mr Carter claimed that the Felix Editor was similarly unable to claim neutrality due to his comments at previous meetings and the Sabbatical Review Working Group. Mr Nedic quickly defended his position, stating that he had to remain neutral as the editor of *felix*, and only stepped in with opinions previously in order to speed up the meeting.

The revised paper addressed many of the issues that had been neglected at the previous meeting. Most importantly, ICU President Jenny Morgan has confirmed that "if we don't have



Deputy President Education and Welfare Hannah Theodorou passing round papers showing the hectic schedule that the previous role has

assurance that we're going to have the money from the NUS pot then we will not create these new positions". The council requested that this assurance come in the form of written confirmation from a senior member of college staff by February 9th - before nominations for the position open. The paper will be circulated to the Trustee Board via email for their approval to allow a decision to be made at College Council in time for the upcoming Sabbatical Elections.

The original papers to Council called for one of the new positions to be the Deputy President (Education and Development), however it was proposed to change it to Deputy President (Education) just before the final vote took place. After a bit of a discussion it be-

came clear that it didn't really matter, with a vote of 15-14 making the positions Deputy President (Education) and Deputy President (Welfare).

The issue of the NUS affiliation money was also raised. Many students based their decision on NUS disaffiliation on the fact that the money could be used for other Union matters. Deputy President (Clubs and Societies), Lily Topham, asked whether the rest of the NUS affiliation money would be available to the Union after the DPE and DPW roles had been funded. Miss Morgan confirmed that the Union would fight for the full amount, however ruled out an increased budget for the Union building re-development, as this does not fall within the scope of the Union's subvention.

The world beyond college walls

 Palestine

After Israel's unilateral ceasefire on 17th January, and a completion of its troop pullout on the 21st, Palestinian residents are returning to their homes in the Gaza strip.

It is estimated that tens of thousands of Gazans are homeless as apartment blocks were reduced to rubble in areas where the Israeli Airforce did strike, and where battles with Hamas militants took place. Additionally, half a million Palestinians are without water, electricity supplies are also patchy and humanitarian aid supplies from donor countries are trickling through the Rafah crossing with Egypt.

Meanwhile Amnesty International has accused Israel of war crimes by indiscriminately using white phosphorus munitions in densely populated areas, something which the Israeli Defence Force is already investigating, and in Kuwait City, a meeting of the Arab League to discuss how to help rebuild Gaza ended in discord as its 22 members failed to agree on a plan.



 United Kingdom

The British government has shelved plans to exempt MPs (Member of Parliament) from certain parts of the Freedom of Information Act.

After losing a case in the High Court last year, the House of Commons (lower house) was on the brink of publishing receipts for every expense claim made by an MP since 2005, putting them on the same level as other paid British public officials like civil servants and MSPs (Member of the Scottish Parliament). Initially assuming all-party support, the government's proposed change to the law would have blocked pending requests for more information under the Freedom of Information Act. But in the weekly Prime Minister's Questions on Wednesday 21st January, Gordon Brown said he would not press ahead with the proposal, citing the withdrawal of support from the opposition Conservative and Lib Dem parties.

Critics were sceptical of the government's proposed changes, saying they were deliberately announced this week, when the news headlines were filled with Obama's inauguration and Heathrow's third runway plans, in order to "bury bad news."

 Netherlands

A Dutch court has ruled that Geert Wilders, a right-wing politician, should be prosecuted for inciting racial hatred.

Three judges from the Amsterdam Appeals Court weighed Wilders' anti-Islamic rhetoric against his right to free speech with regards to his 17-minute film "Fitna", which was released in March 2008. The film showed verses of the Muslim holy book the Quran interspersed with images of terrorism; the judges reversed a decision from last year, and this time ruled that Wilders' had broken the law, thus setting the stage for what is likely to be a highly charged trial.

Wilders, who is the leader of the Freedom Party which has 9 out of 120 seats in the Dutch Parliament, is an outspoken critic of Islam. He has made controversial statements about Muslims before, calling for a ban on the Quran in the same way that Hitler's "Mein Kampf" is banned, and saying "I've had enough of Islam in the Netherlands; let not one more Muslim immigrate."



Edited by Hassan Joudi



The Beauty Of Democracy Obama's Inauguration

Kadhim Shubber

The biting cold meant that at 3am, 9 hours before the swearing in, I was huddled with a group of students from Michigan who had driven down to Washington that evening. We joked that the first black President of the United States might have a lot in his in-tray, but at least he had a warm bed to sleep in that night. Hours before we had met in a Ghanaian live music bar where a 53-year-old black D.C. resident grabbed the singer's microphone and emotionally declared that the mistakes of the past didn't matter anymore because "something beautiful is going to happen tomorrow".

America has a guilty past and Obama's election is an answer to the questions that this guilty past invites. Has equality been achieved? Is there still discrimination? Where is there a ceiling? Something that I heard over and over in Washington is that people never thought it would happen. Obama had asked them to hope, but most of all they had been scared of past racial and political demons coming back to haunt them again; scared of being let down.

For my generation, the generation that used new information technology to help put Obama in office, this was always a peculiar idea. Without the memory of segregation and the experience of discrimination the no-

torture, increased security and lost rights. Hurricane Katrina exposed a divided America and made a mockery of the government's ability to uphold its duties to its citizens; "were black Americans still treated as second-class citizens?" we asked. For the past 8 years Americans have been asked to contemplate their decline to an undemocratic and totalitarian state.

At the inauguration, we witnessed a peaceful and stable transition of power. Something that seems simple but that still in this day and age remains special. The success of democracy in America and its ability to deliver the will of the people was proven and with the strong commandments of the new President, "Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off,

and begin again the work of remaking America," the mistakes of the past did seem less important than the bountiful promise of the future.

Less important too were the divisions between Republican and Democrat, Conservative and Liberal, or Obama and McCain supporters. Of course, these distinctions did exist but they were not public. Democrats did not boast to me that they now controlled the American executive and legislative power and Republicans were not begrudging in their celebrations. On inauguration eve, a McCain supporter was being verbally abused by an over-zealous Democrat as a "redneck". A baying liberal mob did not spring up, instead onlookers jumped to his defence. Here was the truth of Obama's 2004 convention speech, the material evidence of the fact that there is not a liberal America and a conservative America — there is the United States of America. Obama has appealed to the best in Americans, he has called on them to work hard, to believe, to hope, to remember the ideals on which the country was founded. And Americans of all colours have responded by uniting with pride in their nation.

"The success of democracy in America and its ability to deliver the will of the people was proven. The mistakes of the past did seem less important than the bountiful promise of the future"

er, was momentous not only because Obama is the first black President and not only because of the unifying rhetoric and actions of the Commander-in-Chief. The inauguration was truly historic because it marks an era of struggle for the American people that threatens their way of life but also holds infinite potential. This is the struggle to renew America's place at the forefront of the world culturally, politically and economically. It will require the upgrade of infrastructure, increased quality of learning, the creation of a green economy and the healing of America's cultural and political divisions. This is the struggle to preserve America's moral leadership and its government's credibility both at home and abroad.

In front of a 1.8 million strong crowd, Obama laid out the means by which America would engage in this struggle and he left us in no doubt of the outcome. This generation has a duty to carry forth the great gift of freedom to future generations, Obama told us, and that neither terrorists, nor cynics, nor the stale political arguments of right versus left would prevent America from rising to the challenge with pride, tolerance and strength. In short, we heard Obama say, the challenges of the present and the future "will be met". And there in the biting cold, on the National Mall, we shared the moment and we believed him.

This inauguration, howev-

GMC rejects call for enquiry into MTAS

Dina Ismail
News Correspondent

None of the doctors responsible for the Medical Training Application Service (MTAS) fiasco will face disciplinary action from the General Medical Council (GMC) because their bad decisions weren't made in a clinical setting, junior doctors have been told.

The useless MTAS system, which was meant to match junior doctors to training posts, left thousands of qualified doctors jobless. It was condemned as unfair and inefficient, suffered technical failures and serious security breaches which left applicants' personal details exposed on the MTAS website.

The junior doctors' pressure group Remedy spearheaded the campaign for an investigation in to what was the most called-for professional referral to the GMC in medical history.

However, the GMC rejected the demand for an enquiry into the role and performance of the doctors who were involved in developing the system, telling Remedy:

"The allegations of misconduct must be concealed with poor performance in a clinical setting."



Demonstrators against the enquiry into the MTAS fiasco

Many have found this stance to be a baffling duplicity of standards in accountability.

Earlier last year TV psychiatrist Raj Persaud was suspended from practice over plagiarism in a book and various articles he had written for medical journals and newspapers, which was hardly a 'clinical setting.' Many recent cases that the GMC has handled relate

to doctors' conduct entirely unrelated to patients. Cases from 2008 include several doctors suspended for motor-ing offences, financial misconduct and another who looked at porn via hospital computers.

These were clearly cases of wrong doing, but the cost to the health service has been negligible compared to the harmful impact of the failed MTAS.

Are we all freaks or is there something to freak about? - Slutty Pumpkin



Does the political and social situation of a country reflect on the amount of freaks running free on the streets? In order to find an answer I had to look for examples extracted from my life. Back home, I used to have a neighbour, a good-looking 30-something woman with child, who used to get drunk and start singing songs in an unknown language in her garden until late at night. Then one of my English teachers at school had such sudden mood changes that some days she would praise you as her best pupil and other days she would forget your name in the middle of the year. And these were only a few examples from my past. The fact that they happened when everything was peaceful and not altered by any credit crunch means that there might not be a close relation to the stability status of the world and the number of crazy people out there.

I decided to investigate my present and see if I could see a difference. Unfortunately, I have to say that it has gotten even worse. I have met some serious freaks at Imperial during my 3 years here. Even though I have to admit that most of them are harmless, it makes me very sad when I discover a freak among the people I call my friends. There was a person whom I considered a close friend last year and who suddenly stopped talking to me. At this point I obviously didn't know about her freak identity, I thought that

something had happened or that I had made some mistake. But later on, some people told me that she had stopped talking to them too. And then I discovered that half Imperial had been rejected by her. I instantaneously felt a feeling of relief "it's not me!" but then many new questions came to my mind. How do you handle such mood-swinging freaks? Can they be friends with normal people?

In order to find answers, I went and did some research in the literature. For those who watch Friends, you will immediately think of Phoebe. Yes, she would come into the harmless freak category, but she is also a funny, creative and very caring person. And thus she had friends. In 'Friends' I trust and thus I decided to fight for those freaks who might come up a bit strong the first day but then have lovely personalities. Being freak doesn't have to play against you, it can also be a charming asset you can use, and create some kind of lovely unpredictability around you. Unfortunately this is not always the case. It is not even usually the case. But it happens, and you have to give people a chance. And besides, the amount of freaks having gone up at the same time that the credit crunch has been introduced into our lives, who is to say that these are not directly correlated? It is possible that it is not even their fault if they have been infected by this crazy virus, it is clearly the subprimes!

Wonder walls – more than just a catchy tune for Quick Nic



A pretty ubiquitous thing, the wall. Surrounded by them for most of our daily lives, whether walking down wall-lined streets or sitting in the enclosure of them, how many of us consider the significance of walls on our well-being, psyche, or even world history? With great walls, wailing walls, and wonderwalls; there must be more to them than first meets the eye.

Paleolithic man rebelled against nature by constructing walls where he wanted to stay; one of his first technological advances. From the days of high-tech protection measures, walls have evolved to now have many reasons d'être: surprising maybe, but consider...

The most prominent of modern day are those around territories, a mark of ownership on the land. A really big barrier keeping out the undesirables and protecting those within. Like your neighbour growing big pine trees around their garden to stop you from peering in, it says a lot.

Stay with me now – there's a point. Like children in an argument that find

they're getting nowhere turning their backs to each other, walls in difficult situations rarely solve a lot. My example being the days I've gone not talking to my sister. With closed doors there's no need for communication; therefore it doesn't happen. We've lost our communities for the same reason and have replaced them with virtual ones where ease of communication is the name of the game. I personally like to hear the lol, see the :@ and feel the (), it lets me feel real, un-virtual if you will. Walls are letting us live our separate lives without any need for real face to face interaction.

Without this communication nothing gets solved; because unlike children forgetting the stolen Pokémon card; whole populations rarely forget their problems and it's even harder to attain the forgiveness of those wronged. Walling the problem up as Emperor Akbar did to legendary dancer Anarkali (Mughal-E-Azam, a must-watch Hindi film) only serves to exacerbate the problem, creating the ideal breeding ground for extreme feelings to take hold. Who knows what could happen then?

Kawai Wong: Ryanair, fool me once, shame on...

You understand, I am only human. And humans cannot resist a little bargain. My dollar-sign eyes glisten as this appears on my computer screen - "your flight status is confirmed". I punch my fists in the air and swing my t-shirt above my head. Ha, a £40 return flight to Milan.

Blood drains from my face when the adrenalin of slashing a good deal ebbs away. I realise what I have done. Yet again, 100 years on from Jack and Rose, technological advances have put an end to epic travelling. Unfortunately not with a budget airline. They send you 3 centuries back to the Z-deck on a transatlantic steamboat. On the eve of departure, I toss and turn in my bed, soak my linen with cold sweat as Michael O'Leary opens my suitcase and toss my shower gel, t-shirts, towels, nighties, underpants, sunglasses, flip-flops and bikini into an open fire. "Why didn't you pay for checked luggage? Why didn't you pay for speedy boarding? Why didn't you...?" He puts a numbered stamp on my forehead and a fearsome looking witch pushes me onto the aircraft. I have never been more cheerful to wake up to a 4am alarm clock. What a nightmare. Wait, or is it the actualisation of truth?

