

felix

The student 'news'paper of
Imperial College London

Guardian Student Newspaper of the Year
2006, 2008

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Who do you think they are?

As Elections '09 kick off, we interview the current
Sabbaticals and find out just how popular they
actually are. See pages 8 and 9

Inside

Feature -
Rector Interview
Part 2



Pages 6-7

Science -
Paranormal special



Pages 14-15

Fashion -
Cheap Essentials



Page 30

Nightlife -
Silent Disco



Page 24



Imperial College NHS caught up in ‘Lords for Hire’ scandal

Dina Ismail
News Correspondent

Imperial college NHS Trust is currently at the centre of a fraud inquiry involving Americium Developments, an Edinburgh-based IT firm and CombineMed, a US health firm.

Scotland Yard is investigating allegations that Americium unfairly or fraudulently helped CombineMed win a tender to supply information technology services to Imperial College NHS Trust. The deal was potentially worth tens of millions of pounds.

The Trust had initially hired Americium to organise the tender for a new internet system. The firm was responsible for handling the bidding process. However, unbeknownst to the Trust,

Americium was at the same time being hired by one of the bidders, CombineMed, in order to promote the firm and help it win the contract.

It is alleged that to beat out the other 36 bidders, Americium used its insider knowledge to assist CombineMed in writing the tender specification. Staff were also coached in how to answer any crucial questions that the firm might get asked. What's more, an Americium employee was sitting on the selection panel that eventually awarded the contract to CombineMed.

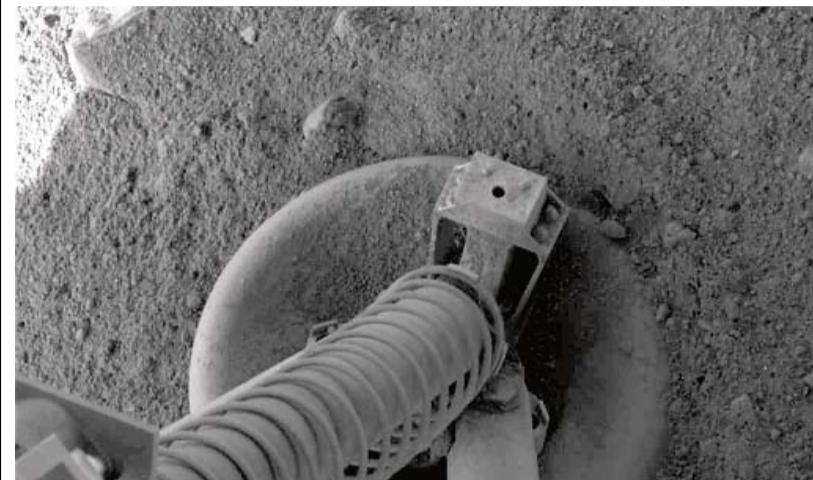
Also implicated in the fraud is Lord Moonie, who is paid to act as a consultant for Americium. Last month Lord Moonie was named as one of four peers who were willing to amend a law in return for money in the 'Lords for Hire' scandal. He is now being investigated for using his government links to help secure Americium's business with CombineMed. Three of his business associates at Americium have been arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit fraud.

Imperial college NHS Trust terminated its contract with Americium on hearing that the firm was receiving monthly payments to promote CombineMed. The trust's counter fraud specialist contacted the Metropolitan Police fraud squad as soon as allegations came to light. The NHS Trust has now also cancelled its contract with CombineMed and severed its links with Americium. It has said it is unable to comment on the situation due to the ongoing criminal investigations.



Lord Moonie, who is at the centre of the ongoing investigation over the 'Lords for Hire' scandal

Imperial postgraduate student shortlisted for prestigious 2009 IET Award



NASA's Phoenix imaging of Martian terrain that Sykulska worked on

Dan Wan
News Editor

A postgraduate student from the Faculty of Electronic Engineering has been shortlisted for the prestigious 2009 IET Young Woman Engineer of the Year Award. Hanna Sykulska, has just finished her PhD, was part of NASA's 2008 Phoenix mission that furthered the exploration of Mars. The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) deemed her outstanding work with NASA worthy of nomination.

IET is a global professional society for communities working in engineering and technology, which claims to 'promote the positive role of science' within the world.

The award Sykulska is nominated for is awarded to an up-and-coming female who has set herself up to be a 'dynamic and technically excellent professional'. If Sykulska is to win, she will become an IET role model for females in the engineering industry, and one that will be able to inspire more women to enter the male-majority industry.

Sykulska was scouted by NASA to become their Instrument Downlink Engineer (IDE) for the Phoenix mission at NASA mission control in Arizona. She was one of three Imperial-based researchers to make up the Phoenix team. The mission involved sending a solar-panelled device to investigate previously uncharted Northern plains of Mars, where upon terrain conditions and compositions were analysed.

Sykulska was responsible for both the design and feedback stages of the mission. She helped develop technology that was designed to hold Martian soil samples, but also monitored the information the craft was sending back to the laboratory once it has landed.

Though the mission has ended, Sykulska will found out if her work on Phoenix is enough to win the IET award on the 26th February.

However, she has set her sights on further exploration, saying "I certainly want to send more instruments into space and have the rare opportunity to look at different planets."

Football Club disciplined for actions in November

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

Nearly three months after the original incident, the disciplinary hearing for the members of the Imperial College Union Association Football Club [ICUAFC], as well as the club itself, was held last week. Counts of bringing the name of Imperial College Union into disrepute were made against them after their actions last November. Back in November, *felix* reported the actions of the Club, as well as the allegations that landlords and residents had made against them [Issue 1416 - 27.11.08] which included damages in excess of £1,400 to property and artefacts around the local area of the pubs. The disciplinary hearing, which was held last Tuesday [10.02.09], released its verdict finding the individuals and the Club guilty of the charges brought against them.

The individuals, who shall not be named, were fined various amounts ranging from £35 to £80, whilst the club will be forced to pay for any damage caused during the evening, the final amount being known once the final invoice comes in. In addition to the fine, the club will also have to do a total of 200 hours of community service between a minimum of 20 members, to be completed before the 24th April 2009.

The Union Disciplinary Board have decided that all individuals against whom charges were brought (those who had caused the majority of the damage), bar one, were not eligible to carry out the community service as they had paid a fine to the Union. Deputy President (Club & Societies) Lily Topham, who was also the chief prosecutor, commented that she "didn't understand why the decision was made to exclude the individuals from the community service."

Questions have also been raised over how the disciplinary hearing was conducted. All the individuals who had charges made against them had received notification of the hearing, as well as the full list of charges in writing and the Disciplinary Court's procedure.



The hammer came down on ICUAFC last week, but some Union officials felt that harsher punishments should have been handed out

Whatever the decision might be for the football club, the one thing that remains is the method by which this was all done. The hearing and its proceedings were kept away from the rest of the student population, with the only student input coming from the Royal College of Science Union [RCSU] Motor Club who were the only students to give evidence of the apparent tarnishing of the College's reputation.

Mr Skeen told *felix* "We feel that the punishment is suitably harsh considering the proximity to the exams and are now focused on humbly carrying out our punishment." One of the suggested community services include repainting the changing rooms at Harlington Sports Ground, which will come as a nice present to other teams.

Many have heralded the Union's decision as a move in the right direction after the numerous complaints the club has received over the past few years.

Union support "axe the beer tax" campaign

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

Imperial College Union [ICU] Council passed a motion this Monday that would see ICU support the Campaign for Real Ale [CAMRA] and the British Beer and Pub Association campaign named 'Axe the beer tax - save the pub'.

The campaign has five key objectives, which included plans to stop the increase in beer tax up to a third, to enforce existing laws - not create new ones - to deal firmly with irresponsible drinkers and premises, to end the irresponsible promotion of alcohol in supermarkets, pubs and elsewhere, to trust responsible adults to make informed choices about what they drink,

not punish them for the actions of an irresponsible minority and finally to support the British pub as a vital part of social life in local communities.

One of the arguments used by Tim Barrett (ICU Welfare Campaigns Officer) who was the proposer of the paper, argued that the increasing costs at public houses, directly related to taxation, having a direct cost on the long term welfare of students - both financially and damaging student welfare through losing affordable places to socialize, thereby limiting the student experience. The news will undoubtedly please a vast majority of the student population at Imperial, as it will hopefully mean a slow down in the increasing cost of beer that has been seen in the Union.

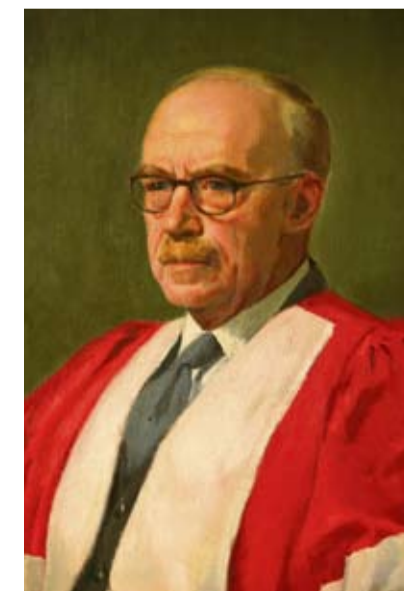


The Editor's favourite beer could now be cheaper, but sadly not better.

A tribute to Sir Henry Tizard, because we messed up

Afonso Campos
News Correspondent

Sir Henry Tizard, rector from 1929 to 1942 was arguably one of the most influential of all past rectors. His great vision saw Imperial College as a much larger and prominent institution of higher education in Great Britain and eventually, the world. To do this, the campus had to expand to accommodate the influx of outstanding academics and stellar students. As a result, he put the wheels in place to purchase the Royal School of Needlework, a large building on Exhibition Road. Being in touch with students' needs and understanding their wants, Tizard purchased the land at Harlington, still used today as Imperial's main sports ground. Much of the campus as we know today exists because of Sir Henry Tizard's dedication to the college, its students and its staff.



Sir Henry Tizard, 4th Rector of Imperial College

A chemist and a mathematician by training, Tizard was a prominent figure in the country's scientific community and was one of the pioneers of the radar preceding WWII.

During the war, the rector was known for spending many nights at the college, fraternizing with both staff

and students alike in an entirely informal and friendly fashion. In 1963, one of the main halls of residence in Southside was named after him, officially acknowledging his commitment to the institution.

New International Students' Officer elected

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

Saki Onda will be the first ever International Students' Officer for Imperial College Union. This new position, which was only formed a couple of months ago through Council, aims to increase the representation of the vast international community at Imperial. Nearly 46% of the students graduating last year were deemed non-UK, and with such a large proportion, Deputy President (Education & Welfare) Hannah Theodorou felt it appropriate to create the new role.

Miss Onda, who has a seat on the Union Council now, was unfortunately not present at the meeting this Monday. *felix* asked Miss Theodorou what she would like the Miss Onda to achieve, to which she answered "The Interna-

tional Students' Officer is supposed to be the representative voice of the international community at Imperial. "One of their main tasks will be to facilitate an international students forum where they gather views about issues facing our non-UK students. They will also work with the DPEW in liaising with the International Office to ensure that we are providing enough support and information for international students to ensure that their time at Imperial matches up to our international reputation."

Her position was determined by a campus wide vote, where only 112 students voted, however, Miss Onda won by a clear margin getting a total of 87 votes. Hopefully the turnout for the Sabbatical positions, which are also College-wide, will yield a much higher number.



Miss Saki Onda, the new International Students' Officer

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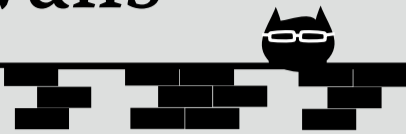


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OFF THE WEEK

The world beyond college walls



Cambodia

This week chief Khmer Rouge torturer Kaing Guek Eav, better known as "Duch", went on trial for crimes against humanity in a specially set-up joint Cambodian-UN tribunal.

Since 2006 the tribunal has had a mandate to try senior leaders and those responsible for the most atrocious part of the country's history for crimes against humanity, including genocide.

The Khmer Rouge (Communist Party of Kampuchea) came to power after a coup in 1975, and immediately emptied all of the cities and towns in an attempt to create a utopian agrarian society. In the four years until their fall from power due to the Vietnamese invasion in 1979, an estimated 1.7 million Cambodians died due to famine, forced labour and organised violence. Although their notorious leader Pol Pot died in 1998, other senior officials have been caught in recent years and await trial.



Madagascar

Madagascar is in the middle of a standoff between current President Marc Ravalomanana and Andry Rajoelina, the mayor of the capitol Antananarivo.

The two are vying for political control of the island nation, which lies off the coast of East Africa and is home to 20 million people. Both men have appeared on their television stations and traded accusations, and their supporters have made themselves heard in rallies in public places like the Mahamasina stadium and May 13 square. However some of the protests have turned violent ending with civilian deaths.

The position of Madagascar's Army is unclear at the moment, their statement reads "The army is part of those looking for a rapid solution to the current situation" but also that the Army is "ready to fulfil its duties." Ripples of the standoff have already been felt in the economy with South Korean conglomerate Daewoo saying it will delay its plans to invest in a new huge intensive corn plantation in south Madagascar.



Kosovo

While the UN's International Court of Justice still debates the legality of Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence, its people were rejoicing on February 17th, Kosovo's "independence day".

Thousands crowded the main streets of the capital Pristina to hear Prime Minister Thaci's address. Despite the sceptics' warnings of renewed violence, displacement of the Serb minority, and predictions that Serbia would fall to extreme nationalism, none of this has happened, and the country has remained relatively at peace.

Keeping the peace is a large NATO led force, along with the EU's largest policing force, deployed in December. So far only 54 of the UN's 192 countries have recognised Kosovo, previously a province of Serbia. Serbia's President Tadic has vowed never to recognise its lost province, and to "defend its legitimate rights by legal and diplomatic means, not force".



Maldives

Maldives' new president Mohammed Nasheed has decided to sell off large portions of his government's assets in order to "cut back on the trappings of power" left over from his predecessor.

20 years ago Nasheed was imprisoned for political activism, but in October 2008 he won in Maldives' first ever free presidential elections, thereby ending the 30-year reign of Abdul Gayoom, the man who put him in jail.

On the auction list are Gayoom's presidential yacht with a reserve price of £5m, several luxury beach villas and a private cricket pitch. Being an island nation in the Indian Ocean, Gayoom also had the private island of Arah for personal use on weekends. Nasheed estimates that maintaining the presidency used to cost the Maldives £105m a year, now it will cost under £3m.

Edited by Hassan Joudi & Raphael Houdmont

Gaelic Football cause disturbance in the Union twice in one week

Jovan Nedić
& Alice Rowlands

Two separate incidents have been brought to the attention of Imperial College Union that have involved members of the newly formed Imperial College Gaelic football society.

The first of these two incidents occurred at the last Athletics Club Committee [ACC] Bar Night last week where one of their members punched a member of the Imperial College Union Rugby Football Club [ICURFC]. It is believed that the individual from ICURFC, under the influence of alcohol, went over to the area of the Football Club and picked up one of their pints. He then proceeded to drink half the pint before throwing the other half over his head, which landed on the footballers. One of the members then told the rugby player to just leave them alone, which resulted in both of them 'squaring up'.

The Gaelic Sports members were sitting behind the footballers at the time, one of their members is alleged to have stood up and punched the rugby player. On the same night, there was a separate incident involving another member from the rugby club who was apparently pushed off the stage and then kicked by others on the floor.

As a result, the club captains of the rugby club, Gaelic football society and the football club have all been called to a meeting by ACC Vice-Chair Charles Murdoch to obtain the full story. The night also saw a fire alarm that required the evacuation of the entire building which eventually led to the bar night being cut short at the request

of the management and the fire safety officer. Mr Murdoch has since told *felix* that he "fears the future of the ACC bar nights might be in jeopardy after several incidents over the past few bar nights."

The outcome of that particular incident is yet to be determined, meanwhile the conduct of some members of the Gaelic Football society in DaVinci's on Sunday evening has brought the club into further disrepute: After returning from a successful match, the club descended upon the Union for some celebratory drinks and were clearly under the influence of alcohol upon entering the bar, starting to get rowdy. Eyewitnesses told *felix* that the group quickly became quite loud and boisterous, climbing on tables and singing songs.

Though very drunk, most of the group were good-natured and not obviously threatening. However, one of the group became quite aggressive and appeared to be "looking for a fight", he turned to face the rest of the bar, particularly a group of sportsmen three tables away and began shouting such things as "you English bastards!" and "I'm going to slit your throats", before turning back to his group to lead a more sinister round of singing that involved chanting about the IRA [Irish Republican Army]. A number of the people in the bar found this extremely offensive as the IRA were responsible for a number of bombings in England as recently as 1996 when bombs were exploded in the London Docklands area and in Manchester city centre killing 2 people and injuring many more.

While joining in with the songs that

offended at lot of the clientele in the bar, most of the group did not show the same sort of animosity towards the English as was displayed by the individual leading the singing. The individual then turned around to further antagonise the sportsmen on the other side of the bar, before picking up one of the bar stools and moving towards the group of sportsmen on the other side of the room. The rest of the Gaelic football group encouraged him to put the stool down, at which point the individual threw the stool at the floor, close to another group of students trying to enjoy a quiet drink. One of the legs of the stool was broken. At this point the bar manager asked them to leave the bar.

When asked about their behaviour, one of the Gaelic Sports members was heard to say they "never really thought about the songs and the offence they could cause. They're just songs we grew up knowing and heard sung in the pub along with many other songs." This comment has since then been refuted by the Gaelic Football Club Captain.

Some of the Gaelic football members tried to make it clear that they hadn't meant to cause offense with the songs and saw them as a celebration of Irish Republicanism rather than anything more sinister or particularly offensive to the English. Their actions both on last Wednesday and Sunday are not likely to be overlooked by the Union, who are currently looking into the events.

In response to these events, the Club Captain of the Gaelic Football has written a letter which can be found on page 12.

Imperial College becomes first university to recycle 50% of its waste products

Kadhim Shubber
Deputy Editor

Imperial College London has set a powerful precedent by becoming the first university in the UK to commit to halving the amount of construction waste sent to landfill by 2012.

