

# felix

The student 'news'paper of  
Imperial College London

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## Sir Roy will see you now

*felix* interviews Sir Roy Anderson and finds out about his days as a rugby player at Imperial, as well as how the place has changed since his time. See pages 4 & 5

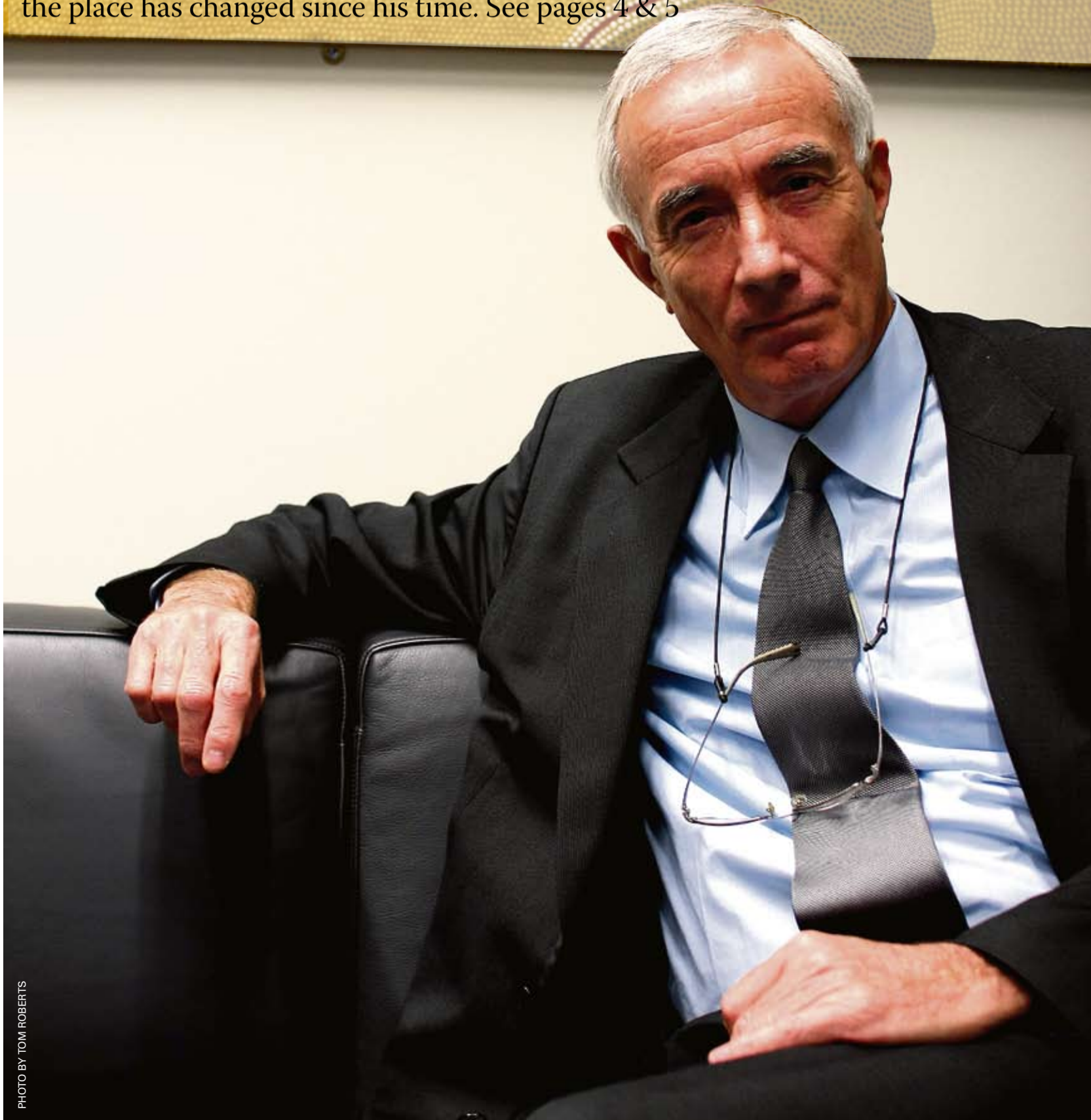


PHOTO BY TOM ROBERTS

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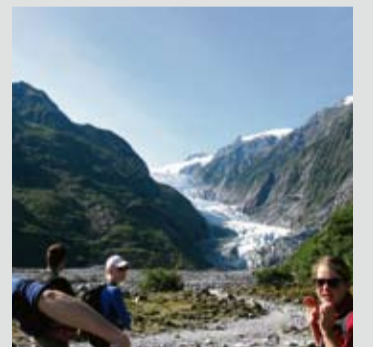
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# Nominations open

With five sabbatical positions open this year, Monday's opening of nominations marks the beginning of 2009's Union Elections

Dan Wan

The yearly process of electing Union sabbatical positions is to commence, once again, next week. The nomination window for Union Sabbatical and Student Trustee positions opens on Monday the 16th of February. 2009 will be the first year that five sabbatical positions are to be filled. Previous years have seen only four with Deputy President for Education and Welfare being split into two roles, Deputy President for (you guessed it) Education and Deputy President for (you guessed right again) Welfare.

Other positions available for the next academic year include Deputy President for Finances and Services, Deputy President for Clubs and Societies, Felix Editor and four Student Trustees. But if you feel like sitting on top of the pile, the prestigious position of Imperial College Union President is also open to nomination. Elected Sabbaticals will take a paid year out of their studies to become integral parts of the Union.

Any current student of Imperial College can nominate themselves for any of these nine positions. If you're interested in running, simply log onto [www.union.ac.uk/vote](http://www.union.ac.uk/vote) and nominate yourself. Once confirmed as a nominee, you will need 20 other current students to 'second'. These may be your friends or otherwise, but once you have 20 'seconds' from 20 people who think you worthy of running, you can be confirmed as a candidate for one of the positions available.

The window for nominations lasts roughly two weeks and will close on Sunday 1st March. Candidates then have around two weeks to campaign across campus, or as some previous candidates have chosen, not to. A campaign will involve producing a



The winners of last years Sabbatical election getting hit by the C&G Hit Squad during RAG Week

manifesto by Friday the 6th of March, and attending official Union Hustings within the two weeks. Hustings are a chance for candidates to argue their case why they'd be ideal for the position, and hence why the student body should vote for each of them. Hustings is also a chance for these voters to ask the candidates the burning questions that they may have.

Voters can decide on their choices from the relevant candidate exposure through felix, Live! (cgcu.live.net), stoic tv and on-campus presence. On 13th of March, when candidate's faces will be firmly stuck in our subconscious and our bellies full of free Haribo, the voting window opens. Five days are given, and every Imperial student should have voted by 17th of March. Imperial College do not have to wait too long for the results, and will be in marginal suspense for only a day as results are

announced on the 18th of March.

Early indications show that many of the nominees are looking to take the natural step up from non-Sabbatical positions this year within faculty unions such as RCSU and CGCU. Current CSC Chairs are also said to be considering running for positions. Early nominee Charles Murdoch has been reported to be mulling over the decision to run for all five sabbatical positions this year. College bookmakers give him early odds of winning any of these positions 1-799 and 1-11 chance of being thrown out of College by the end of the year anyway.

If you want to stand for any of the positions, nominations open on Monday, and felix will be guiding you through each Sabbatical position next week. For information, and where to put yourself forward, log onto [www.union.ac.uk/elections09](http://www.union.ac.uk/elections09).



## Union seeking feedback on clubs & societies provision

Imperial College Union are continuing their series of surveys on student opinion by turning their attentions to clubs and societies. The Union currently provides support in the running of over 300 different clubs with recently added clubs including Balloon Making.

According to the Union over 12,000 memberships have been purchased this year, already surpassing last year's total of 12,280. Yet these memberships are only held by just over half the student population of Imperial, which begs the question, 'Why don't the other half of Imperial want to be

a member of a club or society?' The survey looks to find the reasons for this as well as collating more detailed information about the opinions of current club members and also club officers.

The results will help the Union improve the services offered to the clubs and their members as well as highlighting areas where non-members can be encouraged to get involved.

You can take part in the survey by going to [www.imperialcollegeunion.org/survey](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/survey). Two randomly selected people who complete the survey will win an iPod Nano!

An error was made in last weeks issue of *felix* [Issue 1422] in the article entitled "Sabbs take Snow Day". The article read that the DPEW and DPSC were nowhere to be seen when in fact the DPSC Lily Topham was in the Student Activity Centre or in meetings for the whole day.

The article should have read DPFS, as Christian Carter, who lives in Southside, was nowhere to be seen. *felix* apologises for the error made and giving out the wrong impression about the DPSC.

# A quick revisit of previous rectors

Afonso Campos and Jovan Nedić take you back in time and explore Imperial's rectors over the last 100 years. Thanks go to College for providing pictures and information.

	<p><b>Henry T. Bovey [1908-1910]</b></p> <p>The first rector of Imperial College was unsure whether or not to take office given his deteriorating health. Upon accepting his appointment in 1908 the severity of the situation led to his resignation.</p> <p>He was educated at Cambridge where he became a talented structural engineer. His prominence led him to become the Chair of Engineering at McGill University in Canada. He was remembered for his incredible vision.</p>		<p><b>Sir Alfred Keogh [1910-1922]</b></p> <p>Keogh studied at Queen's College Galway. As a surgeon, he became appointed Director General of the Army Medical Service until taking office at Imperial College.</p> <p>Given his progressive views on the role of women in academia, he was instrumental in creating a women's association for students and staff at Imperial College.</p> <p>In 1967 one of the College's residence halls was named after him.</p>
	<p><b>Sir Thomas H. Holland [1922-1929]</b></p> <p>Sir Thomas Holland was awarded a Scholarship to study at the Royal College of Science, now a constituent of Imperial College, where he graduated from with a degree in Geology. He was a great driving force behind the association of Imperial College with the University of London.</p> <p>The Staff and postgraduate bar on Campus, The Holland Club, remains as a tribute to his memory.</p>		<p><b>Sir Henry T. Tizard [1929-1942]</b></p> <p>Tizard became Rector of Imperial in 1929 and was influential in shaping the College of today. He recognised the need for expansion purchasing land at Harlington for use as a sports ground and helped secure Silwood Park as the College's field station. He was also instrumental in creating today's South Kensington Campus. Outspoken and warm with a caustic wit, he is remembered for spending nights at the College during the war, playing snooker and billiards, and chatting to members of staff.</p>
	<p><b>Sir Richard Southwell [1942-1948]</b></p> <p>In 1942 he joined Imperial College as Rector, retiring in 1948. Whilst at Imperial he continued his research interests in the Engineering sciences, but also gave time to students. Given his dedication it was only natural that Selkirk Hall, a new student residence was named after him.</p>		<p><b>Sir Roderic M. Hill [1948-1954]</b></p> <p>Air Chief Marshall Sir Roderic Hill Rector of Imperial in 1948 upon his retirement from the RAF and gave great consideration to the sciences of which he knew little.</p> <p>Charming and energetic, he saw the need for students to gain a rounded education, introducing the music recitals and arts lectures still held at lunch times at South Kensington Campus. Hill was appointed to a post his father had also held, Vice Chancellor of London University, in 1953.</p>
	<p><b>Sir Patrick Linstead [1954-1966]</b></p> <p>During Linstead's tenure much of the campus was rebuilt and in the early 1960s, the Empire was giving way to the new Commonwealth. This caused him to consider changing Imperial's name, but was implored not to by former students. He foresaw Imperial's eventual departure from the University of London in July 2007, writing that Imperial's 'importance in the educational scene is not reflected in the practices and procedures of the university'.</p>		<p><b>Sir Owen Saunders [1966-1967]</b></p> <p>Saunders joined Imperial as Lecturer in the Department of Mechanical Engineering in 1932. Saunders was the Dean of the City and Guilds College and Pro Rector between 1964-66.</p> <p>He became Acting Rector following the sudden death of Sir Patrick Linstead in 1966. He went on to become Vice Chancellor of the University of London in 1967.</p>
	<p><b>The Rt Hon. Lord Penney [1967-1973]</b></p> <p>Although Penney was a successful leader, he felt this was a difficult time for university administration. He did not leave any personal papers, deciding to burn his collection shortly before he died. Once finished at Imperial, Penney worked on the development of the combined Allied and British atomic bombs. He continued to work in the nuclear industry after the war and became a board member of the newly formed United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.</p>		<p><b>The Rt Hon. Lord Flowers [1973-1985]</b></p> <p>Appointed in 1973 Flowers held the post until 1985. He was a founder member of the Social Democratic Party. Two halls of residence at Silwood Park Campus have been named after him and his wife, Mary, who played a great part in maintaining the very close relationship that the Flowers had with students and staff during their time at the College. The year 2000 saw the opening of a multidisciplinary life sciences research facility named the Flowers Building.</p>
	<p><b>Sir Eric A. Ash [1985-1993]</b></p> <p>Sir Eric Ash came to Britain to escape Nazi Germany in 1938 and came to study at Imperial College. Ash became Rector of Imperial in 1985, retiring in 1993. One of the legacies of his time was the expansion of Imperial into the realm of medicine with the merger of St Mary's Hospital Medical School with the College in 1988. He felt that bringing in medical students was also a way of raising the number of women students, something he felt was very necessary.</p>		<p><b>The Lord Oxburgh [1993-2000]</b></p> <p>He created the Imperial College School of Medicine through mergers with the National Heart and Lung Institute (1995), the Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School and the Royal Postgraduate Medical School (1997) and the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology (2000). He was made a life peer in 1999 as Lord Oxburgh of Liverpool and is active in the House of Lords on Science issues as Chairman of the Select Committee on Science.</p>
	<p><b>Sir Richard Sykes [2001-2008]</b></p> <p>Sir Richard Sykes was Rector of Imperial College London from January 2001 to June 2008. Many saw him as a businessman, streamlining a lot of the management services in Imperial, which included abolishing the old City and Guilds College and Royal College of Science to create a Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Natural and Life Sciences, much to the annoyance of prior students.</p> <p>However the business attitude did have its advantages as Imperial rose to 5th in the World as well as ensuring that the College was financially secure for years to come. One of the biggest shortcomings of his time however, was the falling student satisfaction level, something that many believe is the reason for Imperial not performing better.</p>		

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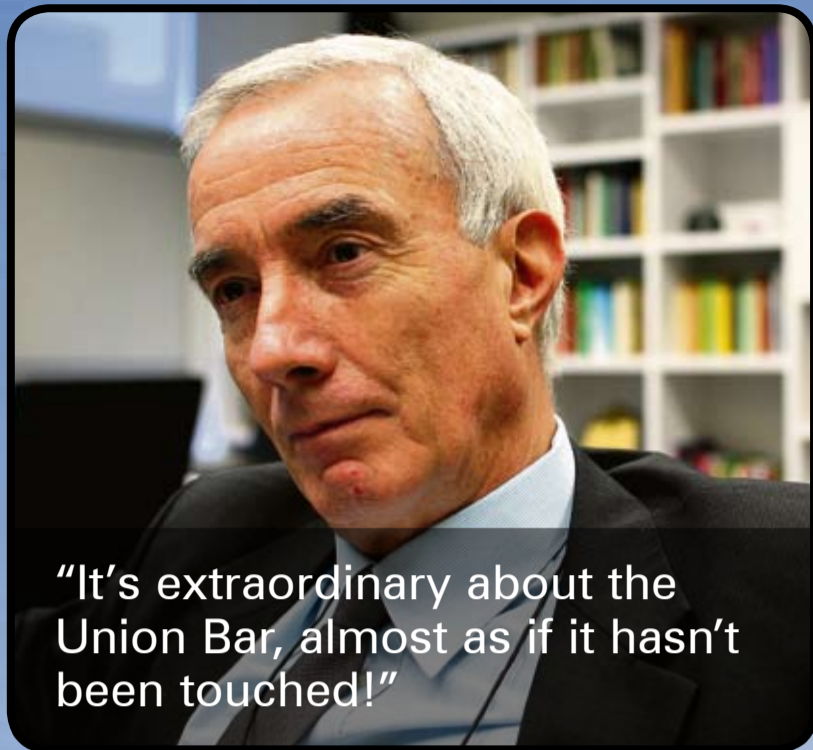
OF THE WEEK

TURN OVER TO MEET THE NEWEST RECTOR



# Everyone, meet the new Rector

Sir Roy Anderson FRS is the 14th in a long line of illustrious and, quite often, ground-breaking rectors of Imperial College London. Like a few of his predecessors, Sir Roy was a student himself at Imperial back in 1960's, and *felix* asked Sir Roy what it was like back then and about the changes that have occurred since. As he points out, **Jovan Nedić** and **Tom Roberts** are no John Humphrys or Jeremy Paxmans, but we gave it our best shot!



"It's extraordinary about the Union Bar, almost as if it hasn't been touched!"



Sir Roy Anderson appearing in *felix* back in 1970

## His time as a student

### Rector

I arrived in October to stay in Falmouth Hall to study Zoology. Imperial was a very different place back then, number one. The student and staff population were predominantly UK and coming back to this campus, what strikes me now is how hugely international the place is, and also how much the gender balance has changed which is mainly due to the medical school, but even in subjects such as engineering the number of females has increased.

But I think also the social side is a lot more sophisticated than it used to be. In my student days, and this may reflect hugely on me more than anything else, but it was about bars and it was the Union Bar predominantly. I was a very keen rugby player, as well as athletics, but rugby took out most of my week, with Monday evening, Wednesday afternoon, Thursday lunchtime and Saturday afternoon all taken up by it. We also had a fixture list that included teams who were 1sts or 2nds from the top London clubs, such as London Irish and London Welsh, so it was a very good fixture list. We used to put out 10 teams a week and postgraduates were recruited in certain departments for their rugby ability.

### *felix*

So back then they did have a similar scheme to what Oxford and Cambridge have now, where they bring in players for various sports?

### Rector

It wasn't quite as crude as that. They had to have the academic qualifications first before they could play. But the other club that I was highly involved in was with the exploration society who organised trips to the Amazon and such like.

Now the social side, because the gender balance was so horrendous, it very much involved going to one of the other colleges. Queen Elizabeth's College was up in Kensington at the time that had a much greater proportion of female students than at Imperial back then, so the social life was much better outside the College than in, unless of course you were part of one of the sports teams. What strikes me now are the vast number of clubs and societies that are available, much more than in my day.



"The social side involved going to other campuses. Queen Elizabeth's College had a far greater proportion of female students."

## The Union and other facilities

### *felix*

During your recent visit to the Union, you were heard saying that the Union Bar is exactly as you remember it. What are your views on the rest of the building?

### Rector

It's extraordinary about the Union Bar, almost as if it hasn't been touched! But the rest of the building is jaded, however the office space is improved. I hear that work is being done on the gym, which was a dreadful place back in my time with very primitive equipment. Now we have Ethos which is the best university sports centre I've seen, better than most of the ones professional sports club have in London.

### *felix*

Will Ethos remain free then next year?

### Rector

Yes of course. The local residence fees are not fixed, and the objectives are then a sensible business decision as you've created a world class facility that will attract local residence who will pay significant sums of money to be a member of that club, so you then use then support the club on the basis of that income which then makes it free to students.



"The only way to displace Oxford and Cambridge is to focus on quality"

## The changing face of Imperial College and Accommodation

### *felix*

You have already mentioned that when you came back to Imperial you noticed a lot of change. What would you say is the biggest change that has happened since your time?

### Rector

Probably the quality of the physical build and the environment. I think Sir Richard prior to that Lord Oxburgh, did a lot to have major new capitol build projects in term of Sir Alexander Fleming building for example. And there is a very trivial reason why we are able to do that and that is the endowment fund that was set up. Touch wood, and with a bit of luck, we'll be able to sustain the major capitol builds through the current economic crisis.

### *felix*

Eastside is due to finish next term, how is that going?

### Rector

We are actually ahead of schedule. A lot of lessons were learnt from Southside too.

### *felix*

Are the rent prices going to be in line with Southside then?

### Rector

Those decisions haven't been fully taken yet, but at the moment it's on target for cost and should be finished ahead of schedule.

### *felix*

Is the accommodation going to be the same standard as Southside then?

### Rector

Slightly better.

### *felix*

So you could say that there would then be a natural increase in price?

### Rector

Umm no, don't lead me into that, I'm too experienced with the press with the likes of John Humphrys and Paxmans of this world. I don't yet, the decisions haven't been made and clearly the economic crisis and pressures on students will influence us.

## The Rector and his legacy

### *felix*

Each Rector has managed to leave behind some legacy once they had finished. Your predecessor, Sir Richard Sykes, seemed to focus on the business side of things which saw the Imperial management structure restructured as well as seeing Imperial rise to 5th in the world. However, student welfare took a big hit with many commenting on the low student satisfaction levels every year. What do you plan to do to improve this?

### Rector

Well first of all let's look at the student satisfaction ratings as scientists. In a sample size of 180 and a student population of 12,000 using your knowledge of statistics would you believe that? It wasn't even a random sample it was a submitted sample! So that survey that is done is probably meaningless. Now I've spoken to Jenny Morgan about it, and what I hope I've encouraged Jenny to do because we are very happy to pay for that, is that I want a proper survey of Imperial students which is a large sample and have structured interviews as well as random questions so that we can find out how to improve the student experience here. To be honest I think your experience is better than mine because the facilities you have here are better, the gymnasium is one example, but I also think of the library which is 24 hours seven days a week, boy would I have liked that! I am committed to improving the quality of the student experience.

We are an international business, we are in the worlds top ten, and as one of those who are attracting the world's best students we have to provide a facility that is of that quality. We're also in a nice bit of London too, with Hyde Park next door and museums within walking distance, it is a bit expensive, but it is a damn sight better than where the London School of Economics and University College London are. This place has the attractions that would rival Oxford and Cambridge easily in terms of theatres and museums and so on. So all that one needs to do is to focus on our local environment here, and try and make that as good as possible. You've got to have a focus for the college, in by day it used to be Beit Quadrangle, but now it's around the Queen's Tower and I want to alter that whole environment to make it much more student friendly. I want to put in incubator structures so that students can see the interface between scientific knowledge and training and generating spin-off companies. So focusing on this environment is a legacy that I want to leave behind, which such structures as the new £300 million Faculty of Engineering building.

Second issue, and this is a difficult one, in a sense that we are as good as the quality of our staff and students, on a research front we are as good as the quality of our staff and our postgraduate students, and one needs to make that a slightly less pressurised, more space environment to think an innovate. I'm so conscious with my own career as well as other scientists, but having time to think where you are not constantly pressurised with performance matrix with such things as 'You've got to get 10 papers published' or 'You need to get three research grants'. So the only way we are going to rise up the league table and displace Oxford and Cambridge is to focus on quality of the publications that we produce. One of my tasks are to try and facilitate this.

### *felix*

So would you say that you are actively seeking to climb above Oxford and Cambridge?

### Rector

Oxford is certainly doable.

### *felix*

Not Cambridge?

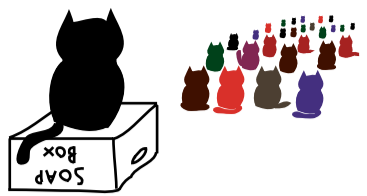
### Rector

Cambridge is very good. The reason we have a chance of doing it is a very odd one. Imperial's structure is very much like a business, when we decide to do something it is done and we can respond to external pressure much more rapidly. Oxford is a series of autonomous colleges with their own endowment, so if the college decides to do something and the college can't agree, no money can be spent.

To summarise your question of legacy, I would say: to improve the quality of the environment, to really pay attention to the quality of the student experience, to create more time for our academic staff who are a real strength of this place and to be original and thoughts that nobody else has thought of with the time and space to develop those ideas with the emphasis on quality not quantity. To enhance even further the spin out rate of biotechnology companies from Imperial because I do quite sincerely believe that Britain coming out of this recession, you got to replace the financial services sector to a degree and biotechnology company generation is one of our major options. There are a lot of things that one would like to do.

Find out next week what Sir Roy Anderson really thinks about government spending policy on research and development. He also makes his views clear about fees at universities and we find out what he would like Imperial's work to focus on in the future. All of this and more in next week's issue of *felix*.

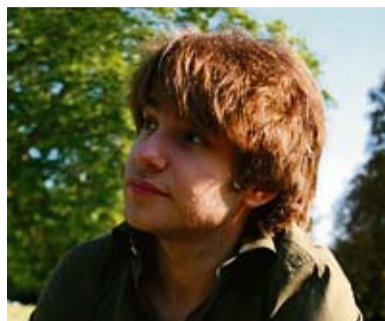




Let us know your views: [comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

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

## Afonso Campos says something nice... eventually



“Gola shoes are the true mark of the wannabe fashionista who fails epically at being cool”



When you travel abroad, I take it you are polite, respect local custom, venture to speak the language once in a while to order crappy local food, and attempt to feign some sort of respect towards anyone with whom you might be in close quarters. I do, and so do most people with that remarkable trait that is social awareness. Unfortunately a lot of my Portuguese countrymen, and Iberians in general do not.

It's like pure anarchy with the Portuguese and the Spanish. You never know what novel way they will find to disrupt your otherwise normal day. I don't inherently dislike them; it's just that many of them commit cardinal sins that make my skull rapidly collapse around my ever-expanding brain. These sins come in behavioral and aesthetic forms with several variations

that are situation dependent. I know it may sound obnoxious and rude, but I swear I can tell an Iberian tourist a mile away. More often than not they are wearing brightly coloured Gola shoes (little known fact: Camden was set up with the two exclusive purposes of selling Golas and eyebrow piercings to the Iberians). These are the true mark of the wannabe fashionista who fails epically at anything resembling cool. The bad haircut syndrome is also typically Iberian as documented extensively by reputable publications like *National Geographic* and *The Onion*. It can also be guaranteed that if you see someone sporting a mullet with a dreadlock hanging out the back like a decomposing hair extension and an oversized backpack, this someone has certainly been summoned from the relatively small Catalonian city of Lleida by the Ministry For The Preservation of Irritating Tourists. Perhaps the most irri-

tating trait is that they walk backwards on tube platforms while grunting loudly at each other. You need a keen eye to observe this crab-like movement, but do look out for it next time you are in the tube and you are likely to be rewarded with a display of behaviour that is bound to become etched in your memory for perpetuity.

Now, on to slash the Yanks.

While American tourists do not get on my nerves as much, I assume they get on yours so the following memoir might be of satisfaction to read. I remember the instance when coming back from a delightful evening spent in the South Bank. I had had a most pleasant dinner with friends followed by a sound play by Charlie Kaufman and the Coen brothers, narrated by a bunch of A-list celebrities and Meryl Streep. On the journey back home, an American girl decides to strike up conversation and mention that she is

from Michigan. As a gesture of common courtesy my friend engaged in some mindless conversation with said girl and happened to disclose the supposedly unexciting fact that one of our very close friends hailed from Michigan also. Nothing could have led me to foresee the now unsurprising words that were about to come out of her mouth.

“Oh, my, gawd! No effing way! Do you know Dave?”

On hearing this, my friend proceeded to roundhouse kick her face in, like, totally casually.

It is not hard to avoid the insanity and the droves of unsightly tourists though. All you need is some precious knowledge as now shared by yours truly. The Armageddon is pretty much known to be contained to the micro-state of awful Queensway. Unless you're a pikey wanting to ice-skate at 3pm on a Thursday, brandishing a bot-

tle or a can of Blackthorn, there's really no reason why you should ever go there. For some incredibly strange and odd reason they are attracted to that general area and vicinity like football players are attracted to Louis Vuitton suitcases. It is deranged and illogical, but so true.

It's useless refuting existing empirical evidence. I have previously tried keeping stereotypes from cursing my troubled mind, but I have long given up on such ludicrous efforts. I would be most pleased if this comment piece had led me to some sort of epiphany or contained some fable-like fundamental maxim, but alas it does not.

The only thing that you may safely conclude from my nonsensical drivel is that 1) I am Portuguese; 2) still slightly bitter that Spain is bigger and better; 3) Upset I never won a Green Card lottery; 4) wish I had been born Spanish or American.

[comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

## Gilead Amit takes it upon himself to rewrite Disney



“If *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* were set in the 21st Century, what would the dwarves be called?”



For the past few weeks, as those so favoured as to enjoy my company on a regular basis will know, my mind has been occupied with a question of paramount importance. This unwonted intensity of thought has led my forehead to resemble the carefully ploughed acres of Gordon Ramsay's frontal lobe, and has meant that my nails have been chewed clean to the wrist. The issue that has been causing the cogs in my mind to revolve at these superluminary velocities is a simple one. If the story of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* were to be updated to the 21st Century, what would be appropriate names for the raven-haired beauty's diminutive companions?

Much head-scratching has followed, and after prolonged consultation with my flatmate, my girlfriend and my lab partner, I was politely advised to give up searching and sit quietly in a padded room until the coloured spots faded from the inside of my eyeballs. After cajoling them into letting me have a sheet of paper and a blunt pencil, I was finally able to produce the following line-up: Sexy, Bitchy, Needy, Kinky, OCD, Sleazy and Chomsky.