Why am I such a fool? Knowing full well in advance that ground travel will probably cost me an extra £40 if not more. Yes, booking with BA will cost me £100 one off. But I will fly out at more humane hours, and I can march on to the aircraft with dignity. The airhostess to welcome you on board at least has the decency to tie up their hair and look presentable. I get to booze on the house, I get to have a little sandwich, I get a few glittery points on my AirMiles portfolio. And if I am thick enough I can even ask for toys or register myself as an "unaccompanied minor" and suckle on the stewardess's breast.

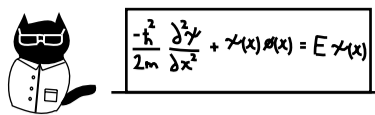
But the damage has been done, I have to physically trawl my 0kg bag through the door to catch the next tube, bus, train, coach, plane, coach again and then bus. I always, always angrily punch the passenger seat in front of me just to vent my frustration on how impossible I am. How many mistakes do I need to make before I ban myself from the Ryanair website? I lie on my hotel bed in Citta Alta thinking about Bush. "Fool me once, shame on...". I am too exhausted to admire the scenery outside my hotel window. I have wasted another £40 for sleeping through

the day in a hotel room.

I am no business person. But I happen to know that in 2006, Ryanair launched a hostile take over for Aerlingus. Aerlingus had a close shave then, the decision rejected only by European Commission reasoning that Ryanair will attain Irish air monopoly. The Irish Government dumped three quarters of the previously government owned company's shares onto the stock market in 2006. Since then Ryanair has become the largest shareholder of Aerlingus at 29.5%. Allow me to reiterate my sheer ignorance in how the financial market works, but it would be an utter nightmare for passengers if the budget airline ideology continue to dominate our air traffic. I prefer to check in how ever many bags as I see fit, without a hush-puppy looking clerk pulling another £20 off my plastic. I prefer the lovely snacks and drinks and toys. I prefer the 'Catch Me If You Can' airhostesses. I prefer to pay for a ticket with an honest price tag with no hidden costs.

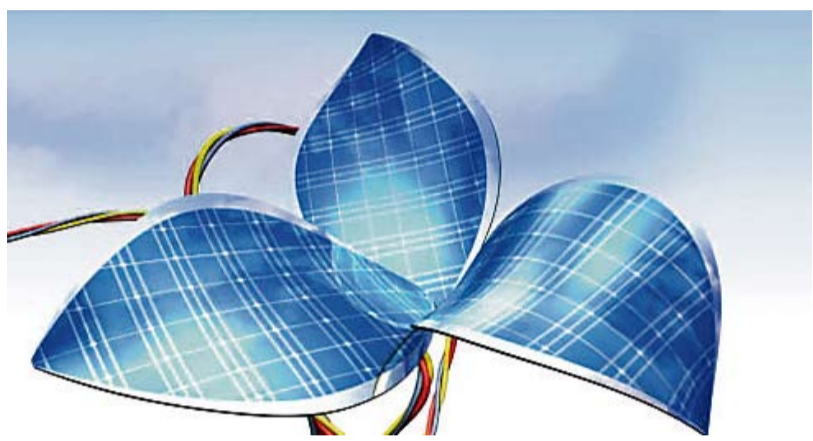
And for you stripey suit wearing kids out there jumping up and down in protest to what I have said above, yes, I acknowledge the fact that Ryanair has its beautiful side too. Ryanair has created tourist destinations in rural parts of Europe that no one has envisioned any form of business would be able to flourish at all. But stripey suit wearing kids probably never have to travel in Economy Class, let alone with a budget airline. You don't understand us commoner's pain if Ryanair manages to eat its way up the food chain and degrade the service our sons of the world so rightly deserve.

Aerlingus is no Alitalia. It continues to trade favourably on the stock market. I fail to see why it needs a blue and yellow smiley with two devil horns stuck up their rear exit.



The *eco-science* column

The Clean Energy Project



Olivia Sharp
Science Reporter

Idle computer power can now be put to good use, thanks to a novel scheme set up by scientists at Harvard University investigating new solar-panel technology.

Willing volunteers can download a simple program to their PC or Mac, so during screen-saver mode it runs calculations used for research into organic solar cells. Some of the energy otherwise wasted in the home can actually contribute towards developing renewable energy sources.

The Clean Energy Project went live on 5th December 2008, and is part of IBM's World Community Grid (WCG), which aims to 'advance research of humanitarian projects'. Other WCG projects include aids and cancer research and disease-resistant crop development. So far the grid has attracted over a million volunteers, notching up an estimated 203,000 years of otherwise unused computing time. IBM ranks the grid in the top 5 supercomputers in the world.

Organic solar cells are a lighter and more flexible alternative to conventional silicon cells. The lead researcher behind the project, Professor Alan Aspuru-Guzik, notes that current organic solar cells have a relatively low efficiency of 5-6%. He hopes to improve

on this figure, as an efficiency of 15% would make them viable commercially and sees 'a systematic path towards breakthroughs in performance of organic solar cells.'

The Harvard University team use computational chemistry to look through thousands of potential molecular materials which can be used in solar cells based on organic molecules. The cells need compounds with specific features to efficiently capture and store energy and experimentally testing and manufacturing each molecular combination would be highly time-consuming. Their theoretical calculations can determine whether the molecule is a good match for solar panel use.

This is where the home computer comes in. By connecting your computer via the Internet, a downloaded program runs these calculations that feed back to a central database. Numbers are run concurrently on two computers and compared, to avoid hacking activity. Aspuru-Guzik has estimated the team would take 100 days to scan one of the thousands of compounds without the World Community Grid but with the help of donated computing time from around the world, their calculations may be completed within 2 years.

If you would like to contribute your idle processing power, go to <http://cleanenergy.harvard.edu/go/>.

Sneak peak of the Spring Issue of *I, science* out next week

Obama makes room for science in the White House

The new president has filled prominent positions with eminent scientists in a statement of intent on climate change

Sam Wong

Barack Obama has pleased scientists and environmentalists across the world with a series of appointments that suggest an intention to make science a high priority during his presidency. The decisions appear to signal a radical shift away from the attitudes of his predecessor George W. Bush, who has been accused of allowing U.S research to stagnate and of stubbornly ignoring the evidence on climate change.

Announcing his choices in a radio address, Obama said, "It is time we once again put science at the top of our agenda and worked to restore America's place as the world leader in science and technology."

The incoming president also stressed the importance of respecting scientific evidence in the process of making political decisions. "The truth is that promoting science isn't just about providing resources – it's about protecting free and open inquiry. It's about ensuring that facts and evidence are never twisted or obscured by politics or ideology. It's about listening to what our scientists have to say, even when it's inconvenient – especially when it's inconvenient. Because the highest purpose of science is the search for knowledge, truth and a greater understanding of the world around us. That will be my goal as President of the United States."



The 44th President of the USA, Barack Obama

Chief among Obama's appointments was the selection of Harvard physicist John Holdren as Assistant to the President for Science and Technology and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Holdren is a world-renowned expert on climate change who has been an outspoken proponent of the need to take action. In an article for *Scientific American* last October, Holdren wrote "The Bush administration has wasted the last eight years. It should have been taking decisive action but engaged instead in systematic understatement of the danger: it has made ridiculous assertions that the U.S. should not do anything that China does not agree to do and has stubbornly insisted that no action should be taken to improve climate change 'if it hurts the economy'." For his lobbying work on environmental issues, Holdren was awarded the Tyler Prize in Environmental Achievement in 2000.

In addition to his work on climate change, Prof. Holdren has also taken a keen interest in science policy, as well as being an active opponent of nuclear proliferation. In 1995, he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the Pugwash Conferences, an organisation that brings together influential scholars with the aim of reducing the danger of armed conflict.

Along with two other distinguished scientists, Harold Varmus and Eric

Lander, Holdren will co-chair the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST). Varmus received the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1989 for his work in cancer research and has also served as Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Lander, a professor of biology who was involved with the Human Genome Project, is the Director of the Broad Institute, a centre for genome research set up as a joint venture between Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

As his Energy Secretary, Obama has chosen another Nobel laureate, Stephen Chu. Chu, Professor of physics and molecular and cell biology at the University of California, Berkeley (UCB), is Director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He has been an outspoken advocate for finding scientific solutions to tackle climate change and has enthusiastically supported research into alternative fuels. It is the first time that a career scientist has been selected to run the Department of Energy.

"President-elect Obama has set the tone and pace for moving our country forward with optimism and calm determination," Chu said. "With these virtues, the United States and the world can and will prevail over our economic, energy and climate change challenges."

In addition, Obama has created the new position of Assistant to the President for Energy and Climate Change, a post in which he has appointed Carol Browner, a former Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency who has also served as Al Gore's Legislative Director. Meanwhile, environmental scientist Jane Lubchenco will take control of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In the past, Lubchenco has openly criticised the NOAA for not doing enough to prevent over-fishing.

Members of the science community were quick to welcome Obama's choices. "John Holdren, Jane Lubchenco and Steven Chu are, by any measure, a science dream team for the new administration," said Peter Frumhoff from the lobby group Union of Concerned Scientists. "They all are among the top in their fields and understand the critical role that science must play in informing policy decisions."

Others are eager to ensure that Obama backs up his talk of action on climate change with policies that will genuinely lead to significant reductions in America's carbon emissions. James Hansen, a climatologist who heads NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies, has written an open letter to the President and First Lady outlining proposals that he believes are necessary to bring down atmospheric carbon dioxide levels. Hansen insists that "cap and trade" measures are insufficient and that much tougher action must be taken. He recommends phasing out coal power stations that do not have carbon capture and imposing a carbon tax at the source of the fuel to reduce demand. In addition, he argues that the President must support the development of safe nuclear power plants.

The letter can be read in full on the website of Columbia University, where Hansen is a Professor of Earth and Environmental Studies. Prefacing the letter, Hansen writes "(Michelle and Barack Obama) are equally smart lawyers and if we can get either of them to really focus on the actions that are needed, the planet has a chance".



I, science

OUT NEXT WEEK

beat the blues

January is notorious for being dank, dark and miserable. Christmas is over and with the exam period looming ahead it's understandable that spirits are low. There a few steps you can take to help you through the tougher times at Imperial, and who you can turn to when you're experiencing problems. Read on for our top tips to get through the Winter Blues.

Careers

With the burst of the financial bubble, Imperial students have been finding it harder to find their feet in their graduate world. Take heart, however, because it's not as bad as you think. While some of the larger companies have put recruitment on hold, this isn't the case across the board. While the rumour mill is suggesting that fewer people are getting to interview stages, this isn't the case. In fact, applications have been down so your chances may actually be improved! If you are confused about your options, regardless of whether you are looking for paid work, considering further study or even volunteering there are people who can give you advice. The **Careers Advisory Service** is located on Level 5 of the Sherfield Building and they have a host of information about job vacancies, company profiles and details about upcoming careers fairs and company presentations. There are also Departmental Careers Advisors for specialised advice- details can be found on your Department's website.

Take some 'me' time

Life at Imperial can be tough- you're in one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world with a host of famous landmarks and not-so-famous treasures for you to seek out. Unfortunately, high expectations and a hefty workload mean we don't take the time to hunt these out. East London might as well be a different city for all its quirks, Soho's bars are a world apart from the mayhem of Oxford Street and London's parks are an oasis in the summer months. It's a shame we rarely get to see them!

One of the benefits of the recession has been a host of bargains on the internet for evenings out and restaurant meals. Most of the chain restaurants have got offers on at the moment, especially 2 for 1 meals. www.moneysavingexpert.com and www.studentbeans.com have the best up to date offers.

Eat well



While the jury's out on the benefit of different food types on mental health, it's fair to say that a lot of student's diets aren't up to scratch. Existing solely on crisps, beer and coffee will impair your ability to concentrate and . Fluctuations in blood sugar levels caused by bingeing on chocolate and cans of coke can make you feel tired and low. If you have time in the morning, grab some fruit or a cereal bar from the supermarket to snack on in between meals. Try having at least one proper meal a day- it will stave off the hunger pangs in the middle of the afternoon. If the idea of cooking a meal fills you with dread and actually makes you more stressed there are a number of places on campus to sit down and have a hot meal and chill out at lunch. If you do fancy wielding your saucepan and having a stab at some cooking the website www.studentcooking.tv has got some Imperial-specific videos to inspire you.

Get on your bike!

Physical exercise is under-rated as a way to prevent the blues. There is strong evidence to support the fact it can help people with anxiety and depression, and some to show it may prevent these problems from developing in the first place. Regular physical activity can lift your mood and help you deal with feelings like anger and anxiety, particularly if the exercise is fairly high intensity. Pounding on a treadmill isn't necessarily required- just being more active by cycling, walking at a fast pace and sports can all be beneficial. Other forms of exercise such as yoga and pilates have been shown to be particularly effective at beating anxiety and stress.

To give you a taster of some of these activities, **Sport Imperial** has reserved **10 free places** on the following classes at **Ethos**.

- Monday 26th Jan - Pilates 12:00
- Monday 26th Jan - Yoga 19:15
- Tuesday 27th Jan - Yoga 12:00
- Tuesday 27th Jan - Tai Chi 17:00
- Thursday 29th Jan - Pilates 17:30
- Friday 30th Jan - Pilates 13:00

To take up this offer, just email dpew@imperial.ac.uk with the class you would like to attend at least 24 hours before it is scheduled to take place and you will be added to the class list. All those that attend will also be given 2 free class vouchers for other sessions.

Talk to someone



Most of things discussed so far are ways that you can help yourself take control of your mental health. However, if you feel things are getting on top of you, it's important to realise and accept this at an early stage. It's also important that you can find someone to turn to when you're feeling stressed, anxious or low. In addition to your friends and family, Imperial has an extensive network of support services available to you, and it's up to you who you want to approach. It's hard to talk about some personal issues with people you don't know well, but you'd be surprised how many students are going through the same thing as you and people can be surprisingly willing to help. If one doesn't work for you, don't feel bad about contacting someone else. Remember, if you encounter difficulties during the exam period in your course and need to take an interruption of studies or even retake an exam your life will be a lot easier if someone knows about it.