The College has signed up to the WRAP (Waste & Resources Action Programme) voluntary agreement through which organisations set targets to reduce landfill waste from construction, demolition and excavation work.

WRAP was established as a not-for-profit company in 2000 and is backed by UK government funding. The "Construction Commitments: Halving Waste to Landfill" project was set up by WRAP in October 2008 and Imperial joins over 40 organisations who have already signed up; including Sainsbury's and ASDA.

This commitment is made even more relevant by the magnitude of new construction works at Imperial, including the new Eastside halls which were recently "topped out".

Imperial is currently spending £100 million a year on constructing new buildings and refurbishing existing buildings across the College's cam-



Eastside Halls construction is to be opened for September 2009

pus. It plans to build similar recycling and reusing techniques into all projects in order to meet the goal of at least halving its construction waste.

Imperial is also developing guidelines for future construction projects that include working with materials that are renewable and long lasting, and designing buildings efficiently, so that the amount of materials used is reduced and less waste is generated.

Steve Howe, Director of Building Projects at the College, says: "As a university we recognise that we have a duty to our neighbours and to society to spend money wisely, to reduce waste wherever we can, and to support Government and EU targets for waste reduction."

Denis Murphy, Construction Safety Manager in the Building Projects Division at the College, adds: "Imperial wants to be a leader in this field and we are determined to cut our carbon footprint and increase the use of recycled materials. We hope to push ourselves further and set our own targets aiming to reduce waste sent to landfill by up to 85%."

Dr Mike Watson, Head of Construction at WRAP, said: "We are pleased to see Imperial College's commitment to the agreement, leading the way for others in the education sector to follow."

The College will also reuse and recycle more furniture, fittings and fixtures, such as chairs, desks and filing cabinets, by identifying materials which can be reused internally or offered to outside organisations. In addition, a new general waste recycling scheme introduced in 2008 has recycled over 900 tonnes of waste such as paper and plastic over the last year.



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The government and the higher education system

Last week we met the man and found out about his past as a student at Imperial. Now we look into what he really thinks of the higher education system, the government and Imperial's role in research and development. Jovan 'John Humphrys' Nedić and Tom 'Jeremy Paxman' Roberts report back from their epic interview last week.

The government and its public funding

felix

You mentioned in your Commemoration Day speech that the huge number of international students and staff are 'enormously to our benefit' and that 'we will continue to seek them out'. Will there be an actual cap placed on the number of international students at Imperial?

Rector

I can't give you an answer to that as it really depends on the economic climate. At the moment the cap is 60/40 in favour of UK students, since we have a duty to teach home students as we are dominantly funded by the British tax payer and therefore our objective is to train high quality scientists, engineers, businesspeople and physicians who are British. As long as the British students have got the qualifications, we will continue to take them!

felix

Many people say that because this university is run more like a business, it explains the high number of international students because they pay substantially higher fees.

Rector

Well they do because we can make a profit on them which we use to support the homegrown students because we make a loss on them normally, and that is because of the government. Of the G8 countries, the British government spends the second smallest fraction of its GDP on higher education and yet we have four universities in the top ten in the world. What other sector do we have such dominance on the international scene?

The amount of money the British government spend on research and development again is almost at the bottom, yet R&D is crucial in developing sophisticated high-tech manufacturers and industries, it's crucial to the solution of both socio-economic and technology problems. We have always over performed, but yet we do that on a smaller amount of money than most other economies and if we are to remain in the top two of these in the world, the government needs to support.

felix

Where do you think that money should come from?

Rector

Let's just say that there are three or four areas of government expenditure where a lot of money could be saved. If I were to ask you what were the top five areas of R&D in the world what would you say?

felix

Well we would guess defence. Then followed by possibly medical. What about automotive?

Rector

It was, but now they've cut back. Well there is a lot of spending in certain areas where it is not immediately clear that it is what the world needs at the current point in time. What we need are some technological solutions to some really urgent problems and that includes alternative sources of energy, and in the interim before those arrive, we need solutions to carbon absorption.

I'm deeply cynical about agreements that are made: politicians and diplomats can talk as much as they like about agreements like the Kyoto one and how X amount of emissions will be decreased by year Y, but those are meaningless unless we have the technological solutions to those problems. Who's going to generate those technological solutions? The new ideas come out of universities!

Teaching time and research split

felix

Do you not think this business side of things affect the student life because for the last seven years or so, the researching hours have gone up by about 10% but teaching hours have dropped by about 5%. Do you think that there is too much focus on research and not on teaching like there should be?

Rector

No I don't actually. I have no trouble with high quality researchers saying that they don't have time for teaching. Very very good people in their discipline are almost invariably very good teachers, and there is a trivial reason for that; if you're very good at your subject and can understand it well, then it will be easy for you to pass on that information. Good researchers will be good teachers.

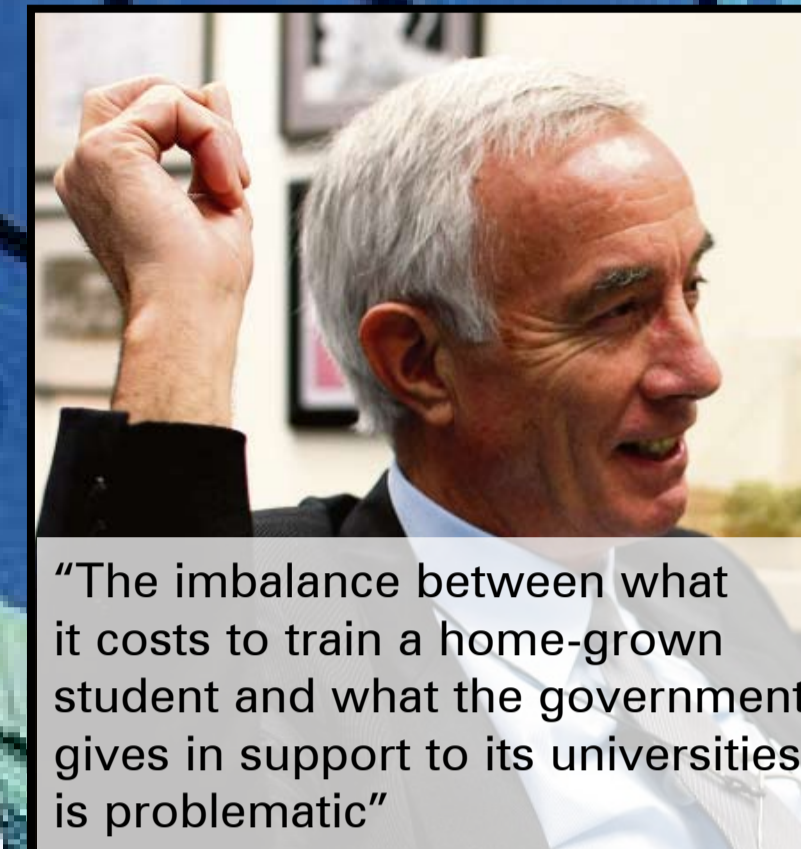
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So would you say that teaching hours will increase over the next few years?

Rector

I'll be brutally honest here, so much depends on the economic climate and the attitude of the government in the coming years and how we come out over the next few years. If the volume of money for research, whether that comes from businesses or the government, is severely stretched, then maybe we will have to spend more time on taught degrees which will see the teaching hours rise.

We also might need to focus on international teaching. Every year we get a huge number of internationals students applying, who do have exceptional qualifications and we could take double or triple the number, but we don't have the space available here so that is why it might lead to a footprint overseas.



"The imbalance between what it costs to train a home-grown student and what the government gives in support to its universities is problematic"

Setting up an overseas footprint

felix

In your Commemoration Day speech you also mentioned the possibility of Imperial setting up footprints overseas, and in a recent interview with the Financial Times you said that there were a few places where a campus might be set, with locations such as India, China, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates. Is there any particular reason for choosing these places?

Rector

Well, first of all, where do we get most of our students? Then also there is a slightly different reason for the Emirates. They are the most liberal Arab communities in the world in terms of structural organisation which one can have some empathy with. For example the rulers are very oil wealthy and they want to use that wealth to firstly improve the health of their peoples, secondly to improve the system of education from primary all the way up to higher education and thirdly that they want to be remembered in world history for being the source of the generation of technologies for after oil and after gas, in other words non carbon technologies. Now those three visions are something that we can empathise with very strongly with here so that makes that part of the world very attractive.



"Imperial College Union will continue to fight any increase in tuition fees" – Jenny Morgan, ICU President

Higher Education funding and Top-up fees

felix

We've deviated a bit here. The top-up review is coming up, what are your views on top-up fees?

Rector

It's a very fine balance. Personal views, I would like to see them go up and particularly because it is my task to protect Imperial College through this tough time and coming out of the recession. How do we survive? It depends so much on government funding and I think the imbalance between what it costs to train a home-grown student and what the government gives in support to its universities is problematic, so I see no other solution apart for it to rise. I'm not in the debate of it rising to a terrible market force level that would be double digit thousands, but if it did rise, Imperial has to find a way of creating these endowment funds that would create scholarships. These would support students from less advantaged backgrounds and it would mean that we could choose people purely on ability and not on their ability to pay.

I started life at a Grammar school so I was very privileged in my generation; we got County Council grants if you did well at school and got certain grades to go to university, so I'm a deep believer in the value of education for all independent of whether or not they could pay.

felix

Do you not think that it would be a perpetuating cycle that once they do start to go up, the trend will continue?

Rector

I don't know. If you look at places such as Harvard and Yale, they have staggering scholarships which support bright kids from all backgrounds and areas of the world, so don't always equate fee paying and standards. What they both do is charge the very rich an awful lot of money to go there and they then use that money to support the very bright who come from less advantaged backgrounds.

The story behind top-up fees and what Imperial College Union thinks about them

In his eight-year reign at Imperial, the one topic that the previous Rector Sir Richard Sykes was vocally in favour of was top-up fees. After only a year into the job in 2002, he, along with a number of Vice-Chancellors from leading universities, all stated that they would be in favour of increasing the price of tuition fees if the government lifted its cap on the then price of £1,100 a year. Whereas most of the Russell Group universities – the UK's answer to the Ivy League – said that they would probably increase the price to about £3,000 a year, Sir Richard Sykes mentioned that he would much prefer a value of around £10,500 a year.

Rather unsurprisingly, this value angered a lot of students, as they could not see why higher education would cost so much with some arguing that "education should be free and accessible to all". The then Rector's reasoning behind it all was a simple, business-minded one. He stated that, back in 2002, it costs Imperial College £10,500 to train a student, yet they only receive £6,000 per student from the Higher Education Funding Council as well as the £1,100 tuition fee from the student itself. This left a gap of £3,400 per student, or a total of around £18 million a year back in 2002.

The argument that followed then is the same one today. Where should the money come from? There are two main options available to the Vice-Chancellors and Rectors of the different universities in the UK; they can either increase the tuition fee to cover the costs or the government can increase the amount of money given to the institutions.

In his interview with *felix*, Sir Roy Anderson was very clear on his thoughts on the government and where their money is being spent. He, like his predecessor, has pointed out that if the government don't do anything to help the universities, then the money would have to come from the students themselves, although he does disagree with the number going to £10,500 as suggested by Sir Richard Sykes.

The one other method that he does hint at, however, is one similar to that that is employed in the US. Interestingly, Sir Richard Sykes mentioned a similar thing to the *BBC* back in 2002 where he told them "if, for example, the fee were set at £10,500 ... then £16.9m would be generated if 30% of students paid full fees and 70% received bursaries." It was an early indication that there stood the possibility of Imperial having a bursary scheme to aid the incredibly gifted student, something that the current Rector also seems to favour.

If a change to top-up fees were to go ahead, there is one main obstacle that the university would have to overcome, that being a policy that was made by Imperial College Union back in 2006 where it stated that it would "actively campaign against any attempt to lift the cap on top-up fees". With the government review of top-up fees around the corner and the Union policy on top-up fees expiring October of this year, it will be interesting to see what the outcome will be, especially with the current economic situation.



"Let's just say that there are three or four areas of government expenditure where a lot of money could be saved!"

ELECTIONS 2009

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?

The Imperial College Union Sabbatical Elections are upon us once again! Nominations have now been open for a week and already there are some candidates who have enough seconds to run, which should hopefully lead to an interesting and fiercely contested election period. As part of its build up, *felix* decided to carry out a little survey of the student population, asking students around campus if they recognised the lovely faces below and if they knew what they do. To add a bit of spice to it all, we also threw in the two of our regular columnists, Angry Geek and Imperial Girl, just to see if they were more known around campus than the Sabbatical Officers. Not giving anything away, but the results were certainly interesting.

In conjunction with the survey, **Dan Wan** and **Kadhim Shubber** also interviewed the current Sabbatical Officers, asking them about their achievements, their failures and their role in the Union. The Union's slogan for this year's election is 'Stand and Deliver.' Have the current Sabbaticals delivered and could what they say entice you to stand too? We were also going to get the *felix* editor in, but that would have ruined the page, so we didn't.



So, what does your role in the Union entail?

Looking after the best interests of the Union and most importantly our members. The President is ultimately responsible for everything, but day to day then, cattle prodding the Union's minions; clearing up the day to day crises; being (realistically) strategic and visionary about the Union's direction and getting the students voice raised at the highest levels of College, whilst maintaining good relations.

What have you enjoyed about your role this year?

Being in charge of a multi-million organisation aged 22 is quite an experience! Bringing changes that benefit the student community is incredibly rewarding and engaging with the most brilliant people! It's such a pleasure to have worked with people who genuinely care about students of Imperial College like the Rector, Lord Robert Winston, Ram Gidoomal and so many others!

How did you decide you wanted to be President? It's a mighty task to take on.

I've always been a bit of a rebel and I've never liked being told what to do, especially if it's rubbish, like a stupid rule or regulation. If something needs changing then let's do it! In all my roles at ICU I've been able to do that, but it wasn't always so easy, I think a really strong factor in me running for President was actually to try and make it easier for everyone to get their voices heard.

What do you think was the greatest benefit for you personally in taking a sabbatical year out of studying/ finding a real job to take?

Learning about how a large organisation runs warts and all at a very young age will certainly put me in a good position for the future. It's also been an opportunity of a lifetime which will always be one of my greatest achievements and I count myself very lucky indeed.

What do you think is needed to carry out your job?

Enthusiasm, courage and heart. You've got 12500 students to represent and often what you've got to say to the bigwigs won't be pleasant but you need to learn to stand your ground or compromise if you have to get the best possible deal for the students. You can't be overly sensitive, as president you have to take some tough decisions and you can't always please everyone. And let me take this opportunity to dispel the myth that you have to be top of your class and have sailed through Imperial to stand for a sabbatical position.

Have you managed to achieve any of the goals you set out at the start of the year? If not, why not?

I have reached most and I'm confident that by the end of the year it will be all. But the real challenge is achieving all the goals you set when you actually get into position, you're perspective changes a lot as you learn more and more and you keep coming up with ideas, so a key skill is being able to prioritise.

Do you think the student body really care about what the sabbaticals do?

The Union has a long way to go in making students aware of what the Union can do for them that's for sure. Imperial's never going to be revolutionary, that's not in the nature of our subjects here, but we're sensible. So, no not enough do care, we need to improve the numbers drastically, but some people will never give two hoots and that's fine too, as long as we're providing the best possible service to all our members, even in terms of the bar and entertainment.

What would you say to the fact that the majority of students recognise Angry Geek's face and name more sp than they do yours?

Generally people become a sabbatical to bring benefits to the students; less of a priority is getting the credit for it and I think it's fantastic that we have a newspaper that can bring that level of fame to its writers!

Has the role been what you expected?

It's been ten times harder but also ten times more rewarding.

So, what does your role in the union entail ?

I'm in charge of all the finances for the union, as well as the clubs and societies finances. Dealing with all of the clubs and society's enquiries takes a lot of your time, the rest of the time is for union things like commercial services.

What have you enjoyed most about you job this year?

I would say getting to know people, it's quite an interactive job, especially with the clubs and societies. You also get to go to lots of cool events; the Summer Ball, for example!

What can you tell us about the summer ball?

Ah, I'm afraid it's top secret the moment! It's going to be good though...

What do you think are the key skills needed to do your job?

You have got to be approachable, have good interaction skills with people and be able to have a friendly chat because a lot of the clubs and societies officers come to see you and often they can be quite intimidated by being up in the union offices, so you want to make them feel welcome. You've also got to have a sound head on your shoulders, because you've got to deal with an awful lot of money and have a lot of financial responsibility. And I think you've really got to care about the Union, if you don't care about the union you don't stand a chance of doing anything beneficial.

Have you managed to achieve most of the main goals set out in your manifesto, as yet?

Funnily enough, most of the things I had in my manifesto were actually achieved by my predecessor before he left the job last year! There were a couple of things to do improving the clubs and societies finance systems, like the new online transaction systems and the new budgeting system- they had a few things to sort out, which are now finished, and they're working well. The next stage is to get claims forms etc. fully automated online, which is really kicking off now - that will be something nice for my successor to take on, I think.

Do you think the student body really cares about all of your efforts, in the sense that I guess your job isn't really that visible?

Yeah, I think mine's the least visible of the Sabatical positions, the main people I really deal with are the clubs officers. I think people do care, at least I think the clubs care, but I don't think anyone else really knows or cares at all, half the student population probably don't even know what a sabbatical is and the rest probably can't even remember who they voted for!

How does that make you feel? I mean, we did a survey and more people knew who Angry Geek and Imperial Girl are...

Erm, it's not depressing or anything like that! It's perfectly understandable; I hesitate to say we work in the background, we don't - we should be out there, but there are an awful lot of students and those that take an interest in the Union know about us and know who we are, if the rest aren't really interested that's fine.

Has your role been as you expected it to be when you first began the job?

Yes and no. The clubs stuff is as I expected it to be and that's half the job, but there's a lot of behind the scenes work that you don't know about, and wouldn't, unless you had a one-on-one chat with the DPFS. To an extent, I got that from Chris [Larvin]- but this why I put a note in *felix* saying people should come and chat with me if they're thinking of standing because they should have a real idea of the role before they stand!