In what could, if we extend the recognized and well-understood boundaries currently in place, be called my mind, the appropriately-anagrammable OCD fills the tiny shoes of the genial, patriarchal Doc, while Chomsky would replace the charismatic and loveable Dopey. I somehow feel that the two share the same wide-eyed innocence and the same joie de vivre, not to mention a similar firm grasp on reality.

If the popular fable were to be updated, however, the setting would have to be changed. No more hidden cottages or craggy cliffs: the story cries out for a different location. My lengthy cogitations finally washed me up on the shores of the following conclusion: the tale of *Snow White* could best be told to a 21st Century audience through the backdrop of the Big Brother household.

It is the perfect fit – one attractive woman and seven men with amusing physical idiosyncrasies attempting to live together under the same roof. I see Sexy and Kinky spending a great deal of time with *Snow White* in the Master Bedroom, with Sleazy occasionally sticking his head round the door to breathe heavily and salivate before darting back in. Meanwhile, Needy and

OCD curl up together for comfort on the floor as Bitchy and Chomsky stride around the house making everyone feel uncomfortable and out of place.

As exciting as the show would be (and I gladly renounce all copyright claims to any prospective producers), my ultimate conclusion was this: no such update is necessary. The story of *Snow White*, as recounted through the enchanted frames of Walt Disney's 1937 classic, has survived the decades.

I offer as evidence an evening last year when I found myself in front of a computer screen with two of my friends, surfing YouTube with the wild intensity common to those of us who tread the midnight tightrope. The three of us, living up to our reputations as I students, were in a particularly cynical mood. We sneered at the unelectable optimism of Senator Obama, mocked Richard Dawkins for his excessive moderation and brutally unweaved each and every one of the idealistic memories of youth.

“How about that ridiculous scene in *Snow White*,” I drawled. “You know, that one where the animals are cleaning up the house?” My companions sneered appreciatively.

“God, that was revolting,” said one. “Find it for me – I want to see if it's as saccharine as I remember.”

A few typing noises and mouse clicks brought up a full screen version of that scene on our communal computer. We sat back in our chairs, prepared to raise our most damning eyebrows and Ha our most disparaging Has.

The scene began. At the sight of the first chipmunk putting away a teacup our iron resolve began to thaw. The deer cleaning the furniture with his tail saw my haughty lip uncurl and the proud furrows in my brow disappear. By the time the squirrels were brushing the dust under the carpet and the stag was being used as a laundry stand, my companions were whistling along to the tune as I wept uncontrollably at the keyboard.

The YouTube video played to its conclusion, and the monitor threw its light on three moist-eyed university students staring into the distance at their rediscovered childhood. Different childhoods, obviously. A spot of syntactical license to ease the monotony.

That moment stands out in the album of my memory like a pop-up card. The fact that three particularly hard-hearted students with artificially low

sentiment barriers should melt so completely over a scene like that has given me an entirely new respect for Disney. Or Gisney – whichever spelling most closely resembles the flamboyant capital letter that dominates the logo.

I am a tremendous fan of Disney. On alternate weekends I form part of a secretive but well-meaning congregation of addicts who meet in obscure corners of the city to exchange Disney trivia and watch an occasional DVD. Meet us at Cannon Street Station on the last Tuesday of every month, wearing a green chrysanthemum and carrying a copy of the *Racing Express*.

There is no doubt in my mind that if I were to compile a list of all the Disney aficionados at Imperial it would easily eclipse this piece in length as well as in originality and humorous content. Everyone is a Disney fan, and I challenge all naysayers to sit through any of the masterpieces from 1937 to 1996 and not be simultaneously charmed, moved, amused, delighted, and overwhelmed by your inner child (or children. Leave me alone – my syntactical license doesn't expire till 2012).

Or if not, at least let me know which dwarves you think I left out.

## Dan Wan's youth has given way to drudgery



“The streets where I spent my teenagehood are changing and I'm resentful as they slip further from recognition”



When did staying in the library until the early hours of the morning constitute a satisfactory night? Why do I now feel guilty about surfing away weeks of my life on facebook and youtube? Why do I suddenly feel compelled to do some sort of academic work? Where has all this fucking responsibility come from?

The daily questions I ask myself, and most probably others, now and again. Between these Scrubs-style moments of subconsciousness, I march on, not entirely comfortably, with my daily life as a 2nd year.

Many of the excitements of being at university have shrivelled up with the unavoidable passing of time. The thrill of coming to university for the very first time, followed by the anxiousness in meeting new people and living away from home. The vague sense of

regret after sleeping into the afternoon and missing a day's worth of lectures. The huge sense of relief of not failing the year, and then having a worry-free summer with your mates from back home. What about becoming a second year, and finding your own house in London, having a 'housewarming' party and losing a wall in your new home. But is Fulham my 'home', and Watford only my 'hometown'? Why do I feel like a visitor when I walk down my local high street, not being able to feel the celestial hug of familiarity?

This all rained down on me when I walked past what was Virgin Megastore. Its replacement was a derelict two floors within a bustling shopping mall; boarded up, with only a single Zavvi "Closing Down" poster in a dark window, crestfallenly displaying its past identity. Further up, Woolworths, home of questionable pick'n'mix now just a façade of bare metal poles and

chipboard sheets. Then, rows of smaller shops and newsagents no longer in business.

I have carved out this new world for myself, which didn't even involve some of the biggest stores in Watford firstly, in the case of Virgin Megastore, changing its name, and secondly, closing down.

The streets where I spent my teenagehood are changing without me, and feel like a visitor when I walk down my local high street, not being able to feel the celestial hug of familiarity? This all rained down on me when I walked past what was Virgin Megastore. Its replacement was a derelict two floors within a bustling shopping mall; boarded up, with only a single Zavvi "Closing Down" poster in a dark window, crestfallenly displaying its past identity. Further up, Woolworths, home of questionable pick'n'mix now just a façade of bare metal poles and

I am a mere 20 miles from my 'hometown', and this fact only greatly expands the guilt I feel about having been swept away by this new life in the City. All that serves as a constant reminder of the first 18 years of my life is my poor

pronunciation of any word containing a 'double t' sound, and my desktop background of Watford FC winning the Championship play-off final in 2006.

I've got to the point where I'm facing up to my newfound responsibilities and worries. It is all self-inflicted and hence I cannot, and will not complain. I am the one that decided to take up positions within *felix* and stoic tv that would pile on the stress as well as give me hours of enjoyment and company. No one else forced me to pick the hardest humanities course there was available. Most importantly, though, no one else in the world is telling me to feel like I should, and need, to do well for myself. Telling me to get out of this University with a CV that after reading, CEOs in years to come will state I that am a "well-rounded individual". So it is only me who piles the pressure upon my own shoulders.

In a year, I'll probably be looking for a

job, or at least something to pay off the 25 grand I've paid for this experience. But I swear I was sitting in my Sixth Form common room in Watford with the sole thought running through my mind, "I wonder how many coddling references I can make in this Ode To A Nightingale analysis essay?" So when the fuck did everything change?

I'm not sure anyone can answer that, but I've got to a stage within my three year University experience that has fallen into a routine worthy of Ground-hug Day. A routine though stressfully busy, gives enough time for the mind to settle and reflect on the last year and a half of my life.

What I have felt this week is an inevitability for everyone. It will come in different forms at different times of people's lives. Despite this reflection though, I know I'm still a Watford boy at heart, but one that's doing just about all right for himself.

## Kadhim Shubber doesn't want to go 'home'



“The trip to my home before the bombs of the Gulf War began to fall could never feel like a homecoming for me.”



Iraqi passport



Direct flight from London



OMG I'm in Baghdad!

Two rather important events occurred in previous weeks. Obviously there were a multitude of events, some trivial, others historic, but two have been on my mind. First event; provincial elections were held in Iraq, my country of birth, without disruption or death. I don't think you will begrudge me if I label this event historic. Second event; I received an Iraqi passport, 'brand new' but all the same carrying the wear and tear of a nation struggling to regain its feet (not to mention the fact that my name was spelt wrong, Henry Marsden indeed my name isn't 'Kadhim Shubber'; it's plainly misspelt on my passport 'Khadhim').

But that slight matter aside, it would seem that these two events have coincided and conspired to give my mother ammunition in her fight to persuade me to travel back to Iraq. The issue has cropped up from time to time and

the combined retorts of "I don't want to be asked awkward questions about the Iraqi customs stamp in my British passport when I travel to the U.S." and "FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, I DON'T WANT TO DIE!!!" usually admonished her sufficiently to drop the subject. Now you see my dilemma, the untimely coincidence of luck, democracy and direct flights from London to Baghdad (oh and some stuff like 'the 'surge' or the Sunni awakening or something like that) have neutralized my arguments.

Shouldn't I want to return to the country of my birth? I still have family living in Baghdad and Erbil (in the Kurdish north) and although many of them fled after the American invasion in 2003 (I should know, I helped them write the letters, visa applications and personal statements that gave them somewhere to go) there are still many Shubber family members to meet and greet. My mother and perhaps to an

extent my father (who didn't spend a great deal of time 'living' in Iraq, his youth spent in an English boarding school and then a large portion of the 80s serving as a medic in the Iraqi army) envisage a sort of homecoming; an opportunity for me to reconnect with my ancestral roots.

But the regrettably still dangerous trip to Baghdad, to the Dora area, to the house backing onto the River Tigris where my family spent a few hopeful years before the punishing bombs of the first Gulf War began to fall, could never feel like a homecoming for me. Belonging is surely a comforting feeling but, at least geographically and nationally, I have never felt the warm support of belonging. I am ethnically an Arab, but I have never felt kinship with other Arabs and my Iraqi nationality has never been more than a backstory. I grew up in Northern Ireland, but I was always sufficiently different,

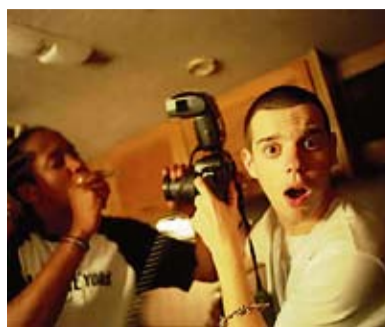
sufficiently tanned and sufficiently not Protestant or Catholic to truly feel Northern Irish (not that there are many people who feel 'Northern Irish', most choose instead Irish or British army) envisage a sort of homecoming; an opportunity for me to reconnect with my ancestral roots. But the regrettably still dangerous trip to Baghdad, to the Dora area, to the house backing onto the River Tigris where my family spent a few hopeful years before the punishing bombs of the first Gulf War began to fall, could never feel like a homecoming for me. Belonging is surely a comforting feeling but, at least geographically and nationally, I have never felt the warm support of belonging. I am ethnically an Arab, but I have never felt kinship with other Arabs and my Iraqi nationality has never been more than a backstory. I grew up in Northern Ireland, but I was always sufficiently different,

So neither English, nor Irish or British and only nominally Iraqi and Muslim; what then should we think of the man without a home? There are two natural directions we might move off in from here, either a glorious denunciation of the nationstate or a pathetic

plea for citizenship of a suitable country (the Editor tells me that I would make a good Serbian). But in truth and in summation, it couldn't matter less to me. I know of people who would 'die for their country' and perhaps kill; neither dying nor killing hold any appeal for me, and so I regard myself lucky for not having a country. I have never found any benefit in nationalistic pride and I haven't felt shortchanged for not having it. I imagine that it will be strange to tell my parents that I reject the nationality that they bestowed upon me. I imagine my mother will not be happy (she's Kurdish and Kurds are very patriotic, try for yourself, tell a Kurd that a unified Iraq is the only way forward; I take no responsibility for personal injury) but I think that something will prevent me from telling her. Ah yes, that voice in the back of my head shouting "FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, I DON'T WANT TO DIE!!!"



## Different class investigates the link between rap culture and youth crime



"They start kicking him in the face, all the while I sit watching unable to move"

In this dream I am sitting on a train, the district line I think, and I don't recognise where it is heading. Across from me sit three men, familiar to me but I couldn't say who they are. Without warning, they stand and head to the end of the carriage where they grab a middle-eastern man. They throw him to the floor and start kicking him in the face, all the while I sit watching, feeling compelled to help the man but unable to move. The train stops at a station and I get out, changing to the next carriage. As the violence continues I stand at the adjoining window and look through.

What this dream means is open to a wide variety of interpretations. Many would see the analogy with the conflict in the Gaza Strip: the middle-eastern man representing the beleaguered Palestinians. However, I see a more subtle explanation. My inability to quell the violence, my total impotence in the carriage, reminded me of another story in the news, something that may have passed you by.

Three weeks ago a boy, 15 years old, was stabbed to death in East London. Seems like a familiar story. He was the first teenager to die of knife crime this year, his death echoing the terrible pattern of violence that plagued the capital last year. In all, 28 teenagers died of knife wounds in London alone between January and December. The media should be applauded for

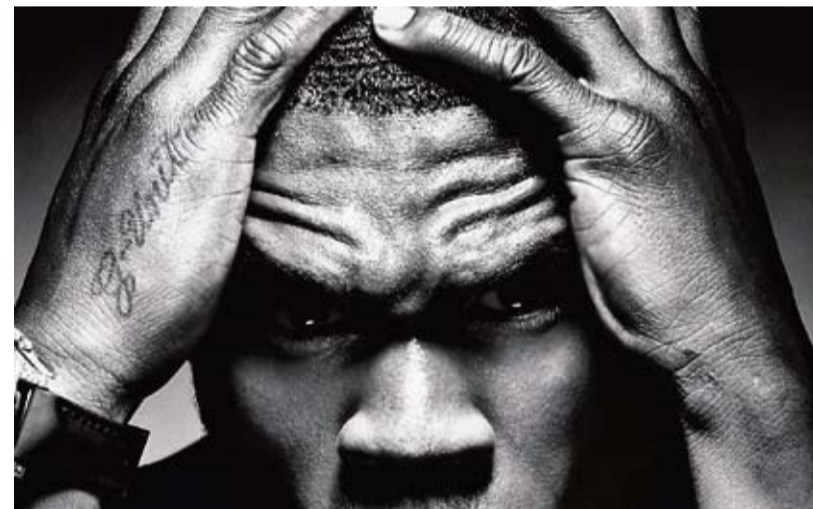
its publishing of articles and editorials on this issue, raising the profile of a problem which only affects a small number of us. However, for exactly this reason, the public seems to have become desensitised to what are some of the worse crimes committed in our time. No child deserves to suffer at the hands of such gratuitous violence, regardless of perceived affiliations to "gang culture". I too started to switch off, developing a passivity similar to that which I exhibited in my dream. I understand this is wrong. As a community, something needs to be done to dispel the perception among teenagers that knives present a solution to often petty problems.

The boy who died two weeks ago was called Steven Lewis. I didn't know him or his family. However the place where he was attacked, fell and bled to death in a road outside a church in Plaistow, is more familiar. It is the place where my parents were married, an area where I spent much of my childhood kicking footballs and generally making a nuisance of myself. I'm not going to paint a picture that growing up in East London was idyllic, far from it; there were fights and scraps, vandalism and dissent, but never once was anyone I knew stabbed. No one even owned a knife. If you had an issue with someone, you would fight and the winner was "proven correct". This may seem perverse to the more cultured among



you, but at least no one died. Back then there weren't any gangs of "feral youths", as a certain politician recently put it, just groups of mates looking for a bit of excitement. For these reasons, I find what happens in London now to be completely alien to the city where I grew up. In the time between something has changed, the mentality of boys has been altered, and now terms like "respect" and "turf-wars" are the norm in media reporting. We must remind ourselves this is Plaistow not Compton.

You may be quick to point the ac-



How responsible is rap culture for youth gang culture?

cusings finger at "Gangster-rap". However, it is easy to forget that it is not the music that breaks the law but the boys who listen to it. By their interpretation and imitation, they may commit these crimes and this could well be the problem. However, I am by no means encouraging the curtailment of freedom of expression, Rap represents a diversity in music that we should embrace. It is clear that what is necessary is renewed communication with the disaffected youth who look to Rap for answers to their problems. It is my opinion that youth knife crime can be

reduced by direct engagement with teenage boys. It must be communicated that when an artist writes about being attacked, shot, stabbed, they are not endorsing the action, but warning people from it. As anyone can sympathise, teenagers all suffer at one stage from the bruising of egos as they make mistakes and learn important life lessons. Perhaps it's through gangs and knives they find a way of earning "respect" and minimising embarrassment when disputes arise. Yet it must be emphasised that if youths understand in clear, and probably graphic terms, that knives are tools of cowards and should be shunned, we can avoid patronising and deflating the fragile egos of the youths involved.

I find it likely that it is the media who played the main role in changing the streets of my youth to the gangland that seems to exist today. Messages from music and culture in general have been misunderstood and distorted leading to the problem we see today. A new message must be communicated now, to remedy this and end the senseless killing of the city's youth. It is a hard task, something I admit I have insufficiently addressed in this article. But through dialogue and affirming the right values, whilst maintaining the egos of the young men at risk, it is possible for the spree of killings we have witnessed to no longer need be ignored.

## Letters

### An outraged gnome

Dear felix,

'Kadhim Shubber' (if that even is his real name) may have lost faith in museums (RE: Felix, 6th Feb) but some of us have certainly not lost faith in COPYRIGHT LAWS, intellectual property rights and general decency in NOT plagiarising ideas from others (some may say, betters) around us! I am outraged!

In his column, Mr. Shubber (henceforth referred to as 'the condemned'), quoted a section of theory from a now infamous Facebook group; "Physics doesn't exist, its all gnomes" (<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2217915679&ref=ts>) - word for word. Now it just so happens that I created this group and penned the EXACT phrase he plagiarised from said group. The condemned did write said quote with no thought (well, I say no thought - his brain may have slowly ticked over the thought but quickly dispelled it - like a river of vomit being damned by a build up of largely unchewed pieces of sweetcorn) to not only the laws of copyright (which in fact probably don't apply to facebook) but also to politeness, courteousness and acknowledging that perhaps someone

is more intelligent than himself! Even a quick internet search reveals more of the condemned's misquotes, poor reporting and general unprofessionalism. For someone who is even the deputy editor of the paper, this is inexcusable! One feels he should perhaps spend more time learning to be a journalist and practising his penmanship than harassing small children and Sir Isaac Newton at the Science Museum.

"Frankly, Ladies and Gentlemen, we are doomed..." (The Condemned, Felix #1423) is a phrase that easily comes to mind! To be fair to the condemned; he is in fact spreading the word and publicising 'Gnome Theory' - a noble cause in itself. Too few are aware that the main physics principles can be explained away by the existence of tiny gnomes and their interactions (see aforementioned Facebook group). A man so intent on mentioning (if not referencing) this theory at least deserves recognition, despite this deep (deep, deep) down longing being hidden in utter drivel. I must commend a man who looks to further scientific thought (especially at this university) and am glad he has brought further attention to the fledgling theory. Perhaps he may like to complete a proper report on the theory in recompense?

In conclusion it seems that though journalism is on the down - perhaps 'Gnome Theory' is on the up and thus my net emotion is satisfaction. We need

more people, like the condemned, to think beyond the molecules, atoms and electrons that seem absolute and dive into (though thought unconventional) theories. As a final thought, I would also like to set the challenge to see who can find where this quote is from: "The Trustee Board requires members that are hard working, strong-willed and most importantly that have a vision for the Union." (... suppose I'd better reference it though... Kadhim Shubber, 17/02/08 .... oh bugger...)

I await your (correctly referenced, though probably poorly written) reply with eager anticipation,

Yours sincerely,

Henry Marsden

Dear Henry Marsden,

Of course I quoted the theory "word for word", how else does one quote scientific theory? But I apologise for not including a bibliography. However, plagiarism is a serious accusation and I reject it. While I did use the language of another author it was not my intention, nor was it the result, that it was represented as my original work. "Gnome Theory" is widely known (as you say, the Facebook group is now infamous) and so it was unnecessary to explicitly reference it. In any case the joke

that the Science Museum would teach Gnome Theory instead of real Physics was obvious.

The rest of your complaint is poorly constructed ad hominem dribble and that you criticize other people's work as "poorly written" is laughable in light of your letter.

Deputy Editor,  
Kadhim Shubber

### An outraged business school student

Dear felix,

I am disgusted by the likeness Mr Shubber draws between Business School students and 12-year olds in his article of February 6th.

Perhaps he is envious of the significant funding attracted by the Business School, the landmark Lord Foster architecture, or (and perhaps this is more on his rung of the ladder) the beer and wine offered by the Tanaka Building cafe.

It appears to be much more likely, however, that his fear of the unknown in fact leads he himself to be the 12-year old; intimidated by the older, more responsible and well-dressed students

that make up the Business School, who study a subject completely outside the comfort zone provided by the natural sciences.

I also suggest that this infantilism manifests itself in the comment "I don't know if there were any Business School students there but I didn't see any Blackberrys", as it is only natural for someone of such immaturity to resent a symbol of adult communication (although I would also assume that he will be upgrading his cup-and-string device at some point in the near future...)

I attach two previous exam papers. If these are indeed pitched to the standard of an average 12-year old, I am sure they will not take Mr Shubber much time at all to complete.

Regards,  
Lauren

Dear Lauren,

The Tanaka Building cafe serves wine and beer? Brb.

Deputy Editor,  
Kadhim Shubber

PS. I apologise for demeaning your academic efforts. Those exam papers were bloody difficult and anybody who passed those exams obviously possesses an impressive intellect.

# Imperial College London

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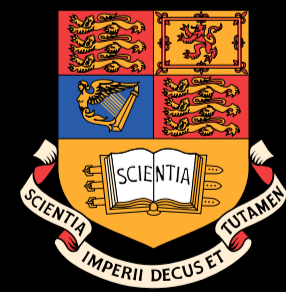
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# The science of human sexuality

Miće Tatalović  
Science Editor

Female sexual fantasy, masturbation, pornographic images, promiscuity, sexual coercion...It sounds like something you would encounter in an adult video store, but actually all of these terms are featured in literature on the evolution of human sexuality. This intriguing field of evolutionary biology and psychology dwells upon our obsessions with sex and various peculiarities associated with human practice of sex. It does this in order to understand better just how big a role sex has played in our evolution, and just how much of what we do is down to what our ancestors have been selected to do by forces of sexual selection.

Attitudes towards sex differ spatially and temporally; in various cultures and in different historical time periods. Current, relatively liberal views of human sexuality in the west allow many of our tendencies to emerge from the taboo vaults into the mainstream – e.g. film, media, advertising – and also allow scientists to probe the meaning of and possible reasons for these tendencies. Sexual health is an important feature of modern day life: with many couples having problems conceiving, and with many sexually transmitted epidemics such as HIV, knowing how to deal with these issues is an important medical task. Recent breakthroughs such as the production of sperm cells out of adult bone marrow stem cells and the development of an HPV vaccine which can prevent cervical cancer caused by the virus (some research even suggests a link between oral sex and throat cancer caused by HPV virus) raise hope for future medical interventions to treat infertility and STDs. However, apart from the medical implications, our sexuality has much more to offer to people who dare to ask the question 'Why? Why do we enjoy sex so much? Why are people jealous of their sexual partners and why do we dislike infidelity so much? Why is the penis shaped the way it is? Why do women experience amazing orgasms? Why do we waste time masturbating?

One of the main premises of research on human sexuality is that men can increase their biological fitness (i.e. number of children, therefore genes produced) by having sex with as many women as possible. At the same time women can increase their fitness by having sex with the best quality men (men with the best or most

compatible genes). This central part of sexual selection theory gives rise to inter-sexual conflict: men should be promiscuous, but women should as well. However, men will try to prevent cuckoldry because if this happens, they end up raising other men's children at their own expense. Women will also want to keep their partner's attention regardless of whether the children were conceived with someone else. In a nutshell then: men want to be promiscuous yet want women to be faithful; women want men to think

**"This intriguing field of evolutionary biology and psychology dwells upon our obsessions with sex"**

that they are faithful so that these men will dedicate their care to them and their children, yet women still want to be promiscuous in order to get the best genes for their children.

In order for such a state of affairs to evolve, women must have been promiscuous during our evolutionary history: men can only be unfaithful if they have someone to be unfaithful with. Yet we cannot go back in time, so scientists, using various questionnaires, have tried to quantify women's present propensity to be promiscuous. It turns out that women are quite promiscuous; up to 30% of women report having had sex with two or more men within 24h. This in turn leads to a rather high percentage of children whose biological father is different to their mother's husband: it is estimated that 2-30% of children are not fathered by the man who thinks he is the father (usually mother's husband). Naturally, if evolution has favoured promiscuity in women so that they can give birth to the fittest children then there was a conflict with men's evolutionary interests, which would have them care only for their own children and avoid being cuckolded in the first place. Indeed, many studies have found that fathers

take better care of and develop a better relationship with children that resemble them more. Also, blue-eyed men prefer blue-eyed women as mates, which may be an evolved strategy of paternity assurance: if a blue-eyed female partner sleeps with a non-blue-eyed man her children will not have blue eyes, this will then be an obvious indication for the blue-eyed man that he has been cuckolded (if he is the father, all of the children will have blue eyes). Furthermore, infanticide rates are higher for stepfathers than biological fathers again supporting the idea that men have evolved to avoid cuckoldry and if this fails to then avoid taking care of other men's children.

Women increase their sexual fantasies of having sex with other men during ovulation; the time they are most likely to conceive. At this time, women also rate more masculine men as more attractive - a preference not present at other times of the month. Presumably, more masculine features such as facial symmetry, deep voice and body musculature reflect good genes. Women can distinguish attractiveness by men's voices, smell of their sweat and looks. One recent study identified a molecule from men's sweat that is responsible for getting women aroused and excited: androstadienone. This seems to be the first firm evidence for the existence of pheromones in humans; something perfume and deodorant companies have been trying to cash in on for some time now (think of Axe effect and the recent Lynx adverts). But, as nature has it, men have evolved an ability to recognize when their partners are at this, for men, risky time periods. Although women have concealed ovulation, a rarity among other apes and monkeys, men seemed to be able to detect it in women's smell. When asked to rate attractiveness of women sweat scents, men rated ovulating women's scents as more attractive. This could benefit men by cuing them in on potential extra-pair copulations as well as on the fact that their partner might be up to mischievous things. Indeed, men rate their partners as much more attractive when they are ovulating, even though they are not conscious of this difference in their opinion of how sexy their partners are.

The arms race of tactic, contra-tactic evolution is a trademark of sexual selection and inter-sexual conflict in most species that use sex for reproduction, including humans. Women may have evolved the clitoris and orgasms in order to choose whose sperm to accept, that is, in order to subconsciously choose the father of their children even after having sex with more than one man during ovulation. This so-called 'cryptic female choice' allows a woman to fool her partner into thinking that he is the father, whilst the truth is somewhat different. Women have more simultaneous orgasms with more attractive and more symmetrical men (proximate cues of good genes); simultaneous orgasms seem to help to get the sperm closer to the egg by a physiological action of the cervix which dips into the deposited sperm and brings it deeper into the woman's body. So, female orgasms may be an evolved feature allowing women a post-coital choice in the father for their children. Perhaps this is why men get so upset when they find out that their partner has been faking orgasms with them....

Apart from the cryptic female choice,

men can also have a say in how their sperm fare in the face of the competition for the limited resource; women's ovum. Men may have evolved penises such that their morphology allows them, when having sex, to extract the sperm of rival men and get their own sperm as close to an ovum as possible. Some research suggests that the penis, shaped as it is with coronal ridges and a frenulum, extracts significantly larger amount of previously deposited sperm than a smooth penis-like model of similar size. The fact that humans

**"Sexual selection theory gives rise to inter-sexual conflict: men should be promiscuous, but women should as well."**

have a large penis and testes compared to less promiscuous gorillas (but not as large as highly promiscuous bonobos) suggests that there is an intermediate degree of sperm competition taking place in humans. Sperm competition is predicted to evolve when a female mates with more than one male in a short period of time; in humans, this time period is 2-9 days (longevity of sperm once ejaculated). Again, some studies suggest that many women (up to 30%) do engage in sequential sex with different partners in such

short time periods, thereby allowing potential for sperm competition in humans to evolve. Many women fantasise about sex with men other than their current partner and with more than one man and are more likely to engage in risky sexual behaviours during ovulation. Men's jealousy, appetite for sexual variety and fantasies of sex with more than one woman can all be interpreted as adaptations in response to promiscuous behaviour in women. Interestingly, individual differences in human sex drives may be dictated by our genes.