The first line of contact for students is usually their **Personal Tutors**, who are there to help you with a range of pastoral and welfare issues and point you in the right direction when you are experiencing difficulties. If you can't get hold of your personal tutor or would prefer to talk to someone else in your Department, there are **Senior Tutors** in each Department who you can send an email to or call to explain your difficulties.

There are networks outside your department too. The **College Counselling Service** has a number of counsellors to talk through any personal problems you might be experiencing, be it anxiety, relationship problems or even if you think you might be depressed. You can contact them by phone or email and all information is kept as confidential as you want it to be. If you might benefit from seeing a doctor, this may be recommended to you but you can also approach the **Health Centre** directly. Depression is actually surprisingly common in the student population, affecting 1 in 10 of us. It's important to confront these problems sooner than later.

There are also **College Tutors** who may be outside of your department who have experience with a range of issues including academic worries, appeals and personal problems. Within the Union there is a **Student Advisor**, Nigel, and Hannah, **Deputy President (Education & Welfare)**. They have experience of helping students with a practical, personal and academic issues and are all very approachable! For all the contact details check the Union or College website.

With this large network of people that are here to help you, no matter how great the issues you are dealing with you will always have someone to turn to.

Exam Stress



Even when revision and coursework is eating up all your time, make sure that you schedule in some breaks from your revision and work schedule to relax, get something to eat and take a walk. Try and avoid logging into facebook or completing a few levels on your favourite game- you'll just feel like you haven't had a break at all. Don't feel guilty about taking some time to do something you enjoy- it's just counterproductive so make sure you schedule it in! The **Health Centre** holds exam stress workshops which explore the ways you can cope with the anxiety associated with the exam period. The next one takes place on the 11th of March and you need to email them to book a place in advance- visit www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk for more details and tips. Your Learning to Learn booklets also have more advice on how to study effectively.

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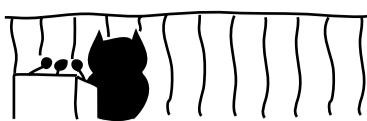
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I am very
Sorry...

James Goldsack
Politics Editor

I would like to apologise for any offense caused by my column last week. My racial stereotype was not intended as derogatory. I am descended from one of the 12 tribes myself and my column was written in defence of Israel. I assumed that in context and with the use of the term "friends", it would be obvious that it was meant as a joke; in bad taste, perhaps, but still inoffensive.

I am now aware that for such a tricky topic I should not have used such humour, but if you can't laugh at times like this, what can you do? When I next use a stereotype I shall ensure it is obviously tongue-in-cheek.

However, this is only a student newspaper, no matter how good or how professionally we take it. A couple of errors were also pointed out from last week's issue and I apologise for these as well. The photograph of a 'tank heading into Gaza' was not in fact Israeli – which any self-respecting tank expert would know. Imagine a different tank rolling into Gaza and there you have it.

Now that I have grovelled enough, I shall turn my attention to the Inauguration of Barack Obama. Almost 2 million people flocked to see the Founding Fathers spinning in their graves.

I am all for change, progress, democracy (despite its problems, a topic for another day perhaps) and Obama. If he had not won I would have been devastated.

However, my problem is more with

the nature of presidency in the US.

The Founding Fathers, whose names are always brought up at occasions such as these had struggled to create a nation not under God but of secular governance with faith separated from state.

At the inauguration, what did Obama have to swear the oath upon? Yes, a Bible. What was the most common phrase to be spoken during the whole address? "God bless the United States of America".

It made me cringe. The original vision of secularity is a far cry from today where the presidential candidates have to be Christian to get any support, and where dollar bills have religious slogans plastered over them.

What has happened to the principles of the fathers of democracy and the land of the free?

This is not the only problem I have with the presidency as a concept.

Presidents now have too much power, far more than allowed by their much-loved constitution. The checks and balances originally found in the system are no longer there. A president was supposed to be for use in situations where rapid response is necessary, when a parliament could not move fast enough.

This is one of the reasons why the US system is a corruption. They fight corruption elsewhere in the world but fail to look in their own administration to find the real criminals.

Israel withdraws

Katya-yani Vyas
Politics Editor



Gaza's skyline illuminated by fire and smoke from Israeli bombs

"A sporadic peace" was the phrase being thrown around by commentators after Israel declared a complete withdrawal of its troops from Gaza. This comes after a three-week assault against Hamas militants and could be a stepping-stone towards some kind of resolution. Israeli troops will remain near the border as a strategic measure in order to prevent any further attacks, spy planes continue to fly over the area and the navy have not ceased the random bombing of Gaza's beaches.

The withdrawal happened early on Wednesday, with an Israeli military spokesman telling the media: "The last of the Israel Defence Force's soldiers have left the Gaza Strip, forces have been deployed outside of Gaza and are prepared for any occurrences." A statement that was a reaction to reports that the Israeli navy has continued to fire shells at Gaza from the Mediterranean, in what the military has described as a deterrent measure. The last armoured units and foot patrols left three days after Israel and Hamas separately declared ceasefires on Sunday. Officials had promised that they would have vacated the area before the inauguration of the new US president, Barack Obama.

The reasons for this are no doubt centred around Israel's desire to avoid possible tension at the start of a new era of diplomacy with its closest military ally. George Bush, Obama's predecessor, endorsed Israel's right to enter the Gaza Strip in its efforts to defend itself against rocket fire from Hamas militants, providing Israel with the confidence to carry out military measures. The pressing question is, how will the new president act to resolve

the situation? It expected that Obama will move quickly to appoint a Middle East envoy, possibly the former senator George Mitchell, who, on behalf of the Clinton and Bush administrations, was a key figure in trying to bring about an end to Israeli-Palestinian violence.

Around 1,300 Palestinians have killed and thousands made homeless since the 22-day long offensive began. Medical officials in Gaza stated that the Palestinian dead includes at least 700 civilians. Ten Israeli soldiers and three civilians hit by cross-border rocket fire were killed in the conflict. It is this contrast in the numbers of casualties on either side that has provoked an upsurge in outrage against Israel's military actions. Recently there have been protests around the Israeli embassy in Kensington, and a 24 hour vigil was held on High Street Kensington to remember those that had died in Gaza.

During the 24 hour vigil, a smaller protest was also underway nearby. Having attended the event myself as an observer, it was difficult to make out much of what was being said amongst

the sea of frantically swaying placards and aggressive chanting. I did however notice a sign that appealed to us to "Stop the Holocaust in Gaza", showing a distinct lack of taste, in addition a car drove by bearing the phrase "Kill all the Jews". It became increasingly evident that this particular protest had become less about politics and more about cultural fanaticism. Whilst attempting to gain some sort of coherent perspective from one protester I was subjected to a torrent of aggression and rogue saliva, I was called 'an imperialist warmonger' and most amusingly, accused of being in league with 'the Zionists', a response to my asking what the main reasons for their protest were: a slight over-reaction, perhaps.

It seems that the situation is moving forward, Hamas having stated that progress is being made with continuing talks in Cairo over Egypt's proposal for a deal that would guarantee that Gaza's border crossings be re-opened, including a terminal on the Egyptian frontier that had served as the main exit from the territory. So is peace on the horizon? I sincerely hope so.

Raz Jabary

With Barack Obama's inauguration as America's 44th President let us all briefly think back to the modern democratic developments in the Western world in the past century, those that have now resulted in the election of a citizen from a minority race to the highest office of the most powerful country in the world.

When having lived in this country for a while, one occasionally tends to forget how blessed we are to live in such advanced economic, political and cultural circumstances.

It was the media that changed people's perceptions in the past about major issues and that gave a substantial stimulus to the power of public opinion. It is the media today that delivers events around the world straight to our living rooms and it will be the media in the future that will prevent people such as the recently re-sentenced Chemical Ali to get away with the cruelest acts against humanity.

Like the freedom of expression, one does not tend to respect the role of the media unless one looks back at what was going on in a time of insufficient report coverage. Would the American public have fully supported America's previous wars if they had been tel-

vised like the conflict in Vietnam? Would the Holocaust have been such disastrous if people in every corner of the world were able to follow live coverage on the suffering that the Jewish community had to go through in Nazi Germany?

Unfortunately, the media has often been victimized in widespread acts of propaganda in various former and on-going conflicts around the world. This emphasizes the necessity for us here in Britain to optimally utilize the opportunity to say what we think, to be critical of what we are told and mostly to set the example to regimes that harshly redeem lobbying opportunities for their own populations.

Let us all spare a brief moment to think about the many means of written communication that exist today and that have at some stage been a benefit to each one of us, from the university prospectuses that you consulted when you were in sixth form to that crucial BBC report that changed your view of the world in which we live.

The development of the media as a tool of indirect communication has increased lateral understanding and brought humans from different ethnicity and religions, different traces and nationalities all closer together. Let us be thankful for that.

Obama's inauguration and the media frenzy



The inauguration of Obama paves the way for the glorification of freedom of speech

Obama's inauguration and first days in office

James Goldsack
Politics Editor

Barack Obama opened his inaugural address by telling the country of the crisis it has fallen into, that of "gathering clouds and raging storms." President Obama said that the economic crisis was not only a result of "greed and irresponsibility on the part of some," but instead a consequence of "our collective failure to make hard choices and prepare the nation for a new age."

Those in the United States have been hankering for lower taxes yet greater services, an impossible task. Obama is showing a new side, a break from this politics: "Our time of standing pat, or protecting narrow interests and putting off unpleasant decisions - that time has surely passed."

Obama's first speech as president showed that he is determined to attempt to create a new kind of politics for a "post-partisan" America. This idea is not necessarily going to sit well with those in the Democratic party who wish for a cleaner break from the Bush presidency and the painful times that came with it.

"On this day, we come to proclaim an end to the petty grievances and false promises, the recriminations and worn-out dogmas, that for far too long have strangled our politics."

The speech also contained a similarly blunt message to the world. "To the Muslim world, we seek a new way forward, based on mutual interest and mutual respect," he said.

Obama challenged the regimes of the Middle East to a new test: "Know that your people will judge you on what you can build, not what you destroy." He also offered a path out of corruption for those nations or oligarchs willing to change: "We will extend a hand if you are willing to unclench your fist." However, unlike the Bush administration's insistent promotion of democracy,

president Obama appears to be taking a gentler approach.

Also in the inauguration speech, Obama said that "For those who seek to advance their aims by inducing terror and slaughtering innocents, we say to you now that our spirit is stronger and cannot be broken; you cannot outlast us, and we will defeat you", helping to evade fears that America will now appear weak in the face of terrorism.

Obama has been likened to many previous presidents, such as Kennedy and Lincoln. His speech was akin to those of early American presidents, plain but bold. "What the cynics fail to understand is that the ground has shifted beneath them - that the stale political arguments that have consumed us for so long no longer apply."

After the celebrations of inauguration night, President Obama was launched immediately into the reality of his new job. His first task was to call the leaders of Middle Eastern countries including Egypt, Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

The president has pledged "active engagement" for a fragile cease-fire between Israel and the Palestinians in Gaza.

"In the aftermath of the Gaza conflict, he emphasized his determination to work to help consolidate the cease-fire by establishing an effective anti-smuggling regime to prevent Hamas from re-arming, and facilitating in partnership with the Palestinian Authority a major reconstruction effort for Palestinians in Gaza," press secretary Robert Gibbs said in a statement.

Obama's first presidential meetings concerned the economy and Iraq and later signed a series of executive orders and directives to implement new ethical rules for his administration, keeping his campaign promise to bring greater transparency to the White House and declaring "a new era of openness" in government.



President Obama has a hard term ahead with the financial crisis and the war on terror to contend with

The Senate voted 94 to 2 to confirm Obama's nominee for secretary of state, Hillary Clinton, allowing her to begin work on foreign policy issues including the conflict in Gaza. Presidential aides are preparing an executive order to begin the process of shutting down the Guantanamo Bay detention facility in Cuba. The Obama admin-

istration has instructed military prosecutors to seek a 120 day suspension of legal proceedings including those against Khalid Sheik Mohammed, the avowed mastermind of the September 11th attacks. In an appearance at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, Obama signed further executive orders to tighten rules on lobbyists, freeze the

pay of senior White House staff and expand release of documents under the Freedom of Information Act.

"Transparency and the rule of law will be the touchstones of this presidency," Obama told senior staff members. The orders "will not by themselves make government as honest and transparent as it needs to be," he said. "And they do not go as far as we need to go towards restoring accountability and fiscal restraint in Washington. But these historic measures do mark the beginning of a new era of openness in our country."

"What a moment we're in. What an opportunity we have to change this country," Obama told members of his senior executive staff.

Lawmakers grilled Obama's nominee for Treasury secretary, Timothy Geithner, who came under criticism when it was revealed that he had failed to pay some taxes for four years. Geithner acknowledged making the errors and apologized to lawmakers for making them spend time discussing his taxes. However, he spent the bulk of his confirmation hearing warning about the need to act boldly to confront the country's enormous financial crisis.

"If our policy response is tentative and incrementalist... then we risk greater damage to living standards, to the economy's productive potential, and to the fabric of our financial system," he said.

Obama is planning a major address to a joint session of Congress within the next few weeks in order to lay out his plans for reviving the economy and jump-starting the financial system.

Upon entering the White House, President Obama read a note that former president George W. Bush had left for him in the left desk drawer, a tradition dating back several presidents. The note was in an envelope marked "To: #44, From: #43," according to a statement from the President's press secretary. The White House did not disclose the contents of the note.



The Capitol building, where Obama was sworn in as the 44th President of the United States of America in front of 2 million spectators



Short but sweet

Caz Knight
Arts Editor

The second term's, second installment of the new, concise *felix* arts. In this busy term, we are opting for quality over quantity: you may see fewer pages but what you do read will be great stuff.