One final question, and it's going to be a shameless plug for the Summer Ball! Do you think known as the DPFS who gave the best Summer Ball ever?

Hopefully. I will say, I can't tell you anything about it, but it's going to be epic- we've got some really good stuff going on!



Jenny Morgan
Union President



Hannah Theodorou
Deputy President
(Education & Welfare)

What does your role in the Union entail?

I represent students on academic and welfare issues, both to College and nationally, as well as informing and consulting students about academic and welfare issues and campaigns.

What have you enjoyed most about your job this year?

Meeting people in college that you would never have had contact with as a student.

Meeting people in College has been the most fun thing about your year?

Yeah! Realising there are really astute people within College, who care about student issues, that's something you never realise as a student.

Why did you decide to stand for the position of Deputy President of Education and Welfare?

Erm, I was quite involved in extra-curricular activities, I've really enjoyed participating in this side of College, so much so it was interfering with my degree, so I thought I should take a whole year out, to get it all out of my system!

What do you think has been the biggest benefit to you, personally, from this year?

I've learned to express my views, stand up for myself and stand up for what students believe in. So next year, when I'm being bullied by a consultant, during ward rounds, I won't be reduced to a quivering mess. I've learned a lot about how to achieve things by talking things through and finding mutual benefits; there's no point in going in all-guns-blazing, all that does is alienate people- both students and College staff.

That brings me on to my next question; what do think you you need to be able to carry out your job?

You need to be passionate, but you need to have a level head too. You need to be able to make your point without alienate people and a willingness to put in a lot of hours.

Have you achieved all of the goals you set out at the start of your term?

Not at all! There's so much more I would have liked to have done; there's personal passions such as providing more information on welfare campaigns, greater progress on environmental policy and green at Imperial, which had to take a back-burner.

Why do you think you haven't achieved your goals?

Not enough hours in the day! I spend the vast majority of my day in meeting, which are really productive, but other tasks, like responding to emails, have to be done out of hours. That means weekends are taken up by bigger projects, evenings by answering emails, and there's only so much you can physically do before you start going to bed and dreaming about Outlook reminders!

Do you think students appreciate what you do?

My greatest frustration, this year, has been my lack of an ability to communicate to the students about what I'm doing for them on a day-to-day basis. A lot of the changes they've seen, that impact on their education and welfare, have been through student efforts in the past. But unless we've been able to communicate this to the students through *felix* or through face-to-face meetings, it's almost completely pointless.

So, does it frustrate you that more people recognise Imperial Girl and Angry Geek than the sabbatical?

(laughs) I don't know what more I could have done! I've appeared in *felix* almost as frequently either Angry Geek or Imperial Girl, it worries me that the subject matter they're writing about is more engaging to the readers- but I think that's just a reality of student politics.

So, what does your role in the Union entail?

Well, I'm the Deputy President of Clubs and Societies, and essentially it's what it says on the box. I'm here to represent the needs and interests of different clubs and societies, and most of what I do is as a mediator, either between individuals and different clubs, or within a club. One of the largest tasks as mediator is between clubs and societies and College.

What have you enjoyed about your role this year?

So many things, it's been amazing to meet all the different people and get the chance to meet all the students who run clubs and societies. As a sabbatical, you can actually make a difference. Also, there's been various events, which I've organized and found incredibly rewarding to do so, one of these being Freshers' Fair. It was loads of work and loads of stress, but at the end of the day, it was so incredibly rewarding its unbelievable.

How did you decide you wanted to take up your role as Deputy President of Clubs and Societies?

I'd always be involved in different clubs and societies, as just as a member and running them. I wanted to take it to the next level and see if I could make a difference.

So what do you think is needed to carry out your job, and do you think prior experience of lower authority is vital?

It is not the case that if you haven't been a club chair, you can't be DPCS. It's not that black and white, but it is important to know how clubs and societies work, what and how things will affect the students involved in them, and to have an understanding of clubs and societies in respect to the Union.

What do you think was the greatest benefit for you personally in taking a sabbatical year out of studying/ finding a real job to take?

The experiences, I think. They're not something I would not have ever been able to have anywhere else or any other situation.

Was it a nice break away from studies?

I would say for anyone wanting to run, do not do it because you want a break from your studies.

It is totally not a break from your studies. It is hard work and very stressful, but it is an absolutely wonderful experience. I don't think you can go into it thinking you're going to doss around and be able to do nothing for a year, because you won't.

Have you managed to achieve any of the goals you set out at the start of the year? If not, why not?

Obviously, everyone has their main manifesto points. My main one was to make things easier, or to at least explain things better to people running clubs, and I think we've made a good effort, but we're still to see how effective we've been through a Clubs and Societies survey. The Clubs and Societies Handbook was to especially put all the information about running a club into one book, and I've had feedback that its been really useful. So, hopefully that will be developed and kept going.

What major change would you like to see happen to the Union in the following years?

This should be done by the end of the year, but the completion of the Beit Development, as well as the parts of the building such as the Ground floor that have not been touched in this redevelopment. We do need to do something to the building to give the students, clubs and societies the facilities they deserve.

Lastly, why should people stand for DPCS?

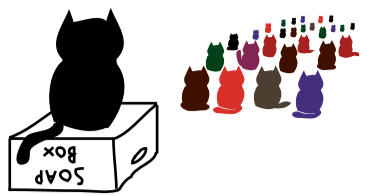
Because you can really make a difference.



Lily Topham
Deputy President
(Clubs & Societies)



Christian Carter
Deputy President
(Finance & Services)



Enter a lab with **Gilead Amit** at your own risk



“The technicians have simply not been trained to deal with walking statistical anomalies such as myself”

It is said of the physicist Wolfgang Pauli that he was a theoretician of such brilliance that his proximity to any piece of experimental apparatus was guaranteed to lead to faulty and inexplicable results. His mere presence in a laboratory would cause complex wiring to fall apart and coloured smoke to rise from unexpected outlets in machinery. Once, an unusual set of readings in a laboratory in Göttingen was explained away by Pauli's brief presence on a train platform in that city, while waiting for a transfer from Zurich to Copenhagen at the same hour.

This has since passed into physics folklore as the Pauli Effect, which dictates that theoreticians of increasing ability are responsible for ever larger Pauli fields of experimental turbulence. The resulting fields can be measured in units of explosions per second, litres of blood shed per unit of personnel present, or billions of dollars lost per minute spent in the laboratory. For obvious reasons, no exact value has yet been measured.

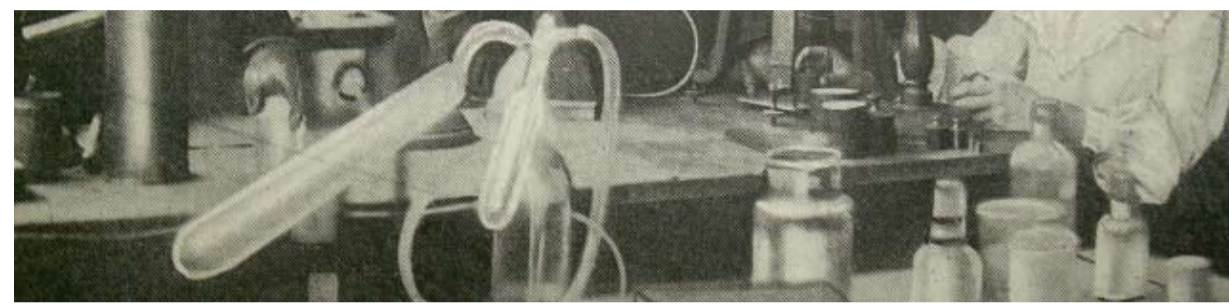
I am intimately acquainted with this particular problem. Expensive machinery was able to function only once

Pauli had left the city; by a doubtless similar effect the LHC could only be put into operation on the day I flew out of Geneva to start the term in London. I attribute the subsequent helium leakage on the 20th of September entirely to my having spent most of the day facing in a South-Easterly direction.

Now, I am not claiming to be a theorist of Pauli's calibre. Not at all. I am perfectly content to be stuck with the whirlwind of practical misadventure and misfortune without claiming any of the gift for theory that usually goes with it. But I think I probably stand a chance of being at least as bad an experimental physicist as Pauli ever was. Or, indeed, is ever likely to be.

An old joke stuck to the office door of a mathematics teacher of mine probably best sums up my attitude of mystified incompetence towards laboratories. “Theory is when everyone knows everything, but nothing works. Practice is when everything works, but no one knows why. Here we combine Theory with Practice: Nothing works and no-one knows why.”

That represents me in the laboratory – absolutely nothing works and I have not the foggiest beginnings of an



outline of a trace of a clue as to why. Often, neither do the poor lab technicians whose training did not extend to walking statistical anomalies such as myself. How are they supposed to explain why semiconductors capriciously decide to catch fire at low temperatures? It's not their fault if overwhelming background radiation clouds my radioactivity detector like a solitary thunderstorm overshadowing a cartoon Bavarian castle. And they're certainly not responsible for the wicked sense of humour displayed by the apparently perfectly calibrated equipment. The inside of a laboratory is to me a vast and incomprehensible cave of wonders, where I play the role of Aladdin – melting solid barriers with a single touch.

My aura of incompetence follows me even into the comparatively safe and uneventful realm of the computing lab. Alone and confused at my keyboard, the programming syntax errors I seem to come up with prompt horrified and confused expressions from the demonstrators, who stare at me as though I had just carved the code into the monitor with a USB stick.

As an aside, I don't know how many

of you are familiar with the loveable idiosyncrasies of C++, but I will say that it goes a long way to explaining my overfondness for semi-colons and complex, winding statements that go on for far too long and objectively speaking add very little to the flow and coherence of a piece.

For six hours a week, therefore, when confined to a stuffy, overheated laboratory full of uncommunicative equipment and marginally less expressive supervisors, I feel like I have been placed in the queue for the waiting list to get into Purgatory. Stick a pen in my hand and give me a set of associative, distributive and commutative variables to play with and I will be treading air. Stick a radioactive source in my hand and give me an oscilloscope to play with, however, and you will see the petulant child on Christmas morning who is starting to doubt whether Santa even bothers to check his inbox.

There is only one solution open to a student who derives as much enjoyment from lab as from scalding his hand on a boiling kettle and who has a fruit fly's grasp of experimental procedure. And that is to find a lab partner whose tireless enthusiasm, unparal-

led ability and experimental insight are such as to ensure that work gets done, data gets measured and errors get calculated at every step of the way.

The problem, of course, is that the Pauli Effect treats people as mercilessly as it does tape measures or particle accelerators. My lab partner, God Rest His Soul, was once a bushy-cheeked, rosy-tailed maestro of an experimentalist capable of reducing error bars at twenty paces and quelling rogue lightmeters with a raised eyebrow. My lack of hand-eye coordination and inability to find the on switch, however, has gradually worn him down to a gibbering wreck of a physicist with an unhealthy glucose addiction for which I am largely responsible.

This, the sixth week of every term, is a tremendous week for me and all those who share my affliction because there are no laboratory sessions. The same monotonous and relentless grind picks up again next Thursday, but in the mean time I am savouring the fresh air in my lungs, the time to mess around with mathematical symbols to my heart's content, and the slow recovery from radiation poisoning.

O, for the life of a theorist.

Dan Wan would do Fine Art, if he were ‘cool’



“At school, I bet we were the kind of kids that itched to have a serious conversation about science once in a while.”



On a soggy Thursday night, I was just nodding off for my perfectly timed 9 minute nap on the bus back home when the sound of Imperial students woke me up. They weren't being particularly loud though. What woke me up in an alarmed arousal was what they were doing. Two guys and one girl sitting on the front row of the upper deck of a bus; with the window laden with condensation, most people would take this opportunity to draw a smiley face or sadly for most, a massively unrepresentative penis. Not these three crazy kids though. Instead, they were discussing mathematical symbols, using the entire front upper window of the bus as it were a blackboard, there for them note their ideas as they bounced them off each other. This all within the thrilling discussion of coprimers and contour integrals. As I looked around the bus, commuters looked a little bewildered whilst fellow Imperial students, like me, were distinguishable by their heads in their hands, all in disbelief as we received this unwelcome and impromptu lecture. However, my own

rhetorical questioning of “do they not having anything better to talk about on the way home?” sparked the same question, but not in the rhetorical sense. Did they *actually* have anything better to talk about on the way home?

How many times have you heard someone interrupt their own conversation, with a wry smirk on their face, and exclaim “this conversation is so Imperial!”. Light titters in agreement ensue. Then the conversation will, more than likely, divert off the previous ‘Imperial’-esque subject.

It is just inevitable when you bring thousands of scientifically-tuned people together, ones that spend hours a day dedicating their mind to science, that every day conversation will skirt around so-called ‘geeky’ topics. It is not uncommon for a conversation to start with the simple and casual question of ‘What did you do today?’ And when you've spent the last 6 hours trying to purify DNA from bacteria, your answer, is in all probability, going to involve the words ‘purifying’, ‘DNA’, and ‘bacteria’. The more inquisitive of us will then ask “why?” Since you're so proud to have actually successfully

completed the horrifically long lab procedure and yielded the expected results, you answer the question “why?” so comprehensively you get ahead of yourself and suddenly, with a wry smirk on your face, interrupt yourself and exclaim “this conversation is so....”

But aren't we all just pretending we have ‘better’ things to talk about? We wouldn't be here at an all-science and engineering university if weren't all geeks underneath the layers of apparent cool. If we were that ‘cool’, we'd probably be doing what others perceive as a ‘cool degree’, like Fine Art at Goldsmiths. I mean at school, I bet we were the kind of kids that itched to have some sort of serious conversation about science once in a while.

My point is, if two Philosophy students were having a conversation about Schopenhauer's criticisms of Neo-Hegelianism, I doubt anyone would bat an eyelid about how much their pub-talk resembled the work of their degrees.

Having, or at least thinking you're having, a deep conversation about the beginnings of life or the boundaries of man-made law whilst baked-off-your-face may prove to have some value.

You may think in different avenues you wouldn't do whilst sober. Some of the most influential music and art are products of substance-use. I believe your best, along with your very worst ideas come to you whilst not fully in control of yourself. I'm sure any recording artist in the 1960s would agree (The short chorus of The Beatles' Yellow Submarine is sufficient to prove my point). However, drink and science do not mix. I've been told that on a vodka-fuelled night out, I once mentioned to a girl that her dress looked like it had immature B lymphocytes on it. She was either not impressed or utterly confused, and either way, that short-lived conversation died on its feet right there at the bar.

We've all seen the hundreds of common situations to be found at Imperial on the ‘You know when you go to Imperial when...’ Facebook group. Yes, most of them are true, but aren't we all a little bit proud to realise we do most of the points listed?

Isn't it something that we even have the knowledge of these subjects to have a conversation about it? It comes down to the fact that, if we weren't genuinely

interested, we wouldn't be at an all-science university doing a science degree, and we wouldn't be willing to hold the few lines of conversation about science before you interrupted yourself, with that wry smile on your face.

However, I am not trying to insinuate every single one of us talks about our degrees for 25 hours of the day (Although I do have a friend that prefers to subconsciously quote the second law of thermodynamics over and over again rather than snore or anything else relatively normal whilst sleeping.) I have met people at Imperial that have a passion in art or literature equal to that of the passion they have for the subject of their course.

It is not Imperial that has brought us to talking about physics or chemistry in the pub. It's something that's been hidden away inside all of us since the moment we realised that physics, chemistry or any other subject, was what we wanted to be doing for the next three, at the very least, years of our lives. We should all embrace the fact we have like-minded people, in terms of interest and intellect, as our best friends, lab partners and even as enemies.

Kadhim Shubber has 12 litres of dodgy vodka



“Ah the wonders of tax-free diplomatic privileges (I won't say anymore, I can't give away all of my secrets)”



This weekend my house, well flat (well place with a ceiling that I'm going to move out of as soon as my contract allows), will be subjected to that terror of terrors that is a house party. This intriguing type of event, which strikes fear into the hearts of middle-class parents, has the power to motivate entirely unreasonable and inexplicable behaviour in both the hosts and the drunken revellers; although I'm ready to admit, much of the unreasonable behaviour is from myself.

A house party must be planned with military precision and all possibilities must be considered. We begin with preparing the home for the invasion of 100+ people. Rooms are judged less on their aesthetic appeal or general comfort, but on two simple factors, capac-

ity and potential for increased capacity. I peer into the rubbish heap that is my bedroom and I mentally re-arrange it. I remove pieces of furniture in my mind and imagine the added standing room that the desk might offer if it simply vanished from being. With great anguish I mentally dismantle the pillow-fort (oh yes, I built a pillow-fort in my bedroom... you may scoff but I know that secretly you want to sit in it and fight off an imaginary army of barbarous Native Americans) but I am consoled in the knowledge that there will be more room for somebody to fall over, throw up or pass out (or perhaps all three in one humongous epic fail).

Capacity is of course not the only concern, there is always the worry of having your finest china tea set broken by an uninvited hoodlum. For to hear the sound of your prize crockery

War nuclear bunker.

The next step, of course, is providing alcohol. Bring your own is an admirable idea but make a good house party it does not. If you don't provide alcohol (food isn't essential, have some dinner before you come) you are essentially inviting people to stand around your house; remember you're having a house party not a political rally. Of course, as a result alcohol constitutes the greatest expense that one encounters but with some experience and effort you can do it on the cheap. Indeed I have become the greatest alcohol bargain finding fiend that mankind has ever known. Doubt it? Those bottles of vodka pictured above this text number 12, 12 litres of vodka in all. And the price? £16.

Ah the wonders of tax-free diplomatic privileges (I won't say anymore, I can't give away all of my secrets).

But undeniably the thing that determines the success of a house party is attendance. Your belongings may be safe and the alcohol may be cheap and plentiful but ultimately if you're alone this just means that when you pass out after drinking alone you won't knock anything over. It's in the pursuit of a well-attended house party that I probably exhibit the most peculiar behaviour. Normally it's only our close friends that are given the privilege of crossing the threshold into our homes but when it comes to house parties, I find myself saying things like “Sure, come along and bring some friends, extended relatives and anybody you happen to meet on the way here” and this is to people that I've met on the street. You of course are invited, you just have to find my house... a hint, it's in London.