In an environment where sexual competition continues post-copulation, to ensure their competitiveness, it pays for men to evolve adaptive mechanisms in sperm competition. In humans, the perception of a high risk of sperm competition may increase sexual arousal which in turn increases the volume and quality of sperm ejaculated. Seeing other men copulating would be perceived as a risk of sperm competition: the more men, the higher the risk. Internet pornography sites contain more images of one woman with two or more men than the other way around; men also report such images to be more arousing. Some even interpret the popularity of swinging and 'dogging' as a by-product of an evolved tendency to be aroused by women having sex with other men in order to 'gear up' for the sperm competition ahead. Men may even have evolved behavioural adaptations to sperm competition pressure: copulation that takes place after prolonged periods spent separated from one's partner or after arguments (situations in which there is a potentially increased chance of female infidelity) are more vigorous with deeper and faster thrusting movements; both of which may result in more of the rival's

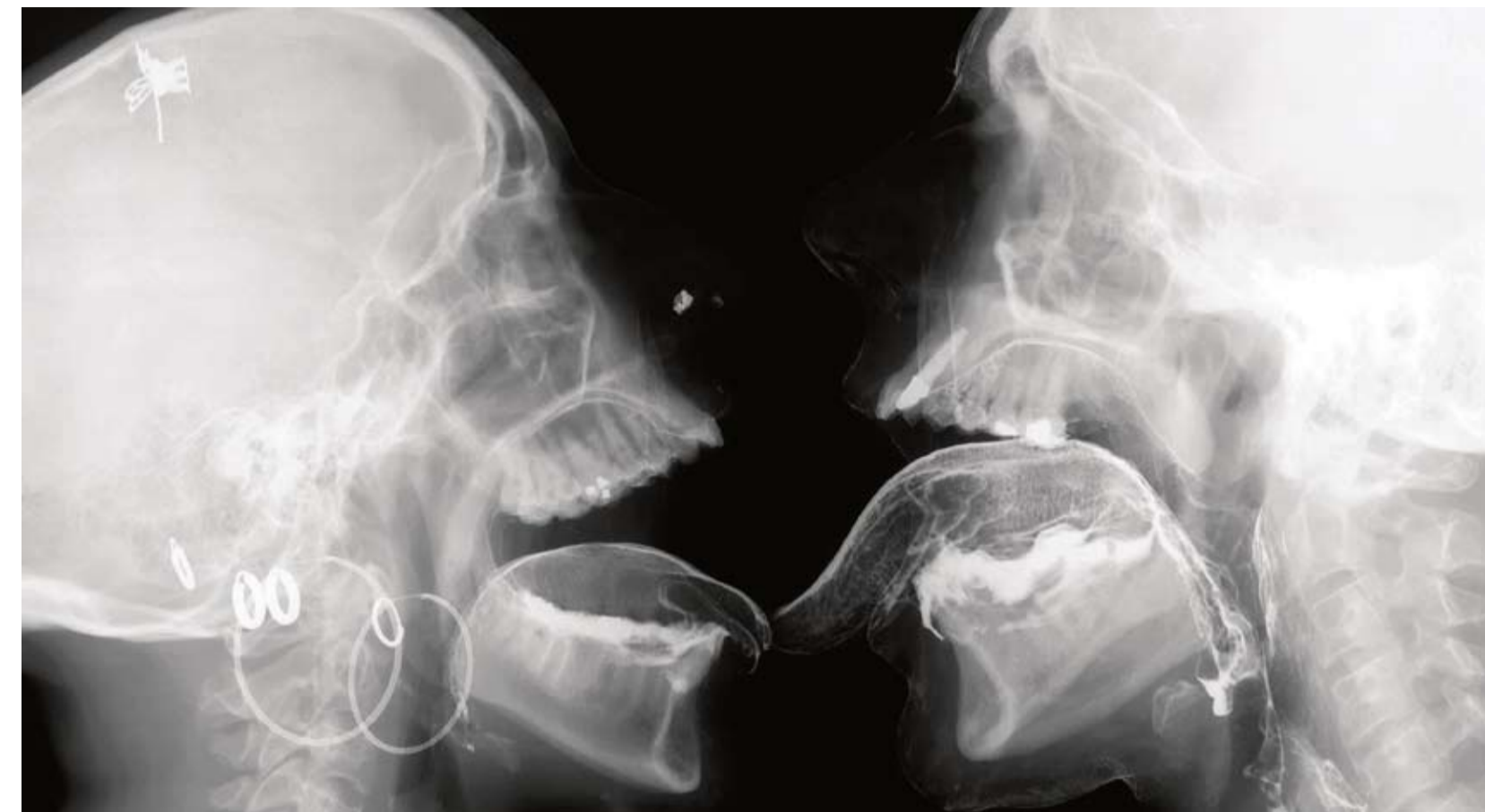


Now do you see why you should keep your eyes closed when kissing?

sperm being removed while one's own sperm is brought closer to the egg.

Rape may be biologically yet another adaptation evolved in men to increase their number of sexual partners. It is important to separate biology from issues of morality: many make the fallacious assumption that evolved behaviours must be morally acceptable, but this is not so. Between 10 and 17% of women experience rape by their husband, while about 9% of women are raped by their partners in long-term relationships. This type of rape, forced in-pair copulation (FIPC), may be another anti-cuckoldry adaptation and a sperm competition tactic allowing men to compensate for their partner's infidelity and ensure they are investing in their own children. Research supports the hypothesis that FIPC occurs more often when the woman in the pair is unfaithful and when the man is generally more jealous, showing many mate-retention behaviours (such as holding hands, not introducing a partner to his male friends etc.). 'While the damaging practice of rape is often tolerated in couples, there has traditionally been a strong taboo against masturbation, which doesn't hurt anyone and may even be evolutionarily adaptive: masturbation by men may be a tactic to get rid of old, slow sperm and so better prepare for sperm competition if the opportunity arises. The quality of masturbatory sperm ejaculates is lower than that of the copulatory ejaculates and this fact may be used to increase the success of artificial inseminations.

Research on the evolution of human sexuality is full of fascinating and elucidating ideas: cryptic female choice,



Even in x-ray, it's still obvious that you're a chav. Like the photo? Find it in this term's issue of *Science* which can be found in the library

sperm competition, pheromones... All of these have been widely documented in various animal species, and now more and more research suggests that sexual selection also played important role in human evolution: it may well have shaped many aspects of our mor-

phology, physiology, psychology and behaviour. Even the biggest evolutionary riddle, altruism (helping others at an expense to oneself), may have evolved by means of sexual selection. Recent paper shows evidence that humans are more altruistic towards more

attractive members of the opposite sex and that we find more altruistic people of the opposite sex more attractive: thus helping others may have been beneficial because it brought us more attractive, better quality mates. Study of sex in humans can explain various

aspects of our biology, psychology and sociology. From altruism to rape, evolution through sexual selection may have shaped our behaviours; from those that make us proud of being a human down to those that we are most ashamed of.

Imperial College  
London

The majority of placements are in the London Region – Placements outside London can be accommodated by request



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For more information or to apply contact Sarah Cooper:

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Pre-requisites : A- Levels in Maths, Physics or Chemistry

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# The nonsense behind the science of human sexuality

Felix Whitton

This week, instead of trotting out some half-arsed "science of love" bullshit, we're going to delve into the murky world of evolutionary psychology. Yes, this is the science that brings us ground-breaking new insights into human behaviour from looking at our evolutionary history.

Or not. Because most of it, sadly, is contentious, outdated and based on extrapolations from what our Pleistocene savanna-dwelling ancestors might have done. (This doesn't stop the press from jumping on any story which purports to shed "fascinating new insights" into why humans wipe their arses a certain way).

You may have read on Monday about how "science [has found] the secret of a hot kiss" (according to *The Times*). A new study from Lafayette College in Pennsylvania has shown that hormone levels change before and after kissing someone you love. Hold the

front page! More specifically, the team tested two hormones – cortisol, a stress hormone, and oxytocin, which has been linked to social bonding. Unsurprisingly they found that kissing reduced cortisol levels in both sexes, and increased oxytocin (but only in men).

Cue acres of newsprint devoted to the wonders of kissing – from *The Times* waxing lyrical about Shakespeare, to *The Telegraph's* more subdued revelation that according to a 2007 British study, "brain and heart activity sparked by passionate kissing [...] is less intense than the stimulation produced by eating chocolate". All very well, but hardly ground-breaking. The rather pitiful nature of the study (tested on a paltry 15 couples) is summed up by author Professor Wendy Hill: "This study shows kissing is much more complex and causes hormonal changes and things we never thought occurred." Well I never.

A second piece of news which

brought a little joy into my life was a study published in the venerable journal *Science* linking colour to human cognition. The researchers found that red can enhance memory, and blue triggers creativity. So, when faced with a red screen students would think of practical used for a brick (building a house, for example), whereas a blue screen would send them into fantastical visions of paperweights and, best of all, "pet scratching posts".

Ok, so I may be poking fun a little bit. After all, the research made it into *Science*, something I never have (and likely never will). My gripe is with the supposed academics who take these simplistic findings and say things like, and I quote, "Red is truly a good Valentine's colour, making men consider women more sexually attractive than other colours do." This from a Professor Andrew Elliot, a "leader in the field of colour psychology".

Now, let me stop you for a second here. Read over that last quote again;



Can science really tell us anything useful about love and sexuality?

does it seem an obvious link to the research? Or is it (and indulge my cynicism for one second here) perhaps due to a certain upcoming romantic 'holiday' and Prof Elliot's desire for some sneaky publicity? I'll let you decide...

And to finish; listen, I implore you, to the latest *Guardian Science Weekly* podcast to have a good old chuckle at a laughable evo-psychologist in action,

promoting her new book about the statistics behind love (quel chance!). Earth-shattering advice includes: Dating! Be yourself; Men! Ask questions and don't say anything sleazy; Women! Men prefer blondes because they could spot them from afar back in't days of yore; Sex! Yes, you guessed it, men think about it a lot; Reader! Don't buy the book.

# Biofuels have low green rating, but Imperial shows support

The *eco-science* column

Olivia Sharp

Wind and solar energy are the most environmentally friendly alternative fuel options, whilst biofuel crops and carbon capture may not be worth the effort, according to Dr Mark Z. Jacobson of Stanford University. His research, published in this month's *Energy and Environmental Science* journal, coincides with the announcement of a new multimillion pound biofuel development project funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), involving scientists from Imperial College.

Jacobson assessed each major alternative energy source, as if it were to power every vehicle in the US. He looked at factors such as impact on global warming and human health, space requirements and sustainability. The winner in all areas was wind power, which if used to run the entire US vehicle fleet, would reduce carbon and air pollution emissions by 99%. The vehicles would all be electric, therefore removing exhaust pollution, saving over 15,000 lives a year from air pollution related deaths in the US alone. The Stanford team estimated that an area of 3km squared would be enough land to contain all the wind turbines required.

However, the rating system, the first quantitative, scientific evaluation of alternative energy sources, found biofuels, nuclear power and coal with carbon

capture to rank high on environmental impact. Jacobson comments 'some energy alternatives that have been proposed are just downright awful', and with regards to biofuels he warns 'Ethanol-based biofuels will actually cause more harm to human health, wildlife, water supply and land use than current fossil fuels'. He has calculated that the land required for enough biofuel to power the US vehicle fleet would be 30 times that for wind turbines. Air pollution and carbon emissions would not be cut substantially.

Meanwhile, scientists from Imperial College's Life Sciences Department are part of a new venture for biofuel development, the Sustainable Bioenergy Centre. The BBSRC have just announced funding for the centre, which at £27m is the biggest ever public investment in bioenergy. They believe bioenergy to be a significant source of 'clean, low carbon and secure energy' and the biofuel sector has the potential to provide thousands of new 'green collar' jobs.

Dr Thorsten Hamann is one of Imperial's scientists involved in the Centre, and has a different take on the feasibility of biofuels. He believes a mixture of energy supplies is required to replace our current fossil fuel reliance, and cars cannot be run exclusively on wind generated electricity. "Wind farms look fantastic on paper, but I don't see the potential to use wind to power the world. We don't have the technology



Appearances can be deceiving – biofuels have a high environmental impact

yet to power cars on electricity. Current electric cars have to be recharged every night and the life-span of the battery is unknown. We already have the technology for biofuel run cars, and the infrastructure for a liquid fuel transport system".

As for the space issue, he assures that the biofuel plants developed by the Sustainable Bioenergy Centre will be

intended for land unsuitable for edible crop agriculture. For the time being, our priority should be to move away from fossil fuels, and crop based fuels are 'significantly better', considering they are a renewable source.

Dr Hamann believes in the distant future, electricity may be the solution to power transport, 'but for the next 20 to 30 years, we are looking at liquid

based fuel'.

The sustainable bioenergy centre is a virtual collaboration between a large number of research institutions. The focus is on generation of bioenergy and transport biofuels from woody biomass and waste materials. Researchers will assess the economic and environmental life cycle of potential biomass materials.

# ARTS FEST 2009

## MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup>

1300	<b>Opening Display</b>	Upper Dalby Court
2030	<b>MusicTech Night</b>	dBs

## TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup>

1300	<b>Lunchtime Concert</b>	College Main Entrance
	ICSE & Classical Guitar	
1800	<b>Blyth Gallery Opening</b>	Sherfield Level 5
2000	<b>Band Night</b>	dBs

## WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup>

1300	<b>Lunchtime Concert</b>	College Main Entrance
	ICSO	
1500	<b>DramSoc Workshop</b>	dBs
1700	<b>Village Fête</b>	Union Dining Hall
1800	<b>Barnce</b>	Union Concert Hall

## THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup>

1300	<b>Lunchtime Concert</b>	College Main Entrance
	Onyx Brass	
1930	<b>Free Cinema Screening</b>	Union Concert Hall

## FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup>

1300	<b>Lunchtime Concert</b>	College Main Entrance
	Choir & Windband	
1930	<b>ArtsFest Grand Finale &amp; AfterParty</b>	Great Hall Union

## THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

<b>Busking</b>	All Over Campus
<b>DIY Blank Canvas Exhibit</b>	Sherfield Level 1

KPMG

16TH - 20TH FEBRUARY

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# RAG is awesome, but why bother?

RAG Week is next week! RAG Chair, **Jon Downing**, tells *felix* about the charities, events and traditions.

**Jon Downing**  
RAG Chair

Imperial College Union RAG Week is nearly upon us. RAG, standing for Raising and Giving is a traditional university activity where by students partake in a variety of crazy activities to raise as much money as possible for chosen charities. This year the RAG team has organised a range of activities and events so turn up get involved and have some fun!

RAG originates from the Victorian era when students took time from their studies to collect rags to clothe the poor. It is also possible that the RAG collectors "ragged" ie. badgered or pestered passers by until they made a donation. From the old times to new there is still the same question - why give?

Here I think the answer is that people should give money to charity because they can. As privileged people who attend a top university, we have it easy; we're all employed, all housed and apart from that maths coursework sitting on your desk have relatively little to worry about.

Despite the common publicised 'students have a difficult life' there are and will be increasing more people who have a much more difficult life. Think of the homeless man asking for change at the tube stop or the young child living with substance misusing parents. These people find themselves a situation they find hard to change and are often blameless for. Charities are by their nature setup to deal with these social problems. They help to promote the work done by volunteers and professionals in a structured organisation. These services cannot be found anywhere else. This is because they are not profitable and the government doesn't deem them necessary. And yet these services must be supported as they help some of the most vulnerable members of society.

Despite this need funding for the third sector has decreased and according to the philanthropy website TheBigGive.com the funding deficit could reach £2.3bn this year. While the re-



Fancy a shower while you're out and about? Use a fountain!

cession doesn't mean that its the end of the world for the charity sector, close to 2m people are now unemployed and with Shelter recently reporting 75,000 people facing repossession the situation isn't great.

So people give because they can and I like to think everyone gets something back from their donations. Apart from the warm fuzzy feeling, all donations do make a difference. Charities have much lower overhead than businesses

and are more likely to make a larger change in the community. People choosing to give something back is ultimately how communities thrive.

If you would like any more information or would like to take part as a volunteer please e-mail rag@ic.ac.uk

Or, if you would like to nominate a charity for next year visit the RAG website ([www.union.ic.ac.uk/rag](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/rag)) and fill in the form under the charities section.

## Monday Night 16th: RCSU Ball

The Royal College of Science is kicking off RAG with a charity ball at one of the worlds most exclusive night clubs, MAYA. Maya is the 'Official Best New Club 2008' and a member of a group known as 'The World's Finest Clubs' of which only the elite clubs and bars in the world are part of. The interior mixes exotic and eastern elements with a strong New York vibe. Think bespoke furnishings, industrial ceilings, dark rich wooden flooring, potted palm trees, and tucked away lounge areas - all seductively illuminated by beaming, backlit walls.

With an electric atmosphere and masses of FREE DRINKS its not to be missed. Better yet all the proceeds are going to charity. Oh I forgot to mention there's £5,000 behind the bar! So there's loads of free drinks!

Tickets are £5 when bought advance from the union website (<http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/rcsu-351>) or £10 purchased on the door.

## Wednesday 18th Daytime: RAG RAID

**RAG RAID** 12pm from Union Quad: Embark on an adventure! Invade London with a list of challenges in one hand and a collecting bucket in the other! Trek across London and complete the tasks to win prizes. Challenge examples include - Go swimming in a fountain or Find Jovan Nedic and his boys and challenge them to down a pint. Make up a team (approx 4 people) - collect your free t-shirt and collecting bucket from 12pm on Wednesday 18th. Dressing up is guaranteed to get you more money and thus more prizes! There are limited places for this event and the people who go always have a great day! Get involved!

## Wednesday 18th Evening

**RAG RAID after Party** fun and games in the union with Arts Fest: The Union and RAG have managed to secure laser quest in the quad on Wednesday of RAG Week! Pit your sports team against another sports team, perhaps challenge the your first team, they may be better on the pitch but are they better at laser quest? Entry is £1 to RAG and it all goes to charity! Also keep your eyes open for RAG face painting and shot girls! Arts fest is on as well take some time to check out the village fete in the union dining hall.

**CGCU Slave Auction:** Wanted - Your Money. Many of the varied and diverse leaders of the college unions clubs and societies chairs, including the president herself and the sabbs will be on sale in this charity bid auction. Punters are encouraged to come up with an original suggestion to accompany their bid. Once bought the slaves will be encouraged to complete their tasks within a month - all money will go to charity! Last year Steven Brown was sold to the football club for a full body wax, EESoc bought some slaves to do some gardening and many union members were sold for a certain run from Harrods to the union!

**ICU RFC Charity Pub Crawl:** Starting at 7.30 - 8 from the union the ICU RFC plus others will be pub crawling around South Ken with charity pubs! See if you can keep up!

## Friday 20th Evening

Imperial RAG is joining forces with RVC RAG at Pibbers, North London for their event 'Dress to Impress!'. Needless to say RVC have a high proportion of women so for those of you bored with the Imperial crowd this is an event not to miss. Buy tickets from the union website ([www.imperialcollegeunion.org/rag-281](http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/rag-281)) or from RAG stalls throughout the week

## Friday 20th Evening

**RAG Store Sales:** Watch out for RAG in the JCR on Tuesday and Thursday!

**RCSU Hit Squad:** This year RCSU has taken the Hit Squad from CGCU. Pop in to their office off the walk way to arrange a cream pie in the face for someone special.

**Queen's Tower Tours:** We have managed to open up to Queen's Tower from 11am - 2pm every day of RAG week. This is an activity rarely available to students, from here you receive a fantastic view across London!



High jinks in a phone box as students take part in RAG RAID activities around London

## Barnardos

**Slogan:** 'Believe in the Children'

**Work remit:** The charity Barnardos initially started as an orphanage run by Thomas Barnardo. He believed that children and young people should be free from poverty, abuse and discrimination. He pledged to support the abused, the vulnerable, the forgotten and the neglected, to stand up for them and bring out the best in each child. In 1867 he started the Ragged school and by the time he died in 1905 the charity had 96 care homes and cared for 8,500 children.

Barnardos today still have the same remit as when it started. They still work to support children in all sectors of society, currently running around 400 projects throughout the UK. These range from project dealing with child poverty, education and young careers to dealing with domestic violence and sexual abuse of children. The Duchess of Cornwall, Camilla Parker Bowles, is the president of Barnardos and acts a figurehead to the charity promoting their work throughout England.



## Shelter

**Slogan:** 'Help the Homeless'

**Work remit:** Shelter deals with all aspects of housing and homelessness.

In the first instance they give advice to households facing eviction or repossession and all other factors that stem from the possible loss of a place to live. This includes advice for young people, legal advice, how to pay for accommodation whether renting or looking to buy.

On top of this Shelter is active in campaigning for change to implement sustainable long-term solutions for the housing sector.

They are actively involved in research and policy and how to implement such policy to maximum effect.

Recently Radiohead donated their song Videotape to Shelter. The song is being played on their current advert - House of Cards, which is depicts the fragility of the housing situation.



## The Rainbow Trust

**Slogan:** none.

**Work remit:** The Rainbow Trust Children's Charity provides practical and emotional support to families who have a child with a life threatening or terminal illness. Each year 1,000 families gain support.

They own two respite houses in Surrey and Northumberland which provide a break for the whole family, allowing them to spend precious time together as a family away from a hospital environment. The respite houses are well equipped with play rooms and a swimming pool.

In addition Rainbow Trust's Family Support Workers join the family in their own home and are there to provide whatever practical support is needed. They may attend hospital appointments with parents, sit by the bedside of the sick child to give parents a break and take worried siblings out for the day.

It costs £3 million to keep the Rainbow Trust respite houses open every year - a more than worth while cause.



## RAG MAG

The RAG Mag is a tradition of RAG Week hosting all manor of playful jokes and witty puns. Old 'retro' RAG Mags will be on throughout RAG Week with the real guy popping his head up a couple week later. Here you'll be able to find all the usual banter and long with a summary of how RAG Week went with photos. Send your RAG week photos to [rag@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rag@ic.ac.uk). Mean while keep yourself amused with some of these jokes:

**How many students does it take to change a light bulb?**

- Imperial Students:** Five. Two to design a nuclear powered bulb that never needs replacing, two to write the computer program that operates the switch and one to insert the bulb.
- Nottingham:** Don't change it. They shoot at lights round here, look at the last one.
- Plymouth:** Six - One to change it and five to campaign to make lightbulb changing a new degree subject.
- Cardiff:** 5001 One to fit the bulb and five thousand to petition the government for the electrification of Wales.

**Advice for leavers:**

- You don't get ideas for drinks from local tramps
- A £3 bottle of wine is no longer "pretty good stuff"
- "I just can't drink the way I used to" replaces "I'm never going to drink that much again"
- You get out of bed in the morning even if its raining
- The bank manager doesn't write you threatening letters
- Informative TV no longer includes Richard & Judy.





## Nominations open Monday 16 February 00:01 - Sunday 1 March 23:59

A week in the life of the President...

*No two days the same.*

### Monday

Monday mornings are quite possibly the worst invention I ever heard of, but the world insists on keeping them, so at 7am I reluctantly get out of bed. I'm one of the Sabbaticals that chose not to live in halls (it's not compulsory and with the increasing pressure of finding all the first years a place in halls it's no bad thing). Work officially starts at 10am which is lovely but you do need to stay late quite often so it balances out. First thing I've got a meeting with the Head of Commercial Services, this is a regular meeting once a month where we discuss the latest issues with commercial services, ranging from gym access to water availability. I bring to his attention anything students are worried about and our opinion is always taken very seriously – such as when we said the SCR needs longer opening hours – it was done. After that meeting I whizz over to the Union Building project meeting where all the contractors, architects, plumbers, systems people and so on meet with the project manager to discuss the weeks schedule and iron out any bumps. Then I've got a couple of free hours allowing me email catch up and time to sign off a moderate pile of cheques (anything over a thousand pounds needs to be co-signed by the President) for things like the Building Project and stock for the shops and bars. In the afternoon I have to attend an exercise as a member of the Senior Emergency Response Group. This group of Senior College staff get called in at any time of the day or night to respond to emergency situations (in reality once every 50 years), but the last time was 7/7. So as President you get to have a go at pretending to be James Bond twice a year on exercise, but in reality hopefully you won't have to do it for real. I finish off the day with Union Council.

### Tuesday

Today I only have an hour to catch up on the latest emails and make a few phone calls to tie up any loose ends before I've got to head off to get to Cambridge for 12noon in time for an Aldwych Group meeting; we have these roughly once a month. The Aldwych group is made up of all of the Unions of the Russell Group Universities and we meet at a different Students' Union every time. At these meetings we share best practice on a whole range of

things – like swapping ideas on widening participation or lobbying the government on the up and coming funding review for tuition fees. It's really good to know what the other Unions are up to – often policies will work well in more than one Union. The other meeting I have about once a month is ULU Senate, this is like our Council where the ULU Sabbatical Officers report on what they've been up to (usually not a lot) and papers are brought by the different Unions, in the same way that Imperial Students and reps might bring a paper to our Union Council. Even though the College has officially left the University of London, there are still students that have chosen to keep the UoL degree rather than an Imperial one and those students are still represented by ULU and we are still very closely linked through sport and so the Imperial voice is still hugely important.

### Wednesday

On Wednesday I'm back in the office and have about an hour to catch up on emails and clear up the most recent crisis before I head off to a meeting with the Rector. I have regular meetings with the Rector (once a month) which is great. All of the big issues get raised through him and our views are taken very seriously and often acted on almost immediately if they are reasonable. In the afternoon I have time to write a paper for College Council. They meet five times a year and the President is a member. Ultimately the President is responsible for the Union's Finances to the College Council and any changes to our constitution have to be approved by them (formality due to the Education Act 94 – usually just a rubber stamping exercise.) Then later Jov, Felix Editor, rings me up for a quote on the latest issues, this time the security breach on the Union's online files. He'll often ask for a quote whether it is within the Union, College or even externally (like those ridiculous national ID cards!) Later on Stico drops by and asks for a very quick interview after the recent paper at Union Council passed which created another Sabbatical role and I'm very pleased to oblige but it can only take thirty seconds because I need to run off to have a meeting with the Student Adviser.

### Thursday

It's a 9am start and Hannah and I have a meeting with the Pro Rector (Education) and College Secretary. We meet with them once a month to discuss major education issues – like student survey results we also receive guidance from the College Secretary on things that are contentious. They always bring things to our attention that they would like our help on too. Later in the morning I need to email the Union Court Chair. The Union Court is relatively new and was brought in at the same time as the Trustee Board in the governance review two years ago. Whenever there's confusion over the constitution and regulations we can ask court to write an interpretation for us. When we have student disciplinary the Court will select the panel and they also select the returning officer and elections committee for the main elections. This ensures absolutely no bias on those people who are selected. If there is an appeal over a Union disciplinary then it goes to Court too. In the afternoon I have time to go through this month's management accounts which takes a good hour or so but it's worthwhile going through to see if the Union is overspending anywhere and to make sure our members are getting the best possible services from us. I find myself with a light afternoon and reinvestigate my research into student discounts and the NUS card. There are instances when Imperial students miss out on discounts because they don't have an NUS card (very annoying!!) This is going to take some serious letter writing! Later that evening we have Representation and Welfare Board which Hannah chairs, I run across to High Street Ken to buy the cake that Hannah promised she would bring to her committee members after seeing a pitiful collection of the college biscuits she's been hoarding that she was going to pass off instead (minus the special chocolate ones that she's keeping locked in the drawer for emergencies!)

### At last it's Friday!

I have meetings with CAG and RAG as they're both Presidential committees and I try to give them as much support as possible. CAG is taking part in this very exciting pilot scheme with an organisation called FoodWorks and I meet with their director as well to discuss fun things like

insurance and health and safety. Later in the day I start collecting papers and getting things ready for the Trustee Board, this is the sovereign body of the Union, they have a very light fingered touch but are ultimately legally responsible if it all goes wrong, so they ensure that the decisions we make don't have massive implications on risk. No longer are all the Exec members liable to be sued for seven years after they've left the post, now it's the Trustees. And the externals bring in a wealth of experience from different areas such as finance and law. Later on I can catch with emails before the weekend and I can go through the applications for funding from the Harlington Trust before giving my feedback to the rest of the Harlington Trust Committee (it's made up of the Pro Rector (Education), a past Union President and the current Union President). We get several applications a month, usually for new equipment for clubs. We have ~£50k to award each year to deserving clubs that really need some help. Later I pop over to the HR department to discuss the latest staffing issues. It's quite scary as President that you do oversee all of the staffing in the Union, not something that can be discussed so that's a part of the job that students don't get to hear about because of our lovely staff student protocol. But don't be scared by that – everyone at HR is very helpful and guides you through everything step by step and most of the day to day things are handled by the general manager anyway – that's one of the perks of being the president – you get to delegate!

No week is the same and there are always plenty of surprises to keep you on your toes. But the difference you can make that benefits the lives of students makes it the most rewarding job you can ever expect to have



A week in the life of the Deputy President (Education & Welfare)...

### Monday

Despite my alarm being set for 8am, a fondness for my snooze button means I wake again with a start at 9.15am- I'm supposed to be at work by 10 so it's a toss-up between make-up application and breakfast. The toast loses out because I've got the first of the week's meetings at 11am which means breakfast of coffee and College biscuits. Yum. After a frantic rush from Evelyn Gardens (one of the perks of the job is 'free' accommodation in an Imperial Halls of Residence of your choice), I run to my meeting where we're reviewing our welfare provision in the College and identifying areas for improvement. I add my views, scribble down some action points and then head to my office an hour and a half later for some email catch-up, phone calls and lunch from the Union. The afternoon consists of a couple more one-on-one meetings about security and our Environmental Policy, 20 more emails to write and a slight panic about the welfare campaign that's supposed to be running next week. I grab the promotional stationery catalogue and a cup of tea and start browsing...