First, and most importantly, I would like to apologise profusely to my good friend and arts connoisseur, Rosie Milton for a mistake in last week's issue. *The Magnificence of the Tsars* review was advertised as being written by me however, the article was written by Rosie (people familiar with my articles may have noticed a marked difference in style and perception concerning art!). We are very sorry, Rosie.

My recent trip to the National Theatre to see *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour*, reinforced some conclusions I have made concerning how we, as humans/biological entities, enjoy art (be it theatre, concerts and anything else that falls under the category).

The brain, our processing organ, is like any muscle in our body – it gets tired. After extended periods of use and a dip in its only source of fuel, glucose, its ability to concentrate or engage enthusiastically in tasks is impaired. At least in my case. No wonder then that tiredness will kill any enjoyment and appreciation of the culture that surrounds us.

Once tiredness sets in, I turn from art lover to art despiser. Therefore, it is worth considering whether one is suitably refreshed before visiting a gallery or production.

The size of an exhibition or length of a play will also try our patience if it is unending.

Of course, one cannot reduce Shakespeare's great works to one hour summaries just for the sake of this generation's attention-deficient personalities, used to everything fast- from food to Internet connections.

I went to see the Francis Bacon exhibition at the beginning of the academic year and found that ten large rooms of his work is just too much to take in and enjoy in one sitting. Especially as one is not permitted to re-enter the gallery space after a coffee break, as is the norm in all exhibitions where a ticket is required.

Every Good Boy Deserves Favour is one of the shortest plays I have seen. At one hour five minutes it flies by, yet packs in just as much as a longer play without seeming rushed. I left feeling uplifted with energy, left to go and pursue the rest of the evening.

A relatively recent play to appear at the West End, *Ivanov*, also adapted by Tom Stoppard from Chekov, is three hours of beauty but leaves one emotionally drained and ready for bed.

In my experience, the smaller exhibitions have always been the more enjoyable for myself (content permitting), as I leave not resenting them for sapping all my mental energy in trying to digest a large amount.

Reviewed here are two pieces from theatreland; my review of Tom Stoppard's previously mentioned *EGBDF* and stand-up comedy from Bill Bailey.

Hopefully, this 'abridged' version of arts will satisfy your hunger and leave you wanting more next week. Expect photography from Annie Leibowitz and a sneak peak into dance institution Sadler's Wells.



Joseph Millsom, as political dissident Alexander Ivanov in *Every Boy Deserves Good Favour*, looking uncannily like John Malkovich

He's got soul but he's not a soldier

Bill Bailey makes squeal even the most stony-faced at his intimate show, *Tinseltown*, says Jessica Bland



Never mind the Buzzzzcocks. *Tinseltown*, move over for *Tinselworm*

Bill Bailey says he has been unemployed for twenty-three years; I say that Bill Bailey has been one of the most intelligent comics on stage for the last twenty three years and it is this intellect that has made his show at the Gielgud Theatre such a success.

Often accused of gimmickry and unnecessary diversion by critics, Bailey's stand-up shows sell out large arenas on the back of his TV persona rather than good reviews.

But as *Tinselworm* nears the end of its West End run, this reviewer cannot see anything other than a well-honed, well-balanced, couple of hours awaiting the final few audiences.

Perhaps this is just because practice makes perfect. After a couple of years of touring, Bailey has had enough sense to cull the stuff that is not getting

laughs. But there is more to it than that. The Gielgud is more intimate than the big venues Bailey has often performed at previously and it is in only in this kind of space that he shines. It is here that the comic who made us squeal at the television in *Black Books* (stage version rumoured to be coming soon) or as team captain in *Never Mind the Buzzcocks*, comes to life.

Bailey has an unassuming, almost nervous demeanour. This insecurity draws you in; it makes you feel like you are listening to the old-rocker guy behind the bar at your local. That is, until he suddenly drops in a comedy gold nugget, so bright that your eyes start to water.

Whether it's the hoodie in a "solipsistic trance" or a rant about song lyrics that "wangled like an unreplaced Glade plug-in", Bailey cracked even the most stoney-faced audience members

sat near me (including my father, who apparently hasn't laughed so hard since seeing Mr Izzard circa. 1997).

Even the musical interludes were improved since his stadium tour. Demonstrating the nonsense of The Killers' chorus "I got soul, but I'm not a soldier" by replacing it with "I got Ham, but I'm not Hamster" has been a stalwart of his act for sometime.

But it was the other ludicrous suggestions he threw out this time that really made the joke: "I got May, but I'm not a Major" being my favourite.

There is only just over a week left to see Bailey at his best, so if you can get tickets (and I recommend seatwave.com if you want to try)

Go, giggle and be thankful that London still has somewhere other than arena venues – somewhere just right for bringing out what makes Bill Bailey so truly great.

Notes on a schizophrenic society

Tom Stoppard mixes side-clutching humour with poignant ethical dilemmas in his play *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour* at the National Theatre. Caz Knight is very impressed.

A triangle-player worth millions with his own orchestra? No. A triangle-player worth millions with his own imaginary orchestra? Still, no. A lunatic triangle-player with his own orchestra sharing a room in a psychiatric hospital with a political dissident? Now, that's something to write about.

Tom Stoppard and Andre Previn's collaboration is a play, performed in conjunction with and bound up by a symphony orchestra. First performed in 1977 starring Ian Mackellen as political dissident, Alexander Ivanov, and Patrick Stewart as a Soviet Union employed 'psychiatrist', this production is a union of exceptional creative talent with the ever sharp, hilarious, and fast-paced writing of Stoppard, teamed with the score composition of multi-talented, Oscar-winning composer and conductor Andre Previn.

After months of reading about Russian political dissidents and the group arrested in Red Square in August 1968, following protests against the Warsaw pact invasion of Czechoslovakia, Stoppard met Victor Fainberg who had survived years in the prison-hospital system after being pronounced insane on account of his protests. Once free, Fainberg doubled his efforts for his colleagues still under abuse in this system. One of them, Victor Bukovsky, had served consecutive hard labour and prison terms for his revelations about the abuse in *A Manual on Psychiatry for Dissidents*, co-written with a fellow prisoner (also a psychiatrist). The play is dedicated to both Fainberg and Bukovsky.



Toby Jones as Alexander Ivanov, conductor of his imaginary orchestra: "I've always had an orchestra!"



Political dissident, Alexander Ivanov: a discordant note in an orchestrated society

Alexander Ivanov is a political dissident imprisoned, released and then re-imprisoned in a psychiatric hospital for his own political protests. He is deemed mentally ill on account of his opinions which, according to his doctor, are his symptoms. He will be released on the condition that he accepts being mentally ill and that his treatment in the facility was satisfactory and effective. Refusing to do this, given his barbaric treatment by USSR-employed wardens, the hospital get Alexander's son, Sacha, to persuade him otherwise.

Performed at the National Theatre, the Olivier's revolving stage is made excellent use of in rotating the entire orchestra over the course of the one hour play, amid which the action ensues. This creates a gloriously eerie and surreal effect enhanced by dry ice aplenty and the trance-like dancing of Alexander's cell/ward-mate (also Alexander Ivanov) to his imaginary symphony orchestra, played with endearing conviction by Toby Jones.

The surrealism is enhanced by the obscure image of seeing a sublime sinfonia in the middle of a grim, East-bloc prison-cum-loony bin.

The Southbank Sinfonia, led by Simon Over, have made a stunning effort to entwine dialogue in with the beautiful music that brings the play to life from within the first few seconds, after an introduction of a few bashed out notes on the triangle from the 'conductor', Ivanov. The Sinfonia are successful in their aim of discovering new possibilities for the way in which classical music can be performed, yet never compromising their quality or

seriousness. The presence of the orchestra in the play does more than delight our ears. When it was first performed, it would have been a potent comment on a highly orchestrated society which did its best not to upset the West and maintain an image of control and order: they had no political prisoners, only those unfortunate enough to suffer mental illness.

The notion of an orchestra quickly becomes associated with the insane. When it is brought to light that the hospital's doctor plays the violin in one, the orchestra's connotation is reinforced with one of corruption as well as of madness, with dissidents the discordant notes that must be eliminated to allow smooth play.

The play evokes arguments regarding the age-old debate of freedom of speech but *Every Good Boy Deserves Favour* is as much a comment on today's Russia as it would have been in 1977. The 'bad old days' referred to by Sacha's teacher regarding those of Stalin, are also now – according to Bukovsky, it was, and still is, a schizophrenic society where one thing is thought, another said, a third one done.

The hilarity of Stoppard's writing does sometimes leave the gravity of what prisoners of conscience like Bukovsky and Fainberg would have experienced forgotten. Yet, Joseph Millson's unwavering seriousness and intensity as the dissident Ivanov brings these horrors back every time he speaks, giving us a production that has us giggling and grinning one minute and ready to bring down unjust political systems in another.



The Art of Cheapskating. Stylishly.

Kawai Wong realises that everyone is down in the dumps, but reckons you can still look hot on the cheap.

The credit crunch, the recession, the Gaza Conflict and exams. All the gloom in the universe seems to have jam-packed itself in to an angry Jack-in-the-box and punched hard in our innocent and unsuspecting faces.

But before we all become Prozac addicts, why don't we up our endorphin levels by treating ourselves to a little retail therapy? A therapy that this time, isn't going to affect the size of our grocery baskets. A therapy that will remove the drabness of your wardrobe, reinstalling it with rays and rays of golden light.

The rule with H&M and Zara is to never buy anything full price. (Yes, you eager cheapskates – I know H&M is pretty cheap already but it won't hurt if our wallets weigh a little more, will it?) The appeal of H&M is its trendiness, for Zara it is its tale on chic-classic; and for both, their 'unique' fashion pieces. During January sales, shops usually dig out stuff they didn't manage to sell last or last-last season and plunge the price through the floor to around 10% of its original.

On the right is a military poncho coat I got from Zara last January (for £2.75!) and a crazy, frilly, chiffon shirt from H&M (£5!), that never fails to turn heads and transform its owner from Reese Wetherspoon to Gwen Stefani (OK, not quite... but you get the idea).

The coat comes from TRF, the youth line of Zara but the poor thing was buried under piles of boring Zara basic t-shirts. Part of the reason it was cheap was because a button on the front had snapped in half but the crown badge is enough of a focal point to distract from the little flaw.

I have to boast about the god-like status of TKMaxx but I will keep my thrill contained in two sentences. Here is what I got last week from the "SALE" section for £20. Wait, no – 2D just doesn't do justice to this item's magnificence. You will have to open your little eyes and look for a person milling around campus wearing a short, fur coat. All I can advise is for you to abandon your newspaper and visit a TKMaxx near you now.

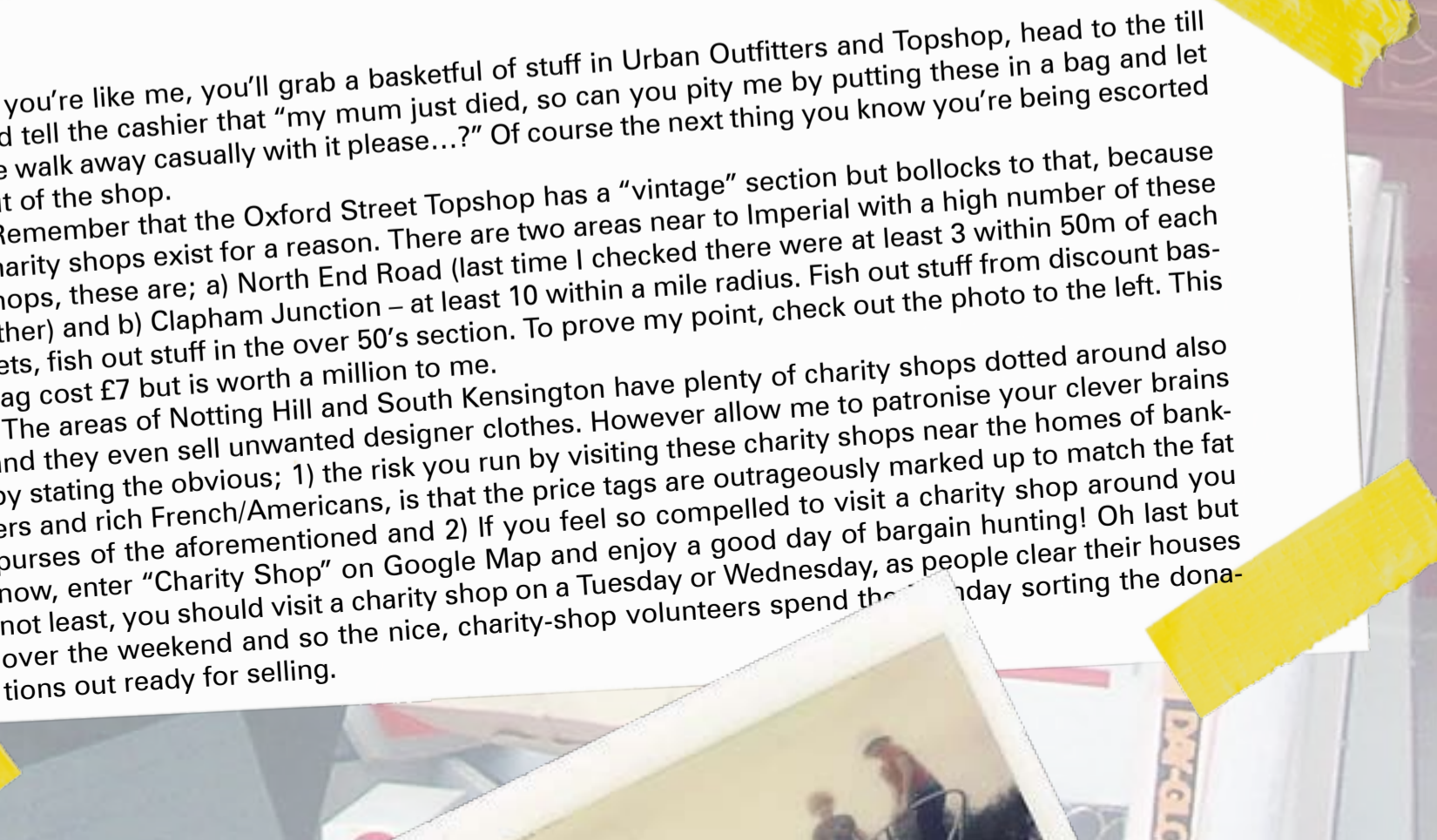
If you're like me, you'll grab a basketful of stuff in Urban Outfitters and Topshop, head to the till and tell the cashier that "my mum just died, so can you pity me by putting these in a bag and let me walk away casually with it please...?" Of course the next thing you know you're being escorted out of the shop.