The RAG team still has Mark locked up in their basement...

Mark Mearing-Smith was ‘pwned’ by the RAG team. He put up a bloody good fight though; it was eight on one

Strange thoughts go through your mind when a bunch of fellow students raid your office dressed in RAG t-shirts and dust masks. Fantastic was not something I would have thought I would think in such a tight situation.

You might or might not have heard that on Tuesday evening the RAG team entered the Guilds Office to capture the Guilds' violate mascots Spanner and Bolt. Go to Live! (live.cgcu.net) for full details of the actual event.

But as with most situations involving mascotry there will be a hoard of people who will shout “What a waste of time”, “Get a life”, “You're not serving your student” etc, ad nauseum. (I'm sure by the time you are reading this Live! will be full of it). I don't subscribe to this mantra even in the slightest. Here is why.

Firstly mascots can be used as an important focal point of a club. In organisation the equivalent is the logo, who might give a PR/Media firms vast sums of cash to produce, as London 2012 interestingly puts it, an “Emblem [that] is simple, distinct, bold and buzzing with

energy.” Obviously I'm not calling for the Union to spend its cash reserves on a flashy logo, but stating that it is totally normal to try and find something that a group of people can feel a sense of loyalty to.

Secondly it is a way of getting more people involved with a Union. I must firstly point out that it is only one of many ways of building interest with new students. My first position in Guilds was infact as Spanner Bearer. But what everyone must be aware of is that no event is ever totally inclusive. Even the Masquerade Ball, only had about 10% of students attend, and mascotry is just another thing that we do.

Thirdly, and I believe the most defensible is that it raises money for charity, which if any reader is not a good

“I hope that the ransom is paid and this light-hearted fun carries on”

thing then yours truly has truly no idea what is.

But let me get back to to the issue of why I was happy that our prized mascots were being stolen right in front of me. It was because some one was playing back. Over the last couple of years it has mostly been Guilds stealing the other mascots, with it all drying up when the other party said “No we are not playing”.

What I believed was that we were so afraid of our own being stolen we never had it out or even on display. I feel very strongly that if you hide the mascots really well (which is not very difficult) you then completely stop mascotry in it's tracks. Even an old hack from the RCSU boasted that Theta Mark IX was so well hidden with it split into 4 pieces all hidden by different people. It is like having a silver dining service and never using it. You have to let them smell blood.

So all I say now is that I hope Guilds paid the ransom, and that this light hearted fun may carry on, and be a lesson to everyone about realising that most things in life should be fun and don't knock the things that are.

Kawai Wong is confused. Is it Tesco Value Day or Valentines Day?



“Remember when secret admirers slipped notes into your homework? Remember the thrill?”

If you are cynical like me, you would have ferociously defended your wallet from being raped by restaurants and chocolatiers. I sat on the sofa and did nothing on St. Cupid's Day. Because it is a day for the Stupids. Do I want a briefcase carrying money-thirst counts my banknotes while I ponder what have I gotten out of this “special day”? No, thank you.

As the hours grew on the 14th, however, my disappointment was not concealable when it became clear that my

boyfriend had completely forgotten about it. (How? HOW?) Over dinner he apologised for the lack of memory. “No card is better than an 8p card from Asda”, I replied while I put another spoon of baked beans into my mouth. And then he gave me a hand-drawn card. Phew.

During the credit crunch, shops came up with outrageous products to attract those whose wallets are choked and wilted but still feel compelled to treat their other halves.

But if you cannot laugh off the “Val-



entine's Half Price Basket” or “Value Valentine's Meal”: Would you gravitate towards a bit of introspectiveness and question your self-worth?

Or simply wish that this day doesn't exist at all?

Why bother with a £25 bottle of Taittinger when you can spend a fiver and get a bottle of carbonated Rosé and a box of heart shaped chocolates from Tesco? It's the thought that counts! Wait a minute. A box of chocolates handmade by somebody's somebody counts as a thought. A cheap bit of

cardboard churned out by an over-worked machine in Manchester isn't. Receive this and you feel dazed. What day is it? Tesco Value Day or Valentine's Day?

Of course how much you spend on Valentine's Day is not indicative of the amount of love you share. It is only a bit harsh that during this commercial celebration, couples cannot joyfully stroll down a street without getting cornered by a businessman who forces them to price each other.

While the normal portion of the

economy struggles to find a reasonable price tag to justify their love, the rich struggle to find a meaning to the price tag. Coleen Rooney was showing off her £250,000 rock on a night out. In the world where a Bentley has the worth of a cucumber. Only a fish that can blow heart-shaped smoke can ignite those hearts in her eyes.

Remember those February-the-14th when your secret admirer slip a grotty I Fancy You note into your geography textbook? Remember the thrill when you read it?

Andrew Lavery, Gaelic Football Captain, responds to allegations



“Some of our members' actions brought disrepute on the club and such actions will not be repeated”



It's been quite a week for Gaelic Football this week. We do hope you feel compelled to read the back page this week about the team's performance in BUCS Championships and would congratulate us on proudly representing Imperial so well in this National competition. I can say last weekend has been the highlight of my year and to lead the team from its inception last year to our recent success has been a privilege and honour and remains a source of personal pride to me.

However I also to write this week to

address the other issues that felix has reported on, prominently attaching the name of our club to.

On Wednesday last week at ACC Barnight it is reported that a member punched a member of Rugby for “picking up one of [our] pints”. This does not even closely resemble the whole story, and fails to make any mention (or even any investigation) of the provocation involved.

What I can categorically state is that the club were not involved in the incident and what is being reported are the actions of one individual. We can also

say that the rugby and football clubs are not to blame either for the actions of individual members. I am fully aware of the details of the occasion and decline to make further comment at this stage as the matter is currently under further discussion.

On a more serious note, the club is alleged to have been singing “IRA songs” and being rowdy. As you'll have gathered we were returning from our Championship weekend and had been celebrating our performance in the best way many sports teams see fit – with a lot of alcohol. Speaking for the

club, I can understand how our behaviour on Sunday night could have been offensive or even threatening and will take this opportunity to apologise unequivocally to those who were offended. I can clarify the actions somewhat, we were singing songs, not directly about the IRA, but about events in Republican history which several of our club members have been directly and closely affected by.

It is understandable how this may cause offence. I would like to point out that although this may well have caused some alienation among Impe-

rial students this is not the official policy of the club or the GAA, nor has it ever been or will be. We are committed to following with dedication the ethos and rules that govern both Imperial College Union and the GAA, whereby we are compelled to be non political and non sectarian.

The actions of some of our members brought disrepute on the club and may have caused some doubt as to our ethos, for this we apologise and would like to assure the Imperial student body that such actions will not be repeated nor tolerated by the club.

Let us know your views: comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Letters

A disgruntled gnome

Dear felix,

After reading this week's edition of felix (13th February 2009), I was appalled by the comportment and attitude of your Deputy Editor, in response to Henry Marsden's letter entitled ‘An Outraged Gnome’. In the original complaint Henry Marsden pointed out that Kadhim Shubber had quite blatantly taken material from an unreferenced source, in his article published on 6th February. Although Mr Shubber does apologise for not including a bibliography, his very quick to refute Mr Marsden's claims of plagiarism.

Mr Shubber is quick to defend his corner; yet seems incapable of appreciating the definitions of the words ‘quote’ and ‘plagiarism’. In the article he admits he quoted the theory ‘word for word’, yet the definition of quote entrains with it a degree of referencing or acknowledgement (a fact to which Mr Shubber seems ignorant). Mr Shubber states that ‘While [he] did use the language of another author [:] it was not [his] intention, nor was it the result, that it was represented as [his] original work’. I personally do not believe this a valid argument, as at no point did Mr Shubber direct people to a valid source and because of this the result was in fact that he DID represent the work as his own (be it his intention or not). I believe Mr Marsden's underlying point was not that Mr Kadhim should not

have plagiarised HIS work, but rather that the use of any authors work, without a correct reference, could lead to poor quality, unoriginal writing.

As a student paper, my understanding was that the paper should represent the students ideas and thoughts, whilst retaining the ability to publish wholly-original, un-censored material (a right solely reserved for publications such as this). I find most disturbing that that the Deputy Editor of such a prestigious student newspaper as Felix must ‘use the language of another author’ in order to create an interesting article. By Mr Shubber doing this I believe he risks harming the reputation of the paper.

I think the most we can hope for advancement of ‘Gnome Theory’ is not damaged due to the renegade and

cavalier attitude of certain members of the editing team at felix.

Thanks,

Nicholas Thornton
3rd Year Undergraduate
Department of Aeronautics

Dear Nicholas Thornton,

‘Gnome Theory’ is known widely enough for any reader of my comment piece to know that the idea of explaining physics with gnomes is not my own original work. In addition, the point of quoting the gnome theory of electricity ‘word for word’ is a joke in itself; buying into the idea that it is a real scientific theory. While I understand that in lab reports, scientific essays and papers

we are encouraged to ‘direct people to a valid source’ in the case of a comment piece, it isn't appropriate to add footnotes at the end of every sentence especially in the case of a well known ‘theory’, similarly if I were to say “the universe is made of tiny little vibrating strings” it wouldn't be necessary to explicitly reference the source.

I am equally disturbed, Nicholas Thornton, that you must misrepresent my article to create an ‘interesting’ letter. The article in question included only one reference to Gnome Theory that was only a sentence long. The reference didn't make “an interesting article” and at the very most it was an advertisement for “Gnome Theory”.

Deputy Editor,
Kadhim Shubber

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

OFFERED \$1,000,000 Prize in a Paranormal *felix* special

By definition science cannot explain reported paranormal events, but this has never deterred the committed believer. In 2006, Bryan Farha and Gary Steward found that 42% of Americans believe in haunted houses, 41% believed in satanic possession and 36% in telepathy.

This week *felix* shines a bright light into the dark world of the paranormal, as we highlight research into mind-reading techniques, long distance telepathic links and telekinesis. Prepare to test your disbeliefs and wonder at the millions spent investigating paranormal events.

Despite the number of believers nobody has claimed the million dollar prize offered by the James Randi Educational Foundation, for anyone who can demonstrate a paranormal or supernatural power.

Daniel Burrows

Researching the paranormal

Miće Tatalović
Science Editor

Research into paranormal phenomena is now a trendy, if not yet well-respected line of scientific research. Some scientists now believe that the existence of telepathy and other similar phenomena has been demonstrated in experiments and the need arises to explain and incorporate these phenomena into mainstream science.

Others refuse to even engage in serious debate about the issue. Who is right?

Rupert Sheldrake studied natural sciences at Clare College, University of Cambridge and then philosophy at Harvard University. He did his PhD in biochemistry at Cambridge, where he was later a fellow of Clare College and Director of Studies in biochemistry and cell biology.

His research was initially focused on plant molecular biology but currently focuses mainly on the investigations of paranormal phenomena such as telepathy. Some of his current research is funded by Trinity College's Perrott-Warrick Fund for the research on 'the unexplained human and animal abilities'. Because of the nature of his research he receives a lot of media attention and has taken part in various TV and radio programs, as well as newspaper interviews.

Although an established scientist with degrees from some of the best universities in the world, many of his mainstream colleagues are not convinced by, or even interested in, his research. Many in the scientific community consider paranormal phenomena to be fraudulent fantasies, so anyone researching these issues risks ridicule. This is as much a philosophical issue as it is a scientific one.

Sheldrake believes that healthy skeptics are those who are open-minded and accept evidence obtained by application of the scientific method, regardless of the topic of research.

On the other hand, he says, dogmatic skeptics hold a priori beliefs that paranormal phenomena do not exist and so dismiss research that attempts to shed light on these occult taboo issues.

But should not the scientific method be employed for furthering our understanding of all natural phenomena? Even those which we now see as supernatural?

Would not many of the technological achievements we nowadays take for granted be considered paranormal some 200 years ago (think airplanes, space travel, mobile phones, computers and internet.)?

Telephone and e-mail telepathy

Recently Sheldrake and his colleague Smart empirically tested the claims that some people make about the existence of telepathy: that they often think about someone just before they get a phone call or an e-mail from them, or that they can guess who is calling them. The usual scientific explanation for such phenomena is that people think of others often, but forget those instances and remember only the instances in which that person called them while they were thinking about them. For this reason many scientists do not believe in the existence of telepathy. However, Sheldrake and Smart argue that maybe telepathy really does occur, but "the means by which it operates is not yet understood. Its existence or nonexistence is not a matter of belief but of evidence"

In this test for e-mail telepathy, one person nominated four other people, one of whom was randomly selected to e-mail the nominator. The nominator then sent an e-mail to the researchers one minute prior to the nominee's e-mail to try and guess which one of the four nominees was going to e-mail him/her a minute later. Basically, people had to guess one out of four possible people who could e-mail them within the next minute. Overall the correct guess rate was 43%, significantly higher than the 25% guess rate expected by chance only. As in other studies, distance between the two people e-mailing each other did not seem to play a role in the rate of correct guesses, but emotional relationship between the people did. Similar results were obtained for telephone telepathy (53% guess rate), while text message telepathy experiments are also underway.

The author admits that he did not sample the population at random: fifty people who took part in the email experiment applied after reading an advert about the experiment. This means that those people probably thought of themselves as telepathic or were at least interested in telepathy in the first place. However, Sheldrake did not ask them if this really was the case. Instead he argues that it is to be expected that different people would have differing telepathic abilities, just as vision, hearing or olfactory senses do not all work as well in all people. Sheldrake thinks that a randomly chosen sample of people for such an experiment would not yield results supporting the existence of telepathy because many people do not have a good telepathic sense.

Nevertheless, his results suggest

there really are individual differences in telepathic abilities among people, with some participants constantly scoring no better than if they took random guesses, and others constantly over-scoring. Additionally, people tended to guess better when the e-mailers were people they knew, rather than those unfamiliar to them. Sheldrake concludes that future studies should focus on people who think they are telepathic and should test their ability to detect thoughts of people they know rather than strangers.

Although this study seems at first to be a good support for the case of existence of telepathy, one big issue which the author focuses much of his discussion on is the fact that the people involved in the study could have cheated in various ways. Ways participants could have cheated include receiving information from the e-mailer in advance or re-setting their computer clocks. Given his conviction that those people are a priori interested in telepathy, this gives them an incentive to cheat; yet he dismisses it as unlikely.

The Sixth Sense

Due to the lack of precautions to prevent such fraud it is difficult to accept the telepathy results as trustworthy. But even if one did, what would this tell us about telepathy? Perhaps that it exists but does not always work. If it works some of the time it could still be the product of natural selection, if indeed it is or was an adaptation during our evolutionary history. Just as any vision is better than none, any telepathy may be better in predicting the uncertain future and so help individuals in survival. Evolutionarily then, telepathy may make sense. But how does it work? What is the non-verbal, non-visual medium of transmission of thought from one brain to another? The answer to this question remains unanswered in spite of research into the issue. The obvious candidates such as electromagnetic radiation have been excluded and Sheldrake thinks the medium may be morphic fields, part of his theory of morphic resonance. These fields are thought to extend from our brains in a similar way to that in which the electromagnetic field extends around the Earth. The problem is that there is also no firm evidence for the existence of morphic fields and the idea of morphic resonance as a way that animals communicate has been discarded as too complicated; simpler mechanisms have since been found, and provide a better explanation (if we apply the philosophical principle of



An actual ghost... The Brown Lady at Raynham Hall in Norfolk

Ockham's Razor).

Although no textbook on animal behaviour will mention telepathy as a way animals can communicate, Sheldrake maintains that they do use this method. In a special supplement to the Journal of Consciousness Studies he presents evidence for the existence of yet another parapsychological phenomenon: the sense of being stared at, or the 'sixth sense'. Although the first two papers on this issue (one of which was published in Science) dismissed its existence, subsequent research has consistently found evidence for the existence of such a sense, as people and animals have scored above the level of chance in guessing when someone is staring at them from behind, through binoculars or even CCTV. There is some experimental evidence for the existence of telepathic abilities in animals and humans, and perhaps this is as far as biological research can take us with regard to understanding these phenomena. If they indeed exist, their benefits to organisms could readily be explained evolutionarily. But just how they work may be a question of quantum physics rather than biology.

Genius or Heretic?

Professor Brian Josephson, Nobel prize winner from the Theory of Condensed Matter Group at the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge, thinks that the current scientific evidence for the existence of paranormal phenomena justifies further research in the area. He also suggests that better understanding of quantum theory may ultimately explain phenomena such as telepathy. He believes that the problem with many mainstream scientists is that they often overlook the empirical evidence for

the topics that are on the fringes of science, based on their dogmatic beliefs and narrow-mindedness. Dismissal of an idea without even looking at the evidence supporting that idea is not how open-minded scientists should behave; and yet some do. Professor Josephson's website has a link to a separate website dealing with his research into, and media treatment of, parapsychology. Intriguingly, there are articles that discuss exactly these issues and show how some media, even journals such as *Nature*, appear to deliberately mislead their readers with respect to evidence for parapsychology. People like Professor Josephson insist on accepting the possibility of the paranormal, while maintaining the rigour of the scientific method and abandoning such claims if they are clearly shown to be false.

The need for open discussion of paranormal phenomena led to a multidisciplinary conference at the University of Cambridge in 2000, at which many prominent scientists discussed ideas that are regularly featured in peer-reviewed journals such as University of Bournemouth's European Journal of Parapsychology.

Scientists who are open to research into parapsychology, homeopathy and the like are concerned that mainstream science is becoming an authoritative apparatus which refuses to look into issues which have not traditionally been considered legitimate; and which makes claims about such phenomena without an empirical basis. Open-minded scientists think that although we do not know how paranormal phenomena work, there is now ample evidence that they do work and need to be explained by further research. Should we view these people as heretics or geniuses? Only careful empirical investigation can resolve this issue.