This evening is Union council, which happens once a month. This is where we debate about and pass policies affecting Imperial students, highlighting what students want us to be prioritizing. One of the decisions made this year was to split my position in two, meaning the Deputy President (Education and Welfare) will cease to exist, replaced instead with a Deputy President (Education) and Deputy President (Welfare). My successors need not fear- I've got a military-style training programme planned so they can hit the ground running when I depart for good on July 31st...

### Tuesday

Today's meetings have more of an education focus, with Science Studies Committee followed by a meeting to discuss Assessment and Feedback, something which we're not scoring as highly in student surveys as we like. The preparation for these meetings can be immense, and I'm glad I got most of the leg-work done last week. This is followed by a lunchtime presentation on the new visa rules. This year my brain has turned into a veritable sponge, absorbing all sorts of education and welfare-related information and tit-bits. Some of it is certainly more useful than others, but if you want opening hours for local doctors, our policy on student withdrawals or our student

satisfaction score on the NSS please feel free to ask!

Tonight I'm on the first of my many halls visits. I head off with a junk food-loaded bag on my back to quiz the students about what they really love and hate about living there so I can let the Head of Accommodation services know what the students think when I meet her next week. I get back to the office to find an email from one of the wardens asking if I am available next week to be on the interview panel for their subwarden selection. I found conducting interviews nerve-wracking when I first started but now I rather enjoy grilling the candidates. It's also a chance to compare which wardens have the nicest flats and most importantly, who orders in the nicest food (Thai wins so far!). However, tonight it's a Union dinner of fish and chips, followed by a pack of some biscuits left over from an earlier meeting in College. For a change.

### Wednesday

After the success of SHAG week, I've arranged with the Terrence Higgins Trust to come in and offer Chlamydia screening to more Imperial students. After some initial trepidation, this has been growing in popularity. Jov, the Felix editor rings me up and asks the dreaded question: 'So, Hannah, where's that page on welfare you promised me?'. Hmm... It hasn't been forgotten as such, just pushed out of the forefront of my mind by eight more pressing priorities. 'It'll be with you in 2 hours', I say, glancing at the clock and staring at the 2 lines I've written so far. Then a student knocks on my door- they've had problems paying their tuition fees and need some support and advice. The article glares at me from my computer screen, but I turn my back and we devise a plan of action that means a few phone calls to some College Departments. As the student leaves, with instructions to put the finer details down in an email to me, I turn back to the screen and stare at the cursor until I'm distracted by an urgent email until I am rudely interrupted by my phone. It's Jov ringing to tell me he's almost given up and has filled half the page with an advert already. Argh! With half an hour until Safer Neighbourhoods to go, I frantically tap away until something half resembling an article is winging its way to his inbox at two minutes to six. I run to the Sheffield where the Head of Security has luckily supplied some sandwiches and biscuits (hooray!) to get us through the next two hours of crime statistics and giving local

*The secret life of a biscuit addict.*

police their priorities. Despite the best efforts of the locals to get them to focus on removing beggars from the South Kensington area, our suggestion to tackle bike thefts from the campus wins the vote. My work is done. Unfortunately, six of their beloved pooches were struck down by pavement cyclists last year, so the police will also be issuing fines to those of you they catch.

I'm tired of feeling like I'm not on top of things, so I head back to the Union to catch up on a load of work. It's sports night and I can hear inebriated students lobbing skiffs around the Quad outside, but I plough on through urgent emails and write some of the papers for tomorrow's Union meeting. I am turfed out by the stewards at the end of the night, who offer me a lift home.

### Thursday

Amazingly, I only have one meeting scheduled today. This is dangerous, because somehow at least 2 more unscheduled ones will manage to find their way into my diary by the end of the day. It's also lucky, because I have only written half of the papers for tonight's Representation and Welfare Board meeting which I chair. In between bashing out documents on the computer I email people who were supposed to have submitted something already. Ideally the papers should have been up a few days ago for everyone's perusal, but unless I sat down at the weekend and did them with a cup of tea it's a rare occurrence- there's nothing like an impending deadline to kick start a student into action. It's crisps for dinner plus some cake while all the welfare and academic reps come together to discuss issues that have come up in recent College meetings, as well as some of the other problems Imperial students have encountered as well as allocating money to campaigns students and societies want to run.

I've been asked to review a few documents by the College and because it's 2-for-4 at Ask, the Medic's Union President and I head off for a working dinner round the corner. Three hours later, forty pages of annotated policies covered in highlighter and a couple of glasses of wine down I feel like I'm back to square one. I think it's definitely time for bed.

### Friday

Uh-oh. Today is a Graduate School's meeting. The printer seems to have messed up so I had only half of the thirty-six papers waiting in my



pigeon hole. I've only just noticed whilst sitting in another meeting about Careers and I'm forwarding the missing ones from my iPhone to Union reception in the vain hope they'll have time to print them in the next half an hour. I hear nothing back and realize the receptionist must be on lunch. Oh well, I read them a week ago and hope I can dredge up what they're talking about from memory.

Phew, after the 10th examiner's report (where someone external from College comments on how well we're conducting our assessments) I seem to have got away with it. Until I'm asked my opinion on Paper Liii. Paper Liii... I hide my panic with a smile and say none of the student reps had any comments or objections. I assume we didn't or either myself or one of my reps would have discussed it last week- wouldn't we? As we move onto paper M, I gulp down my gourmet tea and the chocolate coated biscuits and breathe a sigh of relief. Because tomorrow, after a lie-in, I will pull on my boots and jacket and amble down King's Road to spend my hard-earned cash. The weekend vanishes in a flurry of food, sleep, a reluctant gym visit and shopping, ready to start all over again the following Monday.

This job can be as easy or hard as you make it. The majority of the time I love it, and often feel disappointment when you realize you've only got a year to achieve all of your aims. As you can tell from above, I often sign up to more than I can manage, with a lot of my days fuelled by stress and sugar alone. However, it's more than worth it when you get an email from a student thanking you for your efforts or lie in bed knowing that through your persistence (and diplomacy!) you've made something about students' lives at Imperial that bit better, even if they don't always directly know it. And that's what it's all about which is why, if given the opportunity, I'd never go back and click on 'Withdraw from election'. Not for all the biscuits in the world.





# Prepare for total entertainment

Visual synaesthetics by the hottest international VJs? A three hour film pondering the fundamental absurdness of existence? Nah. Give me old-school entertainment any day, says **Emilie Beauchamp**

When I heard that Les 7 Doigts de la Main (literal translation: The seven fingers of the hand) were in London, I was gladly surprised to see that this French Canadian circus company had made it to this side of the continent!

Well, apparently they had already been at the Edinburgh Festival in 2007, creating a commotion with their new approach to circus, mixing disciplines and acrobatics in astonishing ways. Les 7 doigts de la main are now in London until March 14th with their new show, *Traces*, which critics have already acclaimed, saying this show will make you drop everything and enrol in the nearest circus school... Being from Montreal, but having failed to go see them in their "hometown", I was very

excited to finally discover the cause of all the praise!

Les 7 doigts de la main started in 2002 in Montreal from a mix of artists graduating from Montreal's Ecole Nationale du Cirque and slowly made their way up the ladder of success. In this second production of theirs, they elected to premier five young artists fresh out of school to feature in a doomsday situation where they are all stuck in a bunker, with an unknown catastrophe outside the door.

The idea is to see how they live and express themselves in what is meant to be the last hours of their lives, using creativity as a remedy to annihilation, so to "leave their traces as best they can"... They do so by first presenting themselves to the crowd.

From the beginning, you can see they use a very interactive and communica-

tive way to convey their message and exchange with the crowd. We thus meet Will, Heloise, Brad, Francisco and Philip. They confess to us stories of their life, share songs and dance, salsa, hip and hop around the stage with basketballs and skateboards... Oh, and they're also acrobats by the way...

They all have their strengths and weaknesses and a few lapses could be observed throughout the performances, but improvisation and great team work easily repaired any damage. All were amazing at hand balancing, tumbling and Chinese poles, while other specializations included the German wheel and the teeterboard.

The star of the show is without doubt Heloise Bourgeois, the only girl in the troop, who used to excel in equestrian vaulting, trampoline and dance amongst other skills. The centerpiece

of the group, she is a mix of sensual waltz and pure strength, exalting talent throughout the entire show. But all of them are worth special mentions, most of them being also trained in various side expertises such as classical and jazz piano, magic tricks, painting and even the Didgeridoo!

Divided into about 10 scenes, the show allowed each of the artists to perform their acrobatics individually but also as a group. While all of the scenes present some form of acrobatics or tumbling, many feature different types of contemporary, urban dancing. These were very artistically interesting, but however were definitely not the strength of the performers, some of them looking slightly not at ease. And while it is understandable that a 120 minute show with only acrobatics would be totally exhausting for the performers, I guess

they are so good at it that you just want more of it and less dancing.

Still, the constant humor and playfulness contained in the skits make every one of them fascinating. Moreover, the music choices are bulls-eye in sync with the performances and the choreographies; urban, eclectic and dynamic.

Finally, this new wave modern circus troop really succeeds in this innovative and more sensitive approach to entertainment, acrobatics and dance. In short, *Traces* is an amazing chance to discover what circus is all about these days and is definitely a good alternative to overpriced Cirque du Soleil this winter. I must confess: while I am still skeptical about the dancing, I did end up thinking about joining the nearest circus school. For half a day at least...

*Until March 14th*



Between her daughter's pubescent theatrical gestures and occasional self-impalement, mumsy struggled to keep up with Adam's ADHD

# The Carnival comes to town

Rosie Milton attends the Tate Triennial and attempts to connect the dots in a cavalcade of global art

I set off on Monday morning for the Tate Triennial: 'Altermodern' as if on an expedition to a remote place. The Tate Triennial, only 4 events old, is another large-scale art event or 'mega-exhibition' like that of the Moscow Biennale, the Havana Biennial or the more well-established Venice Biennale to name just a few.

Somehow 'global citizens' of the art world manage to make their way to these destinations but I cannot say that I am one of them yet. However, the Tate Triennial presented itself for participation and possible scrutiny and so I endeavoured (with excitement) to be a part of it. For me all it really meant was to pop up the road and over the river (I live in Battersea), but I don't think there is a single person in London who was not aware of the snow-laden weather on Monday and so for me, such a short trip meant gearing myself up like a mountaineer to battle conditions our London streets are so unused to. When I arrived it was with a sense of triumph therefore and of adventure.

The museum was quiet – a perfect atmosphere for investigating artworks with a complex thought process behind them – although as I shall explain, this particular event will probably be better suited to the hubbub of the general public. Entering into the more classically-designed 'white cube' space of the Tate Britain, with its high ceilings and rooms punctuated with columns, the architecture struck a dramatic contrast with the modern (or should I say altermodern) artworks, especially in the first room and the 'octagonal' room.

A larger part of the Tate Britain has been taken over by the Triennial, hosting the works of 28 artists (from around the globe). Stepping through the entrance to the Triennial, we walk under the words 'PALAC' in neon pink, which in Polish means 'palace'. This particular introduction invites you to imagine a fairytale castle, or perhaps the inside of a fun-house at a fair, which is more how it appealed to me. The artist's intention was to draw parallels between the neo-classical architecture of the galleries and the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw.

The first room had giant shapes in bold colours, like oversized baby's building blocks and all along the walls were Pascale Marthine Tayou's masks with cartoon-like faces painted onto them, intended as relics of the 'future-past'. Entering into the 'octagonal' room, we covered beneath the giant mushroom cloud of silver pots and pans of Subodh Gupta's 'Line of Control', further adding to this element of the fantastical, but also succeeding in making us feel like Lilliputians in this dramatic space.

Altermodern as part of the globalization of art seems to be reaching more towards that global scale in terms of the size of the artworks, for in the next room we found a giant accordion, Rutha Ewan's 'Squeeze Jukebox' – perfectly proportional and with glitteringly glossy keys readily prepared for 'assistants' to perform well-known musical ditties on it at a point in the day (when the exhibition is open to the public).

Nicolas Bourriaud is a French art critic and curator, co-founder of the Palais de Tokyo in Paris and creator of 'altermodern' – the term and the collective meaning of the exhibition. He described the event as starting as a "dream catcher, a blank space" onto

which the artists could project change and 'alter' the meaning of art today. Bourriaud suggests that modern art (or postmodern even) is 'dead' and today's ever-increasing global reach of art demands a new term and definition of contemporary art and processes. The collective effort is clearly important to this triennial event whose main focus is travel – the artists breaching space and time to reach one another through the global space and creative dimensions. Bourriaud insists that with the Altermodern show, "artists can exchange at a planetary level for the first time", however this notion is somewhat contestable, considering the focus of several large-scale art festivals the world-over have addressed segregation in the art world, as well as attempting to express a similar intent with the conceptualisation of artworks.

The other artworks in the exhibition range from stream of consciousness amateur acting films to mechanical heads gormlessly yet musically communicating in harmonious grunts; liquid slides projected onto the walls – possibly invoking the club culture of acid past? It all appears carnivalesque to me – the bright colours and rotating panels of Franz Ackermann's urban prison-like space, the vibrating plates on the floor translate Nathaniel Melior's brainwaves and even the video 'Giantbum' about some lost travellers who find themselves inside the intestines of a giant recalls Rabelais' 'Gargantua & Pantagruel', a significant tale in literature of the carnivalesque.

Contrasted with this colourful and bizarre melee of 'altermodern' artistic expression sounds the soft, controlled voice of Nicolas Bourriaud who is possibly playing the puppet-master in this elaborate stage show. Bourriaud himself likens the Triennial to a theatrical performance, describing the unfolding of events as a "libretto".

**"the artworks are passionate and complex, but the meaning is not expressly clear"**

For me the artworks are passionate and complex, but the meaning is not expressly clear. The somewhat dry theory and definition of 'altermodern' does not correlate with a sense of the 'collective' – after all the artists each made individual works and the artist has worked as an individual throughout history. Perhaps a few more collaborative works would have put this idea of a collective across or even an attempt to make art for art's sake – the age-old dictum is one which seems to have been lost behind the 'modernisms' of time. As I took my final cursory view around the exhibition space, I suddenly felt an overwhelming sense of displacement. It did seem as if these artworks were trying to take you somewhere – on a journey into the dark secrets of the mind, but where that path leads is not somewhere that one can trip down easily. Yet for a moment I wondered if there might just be a chance that I am 'altermodern', too?

*Until April 26th*



After completing Final Fantasy XII for the fortieth time, Janice found herself with a lot of spare time





## The Titans outeat the Teletubbies



Afonso Campos  
Food Editor

It started abruptly and without any consideration for the beginning of just war. There was no warning and certainly none of the *jus ad bellum* criteria for the beginning of any war were met. The war was unprecedented in proportion. My helpless opponents could barely trust their vision when the proverbial hammerheads and spears commenced flying past them, shutting their hearts with a fear that would scare even the bravest of souls.

I take it all of this means very little to you, and am even less certain that you are familiar with the theory of war of the 1600s. Let's put things into context. I am a male and like the typical male at Imperial, my closest friends also share this problematic chromosome issue. As such, we have this inexplicable desire to prove to all XY's that we are the typical alpha males. The easiest way to fuel this desire is obviously to outeat anyone in sight.

After a lengthy discussion with a group of friends as to where to have dinner, we succumbed to Bodean's. When I say succumbed, I actually mean we were drawn to the place like it was a humongous magnet. If you live anywhere close to SW6, you will have at the very least heard of it. Were there a typically American smoke house in Heaven, Bodean's would be it. It is like the angels felt pity for us mere mortals and decided to prize us with their most valuable possession... in Fulham.

One might find it weird that I should be so excited about spare ribs, pulled

pork sandwiches and buffalo chicken wings. I am not usually attracted to this genre of food, but Bodean's has this incredible pull on me. It definitely makes my chest hair darker just at the thought. It's quite brilliant.

A nine person group is hard to seat in a space as small as Bodean's and as a result, we were split into two different back-to-back booths. Four on one table and five on the other. Along with other *felix* writers, I was in the four person table, and what a table it was going to become throughout the evening.

The waiter managed to mess up all our orders and apologetically brought each of us an extra half chicken on top of sausages, spare ribs, pulled pork, coleslaw and a mountain of french fries. At this moment, the war began. We saw the extra food as a calling, embraced our manhood and decided to outeat the five person table. Our friends now became our opponents. We were no longer a bunch of *felix* writers, but a group with the common goal to test the extent of our shared testosterone content.

We became the Titans, and our weakling adversaries became the Teletubbies. Even if you never have never read any Greek mythology or frier your brain with mindless, infantile television, you know how easily a Titan could trump a Teletubby. And we did. We came. We saw. We ate. And then we ate some more. By the end of the evening, we were beating our chests triumphantly and screaming loudly on the streets of Fulham. Our opponents walked home dejected, lost.



**2 Salmon fillets**  
**Rice**  
**Balsamic vinegar**  
**2 Cinnamon sticks**  
**Salt / Ground pepper**  
**1 Large Lemon**

This recipe is not merely complicated but will give the idea to a parent or a date that you have put some thought into what you are serving them, obviously propelling you to great heights.

Preheat the oven to 180C. Place the two salmon fillets in the centre of a oven-proof glass tray and fill it up with balsamic vinegar to half the height of the salmon. Cut some very thin lemon slices and place them on top of the fillet. Finish up with some pepper and salt. Place in the oven for 20 minutes. While the salmon is in the oven, cook the rice in a large pan with the two cinnamon sticks inside.

When both things are fully prepared, remove the salmon from its balsamic bath and place it next to the rice on a shiny white plate. Serve and enjoy a ridiculously simple but tasty meal.

## Vapiano in the arpeggios

Rosie Grayburn visits an intriguingly unusual dining spot



### Vapiano ★★★★★

19-21 Great Portland St, W1  
020 7268 0080

*Best: The environment; 10% off for students*

*Worst: Not exactly the best of food for the*

*Price: £20/25 per head*

Just off Oxford Circus, where MASH used to be, is Vapiano. It means 'going softly' in Italian, which is a bit odd, because it actually is a fast-food restaurant. Despite being a lively place, spread over two floors, the décor lacks originality: it looks like its come out of an IKEA catalogue. A mix of pale colours and red give off warm vibes, and the seating caters for different moods: high stools or loungy sofas. Lining the back is a glass enclosed space where you can watch the staff prepare your food. You can't reserve (unless it's for party get-together), but given the vast surface area, there really isn't a need to. It's an international franchise in

every sense of the word. Spread over the Middle East, the United States and Europe, it's a German take on an Italian bar.

I arrived expecting another version of Pizza Express, so I was pretty confused when I got handed my very own Vapiano 'credit card'. The concept is easy once you get the hang of it: you browse the counters, order and scan your card on a black box, carry the food to your table, eat, drink, hand the card back at the exit and pay with your real credit card. It's really an upscale canteen with a twist. When you order pizza, you get a buzzer which goes off when ready. Now it may sound strange to hear that there is plenty of staff when you are the one who has to order the food and carry your drinks; but that's the point of the place, the emphasis on interactivity. If you're scouting for a romantic restaurant to share an intimate chat, this probably isn't the best place. However, if you want a lively spot where there will be plenty to discuss about on a first date, this isn't a bad idea.

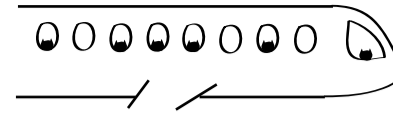
You mainly get to choose from different groups of pastas and pizzas, though there is a salad and antipasto

bar. Prices range from £5.50-8.50. If you're special about you're food, you may like the fact that you can specify which ingredients you want, and how much of them go into your food: spelt or normal pasta? more or less salt? you get the idea. We got the antipasti and salad to share. The plate was large and varied, with pickled aubergines, parmesan, mozzarella and a range of cured meats. They were all acceptable, but an easy fix whose quality wasn't notable. The pasta we ordered was a disappointment. It was cooked according to timers, but the staff should take the time to adjust them, because they were far from being al dente and were frankly quite stodgy. The sauces were ok, the arrabiata was spicy, but not out of this world. Dessert was better, but then again a decent Tiramisu at an Italian restaurant is a must. At least their selection of wines redeemed the food, and my glasses of Valpolicella diluted my initial dissatisfaction with the place.

Vapiano is not for the likes of everybody, it is not a culinary experience, but it does put an original and fun spin on dining.



Even if your date is mind-numbing, you can always talk about how you want to grow your own herbs too



## Parents - Bane of the Adventurous?

Dylan Lowe  
Travel Editor

This Sunday I am lazing in my bed. And the weekend after that. Easter holiday? Revision. Hang out with mates. Perhaps canoeing somewhere in Devon, but nothing more adventurous than that.

Or so they think. Reckon you are off the hook once the surgeon had snipped off the umbilical cord? Wrong. Be prepared to spend your childhood under parental dictatorship, and young-adult days fabricating lies in order to sneak off travelling. Or at least that is how I would sum up my life.

And I am fed up. The lies. The escapades under their noses. The gazillion "don't do this" and "don't go there" that drives me insane. I still love you, mum and dad, but make me stay in bubble wrap for the rest of my life? Shoot me now.

But I am not alone. We are all embroiled in this public obsession with the concept of 'health and safety'.

I guess I can applaud its merits in keeping most of us alive and intact. But the repetitive safety briefings designed for ten-year-olds? Tedious risk assessments? I cannot help but wonder if our society has become overprotective, if not squeamish.

As for us, are we really so immature and incapable of looking after ourselves that we need rigid safety guidelines to keep us in check? Piss on you, bureaucracy, for questioning our maturity.

And so is the environment we are born into. Our folks, infected with this 'social disorder', would have spent

hours lecturing us on hazard after hazard. That is if they let us venture into the great unknown in the first place.

With the backdrop of teenage alcoholism and gang culture, no wonder parents are too afraid to release their kids into the wild. Fair enough. Yet they are nurturing a generation of spoiled weaklings or, worse still, frustrated teens turning to alcohol and drugs as means of escapism.

What modern parents tend to forget is that growing up is about the exposure to danger, and the experience one gains from it. Allowing a child to burn himself, sadistically speaking, is a more effective way to caution him of the perils of playing with fire than to tell him so.

Yet parents do have a reason to fear. Incidents resulting in deaths and injuries are, one might argue, minuscule representations of the bigger picture – they still happened. For that reason parents have an obligation to worry. And quite rightfully so.

There are obviously exceptions. There wouldn't be an upsurge in the 'gap-year culture' if every parent sought to imprison his/her children within the limits of their homes.

Ignore my rant if it doesn't apply to you. But for those whose parents would physically restrain you from a bungee, or check you into a mental asylum for ever mentioning "gap year", a word of advice: confront them, tell them why it is time to let go.

As for me, I shall perform the John Darwin-style disappearing act – canoeing somewhere in Devon this Easter.

Or so they think.

## Franz Josef Glacier

Dylan Lowe braved the cold to climb the ice. Sweet as.

Before I start, I would like to pay tribute to the two Australian lads who died a month ago on the neighbouring Fox Glacier. They went over the safety line, sure; but did they deserve the tonne of ice that came crumbling down and so prematurely ended their lives? I don't think so.

I appreciate that not everyone can find anything spectacular or glorious about glacier hikes. A colossal lump of ice suspended in a valley is, after all, a lump of ice. Shamefully, I once thought that too. Then, a few lectures on glaciation sprouted a burning desire to go see the real thing for myself.

The Franz Josef Glacier offered a solution. Located on the West coast of New Zealand's South Island, it was first scaled by Europeans in 1865. The Austrian explorer Julius Haast paid tribute to the Austrian emperor by naming the glacier after him. Alternatively, call it by its Maori name: *Ka Roimata o Hine Hukatere* (Tears of the Avalanche Girl). The glacier is known as one of the most fast-moving of its

kind, estimated to shift 7 cm per day. And it is advancing.

Its sheer size is reflected upon its associate village, which is simplistic and too miniature for a tourist hot spot. Standing outside the Franz Josef Glacier Guides HQ, after a sleepless night in the local YHA infested with rowdy tourists, my jaws dropped not to yawn but in surrender to awe. This is no longer a lump of ice, but nature's fury charging down the mountains over geological timescales.

Gearred up, the entourage of hikers arrived at the glacier's terminal face by coach. Growing confident on my fitness level, I joined the fast group and Kat the guide, a compatriot from Cumbria with a degree in geography. Crampons on and off we ascended.

And what an ascent it was. Although not as physically demanding as I had expected (I wasn't gasping for a change), the labyrinth of icy tunnels and crevasses and ridges was a consistent challenge and did not disappoint. With Kat hacking away the ice to make passage in regular intervals, rest was

aplenty; seizing the opportunity cameras snapped and eyes gleamed against the scenery, before we proceeded to trample over freshly-carved stairwells.

After a debate over the futility of heli-hiking (what's the point hovering over the glacier?), several Christmas carols (it was Christmas Eve) and the cheesy photos at the highest point of the hike, we descended. Being the fast track, this section was flat and lacklustre. But being a scramble than a trek, we resembled the Fellowship fleeing from the Misty Mountains, the enemy being an increasingly grumpy stomach rather than a horde of orcs.

For NZ\$140 (£50) the full-day tour guarantees six hours on the ice – I enjoyed every second of it. My only moan was the treacherous 2 km walk across a dried-up riverbed leading to our awaiting transport. It gave me cramps. Only if I had kept my geologist's hat on, waltzed among the pebbles gathering samples and proclaiming Christmas had come a day early, would I quit whinging. But no, I was too out of breath for that.



It's coming towards us! Arrgggh! Well, it won't reach us for another epoch

## Beating the Valentine's Day Blues

No luck with the ladies? Guys not answering your calls? Forget the love potions. Here are the world's answers to all things singleton.

### Keila-Joa Waterfall, Estonia

Scribble your name and that of a crush onto a padlock, fasten it onto the bridge and toss the key into the icy river below. He/she is now yours forever. Allegedly.



### Hounen Matsuri, Japan

Traditional music, ceremonious festival, unlimited sake? Anything sexual at all? Oh wait, a 600-pound wooden phallus (penis) paraded around the township of Komaki by horny middle-aged men. Touch it if you still want romance.



### Kachikally Crocodile Pool, Gambia

Take a dip in this algae-filled swamp of a 'sacred' pool and become fertile – not if the crocs get to your cock first. Apparently they won't bite and even allow visitors to stroke them. Proceed at your own risk.

### Lovapalooza, The Philippines

Desperate for a snog? Head to Manila for an annual simultaneous-kissing event. It began as a Guinness record attempt five years ago, where 5,347 couples locked lips for ten seconds. The kissfest now boasts a record for 'most number of simultaneously kissing couples' (6,124).





# Strictly Cabaret

Heather Steele

Photo by Daniel Walker







# Eugh! Public displays of affection!



## Get a room!

Catherine Jones  
Nightlife Editor

If you are of a delicate disposition stop reading now. They are attempting the world biggest public display of affection (PDA), at Trafalgar Square on Saturday at 12am. Sponsored by Bicerin di Gian-duotto Italian Chocolate Liqueur, this is an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the most number of couples kissing at the same time. It's not just London afflicted with this horrendous sight. Similar events will be held in cities across the world; from Vienna to Vancouver, Cape Town to Copenhagen. No one can escape. Registration starts at 11am if that's your sort of thing.

So it's Valentine's Day on Saturday. It can be difficult to decide whether or not to go out? No, I'm actually joking. It's really easy. Here's a short collection of Valentine's Day nights and events for this weekend.

Finally, we need more contributors for the nightlife section, especially from you freshers. Get in touch by sending a quick email to [nightlife.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:nightlife.felix@ic.ac.uk).

### SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY

**SMARTIE PARTIE**  
Valentine's Special, featuring all things house. Djs include Steve Mac, Lisa German and Timo Garcia.  
Scala, 275 Pentonville Road, King's Cross  
10pm-6am £8/£10/£15

**URBAN NERDS DOES SNOW-BOMBING VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIAL**

A mash-up of reggae, crunk, hip hop, jungle, dub, D&B and more. Line up includes Foreign Beggars (live), Rusko, Tayo, Thunderclaps, A1 Bassline & Tempa T, all at 93 Feet East, 150 Brick Lane, Liverpool Street Tube  
7pm-1am, £10, adv £8 free before 7pm

**SUNSHINE DAZE MEETS TRINITY**

The Valentine's Ball for lovers who love to party. The first 100 ladies through the door receive a free mix CD and a free rose.

Hidden, 100 Tinworth Street, Vauxhall.  
£8 or £10 on the door before midnight.

**LAST ONE IN'S A ROTTEN EGG**  
This particular Anti-Valentine's Party appeals to me. Perhaps it is the "Let's explore the darkside of love!" on the flyer, or more likely, it's the awesome line up. One Man Party (That's Steve from Soulwax) and RKID (NYC/BE) are playing at 333 Old Street, Shoreditch.  
10pm-4a, Entry £5 before 11pm/£10 after.