Remember that the Oxford Street Topshop has a "vintage" section but bollocks to that, because charity shops exist for a reason. There are two areas near to Imperial with a high number of these shops, these are; a) North End Road (last time I checked there were at least 3 within 50m of each other) and b) Clapham Junction – at least 10 within a mile radius. Fish out stuff from discount baskets, fish out stuff in the over 50's section. To prove my point, check out the photo to the left. This bag cost £7 but is worth a million to me.

The areas of Notting Hill and South Kensington have plenty of charity shops dotted around also and they even sell unwanted designer clothes. However allow me to patronise your clever brains by stating the obvious; 1) the risk you run by visiting these charity shops near the homes of bankers and rich French/Americans, is that the price tags are outrageously marked up to match the fat purses of the aforementioned and 2) If you feel so compelled to visit a charity shop around you now, enter "Charity Shop" on Google Map and enjoy a good day of bargain hunting! Oh last but not least, you should visit a charity shop on a Tuesday or Wednesday, as people clear their houses over the weekend and so the nice, charity-shop volunteers spend the Monday sorting the donations out ready for selling.



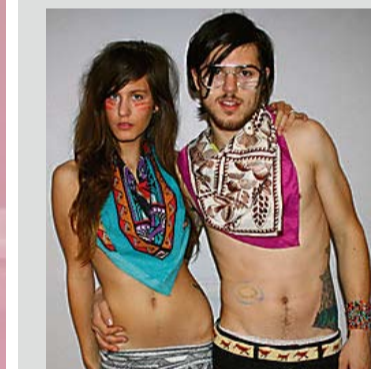
The ultimate mode of cheapskating is befriending your nan or your grandad. Sit through another one of their Second World War stories and casually drop in "Um, I wonder what you wore in your glorious youthful days?" and offer a ladder to climb up to their attics and raid their unwanted items. There's nothing wrong with topping your boyfriend jeans with a 40 year-old piece of knit wear. My nan used to be a tailor so I am a proud owner of this 30 year-old coat pictured above. Of course it is always nice to pay a visit to your grans anyway, no doubt.



SICK



Leather Aviator Hats
May-day! May-day! I was trying to find an image of a mental, old lady modelling these hats, but alas, I couldn't find one. Why are these so popular with crazy, elderly women? I saw one the other day wearing these hats, she was thrashing a bin in a vain attempt to 'rid the Nazis from bins because that's where they belong.' A long message short, I reckon these could look hot on someone that is not crazy and not collecting their pension. Girls only. Guys will just look like knobs.



Lookbook.nu
A site where people post their own 'individual' style. You can catch out the very few with a real sense of dress but most are just self-indulgent, emo kids not satisfied with the coverage their 'angles' get on myspace. For the egomaniac that wanks in the mirror.



Patent Trainers
A strong prevalence of Italian and Japanese tourists are wandering around London adorning shiny shoes. A plain 'no' in the aesthetics department. Your shoes need to be stylishly understated. Not 'I can see my own ugly face in my upper'. I don't dig them, and no one should. If I see you in them around College, beware of STAMP-STAMP TIME.

SHIT

The boys from Physics are back, you can find them in the lab...



Jose Videira



Louie Cardone



Marco Nardone



Arjun Quique Hassard

Dedicated to Paul, Rob, and Harish of the physics UG labs, without whom it would not have been possible to access all the props for the shoot
www.marconardone.com



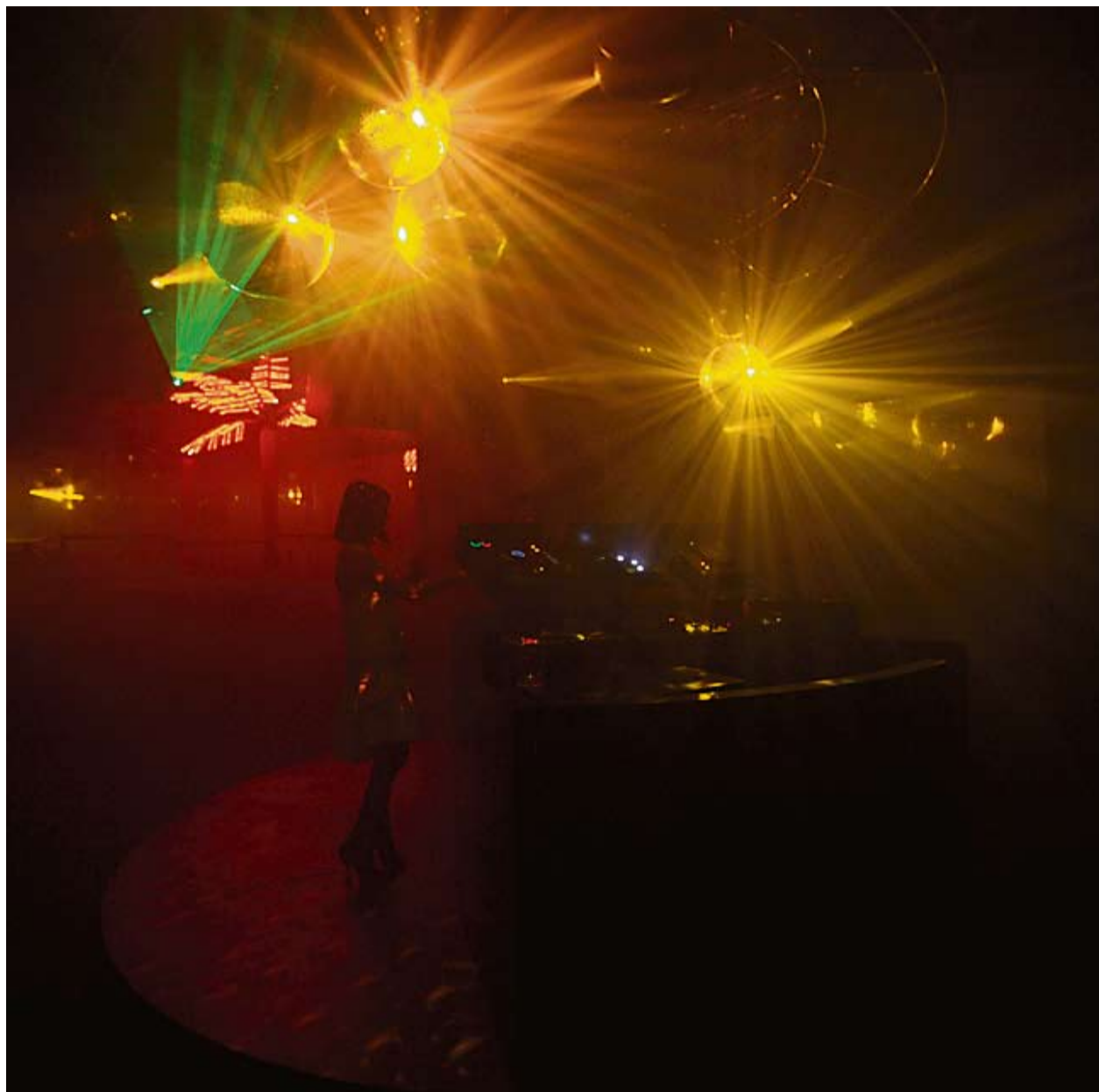
Nightlife

Nightlife Editor – Catherine Jones (CJ)

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The Double Club is Double Cool

Two cultures coexisting in harmony? Catherine Jones reviews a very eclectic bar with a message



The Double Club ★★★★★

7 Torrens Street, EC1 Angel

Best: Laid back vibe and friendly staff.
Worst: Expensive drinks. London rather than Kimbasa prices
Free entry and free cloakroom

A few weeks ago, I paid a visit to a cultural furore (!) of a new bar. I love bars, especially the Union. Sometimes though, you have to try something new. So why not a bar-club-restaurant-and-art installation, with a unique fusion of Congolese and Western culture?

As per usual, the night started in confusion, with a total failure to meet at the right place on time. This is not exactly surprising. The Double Club is tucked away at the end of Torrens Street, near Angel tube station. The inconspicuous warehouse doors hide behind a gazebo. Upon arrival though, the welcome made up for it. The staff smiled and took our coats to the free cloakroom. We made our way through the white arty entrance rooms, into the courtyard bar and it just goes to show, you never know what may be lurking behind a door.

“I was shocked to hear ‘I want to know what love is’ by Foreigner at one point!”

At 9pm the bar was half full, and we were quickly served by the friendly staff. The drinks menu contained a variety of cocktails, wines and a few beers. They were a tad on the expensive side, but after all, it is in London. Drinks in hand we headed straight to the empty area, perching on the edge of a swimming pool-like tiled corner.

In the background, a sound track of Congolese music. Well, mostly Congolese. I was shocked to hear “I Want to Know What Love Is” by Foreigner at

one point during the night.

As the bar became busier at 11pm, we checked out the discotheque room next door. It was modestly sized, but still very impressive. Revellers crammed onto the rotating dance floor, while flashing lights and mirrored disco balls orbited above their heads.

As for music, The Double Club operates an “all inclusive” music policy. Contemporary Congolese band Sound Africa performed earlier that night. DJs packed out the place, alternating sounds across cultures. The crowd embraced the fusion vibe, and the fusion continued on to the dance floor. I’m not a great dancer at the best of times, but there were some slightly embarrassing blends of bad drunken dancing to be seen that night.

The Double Club seems the ideal kind of venue to come and chat with friends, simply because of the relaxing, harmonious vibe. This may sound cheesy, but I had an inspirational moment, turning my gaze upwards, finding a full moon shining through the glass roof. At that beautiful moment I decided to award The Double Club 5 stars out of 5, and will consider visiting again and again.

The Double Club is donating half of its profits to the City of Joy charity, supporting projects to help abused women and children in the Congo. So you can party guilt free, but there is no guarantee you will avoid the hangover.

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Beanz Meanz learn to spell.



Rosie Grayburn
Food Editor

My culturally barbaric (self-quoted) colleague wants to learn how to make a 'lasa-gg-nee'. He bought one reduced the other day in Tesco and it was "well nice". However, when I started to describe the complexities of a cheese sauce to him my attempt to sway him onto freshly-cooked food went tits up. This got me thinking about students and how feeding yourself well does not come as a priority when you spend three years away from a well-stocked fridge. When we come to university laden with freedom, a bank loan and all that responsibility, we forget to look after number 1. We end up with a poisoned liver and a disgruntled belly. To be fair, you can do what you bloody well like with your body but while I'm here I may as well try to tell you a little bit about cooking good food even if it does fall on deaf ears.

Today is all about Baked Beans, the classic student staple. Firstly I would like to vent my anger regarding a little known brand of said beans. Why, for the love of all things edible, did they have to change Baked Beans to Baked Beanz? I don't want the cooked breakfast Mafia on my plate with Sausagez, Eggz and Tomatoez. The world's gone mad, innit.

Well anyway here are my five ways with baked beans for you to attempt.

1. Tuna Crunch – Stodge at its finest. Mix a tin of tuna and beans together in a pan and heat with a handful of grated cheese until hot and sticky. Pour the stodge into a grill-proof bowl or dish. Bash together a packet of ready salted crisps and mix with another handful of grated cheese. Sprinkle this mixture on top of the tuna/bean combo and grill until top, bubble and golden. Serve with bread and a bit of salad, if you like.

2. Beany Beefy Nachos – TV food for a night in. Fry 1 onion, 1 pack of mince, 1 cubed carrot, 1 clove of garlic and a pinch of paprika. When the meat is browned and the veg is softened, add a tin of beans and a tin of chopped tomatoes. Cook with stirring for 10 minutes then add 200ml water and a stock cube. Simmer for a further 10 minutes then season to taste. Pile the mixture

onto plates, top with tortilla chips and cheese then grill until the cheese is melted and bubbly. Serve with beer and a DVD.

3. Shank'd Lamb. Slow cook 2 lamb shanks (or other cheap lamb cut) with a tin of baked beans, a tin of tomatoes, a glass of wine and a glass of water for 2 hours. Season to taste and serve with greens and mash.

4. Aubergine Bake. Fry cubes of aubergine for 8 minutes then remove from the pan. In an ovenproof dish, mix together 1 tin of baked beans and 1 tbsp of hot pepper sauce. Layer 250g frozen green beans on top followed by a tin of butter beans and then the cooked aubergine. Slice 250g tomatoes and layer on top of the aubergine. Sprinkle with thyme, parsley and pepper then sprinkle with 50g of grated Cheddar. Bake for 30 minutes at 200°C. Serve with salad or steak. Sounds gross? Tastes yum.

5. Cassoulet. Fry 8 herby sausages with 1 onion until cooked. Add some pepperoni and cook for 2 minutes. Tip in 2 tins of baked beans and 2 tbsp of tomato puree. If you've got any wine lying around, add a glass of that too. Cook for 10 minutes then sprinkle with 50g breadcrumbs and grill.