The Science of the Paranormal

Annabel Slater
Science Correspondent

Recently, I went to the cinema. A stream of supernatural and superhuman trailers preceded the main feature, all boasting grimy urban cityscapes, and polished special effects that showed photogenic people defying the laws of physics as they deflected streams of bullets with nothing but determined sneers and held frightening mind-control battles. Franklyn, Push, Watchmen, even the Lesbian Vampire Killers... all these trailers highlighted the 21st century's continuing taste for cinema to show us humans stepping beyond the normal, into the realms of mayhem and mysticism and film heroes pushing themselves beyond the mundanity of our own normal physical capabilities. In the hush that followed the trailers, the audience stared at the screen as one, thinking something along the lines of 'Cool!'

Who wouldn't like some secret powers of their own? How many times have we reached uselessly for something just out of our grasp, wishing it would somehow fly to our fingertips? Looked at someone else and wanted to know what they were thinking, Dreamt of being able to know exactly what the next few months would hold. Psychic powers would make my life so much easier.

No longer would I try to second-guess every choice I make. People who annoyed me would simply punch themselves in the face. Eating and drinking would be intensely simplified, especially in those difficult morning-hangover times – why, I could simply lie on the sofa and let the food fly into my mouth.

In this vein, I decided to see if there was any scientific glimmer of hope that psychic powers really could exist in the human race. By that, I mean I searched online using Pubmed, Google and Wikipedia. As it turns out, the scientific answer was still 'No', although psychic powers were investigated seriously in the recent past by the US military. During the Cold War \$20 million were invested in a 'psychic arms race' with the Soviet Union. To put it more simply, although no consensus at the

time agreed that psychic powers existed, the military were concerned enough about the Soviets developing and using psychic forces to start their own research and development program, Project Star Gate.

Project Star Gate went on for 25 years and cost \$20 million, researching invisibility, levitation, telekinesis, walking through walls (*I'd love to witness videos of those trials*), remote viewing, and if men could kill goats just by staring at them. (*Why goats? Well, 'why not', one supposes.*)

“Researchers were able to decipher a person's spontaneous preference for one of two drinks”

Star Gate came to nothing except a lot of paperwork to be revealed and gleefully reported by the media many years later, though hope and belief persists in the human imagination that psychic abilities are real, not just a dying defiant gasp of romantic mysticism, or are the next stage of human evolution. For now, though, there is real, reassuring, reality. For although psychic powers can't be found by science, they can yet be crudely mimicked by technology.

Mind reading

To read a mind is to know what a person is thinking, and a thinking person generates electric nerve impulses through their brain cells. Electroencephalography (EEG) has long been used to show and measure these electrical changes, caused by changes in ion concentrations around the cells. This is a crude form of mind reading – to know what activity is taking place in certain ar-



A wonderful image of mind control... sorry – could not resist

reas of the brain. In 2007, Microsoft announced plans to patent a form of EEG technology to provide more efficient feedback from people testing their new user interfaces. Yet EEG can only read electrical activity from areas of the brain closest to the scalp, from thousands or millions of neurons at a time, and even simple physical motions like scratching your head can cause a wave of neuronal firing, as well as thinking careful constructive criticism of the new Windows Vista. Thus, distinguishing thoughts via EEG is still impossible.

But there are other ways of scanning a brain. In a study published this month, researchers in Canada's largest children's rehabilitation hospital used infra-red light and fibre optics to map patterns of oxygen absorption, and thus mental activity, in brain tissue. With an impressive sounding 80% accuracy, the researchers were able to decipher a person's spontaneous preference for one of two drinks, without the subjects requiring special training beforehand. Though it is doubtful that this method could ever pick out individual thoughts too, it is hoped that it can be used to give choice and control back to individuals with disabilities that prevent them from communicating their desires.

And finally, the complexity and scope of the brain may not mean it is ever possible to read thoughts, but could we ever see them? In 2008, researchers at the University of California developed technology that used fMRI data to 'read' information from a person's visual cortex. Previous research had shown that fMRI can pick out brain activity associated with viewing different images, but it had only been possible to identify very distinct images (such as faces), from fixed categories, with prior scanning and knowledge of brain activity. Yet this new method was able to produce much more complex images without prior knowledge of the brain's activity.

The lead researcher hopes that one day, complex images like dreams, memory and mental imagery could be visualised, if the brain processes dreams in a way that is analogous to visual stimuli. What about it? Fancy watching someone else's dreams? (*Ed: Not really, No!*) It could be a whole new form of cinema.

Mind control

Tabloids have recently been wetting their pants over studies that show lesser emotional response and recall of traumatic events if subjects are given beta blockers, ie. "like Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, innit" while in the 1950s, the CIA secretly administered LSD to men in fake brothels under the hope of investigating mind control, and that they would be shamed out of telling anyone else about the funny thing that happened to them in the brothel after work. (Apparently, the most common result was that the dosed-up subject was convinced they would be able to withstand pretty much any form of interrogation).

However, researchers at the University of Oxford reported in January that involving oneself in a 'visuospatial cognitive task' after viewing a traumatic event helped reduce the occurrence of post-traumatic flashbacks. In short, it appears that performing such tasks in the '6 hour window' after seeing trauma disrupts the consolidation of memories. To do this, they showed



Researchers were able to correctly guess a drink choice 4/5 times.

volunteers a highly unpleasant video, and then made some of them play Tetris for 10 minutes. As it turned out, this '80s Russian puzzle game... actually helped.

Telekinesis

Can electrical signals from the brain be used to move objects without touching them? Perhaps the closest that exists thus far are machines that again, read electrical signals from the body, but translate them into motions elsewhere. For example, since 2007 researchers at the University of Illinois have been developing a motorised wheelchair that moves when the operator thinks of particular words, translating electrical impulses sent to the larynx when the operator thinks of particular words using a sensor-laden neckband and on-board computer.

On a different level, Emotiv, an

“Fancy watching someone else's dreams?”

American/Australian company founded by neuroscientists, electronics, and technology specialists, have designed technology like 'EpoC', a 'neuro-headset', which uses EEG to translate neural activity into commands for video games. Players can move objects, or induce 30 different authentic facial expressions and motions to their avatars in virtual gaming worlds. And, they add, which can also be used to direct electric wheelchairs too. One of the most obvious and applications for mind-machine interfaces would be for paralysed individuals or sufferers of 'locked in' syndrome, who are conscious but often unable to physically communicate.

Meanwhile, in his book **Stumbling on Happiness**, Dr Gilbert of Harvard University has pointed out that the human brain is prone to frequent mistakes when trying to imagine future consequences. The pleasures of positive events are usually overestimated, while negative events are imagined worse than they usually are. Thinking about the future is pleasurable and imagining bad events is functional, because fear, worry and anxiety evoke action.

Finally, researchers at the University of Rochester have boldly declared that the human brain is hard-wired to allow a person to make the best decisions possible, with the available information. Usually, study of rational decision making focuses on the conscious brain, and how it measures future possible gains, risks and feelings.

But this Rochester study directly contradicts a pair of Nobel Prizewinners, who received the prize in 2002 for illustrating that humans are usually irrational decision-makers. Instead, their study suggests that people can and do make optimal decisions—but only when their unconscious brain makes the choice.

by a handle. Users move the handle to move the flotor, and this information is used to control the position and orientation of a virtual object on a computer display. As this virtual object encounters other virtual surfaces and objects, corresponding signals are transmitted to the flotor's electrical coils, resulting in realistic tactile feedback to the user.

Research professor Ralph Hollis of the Carnegie Mellon University's Robotics Institute said that possible applications included precise microsurgery, computer-augmented design, remote control of robotic vehicles and military drones, and even data visualization.

Clairvoyance

This'd be a useful skill to have, but perhaps the closest we can work with now is learning more about the psychology of our decision making here and now. Contradicting a pair of 2002 Nobel Prize winners, researchers at the University of Rochester state that their latest study shows the human brain is hard-wired to allow a person to make the most rational decisions possible, with the available information, but only when their unconscious brain makes the choice. People performed poorly on a gambling style test when they were given information beforehand and told to 'think' consciously about risks and probabilities.

Remote sensing

Remote sensing

Finding where something is at a given time with your mind might not be possible, but feeling a space without actually touching it is – if it's a virtual space. Literal remote sensing of virtual three-dimensional objects and spaces is becoming possible due to the development of new haptic/computer interfaces. These bowling-ball sized devices use magnetic levitation to levitate an enclosed lightweight moving part – a 'flotor' – which is controlled

'Snip Doctor' to test drug tolerance

Felix Whitton
Science Correspondent

A new device has been developed by Imperial College, London and its spinout company DNA Electronics that is capable of testing patients to see if they will react badly to certain prescribed medications, such as anti-depressants and cholesterol controlling drugs.

The prototype device, known as SNP Dr (pronounced 'snip doctor') works by analysing the DNA in saliva or cheek swab samples. The process is so quick that it can be carried out by a GP before they prescribe the patient's medicine without the cost of laboratory analysis.

The device works by analysing genetic variations called Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs) which are the parts of human DNA that control our individual responses to disease, bacte-

ria, viruses, toxins or medication.

The researchers are also focusing on how the snip doctor device might be able to detect genetic sequences which control the speed of our metabolism, something else which can affect the body's reaction to a medicine.

"Some cancer fighting drugs are uneconomical"

Slow metabolisms can make the drugs last longer in the body and therefore increase the risk of side effects, whilst someone with a fast metabolism is likely to process the medication to quickly for it to have any adverse effects.

The NHS spends £460 million a year treating patients suffering ad-

verse reactions to prescribed medications, with their symptoms ranging in severity from dizziness and nausea to even heart palpitations and unconsciousness.

Although the device is still a prototype (about to begin clinical trials thanks to a newly formed partnership with the pharmaceutical company Pfizer), there is hope that not only will GPs be able to personalise a patient's treatment but according to Dr Leila Shepherd, Chief Technology Officer of DNA Electronics, the introduction of the SNP DR might enable new drugs to become readily available in a cost effective way: "At the moment, some cancer fighting drugs are deemed uneconomical because they only work for a certain subset of patients. If doctors had a method of screening patients to see whether these drugs work, then suddenly these therapies would be more cost effective to use."



Future still green for biofuels

Annabel Slater
Science Correspondent

Last week *felix* reported that biofuel crops may not be worth the effort, and rank high on environmental impact. Indeed, this may be true. Biofuel crops must be grown upon arable land, fertilised, nurtured, harvested, and processed. That's a lot of costs that lessen the energy gain the resulting biofuel that they provide. But wait! Members of Kingdom Plantae may yet save our combustion-energy hungry lifestyles. Look under the swaying palm oil plantations, below the rolling green cornfields.

Look to the greenish sludge choking up the water filled ditch and the common stream. There lies a carbon-neutral and theoretically inexhaustible source of liquid fuel. It was the stuff you had to scrub out of fish tanks, and that you thought might kill you if you went swimming in certain lakes of the blue-green variety. It was around changing the Earth's atmosphere millions of years ago.

Algae

Before I ramble on further, allow me to simply summarise for the lecture-weary of you how biofuel is extracted from plants. Plants photosynthesise carbon dioxide and water into glucose and oxygen. (No sh*t, professor, I probably learnt that one before I knew how the birds and the bees fitted together). The glucose is used for energy or re-assembled by the plant into anything else it needs- proteins, carbohydrates, lipids... Lipids- essentially, oil. Therefore a plant contains oil, much as many other living organisms produce and store oil.

If the oil can be extracted, it can be converted into usable, burnable forms. Although ethanol from crop plants is used to make biodiesel, plant oils can be made into biodiesel. By compressing, by using enzymes, by firing minute particles into cells, by many means, oil can be extracted from plants to be processed and used, while the waste is used for fertiliser or animal feed.

Enter algae. Enter a plant of single or few cells that lives in water, reproduces rapidly, and produces oil. It does

not need tracts of arable land to grow upon, it can double in volume in a single day under the correct conditions, and known strains produce a 50% body weight yield of oil, compared to soybean, the current leading biodiesel crop, which has a yield of 20% and a far longer maturation time. With tens to hundreds of thousands of current and undiscovered species, finding higher yields is not unlikely- and, dare I say it, there's always genetic modification to consider. Currently, researchers estimate that one acre of algae could produce up to 10000 gallons of oil per year.

What algae "does" need in order to become a feasible source of fuel are cleverly designed farms that optimise conditions without raising expensive costs. Conveniently, such things are entirely possible with human ingenuity. The 18th century economist, Thomas Malthus, famously placed unmovable, exponential limits on crop produce by tying their production to available

water-dwelling plants that only need sunlight, carbon dioxide, and water. Imagine algae biodiesel plants constructed alongside traditional power plants to utilise the concentrated waste carbon dioxide- such things are being planned.

Based on its potential as both motor and jet fuel, the UK government has provided the independent company The Carbon Trust with initial funding of up to £4 million for a Algae Biofuels Challenge, which is ultimately intended to commercialise an algae-oil based biodiesel by 2020. Final project costs are anticipated to be £15-23 million, of which half will be funded by the Carbon Trust. In 2008 the U.S. military signed two deals worth about \$35 million to develop biodiesel made from algae.

All this optimism sounds too good to be true. I know, I'm a sourpuss too, really. It can't be that easy- after all, researchers knew that algae could be a source of biodiesel in the 1980s. Why has the world been violently panicking about petroleum costs, why did anyone bother to revive and design electric cars, were they just for fun? Dull day at the lab?

Well, frankly, up until now, the cost of petroleum-derived fuel has just been too cheap in comparison. Prior to the credit crunch (don't ask me for updates, I'm scared enough just checking my bank balance, never mind current global prices), the production cost of algal oil was still at about £2.80 / L, while petroleum diesel was lurking around \$0.48 / L in the US. It still just wasn't cost effective to go green, and petroleum produces so many other, useful things.

Now? I can't help but see my future visions of electric cars fading, the saintly masochism of restricting car journeys for nothing short of emergencies. No Mad Max style riots at petrol stations over dwindling fuel, no wars for foreign resources, no nuclear or hydrogen power taking centre stage, the development of cold fusion pushed further into a theoretical future. But who knows? There's plenty of scope for the future to surprise us.

As it stands, however, it seems that algae is the only biofuel crop with the potential to replace our need for petroleum diesel.



An algae biodiesel plant design



I'm so happy to see other people love algae too!

Picture of the Week

Slovakian River Mist, by Stephen Gallagher

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





Step away from the art

Emily Wilson
Arts Editor

I had a stressful journey into college today. I was running a little late (read: hungover) so I decided to get the bus instead of my usual brisk walk. This managed to lengthen my journey time. Firstly, there's a set of roadworks at the traffic lights near South Ken station that are pure evil, meaning my bus sat outside the Royal Marsden hospital for a good 15 minutes. At this point I was "fortunate" enough to watch a Harrods van deliver Jade Goody's wedding dress, with the paparazzi swarming. Anyway, eventually my bus reached South Ken and I realised I was in the midst of the sheer horror that is HALF TERM. Argh, it was vicious out there. The streets were awash with screaming ankle biters and over-sized, cup-holder wielding pushchairs. The queues for the Natural History Museum and the Science Museum were not only merging, but doubled back on each other so the ends were impossible to identify. The pavements of Exhibition Road were so full of mummies, daddies and kiddies that I had to walk in the road with cars honking at me just to get to college. Because obviously if I am not a kidlet, a mother or heavily pregnant, then I am not entitled to pavement.

It's a shame that Britain's parents don't have enough imagination to go somewhere other than the Science Museum or Natural History Museum. Or rather, as I overheard on the same bus this morning, just the Natural History Museum because the Science Museum

"doesn't have much stuff in it".

I am not trying to say that children should be banned from museums and art galleries. I got where I am today (hungover, studying fungus, in debt, soon to be unemployed...) because I spent my weekends being taken round National Trust properties and V&A exhibitions. I have a very distinct memory of getting out of the car on Exhibition Road to go the Science Museum, looking up and saying "what's Imperial College?" and my Mummy saying "it's a university where very clever people learn about science". And here I am.

My point is: don't go to museums and art galleries at half term. It's hell. Yes, for the first time ever, I am telling the students of Imperial NOT to go see nice artsy cultural things. Save it for an odd weekend or a day off lectures in about a month's time.

Which brings me to telling you about some of the very exciting stuff soon to be arriving in London. Already on at the Royal Academy is an exhibition on the architect Andrea Palladio. By the time you read this, "Van Dyck and Britain" will have opened at Tate Britain. Opening on 25th February is the National Gallery exhibition "Picasso: Challenging the Past". The V&A are displaying an anthology of hats from next week, and will have an exhibition on Baroque in April. Phew. If you'd be interested in reviewing any of those, or you've got something in mind that I've neglected to mention, email us and we'll get you in for free.



Teenage sexual discovery in nineteenth century Germany



Iwan Rheon as Moritz. Lucy wants to take him home in her pocket

Self-confessed theatre geek **Lucy Harrold** lives her dream and sees *Spring Awakening* at the Hammersmith Lyric

Being a bit of a theatre geek, I had high expectations of *Spring Awakening*. I've had the cast recording for a year now and followed its progress on Broadway with a yearning for it to come to England. Instead of opening straight onto a depleted West End, *Spring Awakening* has had a somewhat subdued premiere at the Hammersmith Lyric. Based on Frank Wedekind's forbidden play, *Spring Awakening* combines what was, at the time, a radical story, with contemporary rock by Duncan Sheik. Apparently Sheik is something of a rock star in America, but I must admit I hadn't heard of him until *Spring Awakening*. He has teamed up with poet/writer Steven Sater to create something that hasn't been seen in theatre for a long

time.

The play follows eleven early teens as they learn about life and growing up in 19th century Germany. This was most definitely a time where children were seen and not heard, and babies were delivered by the Stork, as shown by the innocent Wendla Bergman. But for some it was also a time of Bohemianism and discovering who one was – represented by our hero Melchior Gabor. We follow the characters as they go hurtling towards adulthood with dire consequences, in a world where the adults keep their children blinkered from reality until it is too late.