### FRIDAY 13TH FEBRUARY

#### POTTY MOUTH DISCO

This is a foul-mouthed Valentine's Masked Prom at the Bloomsbury Ballroom. The rudeness includes Disco Bloodbath Djs, Let's Wrestle (live), The Coolness (live), Shoreditch is Sh\*t Djs Bloomsbury Ballroom.  
9pm-3am £10 adv/£12 on the door

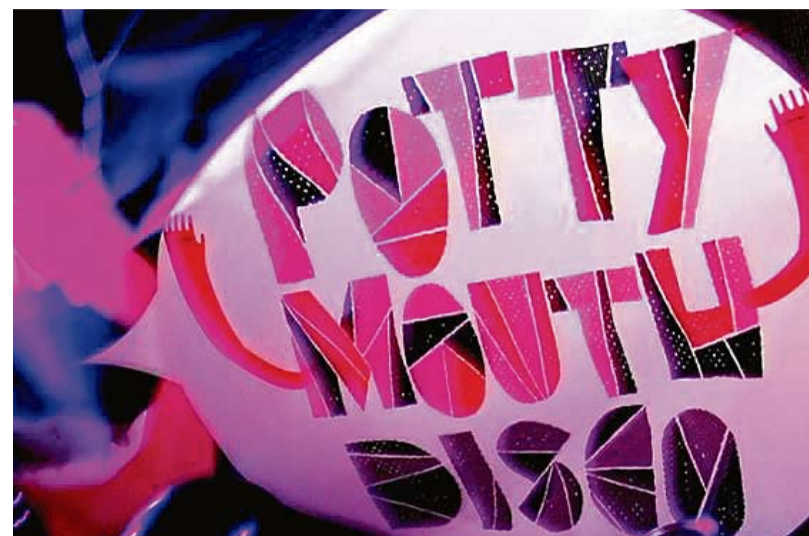
#### BANG FACE

The legendary Bang Face returns for its monthly night at Electrowertz. Vexed Factor is the "Neo-Rave dance-off on Robbie Williams' birthday. Dress up as pop stars, wannabes, WAGS and celeb rehabbers..."

10pm - 6am Electrowertz, Torrens Street, Angel Tube £10

#### THE LOVE RAVE@SEONE-

Large fun student rave with everything you could possibly want. Foam cannons, inflatable bungee runs, 1000 sq ft ball pond, bucking broncho challenge, gladiator dual run, human gyroscope and of course... cheap student drinks.  
10pm-4am Seone



Swearing, dancing, drinking, Potty Mouth Disco on a Friday night.



Smartie Partie Valentine's Day Special

# Where the beautiful people go...

Catherine Jones reviews Beach Blanket Babylon, a fashionista paradise with Valentine's Day potential...

### Beach Blanket Babylon ★★★★★

45 Ledbury Hill,  
Notting Hill Gate Tube

**Best:** Service, style and sophistication  
**Worst:** So so so expensive

In the deepest heart of Notting Hill, there is a unique bar, an elegant haven called Beach Blanket Babylon. This is more than just an overpriced hotel lobby bar. For one night I felt like I stepped into the fabulous fashionista world, right into the pages of style bible Vogue.

The night began, terribly, lost and lonely walking through the rain (cold rain) in Notting Hill. I had made every effort to style sleekly, aware this is a fashionista bar, and there could be rich and fabulous clientele. My delusional grooming attempts were ruined by the rain. I looked decidedly more supermodel than supermodel.

Upon arrival, I was greeted by the good-looking and friendly staff, and seated in front of an open coal fire. Inside, this probably is the chic bar of my dreams. White walls, period glass

chandeliers, coal fires and an eclectic selection of Boroque and Rococo style furniture. In the corner, a colourful curvy mosaic tile window frame, inspired by the famous Spanish Architect Antoni Gaudi. Soon cosy and dry, I melted into the happy and romantic atmosphere. Bliss.

Next; drinks. The cocktail menu at Beach Blanket Babylon was... amusingly extensive. The classics were well represented, but the eyebrow-raising celebrity cocktails set them apart. The Paris Hilton Classic Cocktail (£12) contains "a sugar lump coated in Bitters & Remy Martin XO topped with Champagne". How apt!

We ordered the Apple Daiquiri and the Natalia Vodinoska cocktail, named after the famous supermodel. Both were excellent quality cocktails, made with fresh ingredients and top of the range spirits. The quality was reflected in the price, in the region of £9-12 each. I have to say the service from the friendly staff was excellent and we felt we were getting value for money.

The antics of "Imperial Girl" and her kind were a hot conversation topic that night. So understandably, when the painfully large bill arrived, we laughed and began comical shuffling around in

"Imperial Girl was a hot conversation topic that night made all the more relevant when the painfully large bill arrived"

tions, Beach Blanket Babylon could be for you. Forget dinner. Take her to this opulent, romantic venue. Spoil her with one, possibly two expensive cocktails (if you want to push the boat out),

and then leave early, home to bed. Beach Bar Babylon is an official venue for London Fashion Week. So keep a look out for fashion soirees in 20-25th February.



our handbags. Should a man always pay for dinner? Our cynical conclusion; "At the end of the day, I think most people, male or female, will do what they think they can get away with." And so, being cheapskate students, we decided one cocktail was well more than our budgets could allow. We paid, said goodbye to the Beach Blanket Paradise, and returned back to gloomy reality.

So if Valentine's Day is approaching, and you have no restaurant reserva-

Picture of the Week

Pigeons, by Amin Elmubarak  
5th year Medicine

We want to exhibit your art. Send in your photographs.  
[felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)







Music  
Music Editors – Peter Sinclair, James Houghton & Alex Ashford

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk



### Just say 'no' to silent discos

Alex Ashford  
Music Editor

**H**i. I'm Alex. I'm taking over editing this thing from Susan. *felix* is one of the few things at Imperial that distracts me from my general disenchantment of it all and deep feelings of regret at ever coming here in the first place. (Aww...) Although obviously the real reason I'm here is that I just want first dibs on guestlist passes and promo CDs, plus I would also like to finally have one extra-curricular activity on my mostly barren CV.

The music section is mostly comprised of things that you submit, if you want to review a gig you've been to or write an opinion piece on the decline of "real music" or anything like that, email us. It doesn't really matter what kind of music you are into, we like variety. If it's the opposite of what I like, I'll probably just think it's a brilliant sarcastic joke anyway, kind of like what Imperial Girl writes (I mean, it's all a joke, right?)

If you met Vanilla Ice in Boots on Wednesday, tell us about it. If you have discovered satanic messages on a Beyonce track, let us know. If your toast this morning burnt in a way that bears a striking resemblance to Gary Numan, show us. If Joaquin Phoenix is your favourite rapper, write about it. This week I thought it would be mildly entertaining to do a "guess the album cover" thing. If you try it, let me know if it was really difficult or not, we might

make it into a regular feature.

I haven't really planned anything to talk about in this column but I am supposed to make it up to 550 words. So I am going to use this space wisely. I want to warn you of a subcultural menace, a reminder that the Darwinian principles of natural selection does not apply to humans and that the weakest, stupidest, most pathetic of our species are among us and prospering. Most recently they struck last Friday when a swarm of them appeared without warning at Liverpool Street tube station. I am of course talking about silent discos/ipod flash mobs/mobile clubbing.

They seem to involve stupid, smug teenagers who are desperate to be part of what they believe to be a hilarious, shocking, "underground" in-joke. In reality, everyone on the planet is aware of these things, I think there was even one on a CSI episode once. Imagine being a banker in the city, having worked all day in a job that you are holding onto by the thinnest of threads, finally getting to go home, only to be stopped and miss your train due to 12,000 people all dancing in silence wearing ipods (something that looks ridiculous at the best of times) and looking at you with a smug sense of selfish satisfaction that they ruined your day and are "messing with the system". Not to mention that they are just mimicking a T-mobile advert. Talk about raging against the machine there, guys.

### Jeniferever at the Luminaire

Chris Walmsley

Jeniferever's ambient landscapes sweep panoramically through the Luminaire tonight, captivating the audience with soft and delicate charm. Fans of music along the lines of the ethereal Sigur Ros will certainly find here something to cherish. Previews of songs from their forthcoming sophomore album certainly show a band building on their strengths, continuing on a similar path to 2006's debut 'Choose a Bright Morning'.

Kristofer Jönson, the band's frontman, sways in front of the microphone with his hushed voice floating above glassy, glistening guitars. The mood feels retrospective, the eerie 'Swimming Eyes' with its weeping delay drenched into being a personal favourite. It's a very strong set, interweaving old and new although there is a predictable omission of early EP material.

Certain honesty shines within the band; the lyrics performed in English does make their music easier to connect to than their aforementioned Scandinavian contemporary, not to mention more pronounceable song-titles. At the core, however, they are very similar – both produce enthralling music, building on tranquil foundations.

It remains to be seen whether Jeniferever are on the radar of TV executives, ever more frequently using their post-rock peers like Sigur Ros and Mogwai



Looks shockingly like Dan Wan!

## Badly Drawn Albums

Rather than write a proper article I thought I'd draw some silly pictures. Fabulous prizes will be given to the people who get the most right, so email us your guesses: *music.felix@imperial.ac.uk*. Bonus prize to anyone who figures out my mistake, the one that's a single instead of an album.

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### Act. Normal.

(they won't suspect a thing)

The Union's famous electro-house and modern house music night.

Friday 20 February  
20:00-02:00

The best value Wednesday night in town!

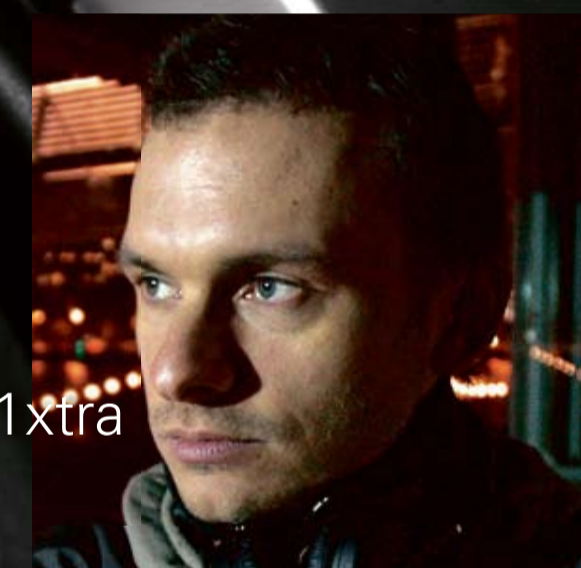
**RAG RAID AFTERPARTY**  
Wednesday 18 February  
20:00-01:00

**FOSTER'S** only £1.50 a pint!

BLACKTHORN JOHN SMITH'S

19 February  
**Andy C MC IC3**  
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UNIONdjs (UNION@FABRIC)  
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**FOSTER'S**  
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# STOP THAT URBAN NOISE

Hip-hop, Dubstep & Drum and Bass

imperialcollegeunion.org/ents

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







## Film

Film Editors – Zuzanna Blaszcak and Jonathan Dakin

# Wacky not tacky...

This teen comedy from the young, new talent Jonathan Levine, will satisfy all comedy lovers (and those looking for a bit more).

## The Wackness ★★★★★

**Director:** Jonathan Levine  
**Writer:** Jonathan Levine  
**Cast:** Josh Peck, Ben Kingsley, Olivia Thirlby

Stefan Carpanu

There's something undeniably likeable in the quirkiness of *The Wackness*, something which has eluded many teen-related, (romantic) comedies of late. What makes it even more extraordinary is that although some drugs change hands, it's not a film that you can only watch if you're high and weirdly enough it goes beyond showcasing private parts in order to be amusing.

Fact is, the comedy genre is a tough genre. It's perhaps more merciless than drama or action, for a bad comedy is nothing but a bad comedy, while bad drama or action films tend to be inherently funny. So how is it that *The Wackness* didn't pop up on many radars last year and this charming, if a tad familiar story, lies mostly unseen and unheard of? This is even more surprising considering that it boasts a fairly familiar cast, including Ben Kingsley, Famke Janssen, Mary-Kate Olsen, Olivia Thirlby and the unrecognisable (ex) child-star Josh Peck.

Labelled as a coming-of-age story, the film is centred around Luke Shapiro and something like a summer of love – with less girl-on-girl action, and a lot of old-school hip-hop. Luke



Josh Peck has grown up... and become a marijuana-dealing hipster.

is playing out all the usual teenager acts, from being isolated and having problems at home, to listening to music and selling marijuana. One of his customers happens to be Dr. Jeffrey Squires, a psychiatrist endowed with a few depressions and a delightful step-daughter called Stephanie, to whom Luke is naturally attracted. The ensuing mix of romance and friendship shapes up for an enjoyable ninety minutes, thanks to likable characters, authentic atmosphere, appropriate music and a well-written script.

What makes *The Wackness* a good film is how well the actors inhabit their characters and how smoothly all the aforementioned elements complement each other to create a great viewing experience. There is a distinct feeling that Luke is in no-man's-land, looking to build and shape his values

and the soundtrack plays an important part in defining both him and his world. Despite the fact that I am not a hip-hop fan, I appreciate how representative and influential it can be, and its fit with the nature of the film was so good, that I was taken in by it. In the end though, what elevates *The Wackness* is the kindness and sincerity of the story and its protagonists.

I may have a positive bias towards the more classic-style of teenage comedy, whether we're talking about *The Breakfast Club*, *Say Anything or The Last American Virgin*, but there's nothing blander than a lacklustre and unimaginative teen-com, such as *St. Elmo's Fire* or various "original" and obnoxious newer attempts, say *Sex Drive*. Still, do give *The Wackness* a shot, chances are there is some truth to my allegations.

to the ground and unsheathes its ice-cold knife. As the film progresses and Gabita nears her abortion, the weight on your chest grows heavier and no matter how much you wriggle and squirm it begins to cut your flesh. Pick a level of misandry, it's here. From the trivial but annoying "my boyfriend just doesn't understand", to the significantly more agonising "so you don't have all the money, eh, well you'll just have to sweeten the deal", this movie delivers lashings of man-hate. Writer/director Cristian Mungiu has excelled, the camera shots are simple and slow, adding to the feeling of an invisible observer. Throughout the movie Otillia stands tall, her sacrifices for Gabita are endless, although a touch of disgust begins to curl her upper-lip towards the end of the ordeal. Otillia is a rock who resists the ocean but is still scarred by time, Bebe's evil has tainted her. This is a powerful production, but I can't say I'd watch it again, I'm too much of a coward.

So there's your choice of fuck-ups, good luck, and don't let them ruin your sex life.

**Note from Editor:** I realise that reviews of both these movies were printed in the film section last year, but once again I couldn't say 'no' to printing something written by Bad Taste – he actually responded to my appeal and I hope you join me in saying 'kudos' to you Bad Taste. Now tell us your name.

# Bad Taste's corner

## Black Snake Moan

**Director:** Craig Brewer  
**Writer:** Craig Brewer  
**Cast:** Samuel L. Jackson, Cristina Ricci, Justin Timberlake

## Bad Taste

The human penis is bigger, in proportion to body size and in absolute terms, than any other primate. Humanity has a sex obsession. But there is a price to pay for pleasure, sexual dysfunction is rife, sex is laced with power and abuse. Here are two films about slightly unusual, but very real, sexual dilemmas.

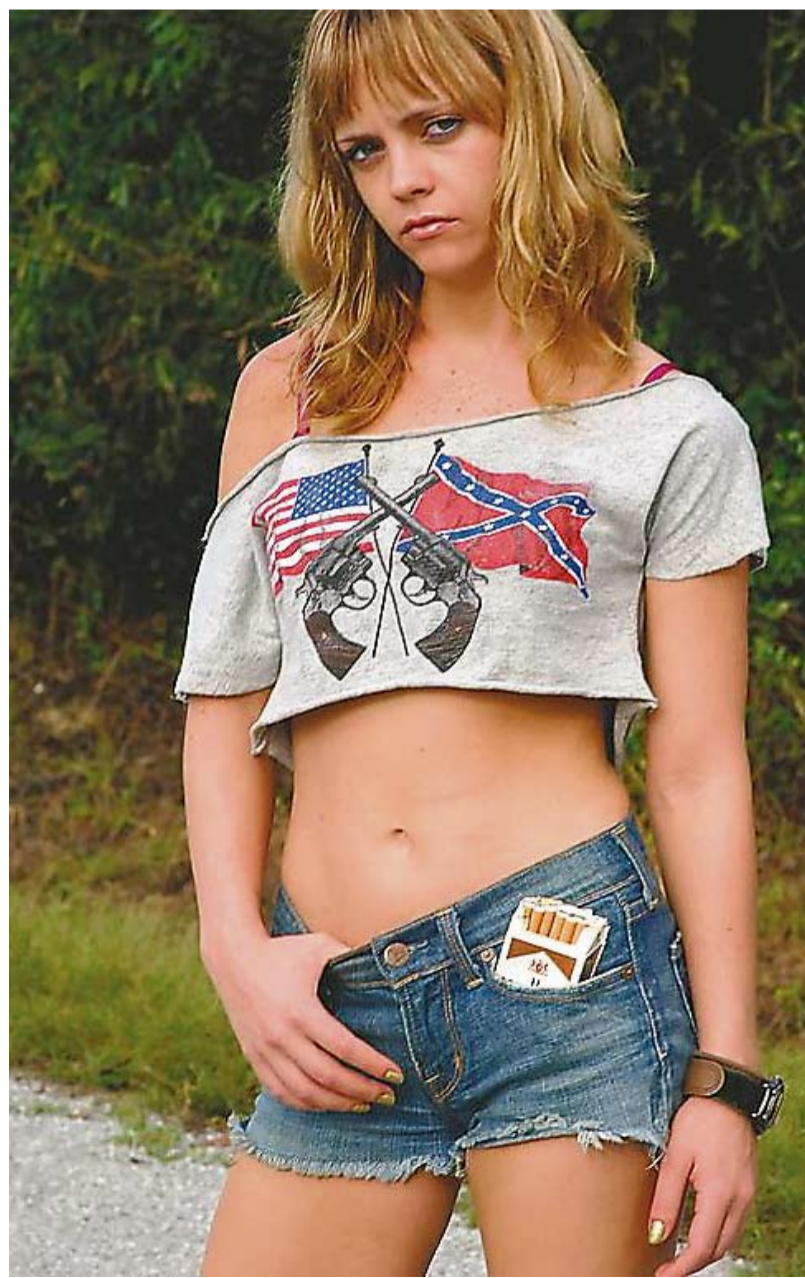
Paramount Vantage presents our furious *Black Snake Moan* (2008). Let's start with the drawbacks. This film lacks a little in the scripting, and the plot isn't exactly complex: Deep Southern, traumatised, skinny, white girl fucks too much, to whom big ol' black man teaches error of ways. Not to be taken seriously, this feature lacks depth; it strains for a gravity it doesn't understand. Particularly undermined by its stereotyping, hypocrisy and symbolism, the tale is dispossessed of reality, leaving it cold to the touch. But this film ain't for the head, stop thinking, just live it. Coil up around the killer soundtrack, to just wander and roam around the vibrancy of the picture. *Black Snake Moan* is brought to life by some

superb acting, first and foremost from our broken protagonist.

Slim right down, eat only food of no nutritional value throughout the production and live a little as Rae (Cristina Ricci). Be the sultry eyes and the jutting jaw that echo the obstinacy of a Bible Belt upbringing. You just ain't right gal. Child abuse has lead to nymphomania, bouts of Satre-esk nausea couple body to a foiled control addiction. Rip yourself so that no man can break you, welcome to Rae. After a wholesome night of drugs and debauchery, Rae is finally beat up and dumped on the roadside. Enter the aptly named Lazarus (Samuel L. Jackson), a lost ex-bluesman whose wife aborted his child and left him for his brother. Laz scrapes up the road-kill and takes her home to mend up.

Upon finding out whom and what Rae is, he implements the classic combo' of tough love and the chaining to a cast-iron radiator. But ignore the storyline, Jackson is in the zone. He holds Lazarus together, picking through his character's flaws to find a dark seam of cool; the man is strong and bold, tempered by a god-fearing humility. Over-all the acting in this movie is fantastic; we even see a passable performance by Justin Timberlake as Ronnie, Rae's longstanding boyfriend. Although this, I fear, is down to Ronnie being a pitiful snivel of a character, something our "Cry me a River" star can relate to.

So take this one as it comes, a shallow teenage pout of a film with a soulful sound, thoroughly enjoyable.



Ricci has a knack for playing very disturbing girls, this is no exception.

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# For the Lovers and Haters of Valentine's Day

Regardless of where you stand, Jonathan Dakin has decided to suggest films for both Lovers and Haters – films that sum up love in all its entirety as well as films that have absolutely no love in them whatsoever.

It is that time of the year once again: the day where greeting card companies churn out thousands of different cards which say everything you wish to say to people you love and people that don't have any love (yes – you can get Valentine's cards for single people now). Valentine's Day divides people into two categories: Lovers and Haters, splitting

the population of the world into either a pulpy, smiley, lovey-dovey mush or a hard, fierce and embittered slice of vengeance.

Lovers are those who love Valentines Day: they take their girlfriends or boyfriends out and wine-and-dine them and treat them well and believe in fate and the power of love... and all that sap.

Whereas Haters very much hate this made-by-greeting-card-companies and everything it stands for as it promotes the idea that unless you have someone, you are no one. And of course we know that is not true, but Haters would say that Lovers want to try to make them feel like they are losers because they don't have a significant other.

Regardless of where you stand, this *Felix* editor has decided to suggest films for both Lovers and Haters – films that sum up love in all its entirety and spin the belief that everyone is destined for someone else, as well as films that have absolutely no love in them whatsoever – sometimes even promoting the hatred of love. And it was quite hard to find films like that,

but I managed to do it.

So whether you are a Lover or a Hater, kick back, relax and watch films that suit your mood: either snuggling up to someone you love or getting drunk by yourself and throwing bottles at the screen.

I know which one I will be doing tomorrow, now then, where has that bottle of Jack Daniels gone?

## For Lovers

### An Affair To Remember

Starring Carey Grant and Deborah Kerr, this film is the inspiration behind the classic *Sleepless In Seattle* (another recommendation for all you Lovers out there). Set on a cruise ship travelling from Europe, a singer and an unemployed playboy meet and begin to fall in love. The catch? They are both engaged to their other partners, so they decide to give each other until Valentine's Day (which is two months away) to break up with their other lovers, get professional jobs and then meet on top of the Empire State Building. Everything goes to plan until a tragic accident intervenes...

A film that is guaranteed to make women sob relentlessly (and as a man I do not understand why), so men – if you want your woman crying into your chest (and you win bonus points for comforting her and pretending to understand why she is crying) then this is a must-see.



### The Wedding Singer

Everyone can enjoy this hilarious comedy starring Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore. An unlucky-in-love wedding singer finally finds the woman of his dreams – but she is about to be marry a complete knob. Not only this film very funny, but also romantic and soppy. Funny bits include when he gets drunk at a wedding, the Boy George impersonator and the rapping Grandma. Romantic bits include the bit when she dances with an overweight child, and the ending on the aeroplane. This is a movie that both men and women can watch together without feeling secretly resentful that one or the other got their own way and is forcing you see something you don't want to... Whoops – maybe I am bringing up sore points for some of you reading this...

### Sex And The City: The Movie

Oh dear... Where do I begin? This two and half-hour ball-breaker is definitely one for the ladies. I'm not sure there is any point writing a synopsis for this as every woman reading this article has probably seen it anyway. But will that stop them from re-watching it? I doubt it. But for the benefit of those of you who haven't had the pleasure (or pain) of viewing it, the Sex And The City movie is all about Carrie and her friends trying to hold their relationships together. Some relationships end, others are re-ignited. Some end well, others not so well. But the message to take home from this is that men are only there to provide you with a bigger wardrobe, children and/or sex. But there is a wedding, so the film does promote love... doesn't it?



### You've Got Mail

Joe Fox is a successful bookstore owner and Kathleen Kelly has a small children's bookshop. So when his huge chain of Fox Books moves into her neighbourhood and her business starts to go under, they obviously hate each other. But neither of them know that they are actually in love with one another, as they have been exchanging love-letters over the Internet. How will it end? Well considering the fact it is in this section I think it is obvious that there is no murderous rampage ending to this film, so don't worry! Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan sparkle in a memorable and sometimes touching rom-com that will melt your heart and make you wish that everyone you met in a chat room wasn't just a disgusting pervert or paedophile.

### Pretty Woman

What woman doesn't love the idea of a prostitute being taken from the streets and made up to look like royalty? Julia Roberts and Richard Gere star as people from two different worlds who ultimately fall in love. The part that women seem to love is the bit when she goes into a posh shop and is told to leave for being too run down, only to come back and tell the manager she isn't going to spend her money there: you will be applauding and screaming in delight!

For those of you who question the idea of a love film about a prostitute, just try to pretend it is a fairytale rather than reality, because after all: how many hookers look like Julia Roberts (and fall in love with the men who pay them to have sex)?

## For Haters



### Blade

A half-human, half-vampire hunts and kills vampires. That is it really. Just lots of guns, swords and blood-soaked action. There is no love at all, only very sexy women who throw themselves at Blade (including his own mother... yuck... but saying that she is one hot hussy). Can Blade stop a crazy vampire from taking over the world and killing and enslaving all of humanity?

The best bits of this film include coagulating heads, the smolderingly attractive women and the death of many vampires. Blood, gore, sex... Blade has it all... And best of all there is no love plot, as Blade is one cold killer and uses women for one thing and one thing only. And we all know what that is.

### The Usual Suspects

Often deemed one of the best films ever made and currently number 22 on IMDB's top films of all time, this is a thriller/gangster/crime film about everything except love. Cleverly weaving a story about a crime with a plot about the criminals themselves, the film twists and turns, exploding into an unforgettable climax.

Kevin Spacey chews the scenery in his Academy Award-winning role, stealing every scene he is in from an all-star cast. Love it or hate it, this is a film you can sink into and enjoy, mainly because there is no love story! Just bad men committing bad deeds and ending everything badly. You have got to appreciate this – it is one of the cleverest films ever, even if it does drag slightly in the middle.

### Die Hard With A Vengeance

No love. Just action and brotherhood-male bonding over the activities of a deranged, German terrorist called Simon. And Simon says that trains will explode, vaults will be broken into and John McClane (Bruce Willis) will kill many people.

A very cleverly plotted and executed film, which many say is the best Die Hard movie of them all, mainly because Zeus (Samuel L. Jackson) is dragged into the antics and has to stay to play the games set by Simon. But why is McClane involved? Is it because he is a cop... or is it something more personal? Lots of explosions, gunfire and death mean that you will not be thinking about whatever stupid day it is... good!

### Single White Female

Allie, a young and beautiful woman is betrayed by her cheating boyfriend, so kicks him out and advertises for a new roommate. Hedy, who replaces him, at first seems perfect, but then turns out to be a psycho stalker. This film is brilliantly dark and disturbing, and although it does include love, it is stalker love between women and it is love of a darker nature, as Hedy is a psychopath. Brilliant moments include a stiletto heel and someone's eye (ouch!) and a chase through a basement with a screwdriver. You have to be truly twisted to enjoy this film, and that is why I thought all of you haters of love out there would appreciate it.

### Valentine

A serial killer dressed as cupid fires arrows into the hearts of his victims. If you hate Valentine's Day with a passion then watch this film as it murders love with a hatchet. Who will survive a demented cupid? A cast of extremely sexy women makes this film even better, as Bond beauty Denise Richards leads the cast of ladies on the run from the killer who has decided that they will all be next. A typical horror with some very grisly scenes (including a face being impaled onto a shard of glass), this film was made with people who hate Valentine's Day in mind – so you will be secretly rooting for Cupid to claim his victims. Just make sure you don't take a leaf from his book and get revenge on former lovers. It is just a movie! Don't try it at home no matter how scorned you feel! Buy a punching bag instead!



### Kill Bill (1&2)

Okay, I know the film starts with a wedding and there are hints of love in between massacre, but on the whole this is a film about revenge. Revenge against a former lover who killed all of The Bride's friends and family on her wedding day, shooting her in the head and leaving her to die. Does your love-life sound so bad now? I thought not. And that is why Kill Bill is here, because The Bride goes on a whirlwind rampage of revenge to kill Bill. But she leaves him until last – picking off others who took part in her (almost) demise. Does she kill Bill? Well the title would be wrong if she didn't, but the journey to that point is extremely fun and gory – butchering many people in horrible ways. Samurai sword anyone?

## Competition Winner

For those who can't remember, a couple months ago we asked you about the film equivalent of the Ig-Noble. The prize promised was a DVD of *Pineapple Express*. Congratulations to Hazim Ghani

who got the answer right – it is indeed the Golden Raspberry Award. Now that the DVD has arrived at the office, I'm happy to tell Hazim that he can pick up his prize from the *Felix* office.

Sorry for the delay in resolving the competition but Sony Entertainment were late with the delivery of the DVD.