Following in a similar 'pulsey' vein, David Wallis has conjured up a superb Mirepoix for your delight in this week's food section. On these cold winters nights, snuggle up with a Mirepoix. Also, this week Natalia Jardon investigates the new branch of Canteen on Baker Street serving plentiful portions of hot, tasty food with healing properties! We seem to have recruited an army of gastronomers to our cause here on the food pages. If you fancy writing about a restaurant, or sending in some recipes please get in touch. We love to hear from our readers and we won't eat you if you do get in touch. However I do like offal, so any spare kidneys.?

By the way, have you noticed the nice decor at the base of this column? Our friendly neighbourhood burger vendors have offered Imperial's students a whopping 20% off the bill for the next term! (I can't believe I just said whopping.) Anyway, please take the opportunity to use your student ID. We don't get the opportunity very often!

Feeb a Colb, Starb a Feber

Natalia Jardon-King takes a prescription of Pie and Mash



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Best: The tremendous treacle tart

Worst: The mash

Price: £20 per head

salad, to potted duck and a pint of prawns, the starters are varied and enticing. But don't be fooled – the starter could well be a main course. We went for the 'hot buttered Arbroath smokie' and thank god we chose to share. It's a fish you don't get often, full of flavour, and though the melted butter was visibly present it felt amazingly healthy.

Perhaps it's worth to note here that service was fabulous, our waitress was exceptionally sweet and more than willing to offer her personal preferences. Timing was balanced between waiting a little and arriving before we noticed the absence of plates.

The day roasts, fish and chips, and pork belly are renowned at Canteen, but we ventured for the salt beef with vegetables and haddock with spinach and mashed potatoes. All delicious, but none of us could finish them – the plates were simply too plentiful. The quality of their meat, the freshness of the vegetables, meant that no fancy sauces were required to enjoy the fla-

vours. However, it is often the simplest things restaurants get wrong. Potatoes are wholesome and easy to cook but somehow the mash didn't get the 'yum' reaction. It was slightly salty and a bit too mashed if you know what I mean – that sort of suspicious synthetic texture you get if it's perfectly smooth. The sauce came on the side – and left with the plate untouched. The haddock didn't need it.

By the end we were seriously debating about what to choose for dessert. Guinness cake, bakewell tart, brownie sundae or a Neals Yard cheese platter. With our bellies rumbling, we opted for treacle tart – and never turned back. Served with a small dollop of jersey cream, it was lemony enough and not too sweet. Sublime.

They say feed a fever, starve a cold. I reckon that I had a fever coming – because, unlike yesterday, I now feel on top form. Sometimes high quality comfort food does so much more than elaborate cuisine.



Who wouldn't feel instantly better after a plati-load of that? Doctors should prescribe pies, treacle tart and Guinness cake.



Mirepoix

Survive the Winter? I need a Mirepoix... Onion, carrot and celery, when finely chopped with some garlic and thrown into a hot casserole, already sizzling with slithers of bacon, spluttering away in a mixture of butter and their own piggy fat... there can surely be few more salivatory stimuli. Mirepoix to the French, Soffrito to Italians, this combination of the humblest of veg represents the holy trinity of hearty, earthy, warming winter sustenance and onto of its sturdy foundations can be crafted some seriously life-affirming monuments to deliciousness. From slow-cooked meaty stews, to stocks, soups and sauces, the possibilities are as varied as they are tasty. The recipe below is but a simple yet unbelievably effective example of what you can do relatively cheaply. However, when you find yourself deep in the throes of Seasonal Affective Disorder, and are in serious need of some new year cheer, then fewer things could seem more valuable.

Serves 4

3 fat cloves of garlic, finely chopped
1 Onion, finely chopped
2 carrots halved lengthways and sliced
2-3 sticks celery, finely chopped
1 leek halved lengthways and sliced
1 potato peeled and cut into 2-3cm cubes (soak in cold water for 5 mins before cooking and drain. This stops the soup from being too starchy).
Fresh Herbs – good sprig of rosemary, 2/3 sprigs thyme, handful chopped sage leaves, 2-3 bay leaves
2 tbs olive oil plus a good knob of butter
Glass of red wine
1.5 litres vegetable stock (cubes are fine)
1 x 400g can of borlotti beans, drained and rinsed
A good handful of fusilli pasta (or macaroni, bits of broken spaghetti or other small pasta)

5-6 good handfuls of chopped kale (or you could use chopped cabbage, chard or covoello nero. You could also chuck in a few handfuls of spinach too)
Lots of freshly grated parmesan cheese
Salt and freshly ground black pepper plus extra virgin olive oil for drizzling

Heat the oil and butter in a large deep frying pan over a medium – high heat and add the chopped bacon. Stir occasionally making sure it doesn't stick.

When the bacon starts to crisp up and the fat has developed a nice golden hue, add all the chopped veg and the herbs. Stir occasionally to prevent sticking and to ensure even cooking. Season with a little salt and several turns of the pepper grinder.

Once the veg has started to soften, but not colour, add the wine and allow to cook-off for a few minutes. Now add the stock.

Once simmering, add the drained beans. Leave to cook uncovered for five minutes before adding the pasta and kale (or whatever). Allow to simmer, for 10-15 minutes (You can check that it's cooked by tasting a bit of potato which should be soft and crumbly to the bite but not sloppy and dissolving).

Remove the bay leaves, rosemary and thyme stalks where practical and adjust the seasoning if it needs it (I'd suggest another good few turns of the pepper mill) before serving into warmed bowls.

Sprinkle with as much Parmesan as you fancy and finish with a nice swirl of extra virgin olive oil. Make sure you have lots of crusty bread to hand and a glass of the same wine that you cooked with.

Written and Created by David Wallis

Imperial College
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Highlights of CES 2009, Las Vegas

Richard Lai heads to the US, gains weight and picks out some of the best gadgets in the international show

My trip to the US had been very exciting. Very exciting indeed. Not only did I get taken to a police station in San Francisco and held a shotgun, but I also had the chance to check out tonnes of cool new gadgets at the CES (Consumer Electronics Show) in Las Vegas. Frankly, the city is only worth visiting for the show (which is not open to the public), or if you're into gambling and staring at fake tits.

Apparently there were significantly fewer visitors this year; probably only 60% of last year's figure, and we all know the reason. Nevertheless, new gadgets were still pouring out over the four-day event, which took up large floor areas of several convention centres and hotels. Here's an idea of the event's scale: as a favour for a Hong Kong audiophile magazine, I took photos of every single room at the High Performance Audio & Home Theatre area, which occupied about 300 suites that took up five floors at The Venetian, and that alone took me two and a half days (bear in mind I literally only snapped a few shots in each room and didn't sit down to listen to the systems)! If that wasn't enough, I still had the Las Vegas Convention Center (LVCC), Sands Expo, Renaissance and Hilton Hotel to explore!

In the remaining days I only managed to cover some parts of the LVCC – the main venue of the show – and Sands Expo. As many CES regulars suggested, I wouldn't be surprised if it took an entire month to see absolutely everything on show. Not only were my legs knackered, but my chapped lips (the harsh winds of San Francisco didn't play nicely) and insufficient sleep also challenged my temper. Fortunately, the sight of fun and rare gadgets overcame my darker thoughts, otherwise I may have made the Vegas headlines following some sort of mental-breakdown behaviour.

Anyway, enough moaning. Enjoy the rest of the article!

Televisions



LG's extremely thin and colourful OLED TVs, only 0.85mm thick!



Panasonic's 1/3 inch plasma TV

This year there were four distinct categories of TVs: the large, the thin, the eco-friendly and the 3D displays. While TV sizes had always been the main driving force of the competition, many companies see that eco-awareness is opening a new market. Companies such as Sony, Panasonic and Toshiba had green booths comparing live power consumption of current TV models and new eco-friendly ones, as well as posters pointing out the recyclable materials used.

The electronic companies also believe that 3D display is the future. Sony was displaying their 3D models that require viewers to wear special glasses – quite an inconvenience for four-eyed peeps like myself – but apparently Samsung came up with a TV that displays 3D right out of the box. Sadly Samsung was the only large booth that I failed to get to, so I'll make sure I check them out next time.

Storage Media



SDXC – the next-gen SD that gives you 32GB to 2TB capacity

Now that the HD format war is over, the spotlight is returning to solid-state memory. As you can see above, the SD Association announced the SDXC specification, giving you massive storage capacities of 32GB up to 2TB on the tiny cards, and transfer speed of 104MB/sec (up to 300MB/sec in the future). The final specification will be released to manufacturers

next month, so expect to see SDXC cards and compatible devices in stores in about three months' time.

SanDisk made a big presence at the show too, actively promoting their SSD products for laptops, notably the high-speed 240GB 2.5" SATA-II SSD, which will be available directly from their website for \$499 by mid-2009.



SanDisk claims their latest SSDs are 5 times faster than HDDs

Computers



Sony VAIO P Series netbook laptop – not wallet-friendly

This year's CES saw the birth of Sony's first Intel Atom powered laptop, but the Japanese company insists the P Series is not a netbook. Sony's Vice President, Mike Abary, was quoted saying the P Series is targeted at the premium market, of which the "customer probably doesn't even know what a netbook is". Frankly, we think this is just an excuse to justify the £849-or-higher pricetag. Nevertheless, the "laptop" felt good on hand, especially with the generously-sized keyboard, but you're stuck with a nipple instead of a trackpad sadly. The small high-resolution screen (8", 1600x768) is great for moies on the go, yet the device is crippled by a shabby 2hr 45min battery life.



ASUS Eee PC T101H tablet PC

Elsewhere, what did excite me was the ASUS Eee PC T101H prototype (pictured top, right hand column) – the first Eee-branded tablet PC. No prices yet (should be fairly affordable anyway), but it should be out within the next few months.

Another entry from ASUS was the Eee D200 (pictured right middle) – a 2TB media server with a small touchscreen, a slot-loading DVD burner and 802.11n router (yes, a built-in router!). It's rumoured to be priced at a mere \$600, and will come out in Q1 this year.



ASUS Eee D200 media server

A quick browse around MSI's booth found a MacBook-Air-look-alike X320 (pictured bottom right). Weighing just 1.3kg with a 4-cell battery (60g lighter than Air!), sporting two USB ports instead of one, and coming in three colour options (black, silver and white). The X320 might do slightly better than the Air. We shall see.



MSI X320 – MacBook Air clone?

More cool stuff...



WowWee Joebot can beatbox!



Fujitsu PalmSecure system

I take back all my comments regarding how silly it is to keep robotic pets. WowWee's Joebot has convinced me that I should get one: not only can you fight it with any IR remotes, but the comic robot can also beatbox and dance! I'm sold!

As for the PalmSecure, this authentication system reads your palm vein pattern, requiring no physical contact, making it an ideal system for hospital security. The actual sensor is only slightly bigger than the average water bottle cap.

British Pride

Even though I'm not British, it was still nice to bump into a few Brits in Las Vegas.

Hailing from Cambridge was the renowned Bluetooth company CSR (Cambridge Silicon Radio), which launched the TrueWireless Stereo software development kit for high-end Bluetooth stereo headphones and speakers. The idea is that unlike traditional Bluetooth speakers, products developed using this SDK do not require a hardwire-link between the left speaker and right speaker. To make this possible, one of the speakers acts as the master, which buffers the data stream from the audio source, and then relays the appropriate data to the slave speaker. The developed products will work with any existing A2DP (Advanced Audio Distribution Profile, for streaming high quality stereo audio) devices.



CSR's TrueWireless Stereo kit for high quality headphones and speakers

CSR's TrueWireless Stereo SDK kills another wire



Mr. Haider Bahrani, an Imperial alumnus, next to the Morpheus

If you've been at Imperial long enough then you might recognise this guy on the left: Mr. Haider Bahrani was an M.Sc. student with the Control & Power Research Group in the EEE department, and before that he studied electronic engineering at Kingston University, where he met his close friend and later business partner, Remo Casadei. After finishing his M.Sc. in 1994, Haider joined Remo to launch Sonneteer and their first product shown at CES – the Champion amplifier – was actually Haider's improved final year project from Kingston!

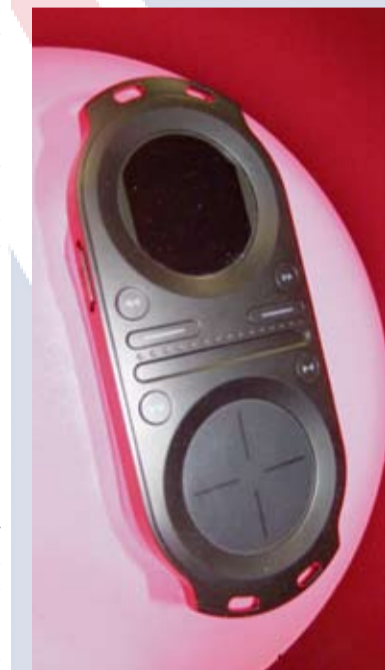
At the showroom, Haider proudly showed me the freshly-launched Morpheus – a slick, hand-made £2200 high-end music centre that plays "music from all your home computers, the Internet, memory sticks and your mobile phone" and many more. Really impressive!



Tonium's DJ Tristan da Cunha

Last but not least: you may recall in my Stuff Live coverage last term, I mentioned the much-hyped portable DJ device, the Pacemaker by Tonium of Sweden. Well, on Day 0 of CES I caught sight of fellow Brit DJ Tristan da Cunha (left), who demonstrated the Pacemaker for me at Stuff Live, and then we bumped into each other again on the train after the London show. I didn't manage to catch him then, but as I was out night-sightseeing on Day 2, I bumped into Tristan outside a casino! What a small, small world.

Anyway, it turned out Tristan was the lone Brit in the Swedish group – that's how good of a DJ he is! I then went to his booth on Day 4 to check out Pacemaker's software update, and boy I was pleased: the UI "has been completely reworked" for user-friendliness, and it now has auto beat match – a crucial feature that was greatly missed in the first generation software. When the 60GB version comes out in Spring for £300, I might actually have to get one.