The stage of the Lyric is the perfect size for *Spring Awakening*, creating the appearance that the set could burst free from the stage at any time. The set, like many aspects of *Spring*

Awakening, at first appears simple and nondescript but on further inspection is chaotically quirky and detailed. Favourite set pieces include a giant butterfly and a blackboard listing the musical numbers with suitable graffiti. Everything is on stage including a live acoustic-rock band and a small portion of the audience. At present these on-stage seats cost £15 on the day and give a completely different view of the show although you may miss some parts. As compensation you get to sit among the actors and experience the action up close. I loved how the whole lot was integrated on stage, with actors jumping amongst the audience and even playing a song or two on the upright piano. And the lights! I've never been so obsessed with lights. We switch between a vast

sea of lightbulbs to represent reality and harsh neon lighting that extends into the auditorium during the musical numbers.

The general premise of the show is that these period characters sing contemporary songs suited to the MySpace generation. Sheik and Slater have cleverly interwoven everything – songs and story, old and new. The characters use handheld microphones to convey their feelings and the entire stage takes on an electric charge as they jump and leap around. The choreography is not your usual high kicking fare as Bill T Jones has created a jerky style that fits brilliantly into the angsty feel of the show. The music has a definite rock edge to it with some clever lyrics borrowing both from the original text and modern teenage language (although I think the phrase "My Junk" may have disappeared a few years ago). I can't think of a single song I didn't like, even songs

that didn't thrill me on the soundtrack suddenly made perfect sense within the story. Highlights include "Touch Me" – a hauntingly beautiful and poetic song about masturbation (why do all the best songs have to be about something dodgy?) and "Totally Fucked!" a rousing rock anthem about how shit life is. It felt so good to hear the songs live as the CD just doesn't live up to the real experience.

The teenage cast of *Spring Awakening* could out-act most on the West End. Aneurin Barnard as Melchior and Charlotte Wakefield as Wendla portray the loss of innocence without straying into cliché. They are never contrived or annoying, as many young characters seem to be on stage, although we decided Barnard's sex face left a little to be desired. Iwan Rheon was incredible as Moritz. He gave off a Brit-Rock vibe while also maintaining a feeling of despair as his character plummeted to-

ward failure; I just wanted to take him home in my pocket!

I've loved *Spring Awakening* for a while now and so was really apprehensive about what the Lyric would do to it. What they have done is made it a sublime, funny, poignant and rocking new musical that is going to take some beating. Many people will come for the shock factor of swearing, sex and the odd bit of nudity, but I hope they can see beyond that to find a really clever combination of classic storytelling, modern music and choreography with some amazing new talent to portray it. For the first time in a long while I've found I show I want to see again and again and I think I'll find something new and fresh about it every time.

Spring Awakening is on at the Hammersmith Lyric until March 14th



Aneurin Barnard, playing Melchior, could out-act most of the West End

A trip to the theatre you'll Enjoy

Caz Knight sees Alan Bennett's *Enjoy* – two and a half hours of far-fetched witty commentary on 80s working class culture, complete with trouser-based comedy and roaring northern accents

The audiences of 1980, fond of and accustomed to their view of what an Alan Bennett play should be, were disappointed when *Enjoy* came to the West End – despite the celebrity cast and its endorsement by well-known actors. Expecting a straightforward northern comedy, they were offered something absurd and expressionistic. The playwright's humorous writing, this time interwoven with some poignant commentary on working class pride, heritage culture, life in Leeds' back-to-backs and socio-political phenomena, that turned out to be quite prophetic: the ASBO-generation

and New Labour jargon.

In his preceding plays, Bennett enjoyed success with works such as *Beyond The Fringe*, *The Madness of George III* and *Kafka's Dick*. Having drawn on autobiographical experience of the bulldozing of the back-to-back houses (now no longer a feature of working-class housing estates in Britain's cities) in several television dramas, Bennett decided it was time to set a play in such an environment.

In today's Britain, reverse snobbery occurs frequently, with those who have done well for themselves emphasising their working class routes while those from affluent and 'cushy' backgrounds

scorned for their unfair advantage. Bennett cannot be accused of celebrating his blue-collar heritage, and in *Enjoy* even pokes fun at this working class sentimentality through Mam's desire to cling onto their back-to-back and neighbourhood that comes with it, but at the same time always aspiring to the ideal of being classy and moving up in the world. Representing the city's urge for modernisation is Dad, who does nothing but complain about their dowdy living conditions and fantasise about their shiny, new maisonette. A letter arrives from the council asking that a sociologist observe them at home in their normal day-to-day life, as part of a survey on neighbourliness and happiness in the community.

The first half, witty as it is, gets off to a slow start and by the end one wonders whether this dysfunctionally comical snapshot of northern family life is going anywhere.

The second half explodes into a hectic and energy-brimming series of events, each one more far-fetched than the next with the jokes getting dirtier and earning progressively more roars of laughter from the audience. Not only this, but its emotional potency and Bennett's messages are put across much more clearly and successfully, earning it a lot more weight and respect as a play and for its entertainment value. There were moments when the elderly Mrs Clegg tried in vain to remove the supposedly-dead Dad's trousers off him, all the while seeming as though fellating him, that had one cringe a bit given the age of both actors and audience, but laughs it got. The sadness at the thought of homes that instilled happiness, a sense of community and pride (much of this lost in today's Britain) being ripped apart was conveyed and served to give balance to the previously silly slapstick comedy, as well bring home clearly the loss that was experienced during the 70s plight to modernise.

True to style, Bennett devised the characters first before concentrating on the themes. And the cast utterly does justice to Bennett's creations. All of them loud and larger than life are played superbly with unflinching Leeds accents (one American lady behind me complained of being unable to understand a lot of what was said!). After her



Dad, played by David Troughton, in a handsome set of braces



Mam is played by Alison Steadman, of *Pride and Prejudice* fame

previous role as Mrs Bennett in BBC's 1995 production of *Pride and Prejudice* (the better one), Alison Steadman is perfect for playing the none-too-clever, optimistic Mam while the gruff, grumbling Dad, played by David Troughton, adds a glorious contrast to his wife.

The age-old parent/offspring rivalry issue is fueled by another great performance from Josie Walker as the daughter with loose morals, Linda, with reference to the 80s social environment in Gregory the skinhead

sporting Dr Marten boots, no less. Alan Bennett has succeeded, albeit 28 years after its creation, in compelling us to 'enjoy' this play: we should remember that a play is play, it should be fun and it should be playful, he says. This is theatre at its least contrived, least academic and most jovial. Although two hours and a half gave me my fill of booming, northern accents for the night!

Enjoy is on at the Gielgud Theatre until 14th May

eVoting

SABBATICAL ELECTIONS 09

STAND & DELIVER

Nominations close Sunday 1 March 23:59!

A week in the life of the Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)...

Monday

On Mondays I always try to get in for around 9am – we don't technically have to get in to the office until around 10am, but there's always dozens of emails which have built up over the weekend to reply to. Although I opted to live out of Halls, I live in Fulham and it's only a 20 minute cycle in, so I don't suffer too much in the mornings!

This Monday I've got a New Clubs Committee (NCC) meeting at lunchtime and a Clubs and Societies Board meeting at 6pm. These are two of the most important meetings for the DPCS and two meetings that I spend a lot of time preparing for. After a few hours of emails, I check over all the applications for NCC, collate all the comments about the applications which other Union officers have made and make sure that I've printed out enough copies of everything in time for the meeting. The NCC isn't a committee that I sit on, but I do make sure I'm there for every one to make notes and give advice. The members of the NCC come round to my office half an hour before the meeting to discuss budget allocations for the new clubs which were set up at the last meeting. This is also something which is not as easy as it may seem – the NCC have a pretty limited pot of money to dish out to new clubs and societies, and there is always a delicate balance between giving a new club enough money to start up, and not completely depleting the pot! For this NCC, we have five applications, so the meeting goes on until just after 2pm. Setting up new clubs is always a very emotive issue as the people wanting to set up usually have so much enthusiasm, but the committee also has to consider many other factors including all the other clubs and societies which already exist. After the meeting, we have three new societies – all really good presentations, with some incredibly dedicated proposers who had obviously spent hours researching what they wanted to do and were very enthusiastic about their proposals, so I'm hopeful that we've got another three great clubs and societies to add to our 300!

After the meeting, I make sure that all the newly set up clubs are introduced to their new CSC/FU Chairs, and arrange a meeting to go over what they need to do as a new club or society. I also fire off a number of other emails to make sure that they're now set up on our finance system, on the website, etc. It may be surprising, but I spend a lot of my time (even when an NCC hasn't just happened) dealing with new clubs and societies – either questions from students who want to set some up, or giving advice to newly set up clubs.

I try to deal with a few of the more urgent emails I've received while also going over what needs to be done for tonight's Clubs and Societies Board meeting. CSB happens once a month and is one of the Union committees which I chair. It is the meeting where all the senior (volunteer) student officers (e.g. the Athletics Clubs Committee Chair, Arts and Ents Board Chair, and the Faculty Union club and society representatives) meet up and discuss everything to with clubs and societies. The things we cover are anything from tour allocations to budgeting and

changing club and society policies. As it is currently the budgeting period for next academic year for all clubs and societies, I go over what needs to be done, deadlines and how the next meeting (the infamous CSB Budgeting meeting) will run. This is definitely my favourite Union committee – I get to hear about what all the different clubs and societies are getting up to and catch up with all the lovely people who help run them! After CSB, I stay for an extra hour or so in the office to finish things up and to send out my round-up of Chair's Business in an email so everyone's got what I said in writing!

Tuesday

As it's the annual budgeting time when all the clubs and societies have to submit their budgets for next academic year, I spend pretty much every day this week checking up on how it's all going. The deadline is this weekend, and in true student fashion, only about 50% of clubs have done their budgets which is making me very jumpy!

At 10am every Tuesday, the Sabbaticals and Peter Haldane have 'Meeting and Planning Group' which is a quick catch-up on general Union business to make sure things are getting done. There's only an hour or so to catch up on emails, after which I need to get ready for the Central Sport & Leisure Committee meeting at lunchtime. This is just one of the numerous Sport Imperial meetings the DPCS sits on, and is the one which reports on all the sporting activities at Imperial with reports from the other Sport Imperial committees, as well as a report from the Student's Union – which I need to write. It's also an excellent chance to raise any issues which might be affecting students and more specifically, any of our sports clubs. Sport Imperial meetings also come with lunch – a real bonus!

As we come back from the meeting, I pop down to see Alissa (the Sports Partnership Administrator) in her office – I've had some queries about a club's training sessions in Ethos which I need to check on. I also make sure I have a look in the Student Activities Centre – it's the hub of all club and society administration and where most club officers will go to use computers, make room bookings, print things, etc. While I'm there, I chat to the RCC and SCC Chairs to see how things are going for their clubs and how their budgeting applications are coming along. I sign off any room booking forms which are ready – part of the clearance procedure for all College room bookings. This is something I try to make sure I do everyday as room bookings is one thing that clubs and societies rely on to function.

In the evening, I try to be in two places at once – both the OSC and RCC have planned their monthly meetings at the same time. I try to go to as many CSC meetings as possible. They are when all the clubs in a particular group, e.g. the RCC, get together and discuss the various that are affecting them, and are a great chance for them to ask me questions or to raise issues for me to address. Afterwards, it's back to the office for a late night – I have to get some of those emails I've received during the day sorted and send off some more to

deal with all the questions I've been asked.

Wednesday

Not so many College or Union meetings today, but Wednesdays tend to be the busiest in terms of meetings with students and clubs. This morning, when I'm checking through my emails I realise I've got something I always dread: a room booking complaint from a College department. A club has used a College room and left it in a mess. This may not sound like a particularly big deal, but all our clubs and societies use rooms on the goodwill of departments, so when they get upset about a club's behaviour enough to complain to me about it, it's worrying. I spend the next hour or so calling people up and sending emails to try and find out exactly what has happened, warning the club about their behaviour and reassuring the department that everything is being done to ensure that it will not happen again.

Come lunchtime, I head off to the SAC to meet a couple of the new clubs who were set up on Monday with Jenny the RCC Chair to go over what they need to do as a new society. While I'm down in SAC, I get a thousand other questions from students and clubs from how to fill in some finance forms, to website issues, and of course, lots of questions on budgeting.

A few hours of the afternoon are devoted to working on the What's On page with Rachel (AEB Chair and What's On co-editor). Once that's done, I spend an hour doing some of the final editing on the Clubs & Societies Survey with Alex McKee before we launch it – something that's now become a bit overdue as I'm not an expert on survey-writing!

Thursday

In the morning I have the Clubs and Societies Group – a very informal meeting between myself, the DPFS, Phil (Membership Services Manager) and Aziz (C&S Finance member of staff), in which we go over the issues which are affecting clubs and societies. Some of the big things we're thinking about now are training sessions for newly elected club officers which usually happens in the Summer term – we're trying to improve this and want to get some of it online – Blackboard style, but of course, that's not as easy as it sounds!

After the meeting, a club comes by to see me about issues they've been having regarding a member of their committee who hasn't been pulling their weight. I go through the various things that they can do – from trying to talk to the committee member, to no-confidenting them and electing someone else into the role.

In the afternoon, I'm off to central London to attend the BUCS London regional meeting. This is where all the different University sports representatives in the London region come together and discuss all the issues which affect University sports in this part of the country. It's always fascinating to meet and talk to other Students' Unions and see how they run things and see the sort of issues which affect them.

Friday

Friday mornings often seem quite peaceful, but no matter what, around lunchtime a dozen things will suddenly crop up which mean the afternoon becomes a frenetic rush to finish things off before everyone goes home! At lunchtime a student comes to see me about her ideas for starting up a new club; I go through what she wants to do, give her tips on how she can develop her ideas and what she needs to do to put together a really good application, and try to give her some idea of the kind of support the Union could give her potential club and what kind of commitment it'll require from her.

Today's emergency comes in the shape of a panicky email from a society who are organising a massive event in the Great Hall. They tell me that they've just been informed by various College departments that their event cannot go ahead for reasons that they don't entirely understand. I try to calm them down and then start calling various College people to try to find out what the situation is and why their event sounds as if it's in danger. Eventually, I manage to find out what is going on, what College was concerned about and negotiate some compromises to ensure that the event will go ahead as planned but in a way that will work for both the club and College. As with a lot of things, this does raise various issues around clubs and society events and College rules, which will be something I shall be working on next week to sort out.

As the end of the day draws nearer, I'm now frantically trying to fit in writing my Council report before the 5pm deadline before Council on Monday.

Weekends

I always try to fit in as much club and soc stuff over the weekend – partly because it seems silly to be representing them all if I didn't actually take part in any! Being in College is also handy as I often need to pop in to the office to do a bit of work before everything starts again on Monday.

Being a Sabbatical isn't an easy ride – it's definitely not a 9-5 job. Most days I'll stay late and still not finish everything I want to get done, and so often as the year goes on, you'll realise that there are so many things you want to do simply can't be completed in a year. I've also found that my job has changed so much as the academic year has gone on. Over the summer and at the beginning of the year, most of what I was doing was related to big projects (such as making the Clubs and Societies Officers' Handbook and wiki) and Freshers' Fair. However, it is one of the most rewarding things you can ever do. The feeling of achievement after massive events like Freshers' Fair and after you've spoken to a student and helped them sort out what they should be doing to turn their club around make all the late nights and high stress-levels worth it.



A week in the life of the Deputy President (Finance & Services)...

It's difficult to describe my job with "a week in the life of" because generally the same thing happens every day, except for the project work which will vary through the year. So... the day to day routine:

I wake up at 9.15, get into the office at 10.00 and do all the usual morning stuff in-between. I chose to live in Southside, and why not? Seriously folks if you're offered a free room in halls – choose one of the South Ken based halls!

On average you're going to receive about 50 emails a day. If they are vaguely sensible then I will try and reply to them all, which means I have a schedule. Every morning between 10 and 12 is email time. Emails that come in after that get flagged to be dealt with the next morning, unless they are urgent. If I have a meeting in the morning then emails tend to build up and that's where you end up playing catch up at the weekend. Around 50% of the emails are coming from the CSC Chairs/Treasurers or the clubs directly. 20% are college related and the remaining 30% will be internal union business. For lunch I invariably I eat a plateful of the Union's catering. If it's a busy day then I'll take lunch at my desk. If it's quiet then sometimes I hop over to the walkway to sample our competition.

The afternoon's work is what changes depending

A week in the life of the Felix Editor...

The week for me really begins at the weekend, searching for potential news stories over the internet or thinking of ones to make, so that come Monday, you can then go out and get all the information you need. Monday is, in comparison to the rest of the week, very relaxing. You spend most of the day on the phone or on the computer emailing people, trying to get quotes or more information on potential leads which you would then pass on the different news writers that work for the paper. This is also the day that you begin to find out how big the paper is going to roughly be, as you chase up the different section editors to find out how many pages they each want.

Come Tuesday, the section editors start coming in and begin to lay out their pages. In the meantime, the editor works on his own story, so that come Wednesday you are free to focus all your time on editing the rest of the paper. Similar to Mondays, Tuesdays are relatively quiet, and

what time of year it is. I'll spend the first hour or so of the afternoon on little tasks that have come up that week and providing I have all the little things completed then the next three hours or so are spent on project work.

The little things are either club related (i.e. approving event budgets or preparing the tour allocations, discussing transfers with finance etc just general day to day admin) or central Union related (Every week on a Tuesday morning we have an internal management meeting MPG, where central issues are raised, e.g. the rebranding of the Union shop – keep your eyes peeled)

The projects however are more fun, these are projects you set yourself, they may be manifesto pledges or just targets you set yourself when you first come into office and think, why are we doing that, we should be doing this... that's bonkers etc. For example, most of my projects have been club system related. I spent most of the summer working with the systems and communications staff on developing the new finance pages. More recently I have worked with them to deliver an online budgeting system for the clubs. Which has, touchwood, so far been a success. Over the next few months I will be working on introducing a whole new online system which will bring our club finances into the 21st Century!

Money, money, money.

The afternoon can also be taken up with informal meetings. These can be with individual clubs, with the CSC/FU Chairs or with Union staff. Throughout the summer these were mostly to do with the Year End Accounts. Now they revolve more around the Commercial Services and of course the Summer Ball. Every month, I sit down with the operational managers to discuss the management accounts relating to their area and this is an afternoon's work.