# Windows 7 - hope or flop for M\$?

## Richard Lai test drives Microsoft's latest beta OS on different machines, to see if it is better than Vista

When Windows Vista first came out back in November 2006, I thought, "Wow! (sic) At last! Something that can fully replace the dull Windows XP." Unfortunately, I was wrong: not only did the first release of Vista consume too much system resources, but the manufacturers also failed to deliver compatible drivers for hopeful upgraders, thus rendering the "Vista Capable" labels meaningless. Today, Vista is a lot more stable with Service Pack 1 (and personally I am enjoying the ride too), but many consumers are so afraid of Redmond's obese OS, that they'd rather go through all the trouble to downgrade their new computers to XP. If you are one such person, then you should read on to find out why Windows 7 will be different.

### Windows 7: Vista on diet

Eagle-eyed readers may have already noticed that Windows 7's full version number is 6.1.7xxx, meaning it is based on Windows Vista (6.0.6xxx). This traces back to the changes Microsoft made to their OS roadmap, when they had to focus on patching Windows XP's major security vulnerabilities in 2003, thus splitting the originally-single OS release into two parts. Perhaps it was also this rush that made Vista a badly polished product, so Windows 7 is given the big task to regain consumers' trust for Microsoft.

In fact, Microsoft's recent public release of Windows 7's beta (Build 7000) has already impressed many critics, most praising the smaller memory footprint compared to Vista. Other notable improvements include the optimized taskbar, smarter windows management, less annoying notifications etc.

### Win7 Trivia



#### Highlights:

- Smaller memory footprint
- Optimized taskbar
- Much-improved tools (Paint, WordPad, etc.)
- Smart windows tiling
- Aero Shake and Aero Peek
- Optimized for SSDs

#### Beta minimum requirements:

- CPU: 1GHz (32- or 64-bit)
- RAM: 1GB
- HDD: 16GB of free space
- DirectX 9 graphics card with 128MB memory
- DVD burner
- Internet access

#### Retail editions:

- Starter
- Home Basic
- Home Premium
- Professional
- Enterprise
- Ultimate

Release: as early as July 2009



Steve Ballmer and Steve Jobs may not be friends on Facebook, but Apple will employ their lawyers to poke Microsoft if they are not careful.



Boot screen of Windows 7

### From XP to 7: cannot upgrade

My first testing platform was a Lenovo ThinkPad X41 Tablet - a three-year-old laptop that has the rare touchscreen feature, perfect for testing Windows 7's compatibility and its tablet function. To keep the test fair, I installed a vanilla-copy of XP Tablet PC Edition 2005 SP3 along with the essential drivers (no Lenovo crapware apart from their "System Update" tool), and then the same was done with Windows 7. As expected, Windows 7 did not allow a direct upgrade from XP; you can only do so with Windows Vista SP1, so be warned!

Installation was a breeze overall - the only user inputs required all took place at the beginning, and then just half an hour later I had the new OS running (but with missing drivers). Once the drivers were loaded, Windows 7 still had a pretty impressive boot time (from power on to appearance of desktop) of 1 minute 31 seconds, just 9 seconds more than XP.

### Smarter taskbar

Upon first login, you may not be impressed by the same eye candy seen in Vista, but do bear in mind that this is still a beta release so the graphics may not be final. However, what caught my attention first was the revamped taskbar: it is now thicker, and by default there are already three buttons docked. At first I thought they were just ordinary quick launch buttons, but with a bit of fiddling, I discovered that dragging the buttons upwards reveals a menu, showing shortcuts for the relevant programs (this is a "Jump List"), option to "pin" a shortcut to the top of the list, and shortcuts to web bookmarks, recent documents and playlists, if supported.

In fact, the above features also apply to any docked buttons on the taskbar, so if you open any applications, their taskbar button will always have a list of recent documents, and you can also pin a shortcut. This effectively turns the ordinary Windows taskbar into a beastly cousin of Mac OS X's dock.

However, since the ThinkPad's graphics chip is not powerful enough, Windows 7 has automatically disabled the more advanced Aero features (in short: the fancy graphics as seen in Vista). This is why I prepared a second machine to play with: my lovely unibody MacBook.

Again, installation was very straightforward using Boot Camp, and all the Vista drivers on Apple's DVD worked straight away. Now the taskbar buttons show a preview panel when clicked on, and you can hover over each thumbnail to highlight the associated window, while the other under the stack become transparent. Pretty cool, eh? Of course, clicking on the thumbnail will bring you that window to the front.

On the right hand side of the taskbar are the usual notification and system monitor icons (power, network and volume), but now with an additional flag icon which reveals an "Action Center" box - a neat replacement of the old intrusive balloons which are much hated by XP and Vista users. Other application icons can be revealed by clicking on the triangle to the left of the



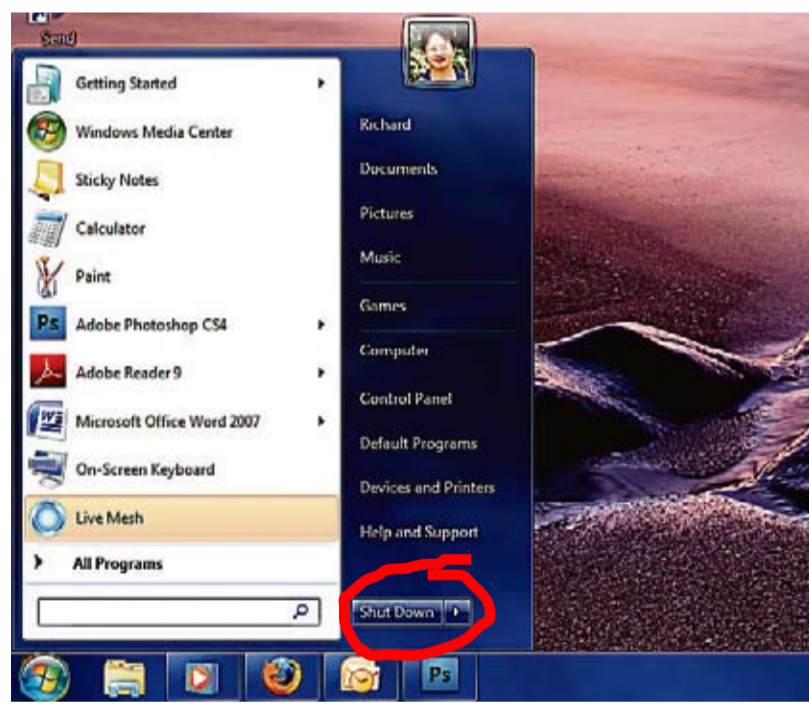
Action Center with notifications



A Jump List above the taskbar

flag, and you can still customize them to make them appear in the icon area instead of just the notification box.

Since the taskbar is now thicker, the clock now conveniently shows both the time and date, unlike the old days when you had to hover over the clock to show the date (which disappears after five seconds). Further right sits a blank, thin button which simply does "Show desktop". This button used to be in the "Quick Launch" list right next to the Start Menu, so some may struggle to get used to this new layout.



Start Menu now with a clearly labelled power button (circled)



With Aero enabled, clicking a docked button reveals a preview panel, and hovering over a thumbnail highlights the associated window.

### Start Menu with minor update

The Start Menu in this beta build is pretty much the same as Vista. The only update is the additional recent documents list for each application - same as the taskbar buttons really. Another change is that the power button at the bottom right is now labelled "Shut Down" by default, instead of a misleading round circle that turns out to be standby in Vista. If you prefer Vista's default setting, you can change the button by simply right-clicking it,

and the button's label will change to whatever action you choose.

### Themes and Gadgets

Who doesn't personalise their desktop these days? To satisfy the general users, Windows 7 will come with a more powerful theme tool that allows you to package several wallpapers into one option, so that Windows can automatically cycle through them at set intervals.

On the Gadgets front, Windows 7 has abandoned the sidebar approach in Vista, once again igniting the Windows-copied-OS-X flamewar (in OS X, Widgets are spread across the desktop). To be honest, I couldn't care less: in Vista I only look at the Gadgets during login, so most of the time the Sidebar is hidden behind a stack of Windows anyway.

### Revved-up Tools

Microsoft has finally decided to give a little bit of extra with Windows' built-in tools. Kids and bored secretaries will be most impressed by the new Paint, which now includes a selection of shapes and brushes. The new interface took cues from Office 2007, making Paint easier to use than previous versions. Another tweak worth mentioning is that Paint will automatically resize the canvas to fit your pasted image, making screenshot capturing much easier (just as I had been experiencing while writing this article).

Similarly, WordPad has also been updated with a Word-2007-esque interface, and you can even edit .docx documents (Word 2007 file format) but understandably losing some formatting. It also has Paint built-in, so you can edit your inserted drawing at any time.

One feature that is ignored by most users is Windows' handwriting recognition, which is why I was very keen to try Windows 7 on the ThinkPad X41 Tablet. Compared to Windows XP Tablet PC Edition 2005, Windows 7 is definitely better at reading my handwriting as expected. Furthermore, Windows 7 will recognize at least six more languages on top of Vista's twelve.

### Networking

It took me a while to figure out where to make a Virtual Personal Network connection to Imperial College - with Vista I could do so in the Start Menu, but Windows 7 has moved it all to the network icon on the right hand side of the taskbar, which is slightly more convenient. On a higher level, the main networking feature of Windows 7 is HomeGroup, a protocol that is meant to simplify how we "share files, photos, music, and printers throughout your



Easier network connection

home" using just one shared password. In fact, the real stars of this feature are "libraries" - essentially "a way to aggregate multiple physical locations on a computer into one unified view", as described by Jerry (e7blog) on blogs.msdn.com.

In other words, say if you have three Windows 7 computers on your home network, then you can set up your HomeGroup to view all photos of the entire network within one folder on any machine, rather than having to browse through several network folders for different machines. Of course, you can vary your folders' individual privacy levels and read/write permissions.

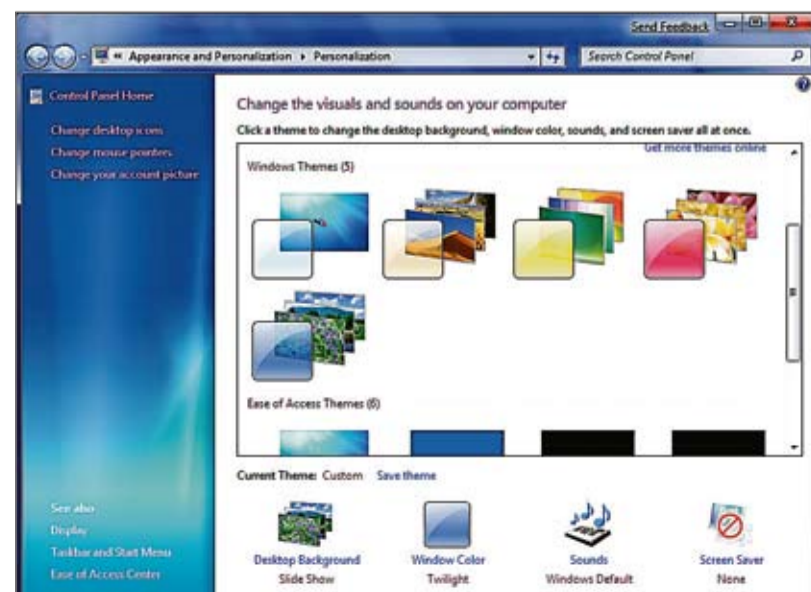
Easy media browsing within a HomeGroup is supported by the forthcoming Windows Media Player 12 and Windows Media Center: rather than scanning "the entire hard drive on the computer to find media files and add them into a media library", they simply use the Windows Explorer libraries as shared by both apps.

### Auto-resizing windows

This feature should have been included in Windows a long time ago, but it has only been implemented by third-party apps until now: by dragging a window to the left or right edge of the screen, Windows 7 will automatically resize it to fill up that half-side of the screen, and dragging to the top edge will maximise it. You can also do the same by using a combination of the Windows key and one of the arrow keys (the down key restores/minimises the window). No more fiddly window-resizing work for you!

### Bits and bobs

The keyboard shortcuts mentioned above are just four of many available in Windows 7, and most are quite easy



Themes in Windows 7 can cycle through wallpapers automatically

to remember. Here are a few (some already used in Vista):

- **Win+p**: opens the projector menu
- **Win+m**: minimises all windows
- **Win+Shift+m**: revert all window minimisation
- **Win+d**: shows desktop
- **Win+Home**: minimise all but the current window
- **Win+Tab**: Flip 3D
- **Alt+Tab**: cycle through live window thumbnails
- **Win+T**: cycle through live application thumbnails on taskbar
- **Alt-Esc**: cycle through all open windows
- **Win+g**: brings all the Gadgets above all windows
- **Win++** and **Win+-**: zoom in and out of the desktop (OS X has this feature since the Dark Ages!)

Here's a list of the less exciting yet can be useful extras in Windows 7:

- a built-in ISO disc image burner, thus eliminating the need of third-party archive or disc image software
- **Internet Explorer 8**, which seems to be a late clone of Mozilla Firefox 3 really so nothing exciting
- **Device Stage** - a tool that makes connected devices look fancy in Windows
- **Aero Shake** - lets you minimise other windows by shaking the current window with a mouse, but this doesn't work for me all the time
- Font management is neater with stacked views of each font family, as well as a preview of the font on the icon

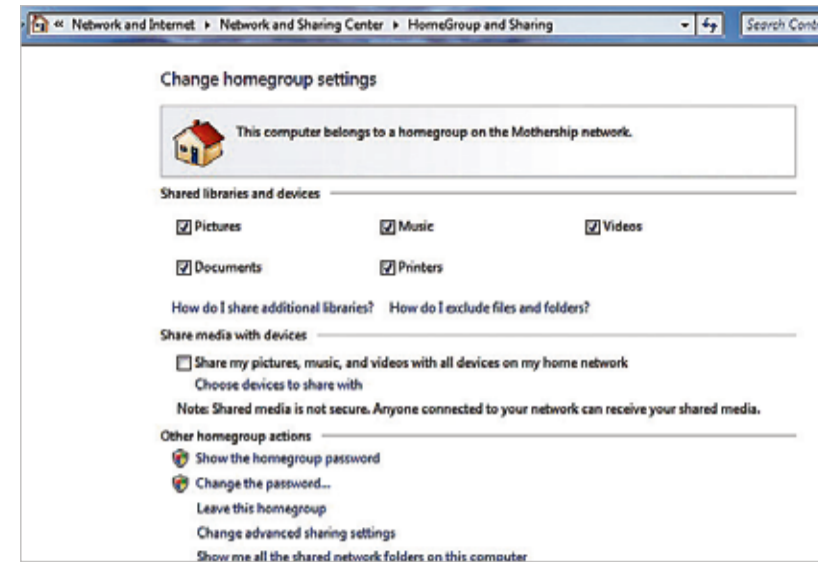
### Verdict (so far)

Windows 7 seems to be quite promising so far, especially with the tweaks that make Vista look stupid. My three-year-old ThinkPad had crashed a few times after my several attempts to run the Windows Experience Index assessment, but apart from that I haven't had any problems at all on either laptops (no blue screen of death for sure!). In fact, on the MacBook Windows 7 runs almost as smooth as OS X. It even wakes up straight away from standby, which before Windows 7 this was an OS-X-exclusive feature.

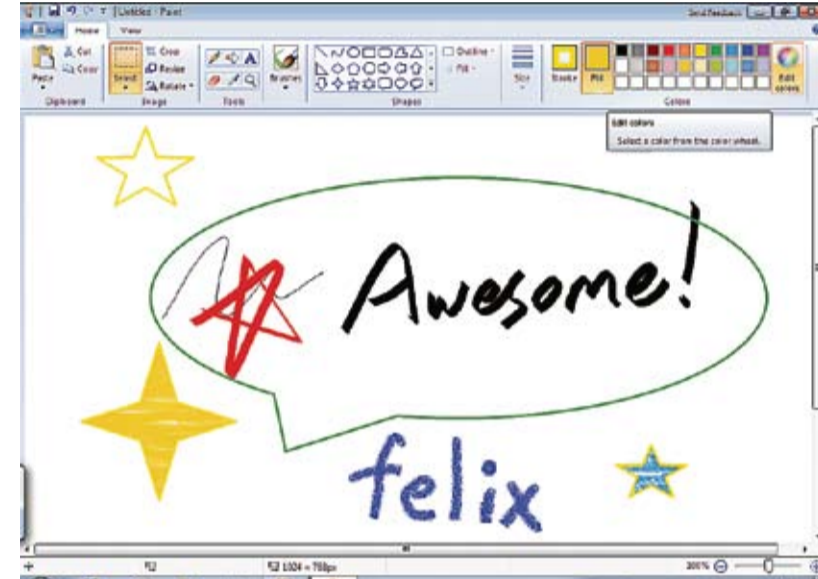
Many reviewers complain that Windows 7 does not have enough new features to be qualified as a brand new OS, but I beg to differ: given that Windows 7 runs so much better than Vista with what it has right now, I wouldn't want any extra premature features to ruin its stability. However, I would agree that Microsoft should make Windows 7 cheaper than what we had paid for Vista, to make up for the pain we suffered back in the early days. I say drop Zune and use the remaining development money to give us all the discount we deserve!

I do have one confession to make: my original plan was to also test Windows 7 on a netbook (an Acer Aspire One) in this week's *felix*, but due to the heavy snow last week the delivery is delayed, so I'm afraid I will have to delay the test till next week, provided that the netbook arrives before Wednesday. Until next time, why not try Windows 7 yourself? Any machines released in the last two years should work fine (check with the list of minimum requirements on the previous page). Intel-Mac users should definitely try it just for fun!

Are you using Windows 7? What is your impression so far? Drop us an e-mail at [technology.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:technology.felix@imperial.ac.uk) by next Tuesday, and selected messages will be published in next week's *felix*.



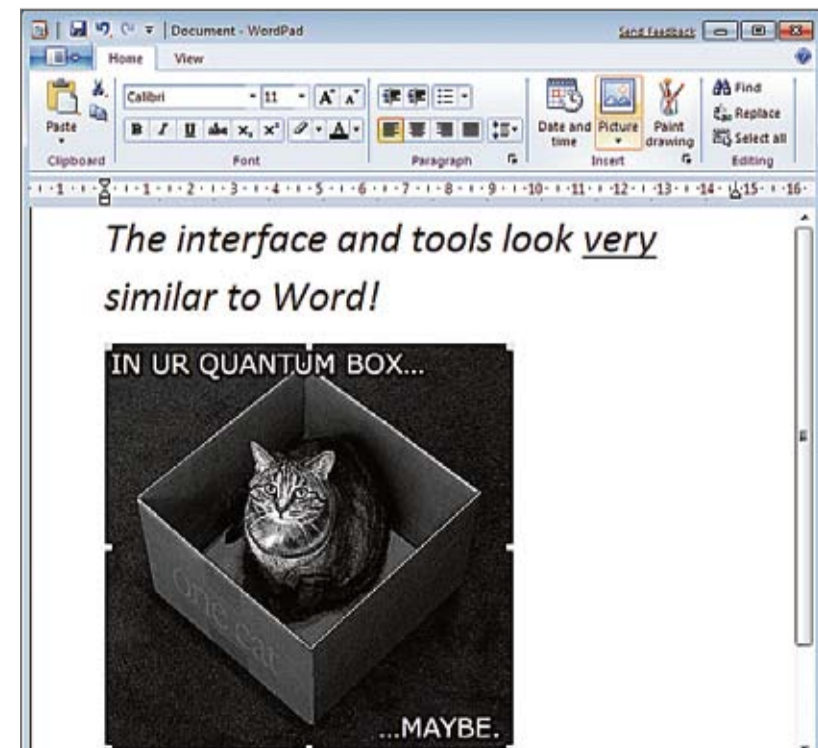
Choosing which libraries you would like to share within a HomeGroup



Windows 7 Paint + Tablet PC = awesomeness + super fun time!



Impressive handwriting recognition in Windows 7



WordPad has a Word-2007-esque interface and can edit .docx files





Welfare  
Welfare Editor – Hannah Theodorou

Email Hannah on dpew@imperial.ac.uk  
Email Nigel on advice@imperial.ac.uk

# Feeling under the weather?

How to tell when those post-Christmas blues might indicate the beginnings of anxiety or depression.

David Allman  
Student Counsellor

It's winter and the weather is cold and wet. Christmas and New Year are over, and there's a lot of work to do in this long spring term. It's normal to sometimes feel down-hearted under these circumstances. And it's understandable not to want to get out of bed some mornings! (Recognise yourself here?) Most people feel like this from time to time. However, if you've been feeling miserable for several weeks, if you don't seem to be able to enjoy anything and have lost interest in your course and your social life, and if this feeling doesn't seem to be shifting, it's possible that you might be depressed. Depression is common within the student population, as it is within the population in general. And it's possible – and important – to do something about it.

Some more questions. Are you eating much less or much more than usual? Do you feel tired for much of the time? Are you having difficulty getting off to sleep, or do you wake up several times during the night, or unusually early, feeling tired and worrying? Are you having difficulty concentrating in lectures, or when you're studying? Are you wanting to avoid contact with your friends? Are you feeling particularly critical of yourself? Is it a struggle to actually think, to work out what you have to do, or to make decisions?

If you're experiencing some of these difficulties, it's important to talk to someone about it: depression can be a downward spiral involving – for some – feeling that it's not worth carrying on with the course, or indeed with your

life. Clearly, it's vital to interrupt this pattern. Although the last thing you might want to do is to talk to someone about how you're feeling, it's important that you do. You might be imagining that you're the only person in the world feeling like this, and not coping, but there are certainly other students around who will be feeling the same way, yet not wanting to let anyone know about it. College might not seem to be a place where it feels OK to admit to not coping.

It's useful to consider the broader context in order to understand some people's experience of depression. Life for some students has become significantly more stressful over the past few years; you might have to work to support yourself through College and the cost of accommodation is high. This is the context within which you have to navigate the demanding workload. Are you feeling disappointed that your experience at College isn't turning out to be what you had hoped for and expected? Are you feeling homesick? Perhaps you're a long way from home which might be in a different country. If you're a mature student, are you having to juggle the responsibilities of childcare and domestic tasks along with the academic challenge of returning to education after a period in employment? If you're slipping behind with course work and missing an increasing number of lectures, it's important to acknowledge this. Don't bury your head in the sand. Talk to your personal tutor, senior tutor, postgraduate tutor, or someone else you feel you can approach in your department. If you have slipped a long way behind, talk to

someone anyway so that you can work out a course of action to attend to your situation.

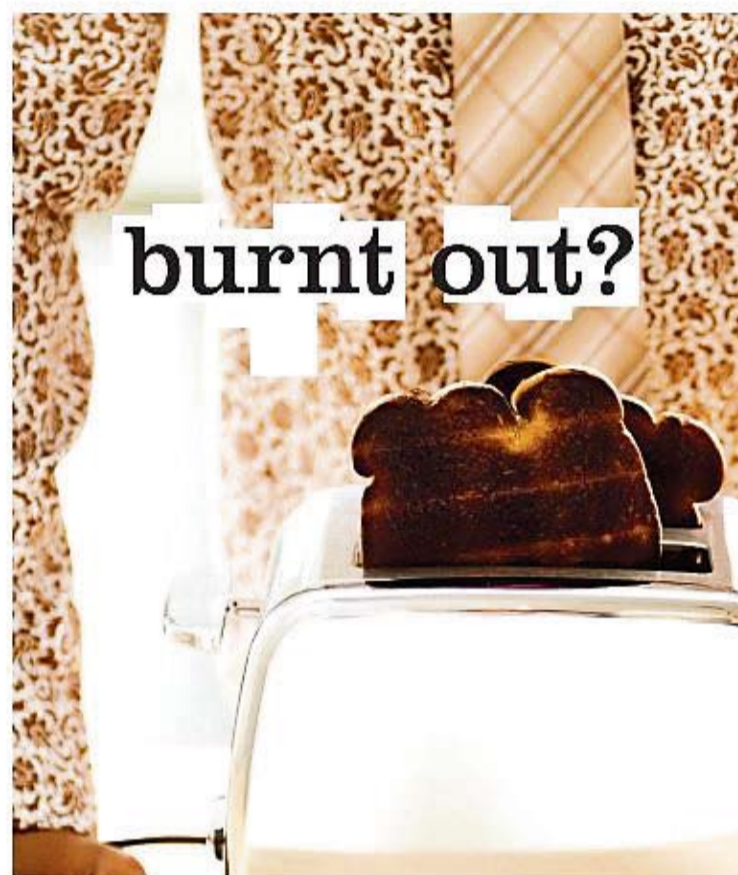
Who else can you contact if you're feeling low? You could talk with a counsellor in the College's Student Counselling Service, or with a doctor or practice nurse in Imperial College Health Centre. There are also counsellors and psychotherapists in the Health Centre who can be consulted after referral via a doctor or practice nurse.

Information about the **Student Counselling Service** is at: [www.imperial.ac.uk/counselling](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/counselling). To arrange an appointment, email [counselling@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:counselling@imperial.ac.uk) or phone 020 7594 9637.

Information about **Imperial College Health Centre** is at [www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk). The Health Centre's website is extensive, including a section about exam stress.

**London Nightline** – the confidential telephone helpline offering listening, support and information to students in London – is available 6pm to 8am during term time, telephone 020 7631 0101. You can also contact Nightline via email at [listening@nightline.org.uk](mailto:listening@nightline.org.uk) or via Skype at [www.nightline.org.uk](http://www.nightline.org.uk)

[www.studentdepression.org](http://www.studentdepression.org) has further information about depression including: how depression works, tackling depression, getting support and help, real student stories. Desperate right now? Worried about someone?



Confidential listening, support and information for students in London. Open 6pm - 8am every night of term. Students there for students

Free calls on Skype via our website [www.nightline.org.uk](http://www.nightline.org.uk)  
**nightline** **020 7631 0101**  
[listening@nightline.org.uk](mailto:listening@nightline.org.uk)



# Clubs & Societies

Clubs & Socs Editor - Alice Rowlands

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

[clubsandsocs.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:clubsandsocs.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

# What do we really want from the opposite sex?

Every Nation Christian look into what the students of Imperial think about relationships and the opposite sex. **Tosin Ajayi** leads us through the weird and wonderful answers the students had to give

With Valentine's day tomorrow, Every Nation Christian Society Last Night ran an event called "Understanding the Opposite sex". Why would a Christian society be doing this?

Well, we like to think that if Jesus were here, he'd sit you down like a good older brother and tell you all about the birds, bees and explain those weird humans out there who look like you with funny bits attached.

A big part of the push for this event was a survey, which you might have been accosted with in the past week. The aim was to survey 50 men and 50 women, we ended up with around 70 of each sex. Said survey had the below questions, the answers of which at the time of writing, were to be used in a game show at the event last night. And here are the answers, your guide to what the opposite sex thinks. ("What did Christians ever do for us?" I hear you ask?, THIS!) Read on, you might learn something.

Interestingly enough, 5% of men surveyed said that love was the most important element in a relationship, while the closest women came to that was Friendship, with a negligible amount suggesting love.

A quick look at the answers that one sex gave but the other didn't, shows Jealousy, Betrayal, and "A Third Person" among women's answers. Some say at least three of these are just different ways of saying cheating, some men say it makes it seem like women are slightly paranoid, but perhaps that's just their prior experience talking.

The men's answers included differing expectations, selfishness, inability to compromise and lack of sex. Making it sound like men are scared that the woman won't want to do what they want to. Who knows where they get these ideas? Might be experience all over again.

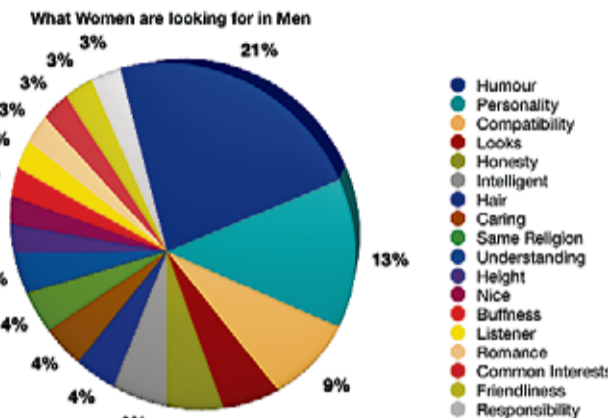
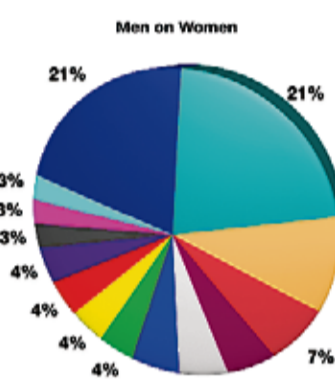
One of the questions on the "Understanding the Opposite sex" posters was "Is it even possible?". To which many answered an emphatic "No!". Someone even graffitied on one of the posters to that effect (thanks for the feedback).