Tonium Pacemaker DJ device

The ugly stuff...

I had a proper "WTF" moment when I saw these head-swinging (and no doubt head-shaking for us) iPod speakers.



More hilarious still was that sat at the top of the animal kingdom was "Happy Obama" (congratulations, by the way). Search for "OZAKI Obama" on YouTube for some "Yes we can!" action.

Have a strong opinion on a gadget?

Want to share a review?

Send in your article and high-resolution pictures or links to felix@imperial.ac.uk, and include "Technology section" in the e-mail subject.

"Next-gen" Gaming



Mindflex – a mind control game

I came across a couple of very cool gaming products, both of which can be categorised as "next-gen" gaming, since they don't require conventional controllers.

For example, Mattel's Mindflex (pictured left) consists of a small obstacle course platform, on which hovers a small purple ball supported by air blown from below, and the player controls the strength of the fan with his/her mind (theta-wave activity detected by a head band), and the X-Y coordination controlled by hand. Not bad for \$80, huh?

Another cool technology that the game industry should look into is GestureTek's 3D gesture recognition. As pictured on the right, a camera captures live 3D images and translates gestures into instructions – in this case, steering and acceleration of a virtual car (moving the fists apart accelerates, and vice versa). As far as I could see, the videogame's responded very well.

GestureTek has also collaborated with Hitachi and 3D sensor maker, Canesta, to create a gesture-controlled TV. A lazy man's dream?



Driving game sans steering wheel



Friends of Mediciens Sans Frontiers

Imperial's Friends of Mediciens Sans Frontiers discuss activities on campus and MSF's role in the wider world

Kaushali Trivedi

During the holiday season, we are bombarded by appeals from charities – often, each as worthy as the last. So what makes Mediciens Sans Frontiers special? Its purpose is, according to Secretary General Chris Stokes, to "[concentrate] on saving lives now until they can be rebuilt tomorrow". MSF provides medical and humanitarian relief in an emergency situation, which is phased out as need declines. Its credo specifies that intervention is based on human need, irrespective of political or religious boundaries, in terms of donor, geographical area (it is currently active in over 60 countries) and recipients.

The scale and diversity of MSF's projects sets them apart from other NGOs in the field, as does their commitment to raising awareness about the situations in which MSF volunteers work.

Field missions, composed of medical and non-medical volunteers, are tailored to the situation according to the findings of a reconnaissance team. The medical staff are national healthcare professionals, who provide the framework for continued support, and international volunteers.

The international volunteers take sabbaticals from 6 weeks up to several years to provide medical aid in some of the world's most acutely affected regions. The non-medical logisticians make the medical volunteers work possible. Their remit includes establishing and co-ordinating a supply chain (incorporating medical equipment, food and safe water), training long-term staff to ensure the sustainability of missions and educating the population at risk. This is as challenging than providing medical aid, given the nature of the situations that MSF tackles: a limited or damaged infrastructure, such as after the 2005 Pakistani earthquake; frontlines in armed conflict, for example, during Lebanon, where MSF ex-

"Saving lives now until they can be rebuilt tomorrow"

perienced hostile fire whilst providing medical aid to Christians and Muslims from 1976-1984; and active hostility from local groups, like in Somalia, where the deliberate killing of 3 MSF operatives forced them to withdraw international operatives last August. Here, although MSF continues to provide primary health care, treatment for the malnourished and displaced as well as water and supply relief, thanks to the courage of national staff, the head of the mission there, Kenneth Lavelle, decries the political situation that limits them to "immediate life-saving needs...most certainly inadequate when taking into account the gravity of the situation".

The scale and diversity of MSF's projects is astounding: in 2007, they carried out 8,447,106 outpatient consultations and dealt with 340,689 in-



A Kenyan child receives treatment in a Mediciens Sans Frontiers hospital. For more information about MSF visit see www.msf.org

patient admissions, encompassing preventative and curative responses. This is illustrated by MSF's cohesive meningitis programme in Sub-Saharan Africa, where they vaccinate, treat outbreaks (preventing epidemics from developing) and collect statistics (enabling epidemiological tracking).

MSF manage complex chronic disease such as HIV/AIDS patients co-infected with tuberculosis, working in situations with otherwise inadequate healthcare access, such as in refugee aid camps.

MSF also provides emergency humanitarian assistance, like blankets, hygiene kits, safe water (which may require new wells and treatment plants to be set up) and the establishment of therapeutic feeding and rehydration centres. Their Campaign for Access to Essential Medications pressurises pharmaceutical companies to fund the continued production of existing drugs and the development of new drugs targeting diseases that primarily afflict developing countries.

MSF's establishment in 1971 was largely due to doctors' frustrations with the International Red Cross (IRC) during the 1967-1970 Nigerian civil war. The Nigerian government enforced a blockade of the secessionist Biafran region, resulting in appalling human suffering. The IRC can only maintain its impartiality – and hence access to certain locations or individuals in need – through a refusal to comment on the situation. These doctors, however, believed that their silence made them complicit in their patients' plight. Ever since, raising awareness of humanitar-

ian crises is central to MSF's activities, through presentations by volunteers, publications and lobbying the diplomatic community.

An excellent example is southern Sudan, where MSF has maintained missions since 1979, decrying civilian torture an executions whilst providing relief for disease (including TB, ebola, cholera) and famine against a backdrop of government interference and fighting.

Although MSF may work alongside a Ministry of Health, to maintain full control of its projects and the ability to speak out, it cannot be affiliated with

"Raising awareness of humanitarian crises"

any political, religious or economic entity. 80% of MSF's funds come from private donations: their activities collectively consume €600m per year. This explains why the work of fundraising groups, like the IC FoMSF, are so important to the organisation's continued success. It is also a source of hope: newspapers are full of reports re-enforcing the perception of humanitarianism as being "tribally" divided – by nation, race and religion, the situation in Gaza being the latest example.

The fact that individuals donate to save the lives of others with no connection to them selves is proof of the underlying brotherhood of man.

Saki Onda writes about Imperial's Friends of Mediciens Sans Frontiers



Imperial's Friends of Mediciens Sans Frontieres (FoMSF), which formed in 2006, is an ICU society that provides a platform for Imperial students to contribute to the work of MSF through various activities such as fundraising events, guest speakers, and film screenings. We are part of the wider National FoMSF.

The individual FoMSF societies at different universities across the UK & Ireland share the same two aims: Firstly, raising awareness about MSF's work and to encourage students to consider working with MSF and similar NGOs (non-government organisations) in the future; and secondly, raising funds for MSF's general work and their campaigns.

Imperial FoMSF have a number of events planned for this year including: A fundraising roller-disco, sales of Krispy Kremes on the South Kensington Campus, 'Who wants to save a million lives' raffle – the best prizes that you'll ever see – a screening of the award-winning documentary 'Invisibles', produced by Javier Bardem.

MSF in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Kelly Ameshoa
FoMSF Secretary

As fighting intensified in the Democratic Republic of Congo during 2008, an estimated 250,000 civilians fled their homes adding to the million already displaced. Fuelled by the country's rich mineral resources and lack of cross country communications, armed groups led by General Nkunda have clashed in eastern DRC in North Kivu. The reasons for this new uprising are unclear, at least partially based on an attempt to rid Congo of its Hutu rebels; however, its effects are all too evident. As well as the war wounded, many are suffering under the atrocities of both sides including mass rape. Not to mention the malnutrition endured by countless civilians across the country, increasing the spread of diseases such as cholera.

MSF has been in the DRC since 1987. The resurgence of fighting has made it very difficult to ensure aid is reaching those who need it most as they are often in hiding or constantly on the move. MSF has strengthened its established projects (such as HIV and sexual health service) and opened a new one in Masisi in North Kivu. MSF staffed began to work at the Masisi hospital in which had to more than double its maximum bed capacity. Mobile teams are also sent out to treat people when they are deemed to be relatively safe.



A child receives treatment after an Ebola outbreak

More recently, more than thirty people are suspected to have contracted the deadly Ebola virus. An MSF team of nine Ebola specialists from Kinshasa and Brussels is currently working in Western Kasai. An isolation ward in the village of Kampungu is being built and the medical team is also providing care to all people suspected of having the disease. There is no cure for Ebo-

la, so supportive and palliative care is provided.

To highlight the plight of the Congolese people, MSF has launched Condition: Critical, a series of personal testimonies, videos and pictures that allow those suffering to explain firsthand the conditions they are enduring. To find out for yourself, visit: <http://www.condition-critical.org/>

Iraqi Soc exhibition

Mohammed Jawad

On the evening of Friday 14th November, the Imperial College Iraqi Society made history – it conducted the first ever Iraqi Cultural Exhibition on campus.

The ten-man committee managed to organise probably the largest, most varied interface of London-wide contemporary Iraqi organisations in the space of a few hours. With the presence of over 17 different organisations, the IC Iraqi Society gathered crowds of Iraqis and non-Iraqis from all major universities in London, as well as families and businessmen, and nearly 200 people attended to hear it from the horse's mouth – how to get involved in major projects on Iraq today, as well as Iraqi culture and heritage.

Representatives from the British Museum gave first hand information on the current Babylonian Exhibition, which aims to run until March 2009. The British Institute for the Study of Iraq (BISI) gave an insight into archaeological heritage and contemporary issues surrounding the preservation of artefacts. This contrasted with student based organisations, such as the Student Iraqi Medical Association (SIMA) and Kurdish Studies and Student Organisation (KSSO), who represented student networking organizations in their respective fields. Other UK networking organizations included Iraqi Academics Association and Iraqi Professionals, and Iraqi culture was covered by Zipang and Culture for All, as well as calligraphy and textiles (by Aziz al-Naib and Najlaa Khalil respectively), producing an enticing amalgamation of talents. We were also delighted to welcome Al-Iraqiya TV Station, one of the largest Iraqi international broadcasters – who filmed the event and



Visitors enjoyed food as well as the exhibition

interviewed many of the organisations and attendees.

In addition, the audience enjoyed a gift of Iraqi strings music and Iraqi poetry, combined with a delightful cuisine of Iraqi delicacies to create the formula for the perfect evening.

Unfortunately, the vibrant evening could not last forever, and yet the end of the event did not mark the end of ties. By far, the underlying element of the whole evening was "unity", and indeed, the efforts of the attendees were not put to waste; the British Red Cross signed up several keen members, as did the politically orientated Iraqi Prospect Organisation and up to seven other charities (e.g. Kubba Foundation, Iraqi Orphan Foundation and IC Mar-

row), in order to facilitate future donations, involvement and commitment.

Furthermore, the organisations themselves were delighted to meet each other, and this assisted the exchange of ideas and contact details, thus promoting future cooperation. Diplomats from the Iraqi Embassy were also present to witness the success and build relations with such active professionals.

Overall: an evening of vivacity, attended by several zealous organisations, London students and professionals to enjoy and learn about Iraqi histories and contemporaries. A magnificent achievement for IC Iraqi Society, and an event that will no doubt show its face again in the years to come.

Andrew Peetamsingh discusses MSF's ongoing projects around the world

MSF, like many charitable organisations, have numerous projects 'on the go' at once. Their projects are in countries across the world, from places as close as France to war torn countries in Africa. Here are some of the cases from what MSF consider to be the worst humanitarian crises:

In Somalia, some of the worst violence in over a decade was seen in 2008. There is a lack of basic healthcare and a prolonged drought has exacerbated problems. Many have been left susceptible to malnutrition and disease. To tackle this health centres have been set up in residential areas which provide a source of healthcare to those who need it most, as well as providing a source of clean water for many.

War in Iraq has displaced four million people and there are big gaps in healthcare provision in certain areas. MSF runs surgical programs for war wounded patients, numerous burns units in both Iraq and Kurdistan and is supplying hospitals throughout the region.

Cyclone Nargis in 2008 left Myanmar in a terrible state. MSF has worked to provide food, shelter, water, healthcare and support. HIV/AIDS is also a big problem here which MSF is attempting to tackle through education and support.

Northwest Pakistan has seen some terrible fighting over the last year and many of the residents have been displaced elsewhere. MSF has been treating the war wounded, providing clean water and opening mobile health clinics.

There was a devastating earthquake in Balochistan recently, leaving 40,000 homeless. As a charity, MSF has been working to provide emergency medical support and relief supplies.

These examples represent a mere fraction of the work that MSF does worldwide. Continued support of their work is vital to provide some relief for the people who are suffering.



I, science

OUT NEXT WEEK

Coffee Break

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk

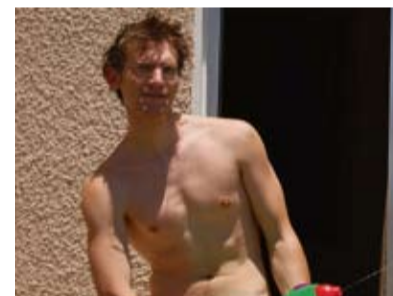


"I love Chaz"

Ravi Pall
Coffee Break Editor

Another week and another edition of Coffee Break. Loyal readers it is a good time to sit down, have a few beers and begin your collection of top trump cards! Oh yes, this could be the next big thing to hit the round faces of kids all over the nation. I am telling you now Wizards of the coast... BACK THE FUCK OFF! I wont let you turn this popular card game and turn it into something hideous like Magic the Gathering. Seriously if I find you guys have totally ripped me off, I will personally hunt you down and mutilate your soon to be corpse with a rusty spoon. Try it and see. That's right!