Throughout every single day of the year, you will be signing something. All clubs and Socs claim forms over £1000 will come to you either directly or from the CSC/FU Chair/Treasurers. Booking forms for College, external booking contracts, event budgets, payroll (every week on a Friday), petty cash refills, staff petty cash claims and of course... sponsorship contracts. So far this year there have been over 150 sponsorship contracts, some only 3 or 4 pages long, others can be over 30 pages long and these take time to read through. Most of them come in October and at that time of year they are usually saved for the weekend.

Sometimes you will have a quiet week (e.g. The last week of term) other weeks will be flat out madness, (e.g. The week before the temporary VAT change came in) although the core hours are 10 – 4 with a minimum 40 hour week, it is impossible to even cover the bare minimum in

Life in the dungeon.

longest day you will ever work, clocking up 15 hours in one day; you have been warned!

Thursday is similar to Wednesday, however this big thing about this day is that now you have a print deadline approaching. You will always have the odd few editors who can't get everything done on a Wednesday, so they come in on the Thursday and you have to go through the whole routine again. Eventually, come 5pm (plus a few more hours every now and then), the paper is deemed finished and you can start to PDF the pages and send them off to the printers.

A job that most people would not expect the editor to do is deliver the paper themselves, but this is exactly what you do on Friday when the papers arrive. You would have thought that after the papers have been delivered your working week would be over, but alas there are still a few more things left to do. If the website decides to work, you will be spending the afternoon

this time. I usually end up working one weekend in four and sometimes stay quite late in the offices during the week. It all depends how much work there is to do that week. For example, club budgeting has just finished today and I'm in the office reviewing the next steps and also trying to write this "week in the life of" blurb. Elections start this week and as Returning Officer there is a fair bit of planning to do.

There are 4 important Union meetings for the DPFS: Council, Exec, CSB and Trustee Board to which papers, accounts, reports and such need to be written. The meetings themselves usually take place in the evening and can last between an hour or two. The preparation and paper writing is an afternoon's tasking which usually take a couple of hours per meeting. The DPFS only sits on two college meetings, ICT Advisory Panel (ICTAP) and Information Systems Security Group (ISSG). Here we discuss the various ICT issues and plans for the future and of course any ICT security issues are brought up at ISSG.

There is lots more to being DPFS than can be written down here, so if you are serious about running please come see me and I will be happy to talk through the job in more detail.



uploading stories to the site and once that is done, the financial aspect of the paper needs to be dealt with, with invoices being written out and copies of the paper sent to the advertisers. Finally around 5pm on the Friday, your week is over and you can enjoy a nice relaxing pint in the Union, well that's what I do at least, you can do whatever you like because the week will start all over again the next day!

Oh and as if the paper wasn't enough work, you are also there to give a helping hand to the increasing and ever popular magazines that Felix produces. Each of them presents a different challenge, mainly on the design front to make sure that the appearance of the magazine matches the high quality content that is within it.

For more information and to stand: imperialcollegeunion.org/elections



Parkour strut their stuff



Music

Music Editors – Peter Sinclair James Houghton & Alex Ashford

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Do the locomotive

Peter Sinclair
Music Editor

For most Londoners the London Underground forms both the backbone and backdrop of life in the capital. On the daily commute, we spoon each other with an imposed intimacy which would be unthinkable in different circumstances. We make fleeting eye contact, step on feet and mutter hasty apologies as we manhandle our way to the exit. The Tube is often where we are at our most fragile. We are there moments after waking-up, before the nauseating taste of undissolved toothpaste has been swallowed. We are there after a late evening spent in the library, before a job interview, on the way to meet friends who we haven't seen for too long, who might have changed but we hope haven't.

Luckily, many activities are available to distract the commuter's attention away from this emotionally intense situation. The dismembered *London Lites* and *London Papers* that pepper the aisles are staple for the morning traveller. For the more literary and dextrous, one handed book-reading is also an option. For most though, time is most efficiently killed by the iPod.

Selection of exactly what to listen to on the tube is crucial for the preservation of emotional wellbeing. Choosing an inappropriate tune for the situation can both ruin the music and leave you alienated by the absurdity of it. Most often one is tempted to select intellectually-challenging music – jazz or classical, for example – in order to mentally stimulate away the tedium of the commute. However you must not be swayed by ideas of intellectual expansion, which is no more possible on

a packed-out carriage than is physical expansion. The Tube is a place to yield to the subconscious whims. Here, survival is the only objective.

Morning commutes are the most crucial. The music you listen to for the first hour of your day will have a drastic effect on your mood. It is best to select energetic pieces without going into all-out electro-breaks (when I hear the relentless snare kicks from a pair of tinny white iPod headphones playing Scooter's latest hit single, I cringe not only for my own sake, but for the sake of the listener's mental state). Hip-hop is often a good choice, with the slow tempo and confident elocution of the monologists setting up a mood of bold self-assurance and optimism. "Today" you may think, nodding your head to another sublime Dilla joint "I'ma fuck all them bitches". And for that first hour of your day, you just might.

The music of the evening commute is more about indulgence. For many weary travellers, the evening's beats act as a substitute for a hot bath or a cup of cocoa. It is a time for sumptuousness and warmth, a time for comfort music. Folk is good here; pop or electronica often are not. Nothing too produced – the evening commute's soundtrack needs to be human. It needs to hold you to its bosom and tell you that perhaps tomorrow won't be quite so awful.

The selection of music on the Underground is an endeavour strewn with potholes and potential hazards, but hopefully with these tips the daily commute will be slightly less gruesome. Now all you have to remember to do is mind the doors.

Esser can't quite work it out



Esser
Work It Out (single)
Merok
★★★★☆

Christopher Walmsley

This is the latest single from ex-Lady-fuzz drummer Ben Esser, released just as he heads off supporting the Kaiser Chiefs on a UK arena tour, signed to Transgressive last year, a label which has a reputation for being on the cutting edge of new musical talent, so expectations are high already.

'Work it out' has Esser showcasing his trademark electro-pop with all the key ingredients - electronic blips and bleeps, synthesised backing vocals and several accompanying remixes. It's these that could see the song easily de-

scend into indie discos, but the single itself has a very easy going laid back feel making it quite a relaxed listen.

Stylistic elements alluding to artists like The Streets, Jack Penate, or Jamie T can easily be found. Esser has a habit of invoking quirky lyrics like "I have a habit of getting my foot stuck in my mouth / You are the only person I know who can get it out" which make the song feel a lighthearted affair. This does however leave the song feeling a little shallow, but although there's little that's particularly ingenious or ground breaking here, it still remains a very likeable song on the whole.

There is a lot of potential for Esser, especially given the current love for electro/indie/pop at the moment. 'Work it out' may not propel him into the glaring eye of the mainstream, but there is plenty of promise for the future.

A spot of cribbage?

The boys are back on tour. Tytus Murphy heads to Heaven to witness the new Cribs lineup and some new Cribs tunes.



Tytus Murphy

Following the success of their most recent album, *Men's Needs, Women's Needs, Whatever*, the three Jarman brothers who make up The Cribs are surfing the wave of momentum that comes with critical acclaim and teenage adoration. Not content on resting on their laurels, the Jarman brothers have recruited quite possibly the most melodic guitarist of all time in the form of the eternally youthful Jonny Marr (formerly of The Smiths and Modest Mouse). This evening the Wakefield trio combined with Mancunian Marr are rounding off a flying tour of more intimate venues with the aim of road-testing some new material to a loyal, diehard legion of fans as they work on their eagerly anticipated fourth album.

Support from Oregon 3-piece The Thermals provide a retrospective of The Cribs in 2003 as they once arrived with their ferociously energetic shows onto the live circuit. But the crowd in this venue (Heaven being more accustomed to drag queens, frolics and the like) are here to welcome a seminal band back into the medium in which they are most comfortable and make most sense. Few venues can match the compactness, intimacy and sweat of Heaven and this provides the per-

fect setting for a raucous, intense and exuberant gig. Opening with new track 'We were Aborted' the anthemic nature of most Cribs tracks is immediately evident. I have to say that being quite the Cribs fanatic, Marr's addition had me worried with the worry of his presence perhaps upsetting the dynamic of this buoyant band. How pedantic my concerns now appear as the addition of his ambient, jangly guitar parts provide a delightful foundation for the distinctive Jarman guitar-hook and vocal. From the start, it is so captivating to see Ryan, Gary and Jonny interact with a brotherly affection that ranges from crazy love to cool aloofness. The opening track is followed by a trio of songs that send the enthusiastic crowd into frenzy: 'I'm a Realist', 'Hey Scene-sters' and the snarling 'Our Bovine Public'. Collective cries of 'You'd never exist without being generic' are uttered in unison by Ryan and the 300 or so crammed into this venue as everyone vents a little anger at pretentious 'scene-sters' and their flaccid shenanigans.

This evening is all about road-testing the new material and we are shown five new songs. The most impressive being 'Cheat on Me' and 'Victims of Mass Production'. It is difficult to judge the songs at this stage, the instrumental parts are as expected and are all succinct, with the Marr contribution giving the rawer material a melodic edge that in tandem with Ryan, Gary and Ross (the unsung hero of this band whose relentless drumming keeps this beast ticking over in true pop-punk spirit) creates a frantic sound.

The crowd are then invited to replicate the delightful hook of 'Another Number' and they duly oblige as Gary demonstrates the often overlooked tender and thoughtful side to this band, "I disappear for hours, over the smallest things" and in 'Womens Needs: "In the radius of a thousand

miles, I find it strange, no one makes me smile", capturing moments of isolation in a dramatic contrast to the anger of 'Mirror Kisses' – "You're not allowed to say, that you're better!"

Very few bands can pull out a couple back-to-back as powerful as 'Mirror Kisses' and 'Mens Needs' with both songs being strong candidates for the most anthemic reflections of adolescence since the turn of the millennium. At this stage of the gig, I am pogo-ing with the jubilant jerks of someone who

"Lee Reynaldo of Sonic Youth remarking on time, space and love"

is defying his twenty years of existence. This band encapsulates youth in such a powerful way and in the live setting the energy and feeling is immense. 'Be Safe' is giving an epic airing with an intriguing spoken-word section provided by Lee Reynaldo of Sonic Youth remarking on time, space and love, juxtaposing amazingly with the cry of "I know a place, where you fall in love so hard, that you wish you were dead".

The Cribs continue to deliver at their live shows and the addition of Marr is going to further improve an already excellent band. The set is concluded with 'Wrong Way to Be' and a stage invasion by an agile young chap who after being crashed into the ground by a security guard is consoled by a caring hand from Ryan Jarman and invited to join the band for the end of the set. I, for one, think those bruises will definitely be worth it.



Nightlife

Nightlife Editor – Catherine Jones (CJ)

nightlife.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Silent crowd-surfing at Trafalgar

James Mossahebi

If you had happened to walk past Trafalgar square on Friday evening you would have seen an odd sight; a thousand plus people dancing, conga lining and crowd-surfing to... well... silence.

The silent disco flash mobs are back. After a T-mobile ad campaign showed us what professional dancers can do when grouped "randomly" en-masse, Social networks plan to show what they can do with the trend that is rightfully theirs.

It is safe to say that "flash mobbing" is one of many characteristics that will define the tech savvy, socialites of Generation Y. A group of people gathering in one place at short notice, doing something out of the ordinary. And if you had walked down the Strand on Friday you would have seen the out of the ordinary charge straight at you, following a man with the boom box and police vans ambling behind them.

But ultimately, what is the point?

When you first arrive to participate in a silent disco mob the mood is bizarre. I knew why I was there. The girls in neon tracksuits knew why I was there (unless I've missed a disgusting new fashion trend) and the police knew why I, the girls in the neon tracksuits and the fat man in a vest prematurely dis-coing on his lonesome, were there. All of us, including a few hundred more, loitered waiting for 7:00pm.

When the clock struck 7:00, nothing. Everyone still stood wandering round the square waiting for something. Some sort of signal to start.

It wasn't for another 5 minutes when a man on top of a lion rallied everyone to come between the barriers. The crowd took little convincing and soon people were leaping over barriers, iPods and mp3s in ear, ready to throw some serious (yet stealth) shapes.

You might think that this would be quite an awkward thing to participate in, reserved for outgoing performance artists. But once you're plugged in,

you're transported to a massive summer festival atmosphere, via Nelson's column.

Mosh pits were formed, conga lines circled the main pit, and crowd surf-

ers leapt from the lions' columns. The two events definitely worth mentioning were when a ten year old (and yes I did verbally query the whereabouts of his mother) was carried in a Superman pose right to the back of the crowd, and a horizontally challenged fellow,

who quite frankly didn't leap with such grace. After he got the crowd going to cheer him on with some passionate bare belly rubbing, the key carriers failed miserably, and the sound of his self hitting the concrete could be heard from the back. Not to worry – he didn't die, just collapsed with unsympathetic police standing over him afterwards. Regardless, the discoing continued, climaxing with a charge on to the nation gallery and a group of police vans on the ready to disperse the revelers.

The satisfaction of passers by, who had no idea what was going on, was apparent. With this alone, it is easy to see why these flash mobs are so fun.

Obviously there are security issues and concerns about public order. How-

ever, with a "mob" of people brandishing boards with the manifestos "free hugs" and "good times" it's hard to see any malice.

Flash mobs are appearing all round the world. Pillow fights, silent discos, mass tooth brushings, zombie walks and water fights are taking on cities using text, email and social networking sites. This is essentially performance art, but so clearly reflects two exciting factors of this generation. The ability to communicate en masse with the broad social circles we have, and more importantly, can rally these social circles into doing something absolutely mindless in the name of a good laugh.

Personally I'm sold. Like all street art in this city, it can make the daily grind far more interesting. And if the fat kid who failed to crowd-surf dies of internal bleeding, he is a victim of stupidity and not of the flash mob. As long as the good nature of it remains, I hope to see you at the next beautiful waste of time. This fine city has to offer.



phoenix





Vampires and werewolves never die

Apparently, neither do the *Underworld* sequels. To be fair, why kill a perfectly profitable series when the new films still manage to be entertaining, sexy and action-packed, as Jonathan Dakin reveals this week.

Underworld : Rise of the Lycans

★★★★★

Director: Patrick Tatopoulos
Writer: Danny McBride et al.
Cast: Michael Sheen, Billy Nighy, Rhona Mitra

Jonathan Dakin
 Film Editor

Bleak, dark and sexy. What more do you expect from a film about vampires and werewolves? For those of you who may not know, *Underworld: Rise of the Lycans* is a prequel to 2003's sleeper hit *Underworld* and its follow-up *Underworld Evolution*, so it covers no new ground – just a sub-plot from the first film that was briefly mentioned as the motive for a character's crusade of vengeance.

If you haven't seen the first two films then this film will seem original and intriguing, although you may find yourself lost in a sea of pre-established characters and codes for this already well-developed alternative reality. But whether or not you have seen the other films, *Underworld: Rise of the Lycans* is a stylish action/horror that you can sink into and lose yourself in for an hour and a half – that is if you enjoy fast-paced action, gory horror and sexy vampires.

Set hundreds of years ago, a community of vampires living within a huge castle in an undisclosed European country decide to use werewolves



I think this photo summarises the film very well – swords stand for the violence, black for everything else.

as their slaves. Now this is where the tricky definitions appear: werewolves are vicious, monstrous beasts transformed from humans into overgrown canines. Lycans are werewolves that can control their transformations and can change back to human form, keeping their humanity, logic and thoughts intact while they are in wolf-form. If you don't understand that, think it is stupid or don't care, then maybe you should stop reading now and not bother watching this film. It is, after all, the only bit of thinking you have to

do throughout the course of the entire film, but if it is too much for you then maybe horror just isn't your thing. For the rest of you: werewolves are too dangerous to vampires and so are forced into the forests, whereas Lycans are kept within the citadel as slaves.

Lucian (Sheen), the very first Lycan, is the trusted and valued leader of the Lycans and he works for Viktor (Nighy), the 'big daddy' and ruler of the vampire world. But what Viktor doesn't know is that Lucian is having an illicit affair with his smoking-

hot vampire daughter Sonja (Mitra), which is seen as an abomination as the two races should never get too intimate with one another. A very strong Romeo and Juliet love theme quickly develops and when impending doom suddenly embraces the lives of those within the fortress, Lucian decides that it is time the Lycans made a stand for themselves, cast off their shackles, and be free to live life how they want.

Filled with many racial analogies and sword-wielding violence, I don't think I have ever seen an action film attempt to make such a profound point before. Perhaps I was reading too much into it, but even so the film works on many different levels which makes it even more enjoyable. With good performances from all the central roles, including screen siren Rhona Mitra who burns up every scene with her incredible sexiness, served alongside a healthy dollop of gore and monster slaying, *Underworld: Rise of the Lycans* does exactly what it seems strange to someone who has no idea about the films that preceded it and there are a few slow-scenes too many, overall the film is an interesting, paint-by-numbers action film. Saying that, there is a very unexpected ending but this twist will only come as a shock to those who have not yet seen the first *Underworld* film.

The directing is okay but some of the quick cuts can be confusing and irritating, although the Matrix-like slow motion looks cool but lacks originality. The director is trying his best, but can't compete with the director of the previous films, Len Wiseman, who was much better at building suspense and atmosphere.

So if you want to begin your journey into the world of vampires and werewolves, I'm sure that this is probably the best place to start, as the films that follow it chronologically are well worth-seeing. It may be a turn-off-your-brain-sit-back-and-enjoy standard action/horror, but when you have nothing else to watch, what is so wrong with that?

So if you want to begin your journey into the world of vampires and werewolves, I'm sure that this is probably the best place to start, as the films that follow it chronologically are well worth-seeing. It may be a turn-off-your-brain-sit-back-and-enjoy standard action/horror, but when you have nothing else to watch, what is so wrong with that?

Korean western that has the good, bad and weird

The Good, the Bad, the Weird

★★★★★

Director: Kim Ji-Woon
Writer: Kim Ji-Woon & Kim Min-Suk
Cast: Song Kang-ho, Lee Byung-hu, Jung Woo-sung

Annabel Slater

"We've got to go see this film" – enthused my fella – "They say it's everything that the last *Indiana Jones* should have been!"