And aside from knowing (or not) what the other sex thinks, it appears that both Men and Women agree largely on what it takes to build a relationship. So the question remains, why is there still this belief, based on experience, that getting on with the opposite sex in close quarters is so hard? Perhaps knowing and doing are two different things.

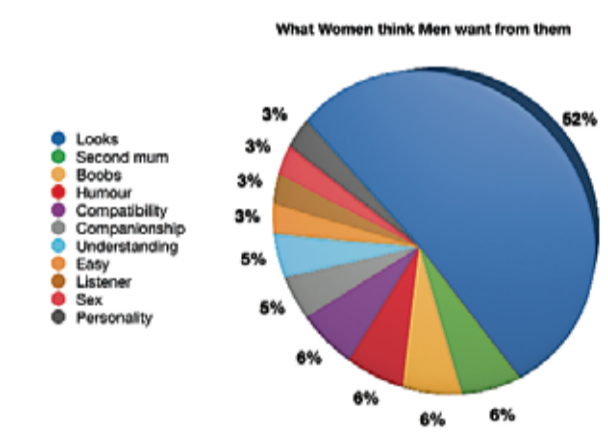
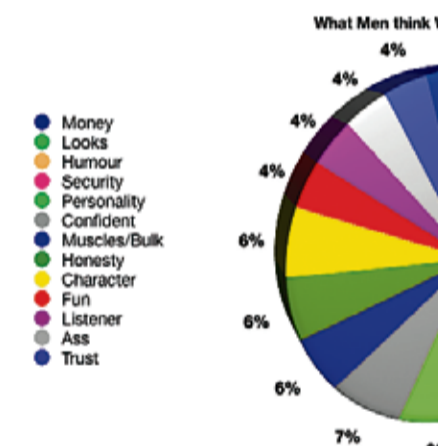
Perhaps Jesus, in older brother mode, would have something to say to move us from knowing to being able to do. And ultimately, that's what last night was trying to find out.

More on that next week. In the meantime, you've got your map to what the object of your affections might be thinking. May it come in useful tomorrow.

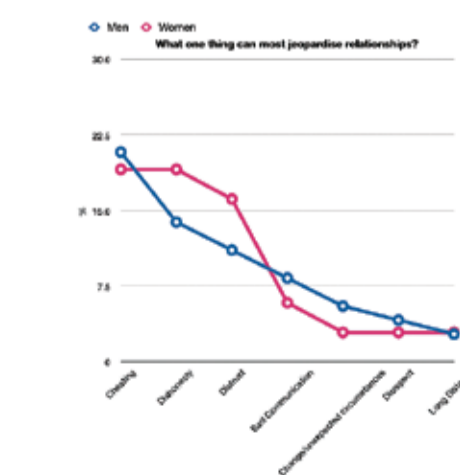
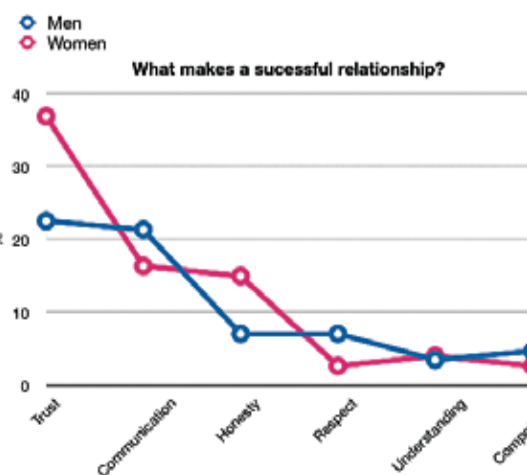
## Question 1



## Question 2



## Questions 3 and 4

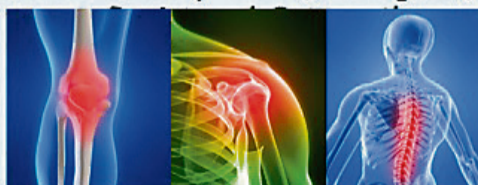


Here, there was a startling similarity between men and women, with the top three answers being the same for both sexes. After these, it appears that the remaining answers that both men and women agree on have a similar prevalence in both sexes. **Special mentions go to:** Men – Believable lies, Women – Keeping secrets, secret relationship.

**Special mentions go to:** Men – Change of Sexual Preference, Eating my food; Women - Different salaries **Note:** If an answer was given by only one person, it is not included, although ones that tickled us do get special mentions.

## OSTEOPATHY...

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## Get on your bike

A decent D-lock is the ideal way to deter serious bike thieves

With the ever-increasing popularity of cycling, the South Kensington campus has seen a marked increase in the number of bikes parked on site every week. Unfortunately we still see a number of thefts from the campus. The bikes that have been stolen are often those that haven't been locked up, ones with insufficient bike locks and those parked in insecure areas.

When it comes to buying bike locks there are many different products on the market and price is not necessarily a reliable indicator of quality. The most important factor is how long the product can resist attack.

\* You should look for products that have been tested against attack. Check out [www.soldsecure.com](http://www.soldsecure.com) for certified locks, or ask your local bike shop for a recommendation. Check the packaging for more information.

\* Invest in a quality lock. Hardened steel D-shaped locks are recommended as the minimum standard. It is worth spending proportionately more on a lock for a more expensive bike.

For more information go to [crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk).



### Subsidised Bike Locks for Sale

Imperial College Security have purchased attack tested bike locks and are selling them at the subsidised rate of £25. They are available at the Security Office, Level 1 Sherfield Building with a personal cheque made out to Imperial College London during office opening hours.



# Tamil Society's Mega Maalai 2009

Alice Rowlands reports on International Tamil Society's annual Mega Maalai celebration and fundraiser with photographs courtesy of Ben Waran

A couple of weekends ago I ventured into the far north (of London) to The Forum in Kentish Town, where Imperial's Tamil Society were hosting Mega Maalai 2009, an annual performance and fundraising event.

The evening was hosted by Anujen Vijay and Prav Mahendrarajah, who had the audience giggling and occasionally even breaking into laughter with ramblings about the joys of being male: "The world is your urinal" and of being female: "You don't need to fart to amuse yourself".

After deciding that girls probably have a better deal in life, they moved on to speak universal truths such as how Dads have a sixth sense that tells them whenever you're turning the TV off news and onto something else, whether they're sleeping or even in another room, and how mothers cannot let you out of the house without a jumper or thermal vest, even in the heat of summer.

In a very brave move, the presenters gave out their own mobile phone numbers, so the audience didn't have to bother shouting if they wanted to heckle. By the end of the evening they'd charmed the

**"Raising money for two non-political charities working to help people in majority Tamil areas of the North and East of Sri-Lanka."**

crowd sufficiently for one audience member to send: "I want you to marry my daughter. Meet me at South Tooting Temple."

Aside from thoroughly entertaining presenters, the evening provided a mixture of dance and music, a lot of which seamlessly combined the traditional and the modern, including a performance by Mega Melodies, who performed modern music on some crazy-looking traditional instruments to great effect.

Another more traditional performance was Inisai Mazhai sung by Hari Sanker and followed by a short fashion show, with sarees donated by Casipillai Designs.

Though the evening was generally light-hearted, often quirky, entertainment, there was a serious message behind the event: Every year Mega Maalai is held in order to raise money for charities; this year's charities were particularly close to Tamil Society's hearts as they were raising money for two non-political charities working

to help those in majority Tamil areas of the North and East of Sri-Lanka. These areas have suffered through cyclone-related floods and civil war, with any recovery hampered by aid not being allowed into these areas, or being too dangerous for aid workers to travel to.

After some time of reflection about why we were there, and some speeches on behalf of the charities being supported, it was back to the entertainment:

The cute award of the evening goes to a lovely performance from the Feltham dance company juniors, which involved on of the smallest girls I've ever seen move in-time to music, doing a very good job of keeping up with the older girls.

Another high point was Radio Funkology, who gave a

quirky twist to their dance routine by using a ghetto blaster and an mp3 player as a prop and having one of the dancers pretend to flick through tracks on his mp3 player. Using this gimmick they managed to work dozens of songs into a few minutes of dance; ranging from the funky 'Dangerous' from Michael Jackson to 'My Humps' via 'Backstreets Back'!

The penultimate performance was a medley of dances, one of which, called 'Gaana', is performed in vibrant costumes, with big, billowing skirts. Gaya Gayathrithis Rajasooriar, one of the performers, told *felix*: "Gaana" is an upbeat style of dance with big movements and a lot of energy. It was originally performed by people who had laborious jobs, but is now mainly done as performances in movies and shows. Gaana is specific to Tamils as Bhangra is to

**"If we're here next year, it's because we haven't got jobs yet!"**

Punjabis."

The finally of the evening involved the majority of the evenings performers joining in a big performance, loosely based around a battle, with some big group movements and excellent individual performances, includ-

ing one break-dancer who did an amazing move where he dropped onto one knee, at a speed that I'm sure would have shattered my knee caps!

In all, the evening was one of fun and entertainment, backed up by a serious message, raising money for a charitable cause. All that's left to mention is the particularly amusing parting words of the presenters: 'If we're here next year, it's because we haven't got jobs yet!'

Thank you to Gayathrithis Rajasooriar for help with quotes, facts and inviting *felix* to the show.

## Fun facts about Mega Maalai

- The society is called the International Tamil Society, as Tamils can be from India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia to name but a few. At Imperial, most of the committee consists of Sri Lankan Tamils.
- Mega Maalai has been running for 16 years. It originated in the Great Hall of Imperial College and in 2003 took place at its first theatre (the Lyric Theatre in Hammersmith)
- Last year, the event was held at the London Palladium, previous venues have included Hammersmith Apollo and Hackney Empire.
- All proceeds go to charity, which this year are Save the Children, Tamil Aid and Tamils Health Organisation.
- Sarees from the act with the singer Hari followed by a small fashion show were donated by Casipillai Designs- she has a facebook page.
- Jimmy Nathan is President of the International Tamil Society this year, his moment in the spotlight came when he crept on to the stage to try and sweep glitter from it during the second half of the performance.
- A lot of other London Universities have Tamil Societies that host similar shows. Some of the acts perform in all or many of the shows.
- Many of the acts are choreographed by professional dancers/teachers who do the show for free.



## Charities supported by Mega Maalai

Each year the International Tamil Society selects charities to support with their fundraising events, this year they have chosen to support non-political organisations that work in Northern and Eastern Sri Lanka. Predominantly Tamil in population, these areas have suffered through natural and man-made disasters.

Gayathrithis Rajasooriar told *felix*: "This is all to raise money for charity. We're supporting Save the Children, Tamils Health Organisation and TamilAid. The reason we're supporting two small, non-political charities, that work in the north and east of Sri Lanka, is due to the fact that these predominantly Tamil areas have been devastated by the recent cyclone-related floods and civil war and aid is not allowed into the area so those caught up in the disaster rely on small agencies and connections.

"At the moment, Tamil civilians are being murdered left and right. There are fights between the Sri Lankan government and the main Tamil rebel group LTTE that have gone on for over 25 years now. This is the reason so many Sri Lankan Tamils now live in London, Canada, etc. There have been protests- there was one starting from Pimlico on Saturday where over 100,000 people came and there will be one outside the Sri Lankan embassy, on Sri Lankan independence day."







# Coffee Break

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Catch-up

Ravi Pall  
Coffee Break Editor

It has been a long time since we had a good long catch up. Seriously, it has been a while. Do you remember those times when you sat in your sofa next to a blazing natural fire, curled up with a large mug of hot chocolate in one hand, and *felix* in the other? Yeah those were good times. We would have a nice little monologue, me and you... well just you (this is all pre-written). I would tell you all about things that happened in the last week, what was coming up next week, and pick out the best bits from this week's issue. Good times. Those were happy days. Remember Sikh MC? No, well that will be because he never turned up (to my disappointment). Ah well, better to carry on not crying. So taking back the usual tradition I will start off by saying the FUCWIT league is still, as ever, dominated by the usual 2 teams, but the struggle for 3rd place is becoming more and more fierce. Also notice that the league has been divided into 2 sections. One for teams, and one for individuals. We thought it would be fairer to all the contestants involved. Chaz really enjoys making the puzzles each week, and it makes him happy so many people participate. So he made another one. It is called

mentalist maze, and the quickest submission will get 5 points. In this issue of *felix* there is a nice feature on the college's previous records. It's well worth a read. As ever the comments section is a great source of amusement, expect for Imperial Girl. I wish she would curl over in a ditch and die. She is so annoying and if anything angers every one of my female friends greatly. She is so arrogant to think she is the correct representation of female students at IC. grrrr

Another thing brought to my attention is that the student nightlife at the union has increased considerably. This term has been a lot of fun with lots of events going on. Also the American students from our affiliate universities help make the atmosphere more interesting. For example the superbowl night was so much fun. Not because of the game - NFL isn't my cup of tea - but because of the mass snowball fight that engulfed Prince Consort road. I can't wait for RAG week to start. I heard there is laser tag in the Quad on Wednesday evening, during the RAG Raid after party. AWESOME!!!

Only thing left so say is keep collecting the top trump cards, and at some point I'll make the backs for you.

## Battles of the Charles

JUST IN CASE YOU DON'T GET IT, THIS IS A JOKE!



Ray

Known from:

Music

Biggest Achievement:

Hit singles after signing with Atlantic records. His single "I Got A Woman" bringing his talent straight into the nation's view.

Distinguishing Feature:

He is blind! However was not born blind, he started to lose his sight around the age of five, and was rendered totally blind by the age of seven.

Number of Children:

12

Fact:

He gave each of his 12 children \$1M tax free in 2004, just before he died.



Craig

Known from:

Television

Biggest Achievement:

Craig Charles acquired cult status in 1988 as the Liverpoolian slob, Dave Lister, in BBC2's long-running sci-fi comedy television series Red Dwarf. He played Lister until 1999.

Distinguishing Feature:

His highly recognisable face. He's known as the dude from Red Dwarf or Robot Wars.

Number of Children:

3

Fact:

In 1994, Charles and a friend were arrested on a rape charge.



David

Known from:

RCSU President

Biggest Achievement:

Gaining entry to Imperial College London, after a controversial tribunal, where David was found to be a heroin addict.

Distinguishing Feature:

Ability to talk non-stop, about irrelevant and uninteresting topics, without giving you the opportunity to politely leave.

Number of Children:

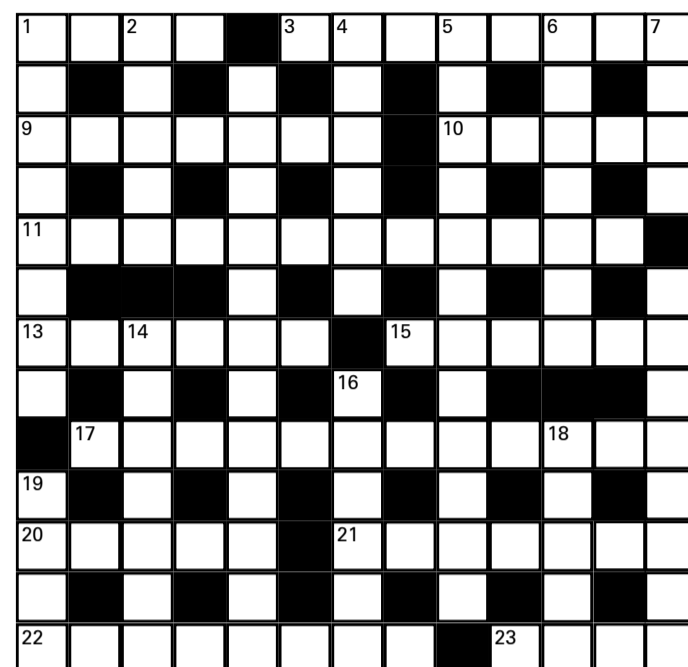
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Fact:

He won some big science award, but we don't know what it was.

## Fun & Games

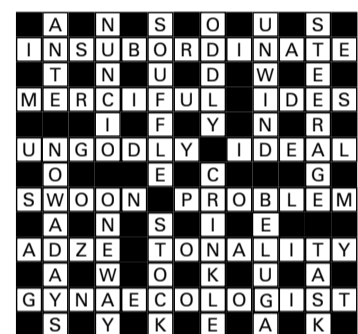
# A Quickie (Crossword) 1,424



- ACROSS**
- 1 If not (4)
  - 3 Preliminary test (5,3)
  - 9 Athlete combining strength and flexibility (7)
  - 10 German philosopher (5)
  - 11 Cricket person (6-6)
  - 13 Cedes (6)
  - 15 Concert; of synchronized actions (6)
  - 17 Item of cutlery (7,5)
  - 20 Pre-Normal landlord (5)
  - 21 African language (7)
  - 22 All of us (8)
  - 23 Problem; tear something on rough surface (4)

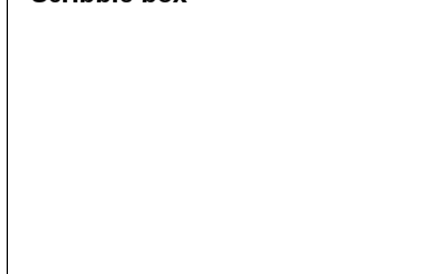
- DOWN**
- 1 Side-on (8)
  - 2 Sour Mediterranean spice (5)
  - 4 Sit again (6)
  - 5 First day of Lent (3,9)
  - 6 Go back to an earlier stage (7)
  - 7 Void; cancelled (4)
  - 8 Shop selling sewing equipment (12)
  - 12 Ad infinitum (8)
  - 14 Increase height (7)
  - 16 Place of confinement (6)
  - 18 Multi-layered bulb (5)
  - 19 Infection of the eye (4)

### Solution 1,423



Doing this after ACC Bar Night so I couldn't care all that much. Basically I am hiding down in *felix* as people want to kill me. It's not my fault guys! Beer would have been on much longer but certain clubs decided to have a fight. Anyhoo back to the matter at hand... awww fuck it. I just want to have a pint and sleep. **Someone** won. Well done.

### Scribble box



# FUCWIT League Table

Teams:

Team Shotgun	198 Points
Möchten sie mein Mannschaft?	195 Points
Scii Comm	25 Points
Team Rubbish	17 Points

Individuals:

Giramundo	57 Points
Hringur Gretarsson	29 Points
Jonathan Phillips	18 Points
Enoch	15 Points

The Felix University/College-Wide Invitational Tournament League is new and improved. There are now prizes for BOTH the winning team and the winning individual.

Basically, you get points for doing all the various puzzles and challenges, and at the end of the year, the winning team and the winning individual will win an iPod nano! 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](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk) or [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk). Go!

# Ho-bizzle-ro-snizzle-scopes! It's the Horoscopes

After last edition's shenanigans *felix* is offering a new and improved Horoscope recipe for tasting. I like!



### Aquarius

New and improved? Seriously what the fuck? How can something be both new and improved? If it's new it is based upon unused technology. So if it is improved then it is simply an update. If I said I had a new method of having sex - i.e. using a condom - would you be impressed? Surely that's just an improvement. I ramble. Fuck you all.



### Taurus

So your girlfriend has a bad tummy and has to go to hospital to get it checked. Whilst there they do a blood test with surprising result. The doctor, comes up to you... "there appears to be a large quantity of Rohypnol in your bloodstream. Almost fatal levels." Oh shit. You've been found out and are now going to jail to be gay raped.



### Leo

You try to be cool by ordering a 'MegaMix' at your local kebab house at 3 in the morning. Whilst happily munching it down you choke on a bone. It gets stuck and you flap for an Ambulance. Once removed it is taken for analysis and it turns out to be a penis bone. What do you mean penises don't have bones? Fuck you! Mine does...



### Scorpio

This week the taste of blood makes you feel terribly ill. But that's not the reason you're ill. The reason is your flatmates making you drink vodka until you throw up blood passed out on the floor. That and the fact they were kicking you in the ribs all night long, forcing you to drink more. After a trip to hospital you find out you need a liver transplant. Shame!



### Pisces

Fire, rape and pillage. Three of the things that your new girlfriend will be interested in. But you weigh up your options... free sex with a proper mental girl, or a fat wank? The option of a real life girl just edges ahead. I suggest you keep your bum hole plugged with a cork from a wine bottle. You can never be too careful.



### Gemini

That cheese grater that sits all alone in the bottom cupboard will make an unwelcome appearance at your 22nd birthday this week. Your mates convince you that it will be an excellent idea for you to use the spiky side to grate your penis on. The bottle of Vodka in you tells you that it doesn't hurt. Come morning it does. Very much.



### Virgo

This week you watch the pigeons attack your food while you're trying to eat it in the quad. Your so called friends decide to pour their left-over baked beans over you. This causes the pigeons to peck at you until you are horribly disfigured. You spend the rest of your life in a circus, known only as the shocking pigeon man.



### Sagittarius

ACC bar night proved to be, umm errr eventual!?! It filtered down that you chundered so hard you burst a blood-vessel in your left eye. As a result you had to attend lectures wearing large sunglasses. Your lecturer called you a cunt and tells you to get the fuck out of his sight. The class calls you Bono and an Irish prick. Go cry into your whiskey.



### Aries

This week you are being businesssed heavily from behind by your boyfriend-come-husband. After a short while he ups the motion of his ocean and soon he becomes just a blur. Then with an almighty boom he goes ultrasonic. You peer over your shoulder and tenderly ask "Sulright??" No, his penis is an exploded bleeding mess.



### Cancer

Work piles up this week. You spend so much time sitting in your computer room that if you are black you will turn white and vice-versa. Only a strong helping of, "oh wait, I don't care" and a trip to the pub will help you. Watch out. I have warned you. Ignore me at your peril. Before you know it you will be shagging little boys too.



### Libra

You are running low on money this week and cannot afford gum to chew. But you have to see your personal tutor and you are hanging out of your arse. Looking in your wallet you find a mint flavoured condom. Excellent. You whip it out of its packing and chew it heartily. Nice. On the one hand you have fresh breath, but you just ate a condom.



### Capricorn

Last week's Wordoku answer of snowfuck got you thinking. What is that like? So when you heard on the news that it was snowing in the West country you shot down there quicker than a dog with a firework up its arse. Once arrived you build a shelter, strip naked and go at it like two rabbits that are in love and haven't been together for a whole month. Pint?

# Top Trumps

Cut them out!

Highest score wins

Collect them all!

Watch this space for additional cards

**Juche man**

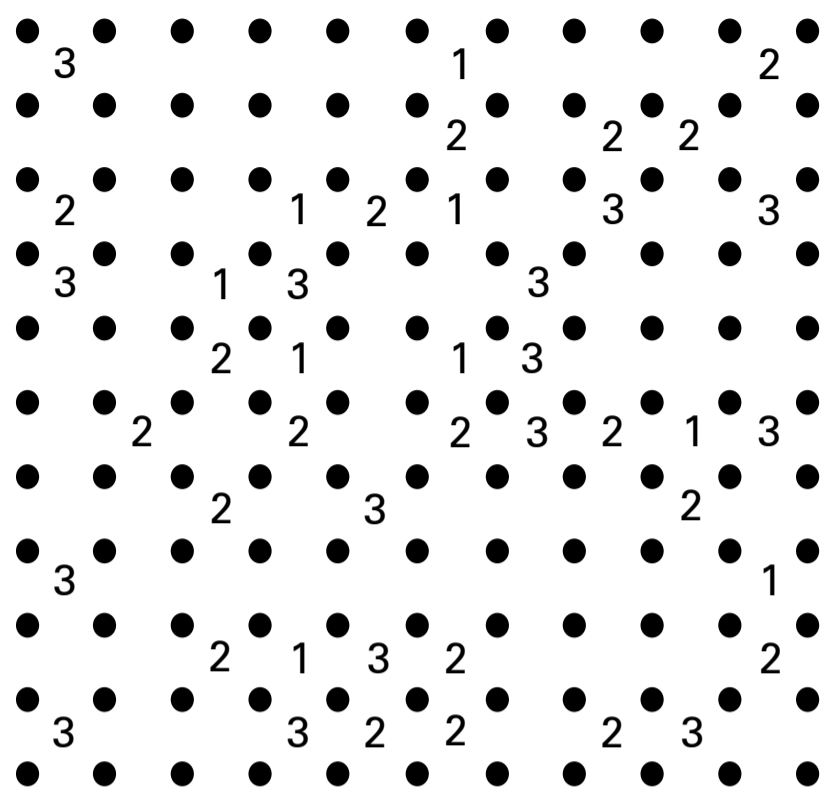
Age: 44 years  
 Weight: 260 lbs  
 Height: 4ft 10"  
 Combat Skill: 9  
 Intelligence: 6  
 Agility: 7

**L. Ron Hubbard**

Age: 98 years  
 Weight: 200 lbs  
 Height: 5ft 11"  
 Combat Skill: 2  
 Intelligence: 2  
 Agility: 2



# Slitherlink 1,424



Oh noooo! I made a rather large pooper of the Slitherlink last week. Why? Well it's simple- because I am a L.A.D. and lads make mistakes. However I do see it fit to apologise to you pleasant readers and to thank teams **Shotgun** and **Möchten sie mein Manschaft** for still sending in fluffed answers. Unfortunately they didn't score.

But don't worry your little heads- this week we have a fixed one to ponder over whilst in your lectures.

As always answers are to be sent to [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk) where you contest and iPod nano. In case you didn't know there will be team and individual winners all getting prizes! That's is more megaz than a mega thing!

### How to play:

It's quite simple, all numbers are in a cell and must be surrounded by a corresponding number lines. Lines cannot split and there can only be one continuous line. Any cells with no numbers can have any number of lines. Look at the solution above for help. (It's not there this week- I cocked it up).

## This week's texts:



07726 799 424

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

"Stefan how could you? I don't believe that u could put your willy in a ucl ballet dancer.. its over.. u will be without my mangina 4eve. ed xx"

"Alex de fagel 2nd year physics. i am infact eatin somerfields basics periperi chicken in your bed while receiving disappointing head from marian"

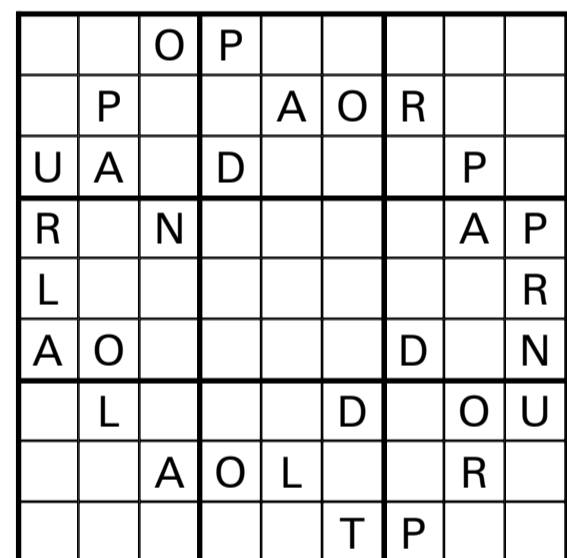
"Dave and alex, stop pretending you are poon-chasing heroes- go have sex with each other."

"hey bitch kids, you're a fucking cock-nob. McKEEEEE"

"When do moobs become prison bitch tits?"

"Lets all wind the editor up because he loves Polish girl."

# Wordoku 1,424



### Scribble box

### 1,423 Solution

K	S	N	O	F	C	Y	U	W	
U	Y	C	S	N	W	O	K	F	
O	F	W	K	U	Y	C	N	S	
N	C	K	Y	W	O	F	S	U	
Y	O	U	F	K	S	N	W	C	
F	W	S	U	C	N	K	O	Y	
C	U	Y	N	S	K	W	F	O	
S	N	O	W	Y	F	U	C	K	
W	K	F	C	O	U	S	Y	N	

**Shotgun** were *again* last week's winners. Fan-fucking-tastic. The variety here is amazing. For the rest of you, 'SNOWYFUCK' was the obvious choice. As nobody came to collect their Bounty bars the editor ate them. Yes, all 50!

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

# Going Underground

Hokays. So we fucked up. The station was EAST HAM which we calculated to be 59. Wrong! It actually sums to be 67. We are looking into why such an elementary mistake could be made and will get back to you shortly. As for this week, it has been checked six times.

Each letter in the alphabet is assigned a value, 1-26 (see table) and when added together for a specific word the sum equals the total shown. All you have to do is scan and send the Underground station that is hidden each week to [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

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

**BANK** = 28     2+1+14+11=28. Job done.

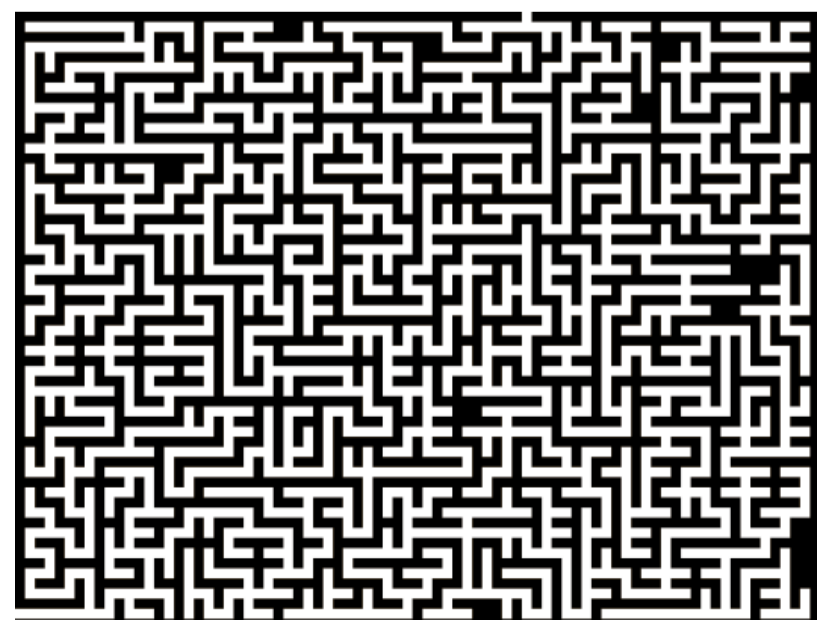
So which London tube station sums to 160?