On a more affectionate point. I love Chaz Murdoch. I've said it now, and I'm not ashamed. Obviously not in a man on man way, but in a "man this guy does so much for me" kind of way. In case you were wondering, he is related to the guy from the A Team. Maybe that's why he manages to get so much stuff done down here in the office. I waltz in on a Wednesday, have a look at what needs to be done in this weeks issue, and to my surprise I find all the puzzles done. Yes I am still surprised every week. My thanks go to



Look at him. AHHHH!!!

this guy for all the work he puts in. Not only does he do the puzzles, he helps out with any other loose ends that need to be finished before the paper goes to print on a Thursday evening.

Concerning any ladies out there, you can see Chaz's "aluring" physique in last weeks centrefold, which is currently plastered all over the temporary wall in the da vinci's bar. He's winning the hot or not poll by a landslide against Hockey 1st team captain, Jack Cornish. Chaz likes to ride motorbikes for fun, with a collection of various high end vehicles to mount. He is also the ACC vice chairman. Ever wondered who organised all those great ACC bar nights in the union? It's Chaz. We salute you sir. Carry on the good work.

Obama wins with product placement



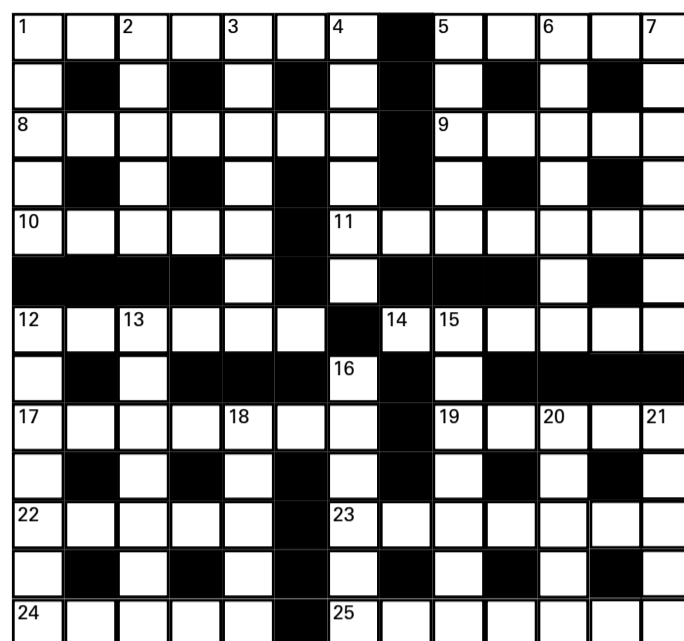
1. Obama Condom
2. Obama Toy
3. Obama Cereal
4. Obama Lip Balm



Fun & Games

sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk

A Quickie (Crossword) 1,421



- ACROSS**
- 1 Alkali metal (7)
 - 5 Term of greeting (5)
 - 8 Engage in physical contact (7)
 - 9 Delicate item of food (5)
 - 10 To braid hair (5)
 - 11 Public sale (6)
 - 12 Herb, means of transportation (6)
 - 14 Carve into a surface (6)
 - 17 Take in air (7)
 - 19 Installation vital for public hygiene (5)
 - 22 Strong thread (5)
 - 23 Pickled cucumber (7)
 - 24 Large, sealed box (5)
 - 25 Work with stone or brick (7)

- DOWN**
- 1 On the level (*slang*) (5)
 - 2 Profession, business (5)
 - 3 Insurmountable obstacle (7)
 - 4 Crazy followers of Bacchus (6)
 - 5 Anarchy (5)
 - 6 Openers (5-3)
 - 7 Of numbers (7)
 - 12 Characterizing artificial life-forms (7)
 - 13 Loose women's shirt (7)
 - 15 One who holds a party (7)
 - 16 Literary term for one verb used to describe numerous subjects (6)
 - 18 Onomatopoeic animal sound (5)
 - 20 Forced to get up (5)
 - 21 Of the kidneys (5)

Solution 1,420

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

As promised there were no cock ups here... shame about the Cryptic, but I've already shouted at Enoch for that. And now he's crying. Anyhoo, winners this week were Möchten sie mein Mannschaft? who are streaking away at the top of the table. Double points are still on offer for anyone from outside the top two so that makes the Cryptic (if Enoch makes no mistakes) worth an exceptional 20 points.

Scrabble box

FUCWIT League Table

Möchten sie mein Mannschaft?	151 Points
Team Shotgun	135 Points
Giramundo	45 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 Quickie. 4 points for second, 3 points for third, 2 points for fourth and 1 point for fifth.

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

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

Blazingscopes – Horoscopes with a touch of blaze

This week, *felix* got MC Melo-D from Blazing Squad down for advice. Fortunately he could only do one



Aquarius

Mate, this part is well shit bruv innit? So *felix* hollared me up and asks me to re-master some, Jam-Master Jay style. So here goes man! Your week is gonna be safe... you is gonna win like 50p mate- that could buy a bag a Ready Salted bruv! They will be bear good, and youz will win a trip to Istanbul, seriously heavy dude!



Pisces

This week you are strangely happy, unsure as to why but I can guarantee you that this is only the start. Things will get even better, culminating in an epic exchange of saliva on the dance floor of dB's with that special someone that you've been drooling over. My advice to you is to take it slowly and let the relationship blossom.



Aries

Why don't you shut up and leave me alone? Yes you. Having a conversation with you is like kicking a cripple- it's just not fair. I am struggling to get over the embarrassment of belonging to the same race as you. On a good day you are a half wit, please bugger off... If you don't know who I am talking about, it's you.



Taurus

This week you get caught in a compromising position in the Men's toilets of the Union building. After a minor skirmish, the door to the toilet is removed where you are found with you wang out businising a girl. After a wait of five minutes you move off to another cubicle and begin again. Next time use the disabled.



Gemini

Lectures don't go too well for you. You repeatedly arrive late and make a fucking din as you get to your seat. Enraged a bloke at the back jumps up points out that you are definitely not on time and smashes you right in the face. You fall arre over tit down the theatre and end up in a heap of the floor at the lectures feet. He kicks you.



Cancer

A riot breaks out in the Physics common room over who is more sexually attractive, Newton or Galileo. Things quickly escalate and before long people are tumbling from the 7th floor. This is crazy behaviour, but in the court case the judge realises that you are crazy people. Who else would want to study Physics at Imperial?



Leo

The fun police. Who the fuck do you think you are? If I want to play conkers, I will. If I get a conker in the nads, it's going to hurt but I'm not a batty. Man up, put a jumper on and stop crying like big gay babies. Health and safety can take its rules and regulations and shove them up their arse because I ain't doing that shit.



Virgo

Phil Collins has been in court recently for indecent exposure of his voice to millions of people. There you are, humming along happily to a bit of Dido and this repulsive crooning comes on. You want to destroy the radio, but you know that he's not worth it. This situation will happen at your next group meeting when the idiot in the corner pipes up.



Libra

This week things might not turn out the way you really wished. But don't worry or beat yourself up it could well be a blessing in disguise. You get to hang out with you bros, which is pretty much the perfect recipe for any human. On the other hand, hanging about college too much could make you go proper mental!



Scorpio

If it's your Birthday this week, we all wish you many happy returns. If it's not, then we don't. When you go out celebrating don't get so beered that you end up in a skip with a dirty old man "taking advantage of the situation." It's not going to be a pleasant time for you- trust me I've been there. Well I enjoyed it, the other party present didn't quite as much.



Sagittarius

There seems to be a lot of aggression kicking around the world at present and it's going to rub off onto you. When things begin to well up, put the kettle on, make a cup of tea, sit down and listen to a Cat Stevens record. Better still listen to the whole album. *felix* has a lovely selection of his finest works which you can browse through anytime.



Capricorn

There are women in the *felix* office recently. Lots of them. And they actually want to be here! Amazing. If any very boisterous, larger swilling beasts want to come down to even up the balance I would be much obliged. In the words of the 18th century philosopher Ali Philpott "who needs women? Women are for gays." Pint?

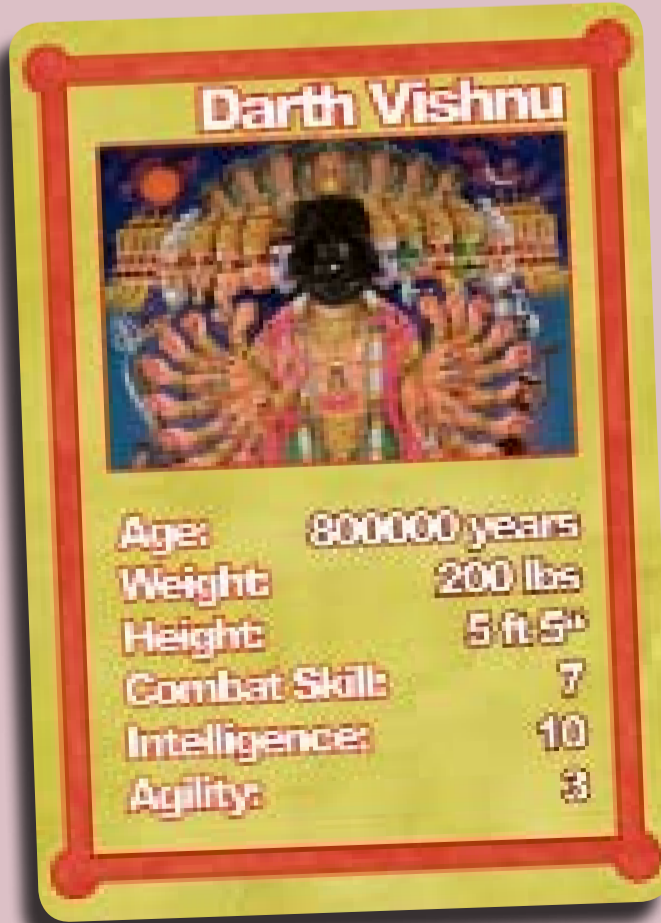
Top Trumps

Cut them out!

Highest score wins

Collect them all!

Watch this space for additional cards





Imperial derby draws a stalemate

Football

Imperial Men's 4th XI	2
Imperial Men's 5th XI	2

L'ORÉAL
PARIS

Edmund Lobb

The Battle of Bosworth Field, 22 August 1485. The Battle of Edgehill, 23 October 1642. The Battle of Gettysburg, 1 July 1863. Add to this list of great civil war battles The Battle of Harlington, 13 December 2008. With contrasting fortunes so far in ULU Division 1, Imperial 4s and 5s took to the astroturf of Fortress H on an inclement December Saturday.

The build up to the match had been tinged with gamesmanship, with the 4s clamouring to rearrange. Possibly running scared of a highly motivated and capable 5th team, possibly demanding extra time to find their way to the venue. Even with the postponement, 4s captain Jeremy didn't take to the pitch, his underwear still brown after the shanking from his 5s counterpart Ron in the reverse fixture.

The 5s started well, Lobster setting the tone with an outrageous flick over Inty in the first minute. The back four

was coping easily with the threat of Gui "The Barrel" Barbosa and his even fatter, even more Brazilian mate up front who was soon substituted for Ciaran. Mike Turrell's relentless running on the left wing was causing problems and Tom Adams was a proving handful for Dyke Allen and Marqueeef. The 5s dominance was particularly evident in the centre where Matty Smith and Jonny Hill were being bossed by Ron, Marvin from JLS and Jam Jam. They were however finding it hard to break down the two banks of four and test rugby fan Skeen in the 4s goal.

The pressure soon paid off though when a clearance from the Lapin was inexplicably left by both Dyke and the Queef and Tom Adams was in like a flash to slot past the schoolboy. The 4s were shaken and their centre halves then contrived to gift the 5s another goal. Ron chased a lost cause on the right and managed to pull the ball back to the edge of the six yard box. Calls of "Clear it!" from Skeen were ignored by Marqueeef who smashed the ball into his own top corner. 2-0.

At half-time Jeremy made his last two substitutions and a tactical reshuffle, trying to find some penetration on their left, where Winehands and X-factor winner Dan Abooby were solid in

both defence and attack. The 4s started brightly but were no danger for the 5s who's back 4, aided by Paulie in goal, soaked up everything thrown at them.

The conditions then came into play as a through ball was collected by Paul, only for it to slip from his grasp and fall to Mamzi Iscarlot who put the ball into the empty net. Paul immediately redeemed himself coming out to meet Ciaran and make a top class one-on-one save with his chin.

The 5s continued to press, knowing their lead had undeservedly been halved, and Ron was put clean through only to be denied by a smart save by Skeeno.

The 5s were then given a corner which Jonny Hill, possibly thinking how to get the dribbled grease from his KFC family bucket off his 22s tie, proceeded to put straight behind the goal. This however was missed by referee Chav, who had been bullied by the 4s all afternoon, and the ball swung back into play to be headed in by Sang at the back post.

The goal stood and the 5s were left incredulous. Given the nature of the two goals conceded, the 5s could easily have let their heads drop, not a phe

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A rant now was predictable, no?

Jack Cornish &
Mustapher Botchway
Sports Editors

So as we embark on a new term of matches, drinking and drunkenness I feel there is now a predictability to sports life. I would suggest that most final scores could be predicted before the start of the match by a punter and s/he would soon be rich. Imperial teams either seem to be winning or losing. For those doing a bit of both they know who they will beat and they know who they will lose to.

Can I urge the winning ways to be kept up and I urge that some 'dog' is shown for those tougher matches. When I say dog I mean show some bite, some passion and the desire to get out there and piss on the bonfire of those cocky league leaders. It is all very well playing, losing and then mak-

ing the gripes about their lack of UCAS points, but in my view we must get out there and grow some balls.

The reason I say all this is not necessarily because I think that all teams at Imperial are losers who don't have enough belief in themselves to win, but because there is a growing interest in the spectacle that is Varsity, the great showcase for sport at Imperial College whose athletic reputation is getting better all the time.

However there is some predictability involved and I would like that to change, partly to make the day more interesting and to make the time and money invested worthwhile. Who wants to pay to spend a day watching amateur predictable sport. I already have a TV and a Rocky DVD.