\_\_\_\_\_ = 161

# Mentalist Maze...

This is a maze. Forget all the others, they are imposters. This is the future. Follow us. We are the real people. The truth. The messiah. We bring

enlightenment to all. To release this power send answers to [felix](mailto:felix) and receive a kiss from the Puzzles Guru, Chaz Murdoch. FUCWIT eligible.



# RCC Nighthike Quizzzy Wizzy

Here we are again in the Coffee Break, in the midst of an exceedingly exciting week, namely ArtsFest and RAG week. But the fun doesn't have to stop after the likes of Wednesday's RAG raid and Friday's ArtsFest Grand Finale, because you've still got the Annual RCC Nighthike to look forward to: one crazy night of clue finding, adventurous walking and hopefully a bit of map reading- but don't let that put you off, there's not too much!

All this is happening on the night of 28th February, and it's now possible to get more information or sign up your team by logging to [www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/nighthike](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/nighthike).

To get you psyched in the mean time we've got a tantalising taster for you here in the daylight safety of college- all you have to do is answer the clues, which are all located in places accessible to everyone in the college vicinity, so no excuses. Last week, we brought you questions from various engineering buildings but this week's questions are brought to you on the ArtsFest theme which means that this week we

have a real live prize for the first correct entry from the lovely ArtsFest team. Hold on!

**What music-y building can also be found to the immediate North of Beit and the Union?**

**What event is taking place at 5pm on Wednesday of ArtsFest week?**

**What is the name of the cafe at the Royal College of Music?**

**Where is the Blyth Gallery located (building and floor)?**

**Where is the ArtsFest Grand Finale**

### being held?

Well, if you can't get those I'm a monkey's uncle, and don't just not write in to validate that. Here's the answers from last week. Well done to the winner **Enoch**.

**Aero Eng:** Air Chief Marshall

**RSM:** Beit and Wernher

**Mech Eng:** Rt Hon. Lord Penney

**EEE:** 4th Floor

**Skempton (Civ Eng):** HAZCHEM 2S Cylinder



# The Rival

This year we are doing a glossy magazine that will cover Varsity. 'The Rival' will be coming out at the end of the term and we need writers to work for the magazine who will cover the event.

If you're a medical or Imperial student and are interested in joining the team, or have any interesting ideas about what to do with the magazine, send us an email: [sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

Varsity is less than two weeks away. The 25th is approaching. Are you ready?





# England train at Harlington

Mustapher Botchway

Last Monday Sport Imperial and Harlington were host to the England Rugby 6 Nations squad for a training session. They were preparing for Saturday's match against 2008 winners, Wales.

Sport Imperial were able to accommodate the squad at short notice after The Stoop, their usual training ground and other pitches in the area were flooded or waterlogged due to the extreme weather conditions of the previ-

ous week.

England trained on the 3G (astro-turf) pitch, which is more commonly used by Queens Park Rangers FC and the College football teams. Coincidentally, ICURFC also trained on the pitch Monday evening.

The indoor gym facilities of The Third Runway, the latest moniker for Fortress Harlington were also used by the national team which pleased the Head Coach Martin Johnson as his charges were able to have an inten-

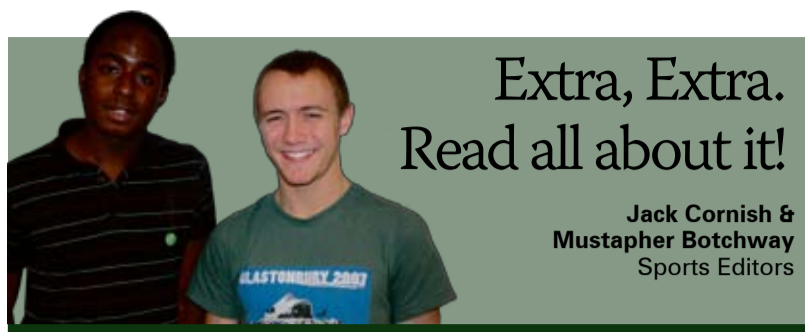
sive training session, possible gaining a one-up over their more north-based rivals.

After an unconvincing victory over Italy last Saturday England are looking to reverse last year's 19-26 loss to Wales in the 2008 6 Nations Championship.

The team have signed a rugby shirt to be awarded to one lucky winner at Varsity on the 25th February which will certainly pique the interest of all you paraphernalia fans out there.



England RFC in action at the superb facilities at Harlington, one of the few places immune to heavy snow.



Extra, Extra. Read all about it!

Jack Cornish & Mustapher Botchway Sports Editors

After almost two weeks of hibernation for the outdoor sports things are gradually returning to normal with only a third of Harlington being playable on Wednesday!

It seems that Varsity preparation has severely curtailed the availability of our captains. Surprisingly both the Medical School and College football men's 1st XI captains couldn't participate in an interview. Expect a double whammy next week.

Continuing, we would like you turn back a page (obviously after reading this 'informative' column) to see a hint of what the Varsity magazine is to look like. Building on the success of last years pullout Jack, Jov and myself are creating a magazine, in a similar vein to Another Castle, I,science and Phoenix the gaming, science and arts magazines respectively. This will be Varsity centric with hopefully all of the participating sports having some column inches. If you would like to produce something for the magazine, flick your contribution to sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Staying on topic, we're here to serve the student body so if you have any ideas or suggestions please email us and we'll try our best to implement them if they are viable.

The second term normally means knockout competitions, ACC bar nights, club dinners, and elections.

Imperial teams are well represented in the latter stages of both the BUCS and ULU cups and we hope the silverware will be in abundance come the end of term.

Wednesday night's ACC bar night was as always, good fun, though I think postponing it for a week got a few people overexcited which ultimately led to a false fire alarm. Keep your elbows to yourselves people and keep the inter-sport rivalry friendly!

Club dinner is the flagship event in the calendar for most of the clubs and I can do nothing but strongly recommend it. These events normally attract oldboys/girls so for all you freshers out there you will get the chance to meet and socialise with former legends of your club. Start saving up!

Along with the sabb elections later on this term there will be elections for the committee for the various sports clubs at IC. If you are interested in having an impact on your club next year try and speak to the current committee to gain an insight on the running of your club.

I would like to congratulate the RSM men's 1st XI team in their victory against ICUAFC 7th XI. The score was in fact 3-1 not 3-2 as reported in the last issue. Along with James Brown's comical explanation for his side's loss, the hockey men's 4th team seem to be living the life, being able to travel to Pisa to play a youth team! Also congratulations to the women's futsal team in reaching the BUCS championships!

# The Italian job

Imperial Hockey men's 4ths go to Pisa for a one off game

<b>Hockey</b>	
Imperial Men's 1st XI	1
C.U.S. Pisa Youth XI	5
<b>Elliott Dye</b>	

It was a difficult task to follow up last year's tour weekend to Amsterdam but with Santa's Little Helper's mafia contacts it turned out not to be the kind of game we had anticipated.

The pitch was your average away game pitch with mountain views and grandstand and our only hope was that at 1-0 down they would revert to the Italian mentality of sitting back and defending. Error.

However, the use of eight substitutes helped in the first half with good performances from players who the DeV-ians had missed for much the season such as Alcaseltza and Karma Suture.

The half ended 1-1 with Mr Pacman cancelling out the Pisa goal. In the second half three quick goals and far too much running took its toll and we were not used to playing in the sun.

league, big mistake by Santa's Little Helper, they sent out their youth team and it turned out not to be the kind of game we had anticipated.

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On to Florence it was for the remainder of Saturday, with the accommodation ideally situated next to a nunnery. We headed for central Florence for our largest meal & fines circle of the season with heavy fines for newly named Freshly Squeezed and also for Easy Access due to his recent antics.

The main problem anyone will find when going out in Florence is the poor value of the pound with most drinks around €5. Regardless, the city itself was stunning at night and in the day, though the English rain on Sunday didn't help. We were more grateful of the rain on our return, with heavy snowfall greeting us as we arrived. We will now have to be content with continuing winning ways in BUCS and ULU.



ICHC Men's 4th XI posing in Pisa after some hockey. It's alright for some!

# Sports league

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	%	FI
1 Squash Men's 1st	11	11	0	0	49	6	43	100	5.00
2 Tennis Men's 1st	9	9	0	0	78	12	66	100	5.00
3 Fencing Men's 1st	8	8	0	0	1069	624	445	100	5.00
4 Volleyball Women's 1st	8	8	0	0	17	1	16	100	5.00
5 Lacrosse Women's 1st	9	8	0	1	139	31	108	89	4.00
6 Netball 2nd	9	8	0	1	329	157	172	89	4.00
7 Fencing Women's 1st	9	8	0	1	1188	942	246	89	4.00
8 Hockey Men's 1st	8	7	0	1	45	11	34	88	3.88
9 Badminton Men's 1st	10	7	2	1	52	28	24	70	3.50
10 ICSM Netball 3rd	8	6	0	2	253	171	82	75	2.75
11 Squash Men's 2nd	8	6	0	2	25	13	12	75	2.75
12 ICSM Badminton Men's 1st	4	3	0	1	18	14	4	75	2.75
13 Table Tennis Men's 1st	11	8	0	3	124	63	61	73	2.55
14 ICSM Hockey Women's 1st	10	6	1	2	45	23	22	60	2.40
15 Hockey Men's 2nd	9	6	0	3	35	24	11	67	2.00
16 ICSM Netball 2nd	6	4	0	2	192	117	75	67	2.00
17 Hockey Women's 1st	10	6	1	3	37	22	15	60	2.00
18 Hockey Men's 3rd	8	3	3	2	16	25	-9	38	1.63
19 Badminton Women's 1st	11	6	1	4	54	34	20	55	1.45
20 Tennis Men's 2nd	8	4	1	3	35	36	-1	50	1.25
21 Squash Men's 3rd	7	4	0	3	14	9	5	57	1.14
22 Basketball Women's 1st	7	4	0	3	326	309	17	57	1.14
23 Rugby Union Men's 3rd	9	5	0	4	185	174	11	56	1.00
24 Badminton Men's 2nd	6	2	2	2	24	24	0	33	1.00
25 Hockey Men's 4th	5	2	1	2	12	20	-8	40	0.80
26 ICSM Football Men's 1st	8	4	0	4	12	17	-5	50	0.50
27 Basketball Men's 1st	6	3	0	3	432	412	20	50	0.50
28 Fencing Men's 2nd	6	3	0	3	722	690	32	50	0.50
29 Squash Women's 1st	10	1	6	3	17	27	-10	10	0.50
30 Football Men's 1st	8	3	1	4	16	20	-4	38	0.13
31 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 2nd	9	4	0	5	123	143	-20	44	0.00
32 Tennis Women's 1st	9	4	0	5	39	51	-12	44	0.00
33 ICSM Hockey Women's 2nd	6	2	1	3	16	19	-3	33	0.00
34 Football Men's 2nd	7	3	0	4	18	26	-8	43	-0.14
35 Rugby Union Men's 2nd	12	5	0	7	220	276	-56	42	-0.25
36 Volleyball Men's 1st	8	3	0	5	7	10	-3	38	-0.63
37 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 3rd	8	3	0	5	98	179	-81	38	-0.63
38 Football Women's 1st	7	2	0	5	10	25	-15	29	-1.43
39 ICSM Netball 1st	10	2	1	7	254	362	-108	20	-1.60
40 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 1st	12	3	0	9	219	345	-126	25	-1.75
41 Hockey Women's 2nd	8	2	0	6	8	32	-24	25	-1.75
42 ICSM Hockey Men's 2nd	9	2	0	7	14	14	0	22	-2.00
43 ICSM Football Men's 2nd	5	1	0	4	7	16	-9	20	-2.20
44 Football Men's 3rd	6	1	0	5	11	25	-14	17	-2.50
45 Lacrosse Men's 1st	7	1	0	6	40	93	-53	14	-2.71
46 Netball 3rd	7	1	0	6	73	240	-167	14	-2.71
47 ICSM Hockey Men's 1st	7	1	0	6	12	23	-11	14	-2.71
48 Rugby Union Men's 4th	9	1	0	8	95	393	-298	11	-3.00
49 Rugby Union Men's 1st	12	1	0	11	120	416	-296	8	-3.25
50 ICSM Badminton Women's 1st	10	0	1	9	11	70	-59	0	-3.40
51 Rugby Union Women's 1st	1	0	0	1	0	80	-80	0	-4.00
52 Table Tennis Women's 1st	4	0	0	4	3	12	-9	0	-4.00
53 ICSM Hockey Women's 3rd	5	0	0	5	3	32	-29	0	-4.00
54 ICSM Hockey Men's 3rd	5	0	0	5	0	15	-15	0	-4.00
55 Netball 1st	7	0	0	7	137	271	-134	0	-4.00

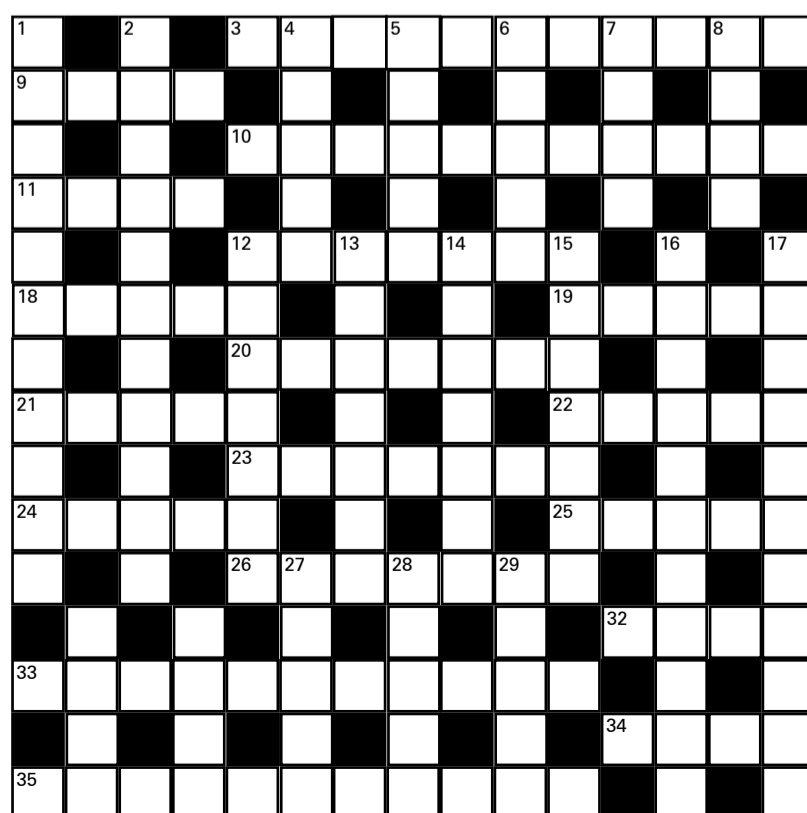
## Fixtures & Results

in association with Sports Partnership



<b>Sunday 8th February</b> <b>Hockey</b> Men's 2s ULU King's Medicals 2s ULU	<b>Hockey</b> Men's 2nd King's Medicals 2nd	2 3	Men's 2nd Royal Holloway 1st	2 3	Men's 1s vs UCL Men's 1s
<b>Monday 9th February</b> <b>Netball</b> Women's 1s ULU St George's 1s ULU	<b>Women's 2nd</b> RUMS 2nd <b>BUCS Cup</b> Women's 1st University of the Arts London 1st	2 0 9 0	<b>Table Tennis</b> <b>BUCS Cup</b> Men's 1st University of Plymouth 1st	2 10 7	<b>Lacrosse</b> <b>ULU Cup</b> Mixed 1s vs Royal Holloway 3s
<b>Squash</b> Women's 1s ULU King's College 1s ULU	<b>Men's 1s</b> King's College 1s	5 0	<b>Tennis</b> <b>BUCS Cup</b> <b>ULU</b> Men's 1s University of Kent 1st	10 10	<b>Rugby</b> <b>Gutteridge (ULU) Cup</b> Men's 1s vs SOAS 1s
<b>Wednesday 11th February</b> <b>Badminton</b> <b>BUCS Cup</b> Women's 1st Oxford Brookes University 1st	<b>Men's 4s</b> St Barts 2s	2 0	<b>Rugby</b> <b>Gutteridge (ULU) Cup</b> Men's 1s vs SOAS 1s	7 3	<b>Lacrosse</b> <b>BUCS Cup</b> Men's 1st vs University of Birmingham 1st Women's 1st vs Swansea University 1st
<b>Fencing</b> <b>BUCS Cup</b> Men's 1st Aberystwyth University 1st	<b>Netball</b> Women's 2nd University of the Arts London 2nd	26 13	<b>Monday 16th February</b> <b>Netball</b> Women's 1s ULU vs St Barts 1s ULU	7 3	<b>Netball</b> Women's 1st vs RUMS 1st Women's 2nd vs Brunel University 5th Women's 3rd vs Roehampton University 2nd
Women's 1st University of Liverpool 1st	<b>Women's 3rd</b> University of Reading 4th	11 36	<b>Squash</b> <b>ULU Cup</b> Men's 3s vs LSE 3s	11 3	<b>Rugby</b> Men's 1st vs Cardiff University 1st Men's 2nd vs Royal Veterinary College 1st Men's 3rd vs King's College 2nd Men's 4th vs St George's 2nd
<b>Football</b> Men's 1st Roehampton University 1st	<b>Rugby</b> Men's 1st Swansea University 1st	135 91	<b>Wednesday 18th February</b> <b>Badminton</b> Men's 2nd vs Royal Holloway 1st <b>BUCS Cup</b> Men's 1st vs University of Hertfordshire 1st Women's 1st vs Bournemouth University 1st	10 10 0	<b>Squash</b> Men's 2nd vs LSE 1st <b>BUCS Cup</b> Women's 1st vs University of Exeter 1st
Men's 2nd University of Hertfordshire 3rd	<b>Men's 3rd</b> Royal Holloway 2nd	131 64	<b>Saturday 14th February</b> <b>Football</b> Men's 1s ULU vs LSE 3s ULU Men's 2s ULU vs LSE 2s ULU Men's 3s ULU vs King's 3s ULU Men's 4s ULU vs Royal Holloway 4s ULU Men's 5s ULU vs Queen Mary 3s ULU Men's 6s ULU vs Royal Holloway 6s ULU	22 10 3 0	<b>Table Tennis</b> <b>BUCS Cup</b> Men's 1st vs Bournemouth University 1st
Men's 6s ULU Queen Mary 4s ULU (Queen Mary won 3-2 on penalties)	<b>Men's 4th</b> University of Portsmouth 4th <b>BUCS Cup</b> Men's 1st University of Chichester 1st	1 1(a.e.t) 0	<b>Sunday 15th February</b> <b>Hockey</b> Men's 2s ULU vs Royal Veterinary College 1s ULU <b>ULU Cup</b>	5 0	<b>Tennis</b> Men's 2nd vs Brunel University 1st <b>BUCS Cup</b> Women's 1st vs University of Gloucestershire 1st
			<b>Football</b> Men's 1st vs St Mary's University College 3rd Men's 2nd vs UCL 2nd Men's 3rd vs Canterbury Christ Church Uni 7th Women's 1st vs University of Reading 1st Men's 5s ULU vs LSE 4s ULU Men's 6s ULU vs RUMS 4s ULU Men's 7s ULU vs St Barts 4s ULU	10 10 3 3 0	<b>Volleyball</b> Women's 2nd vs University of Essex 1st

## Crossword No. 1,424



ACROSS:

- Flyer sounds drunk... and thin. (4-7)
- Aggressive sounding shops. (4)
- Forty-nine classed having sexual attraction shown. (11)
- Skeptics have it retained. (4)
- Sounds like cattle following the UN, silently. (7)
- Sanctify cereal for a rodent. (5)
- Vegetable skin? (5)
- Viewpoint? Vegetable contains a number. (7)
- Harvest quietly, ye who looks after freshers. (2-3)
- Egg white is out, for the record. (5)
- I, Egyptian God in marquee, will come again. (7)
- Doo' a' little enzyme test. (5)
- Hellenist provides lesbian sitcom. (5)
- Curled up in chocolate money. (7)
- Neat eruptor. (4)
- Like dead people? (11)
- Non-fiction in Madrid, perhaps. (4)
- Bearded lion becomes covered in bullets. (11)

DOWN:

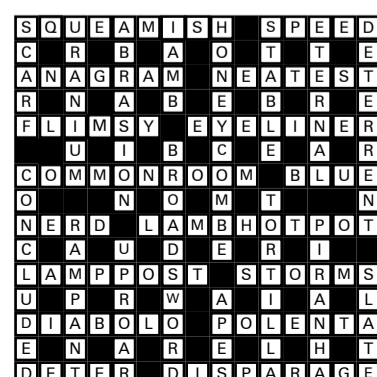
- Diversion provided by fire door? (11)
- Ma, in a particle, and I, get in a vehicle we can't help nicking stuff! (11)
- Woody sounds like a partridge. (5)
- One side of a girl is frigid... (5)
- ...the other side sounds holy. (5)
- Approval for Imperial, perhaps. (4)
- Drug lair in the garden. (4)
- Sounds like you kill Ian Heavenly! (7)
- He fries chopped cows. (7)
- Girl is a large problem. (7)
- Professor consumed penny, which was given away! (7)
- Sounds like ability lies without your drawbacks. (11)
- Refer back to blokes on chart that can make beer. (11)
- Chuck out past-lover (quietly) to the Spanish. (5)
- String is identical, perhaps to the East. (5)
- Diet drug, perhaps, is the best. (5)
- Break feet at the carnival. (4)
- Speech sounds audible. (4)

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

Yes everyone, Enoch is on a break in order to give his mind a rest, but keep a look out for the big one at the end of the term where he might make a guest appearance. Last week's crossword was courtesy of Wailer Ned, who was a crossword setter for felix back in 2001 (You've got to love the new digital archive we're setting up!!). Anyway this week we have another one from him. Enjoy!

Jov

Solution to crossword 1423







## Sheffield here we come!

Imperial women's futsal team beat stiff opposition to progress to March's BUCS Championships 2009

Emily Potter

After a less than ideal outcome in the first round of the Women's BUCS Futsal qualifiers, it was with a mix of apprehension and determination that the IC Futsal team travelled to Brighton for their remaining group matches, knowing that only victories would send them to the BUCS Championships.

Bournemouth University were the first opponents. In what was a match to decide the 3rd placed team in the group, the victors would be rewarded with a playoff against Buckinghamshire New University, with the losers having the less than appealing prospect of a playoff against Brunel.

IC began well with some crisp passing coupled with a disciplined defence, holding their 2-2 formation perfectly. Although Bournemouth started the day in the coveted 3rd place, they were no match for Yoke Thye and Maria Envall up front as the first goal arrived, courtesy of well-executed kick-in set piece.

With support from Dehydys Pimentel and Laura in defence, and the somewhat vociferous Gui Barbosa coaching from the sidelines, Maria finished a lovely move with a powerful drive into

the bottom corner to put IC ahead.

As the second half wore on and Bournemouth became increasingly desperate for a goal, a brief lapse in defence saw a shot blocked on the line from 1m out as IC goalkeeper Emily Potter managed to react in time to push the ball away and keep IC ahead.

However, Bournemouth's increasing offensive operations eventually left them exposed at the back for IC to seal their victory, with Maria adding another goal leaving next to no chance for a comeback. True to form a 2-0 win was secured, and IC finished 3rd in Group A, avoiding Brunel.

Fresh from their first ever futsal win, and confident of keeping another clean sheet, IC then took on Bucks New Uni. The Bucks team were a lot more physical than Bournemouth, but IC adapted their style and passed around the Bucks players effectively, with another forceful drive by Maria securing a 1-0 lead going into the half-time break.

Bucks had seen many attacking positions in the first half but had yet to capitalise on them, and this inspired them to come out all guns blazing in the second half. Not to be deterred, a few saves from Emily and some great 1v1 play from both Laura and Dehydys



kept the ball out of the IC net.

A free kick was cynically gained by Bucks just outside the IC area, and with Emily's line of sight blocked by a rather large opposition forward, IC did well to clear the ball. With Gui calling timeouts for IC, a few key plays were worked on to find that elusive second goal. With Dehydys running into space on the right, long balls sliced through the Bucks formations, and eventually the second goal came, as IC kept possession of the ball and worked an

opening for Yoke to finish past the on-rushing keeper.

Unsatisfied however, the best move of the day was to be reserved for the icing on the Imperial cake. From the deep left of defence, Laura took a pinpoint kick-in, high up field to Maria, who was in an advanced position on the right of the Bucks area.

Another pin-point pass followed, as Maria volleyed the ball in front of the Bucks keeper to Yoke, who added the finishing touch with a side-foot volley

at the far post to emphatically seal the win.

Happy to sit back and defend for the remaining time, Lily Low was brought on to introduce some fresh legs and watertight defending, and together IC kept a ferocious Bucks team at bay until the final whistle.

Imperial Women's Futsal team can now look forward to the BUCS finals in March, where they'll compete against 7 other teams for the title of BUCS Futsal Champions 2008/2009!

## An inconvenient truth

Football

L'ORÉAL PARIS

Imperial College Men's 1st XI 1  
Royal School of Mines 7th XI 3

James Brown

The 31st of January started out like any other day in the world of international football. But by 5pm GMT, barely-credible reports were filtering in to UEFA, FIFA and James Skeen concerning the spectacular upset of an RSM victory over the World famous Imperial College 7th team, more commonly known to the sporting world as "The Untouchables". Below is the captain's account of the bizarre events that occurred on the day that shook the football establishment to the core...

The game was held at Fortress Harrington, where IC 7s were undefeated all season (and still are in home fixtures) but as they were the only Imperial team playing there that day they had to take public transport rather than the customary coach. Sadly this proved too much for striker Ian Welch-Phillips. After waking up late he managed to miss his stop and arrived ridiculously late. By the time he was on the pitch we were 2-nil down due to my rather uninspired choice of a 3-5-1 formation and the absence of centre backs Greg Tainter and Chris Tennant who had made prior arrangements to attend a Cheeky Girls concert (the tickets acquired no doubt with RSM money).

Twenty minutes in, the game was shaping up to be an English Thermopylae: Our vastly outnumbered but far more skilled/disciplined/good-

looking boys were struggling to hold off the mighty RSM war-machine. In open play they were dominating with only my electric pace and stunning naturally ability holding back a tide of RSM attacks.

At this stage we changed to a 4-4-2 formation with the defence working together well. Unfortunately the rest of the team seemed rather lethargic and unwilling to chase the ball down giving RSM plenty of time on the ball. The notable exception to the rule was Wynne Evans, who delivered a rip-roaring tour de force performance in midfield and ran a total of 28.42 miles in the game as confirmed by post-game analysis.

Kiran Lal, our sixth team ringer (mwah hah ha) was finally coaxed out of the centre circle just after half time. He immediately proceeded to head home one a strong contender for goal

of the season from a thundering Asim cross. At this stage I felt a surge of confidence but try as we might, we were unable to get our passing game going and RSM returned to dominance. Particularly worrying was their number 8, who was quite obviously a ringer from a higher RSM team. Even I barely got away with a second nutmeg against him and decided not to repeat the trick more than a few times more.

In the last few minutes a rogue sand particle blew across the pitch into my eye. In a temporary moment of hesitation I was caught unawares and lobbed by their striker (who I've seen playing for Millwall before). He proceeded to also lob our keeper Ryan Apicella, who was faultless all game, apart from his consistent major errors.

Despite the score-line I don't think we played particularly badly and it was

RSM that won the game, not us that lost it (unless you look at the score-line). Mitun Patel, Xavier Scott and Anthony Petane were solid at the back and Azat Tatygulov and Henry Balston were persistent up front despite their lack of service. A special mention should go to me for my consistent raising of the bar in footballing quality and it seems only a matter of time before Sir Alex sits up and takes notice. The 7ths retired to our spiritual home (the union) and reflected on the game with quiet contemplation and a half-pint of shandy or two.

I would like to highlight my opposing view to Mr Botchway with regards to RSM/Medic teams. As was made abundantly clear on that Saturday they do indeed have important places in University football; the ones a few spots below us in the league... WEIII!!!