By 'they', he's referring to *The Metro* reviewer. I, looking forward to a Friday night of cosy slouching around, am less than sure. Mentioning the last *Indiana Jones* film brings a sour taste to my mouth, like bile, and I'm not enthused by westerns. To cut the story short, shortly afterwards we are hustling into a cinema to watch the film on its opening night. The audience is pretty sparse and there are no problems finding seats.

My knowledge of South Korean cinema is pretty limited to Park Chan-wook's chilling *Vengeance* trilogy – despite having lived in Seoul for a year, I spent most of my TV time watching glossy Korean soaps and historical melodramas where understanding of

the spoken language is entirely arbitrary to understanding the plot. Nonetheless, I anticipated that if *The Good, the Bad, the Weird* would be anything like the few films I had seen, it would most likely be visually slick and good looking, with bits of dark violence, interesting camera angles, hints of black comedy and intense, moody stars.

It is. It is all of that, and then some. *The Good, the Bad, the Weird* is inspired by Sergio Leone's *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*. The three protagonists referred to in the title are Yoon Tae-goo (Song Kang-ho) – 'the Weird' (and endearingly so) – a carelessly reckless, middle-aged gangster, Park Chang-I (Lee Byung-hun) – 'the Bad' – a psychotic and sadistic young gangster with a penchant for tailored suits, floppy hair and knives (as these types do...) and Park Do-won (Jung Woo-sung) – 'the Good' – a young, unflappable and enigmatic bounty hunter. The action in the film starts almost right away with a rowdy train-robbery by two of the protagonists and it scarcely lets up from thereon. Intensely colourful and cluttered sets are smashed up by flying bullets and dying henchmen as Yoon Tae-goo procures a precious and mysterious treasure map from travelling aristocrats, taking him across the desert plains and towns of 1930s Manchuria with Park Chang-yi and his nasty cronies in hot pursuit. The

film is a peculiar mix of wild action, extreme violence and quirky comedy. Tae-goo provides the film's comedic moments by his pained expressions of harassment and sheer disregard for the deadly forces pursuing him. Do-won appears to be the film's calm, moral centre and steady hand. Chang-I is simply, purely disturbing – what the film provides in intense visual colour and detail, it also provides in graphic gore and I had to fervently close my eyes at certain points of the film when Chang-I brought out his knives.

Unfortunately, the thin plot of the film – 'life is about chasing, and being chased' – cannot stand up to the eventual pacing and credibility, which really begins to falter in the final third. There is an initially amusing (but then interminably long) chase-scene across the desert involving horses, motorbikes, jeeps, machine guns, packs of vengeful Manchurian bandits, gun-wielding gangsters, the unflappable bounty hunter and a section of the Japanese army who are depicted as Shakespearean-ly evil. But by the convoluted end of it, I found that I no longer particularly cared what the treasure would turn out to be and wished the protagonists – friend, foe or weird alike – would hurry up and bump each other off. The characters' lack of depth had carried on for too long and I found myself bored and caring less for the 'good' guys. Although

the finale of the film delivered a couple of twists, I felt as though my enthusiasm for the film's odd, scrambled mix of tones and genres had waned and I did not feel particularly bothered by the sudden revelations in the ending.

Overall, this is still an entertaining piece of action, a messy but great-looking, rowdy, Korean-Western. While



One map. Three villains. Winner takes all.

What is it about the desert that makes it so appealing to film-makers?

Not a masterpiece, but close

Reprise is a piece of art that should not be missed by anyone; it's a film debut that has put Scandinavian movies back in the game

Reprise ★★★★★

Director: Joachim Trier
Writer: Joachim Trier & Eskil Vogt
Cast: Anders Danielsen-Lie, Espen Klouman-Hoiner, Victoria Winge

Stefan Carpanu

Few films, debut films at that, have managed to portray the grandness and the pitfalls of youth as accurately as Joachim Trier's *Reprise*. The Norwegian production, first released in 2006, has garnered a significant amount of recognition at awards and festivals around the world, particularly Europe. Most praise was aimed at the young Danish director who certainly is one to look out for. However, it would be a severe shortcoming to ignore the quality of his film as a whole, an authentic and complex rendering of the emotions and experiences two friends, Phillip (Anders Danielsen Lie) and Erik (Espen Klouman-Hoiner), go through in their search for fulfilment.

The two are both young, aspiring writers, filled with idealism and a craving to establish themselves as creative individuals in their world, which leads them to different paths along the treacherous cliffs of young adulthood. Phillip, on the one hand, finds himself intoxicated with an obsession of love which turns him into a confused mess



Ah, to be young and carefree again! Those were the days...

and leaves him searching for lost time. Erik, on the other hand, is driven by his ambitions, hardly holding his own on loose moral ground. The film explores their anxieties, their attitude towards friendship and the world around them, their grand clichés seemingly disguised as originality, their uniqueness obscured by their commonality. It's such an overwhelmingly truthful experience, that it made me wonder why I sacrificed the perennially ambiguous meritocracy of the artistic plane for the calm and prescriptive life of a business graduate.

Still, I've come across a few complaints in reviews of this film and they mostly relate to the excessive editing, the muddled narrative or the seemingly uneventful storyline. Unfortunately, it's

hard to argue against such statements, as everyone finds his or her own balance, especially in terms of what is excessive and what is uneventful. However as far as the narrative goes, even if it may seem a bit raw at times, as long as the viewer is immersed in the film, I sincerely doubt there will be any issues pertaining to the comprehension or the logical coherence of the story.

In conclusion, I won't go so far as to claim that *Reprise* is a masterpiece but it is certainly has my vote as one of the not-quite-so-many good films released of late which really spoke to me in a substantial way. There are several things to enjoy about it and even a few to contemplate when it's finished, in what amounts to a poignant and well-articulated piece of art.

Coming Out Soon

See London as you've never seen it before in this noir fairytale – Franklyn

Zuzanna Blaszcak
 Film Editor

Shot on location in London, Gerald McMarrow's first full-length feature is different and original enough to be mentioned.

It's hard to summarise the plot without giving away the not-so-surprising conclusion but that's actually not a problem because the movie's strength is not its imaginative storyline which, even for a fairy tale, is slightly too unrealistic. What makes *Franklyn* stand out is the pristine detail of the wonderfully offbeat, decidedly sombre and murky world created by the camera, scenery,

make-up and visual effects.

Ryan Phillippe, Eva Green, Sam Riley and Bernard Hill play four souls inhabiting two parallel worlds (contemporary London and Meanwhile City) whose lives are interweaved by fate, tragedy and, of course, love. As these worlds come closer together our heroes (or rather anti-heroes) go through the process of self-discovery that comes to a gripping climax when Meanwhile City and our beloved London collide.

Sounds a bit childish, but believe me, this is one fairytale you would not want your child to see. Unless you like world created by the camera, scenery, freaking out little kids, that is.



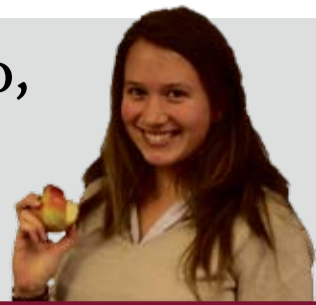
Eva Green ditches her Bond-girl look for a disturbing emo-goth one.

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Tupperware is so, so cool

Rosie Grayburn
Food Editor



Before I even attempt to put my spoon into the broth of delights that is these food pages, I wish to apologise. Last week, I noticed I had written an article that I hadn't written at all. Unfortunately, the brilliant Vapiano review was not written by my hand but by the lovely Natalia Jardon-King. Please correct your copies from last week with a large, red, felt-tip pen.

Earlier today I was imbibing my daily fix of radio-broadcasted female empowerment (a.k.a Woman's Hour). In between the bitter divorcees and reproductively-challenged couples was an absorbing piece about sandwiches. They had sent out a young and enthusiastic researcher to collar Mancunian workers on their midday breaks and to reveal their darkest luncheon secrets. Unsurprisingly, most people (including you) can spend up to £100 a month on lunches alone. This adds up to about £600 being spent on bread, butter and mayonnaise for the average undergraduate in an academic year and if you think about opportunity costs, you could make double that amount of food if it were homemade, or just not be in as much debt at the end of the year.

Unfortunately, I am a Libra and I am aware of another side of this argument: what about The Sandwich Shop? If we all made ourselves lunch everyday, amazing local eateries like this one would certainly go out of business. What would we do without our lukewarm samosas and foot-long baguettes wrapped in 5 layers of Cling-film? I think most of the student/staff population of Imperial would go to ruins without The Sandwich Shop. As usual we must make a compromise: save yourself some money for one half of the week and make yourself a big, Tupperware lunch or club sandwich. For the rest of the week, indulge in a Sandwich Shop outing or a lardy Panini from the JCR.

If this sounds like far too much effort, it might be easier to just make a little bit more of the dinner you had last night. Cold pizza, pasta bake and

even [well cooked] omelette can be perfectly edible the next day. I am guilty of eating half a day-old cold Café Forum pizza for lunch – if you just roll it up, it tastes as good as those wanky wrap things they sell in the library.

Now we go from fast-food for lunch to slow-food at the weekend. If you're stuck in on a Sunday doing a lab report, there is no better feeling than having a big pot of slow-cooked stew on the hob waiting for you to gobble down with a hunk of old bread.

To get a good bargain on meat, pop down to your local butcher to get a really cheap cut of beef or lamb. If you are lucky enough to live in or near Battersea, you had better get acquainted with Luis and Ricardo's Family Butchers on Battersea Bridge Road. Far from the extortionate steak and chicken you can buy on the supermarket shelves, this butcher offers unusual and tasty cuts of meat at wholesale prices. And if you get to know him well he'll pop in a couple of free onions into the bargain. Legend.

Once you have your meat, the simplest slow-cook can be done by just adding your meat to a couple of carrots, onions, tins of plum tomatoes and herbs, then cooking for a few hours on a low heat with plenty of seasoning. To save on the old gas bills, it might make sense to invest a couple of quid in a mini-slow cooker which makes enough stew for two.

To continue with the 'slow' theme our Keeper of the Stove, David Wallis, conjures up a delicious slow-cooked pork belly. Belly of pork is another of those cheap cuts making a comeback. We've had our economic growth with a side of rack of lamb and fillet steak. The recession, sir, comes with a portion of pork belly, shin of beef and a bit of imagination.

Another way to ward off the budget blues is to happily your belly with a good-value meal out. Near Pembridge Halls is a fantastic Mexican serving fresh Latino grub. James 'I am Giles Coren' Copley checks it out this week. As for me...writing has made me hungry. I may go for a Happy Meal. Bye!

Me gustan los ricos burritos

James Copley spies with his little eye, something Mexicano



Santo Village ★★★★★

299 Portobello Road
0208 968 4590
www.santovillage.com

Best: The food, the ambience, the margaritas... todos!
Worst: Que?

Price: From £4.50 for mains
Student Discount: 10% off Tuesdays to Thursdays

Portobello Road. Chances are you will have been there fairly soon after arriving at Imperial. Chances are you will not have been amused by the array of dubious antiques and generic tourist tat on offer. Chances are you will not have met Hugh Grant, but rather been the flattened filling in a baseball-cap-sporting-American sandwich. Chances are you won't have hurried back. If this is the case, then you will not have noticed that at the far end of the road, just past the wonderful concrete monstrosity of the Westway flying over your head, there lives a small Mexican restaurant named Santo Village.

Now a fair percentage of us that grew up in the '90s in middle England may associate Mexican food with yellow cardboard boxes full of rubbery tortillas and mysterious sachets of "spice". However, in the past few years we finally appear to be catching on, televi-

sion is awash with presenters showing us how great Latin American cuisine can be.

With hopes high and bellies empty, we tucked into a light starter of fresh guacamole and requeson (a creamy Mexican cheese similar to ricotta) with tortilla chips. It was a most welcome surprise upon sitting down that Carlos, the restaurant's co-owner insisted we sample the margarita menu. After an oh-so-reluctant acceptance we were then presented with a pomegranate margarita and the house speciality – the Margarita Santo. A delicate balance of sour lemon and lime juices and a sweet pineapple flavour, all capped off with a rim of chilli on the glass. Cocktails are deceptively difficult to perfect and the barman at Santo truly has mastered the margarita. With the bar open until 1am at weekends, can you think of a better way to escape the English February than supping cocktails late into the night?

The staples of the standard Mexican restaurant are present at Santo: burritos, quesadillas, enchiladas etc. But the diverse range of fillings, from the conservative chilli con carne to orange juice marinated pork, slow-cooked in banana leaves and served with pickled red onions. It is clear, however, that the dishes that the owners are most proud of serving are the cazuelas, main meals cooked in traditional terracotta dishes and served with hot flour tortillas.

There seems to be a reluctant acceptance at Santo that, despite the owners

strong desire to serve authentic modern Mexican cuisine, to succeed they must serve the food that people expect. This is exemplified by the chef begrudgingly serving his burritos in the American-style, with lots guacamole and soured cream. Even though this may not be traditional, the sheer quality of the accompaniments makes Santo's burritos an excellent choice for lunch when you find yourself in the area.

The more adventurous diner has the opportunity to make the chef's day and select one of the many delicious mains on offer. Having recently seen the Hairy Bikers cook it, I chose the chicken mole. This is a thick brown sauce, which the chef informed me had more ingredients than Portobello Road has stripey emo socks. Famous for containing cacao, it also has ground almonds, dates and other such wonderment. This initially smoky and sweet dish, with a surprising chilli aftertaste, is mainly cooked for special occasions in Mexico due to its complexity.

Santo have started to serve takeaway food, but it would seem a shame not to enjoy the full experience with the wonderful decor and vibrant music. It really is a heart warming experience dining in a cosy little corner, courtesy of some of the most welcoming and passionate men in London, let alone in the restaurant industry.

Something of a hidden gem, then, and the perfect location for a cliché-free romantic meal.



Slow Cooking: Worth its Wait in Gold

As with a particular brand of Irish stout, the old adage, "Good things come to those who wait", is never more true than when it comes to home cooking and fat, considered the scourge of food of the fast variety, is positively essential when it comes to taking a more scenic route to the dining table. Fat means flavour, and, when left to gently bubble along over the course of a few hours, will slowly melt away and release untold richness of flavour leaving you with meat so tender and juicy that you may well find yourself slumping to your knees, sobbing in unbridled ecstasy. The recipe here, whilst requiring a bit of forethought and effort in the kitchen, is more than worth it for the pay-off. When you cook pork belly like this, for example, the resulting sensation that comes with the salty, piggy crunch of crisp golden crackling, coupled with the rich gooey melt of velvety flesh, is probably the closest you can get to the meaning of life. So, like Sting in the bedroom, slow is definitely the way to go.

Serves 2-3

500-600g Belly Pork (make sure there is a good layer of fat under the skin)
1 small or half a large onion sliced
2-3 Cox's apples, peeled, cored and sliced into 8 half-moon shaped segments
2 teaspoons fennel seeds (optional)
1 tablespoon of fresh sage, chopped (if you haven't got sage, thyme will also work well)
Olive oil
2-3 mashing potatoes, peeled and chopped and left to soak (this stops them being too starchy)
Good handful Kale chopped
1 portion of Laughing Cow cheese
Milk
Butter
100ml good-quality dry English cider
2 tablespoons double cream
1 teaspoon grainy mustard
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Pre-heat the oven to 220°C. Score the skin of the pork with as sharp a knife as you can find, taking care not to cut down into the meat. Pour over some boiling water, drain and dry well with kitchen towel (this process causes the skin to contract and gives you better crackling). Once dry, rub the skin lightly with olive oil before sprinkling with a good pinch of salt and a teaspoon of fennel seeds. Work the salt and fennel seeds into the cuts you have made in the skin. Put the onion, apples, sage and a teaspoon of fennel seeds in a deep roasting tin and large enough to accommodate the meat. Add a dash of olive oil and give a good mix together. Arrange the apple and onions into a bed that the pork can rest on, trying to keep all of the mixture directly underneath the meat. This may take a bit of fiddling but once you are happy, gently place the pork in the centre of the hot oven and roast for 25 minutes. After the 25 minutes are up, turn the heat right down to 160°C and leave to cook for 1.5 – 2 hours. Half-an-hour or so before the pork is done cooking you need to prepare the mash potatoes. Simply drain the chopped potatoes and boil in fresh water for 15 -20 minutes or until soft. Once the pork's time is up, check it to see if the skin has transformed to the state of crackling-crispiness you desire. If it still seems a bit soft, just bung it back in the oven on maximum heat and check it every couple of minutes until the job is done (don't worry too much about burning the meat, belly is very forgiving). When happy with your pork, remove from the oven and leave to rest. Drain the potatoes thoroughly, ensuring that there is no water left in the pan. Return the cooked potatoes to the pan with a good knob of butter, a splash of milk, the Laughing Cow cheese, a pinch of salt and a few turns of freshly-ground black pepper. Mash the potato until smooth, check seasoning and set aside – keeping warm. Cook the Kale for 5 minutes in boiling water. In the mean time, heat a small frying pan on high. When hot, pour in the cider and boil vigorously for two or three minutes before adding the mustard and cream. Stir together, add a bit of salt and freshly-ground pepper and set aside. Finally, cut the belly pork into thick strips and plate up with the mash and cooked kale. Put a spoonful or two of the apple and onion mix alongside the meat and pour the cider and cream dressing over the veg. Breathe a sigh of relief and eat with gusto whilst sipping the rest of your cider.

Written and Created by David Wallis



FAIRTRADE

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

ICU Fairtrade Society presents...

Wednesday 25th: Talk and discussion in Huxley 311 at 12.30. Free raffle tickets for everyone attending.

Discounts on Fairtrade snacks and drinks in JCR

Monday 23rd: Launch in the JCR

Thursday 26th: Wholefoods visit in Sheffield.



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT
23 February – 8 March 2009

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Friday 27th: Sampling in Sheffield during lunch time.



Want it... want it now. Who says homemade lunches aren't cool when you have one of these!?

Staying fresh for function

Seemingly nomadic Music Editor Alex Ashford has migrated across the pages of *felix*. She brings you her fashion essentials that allows her to stay fresh for any situation.



Imperial's own Gok Wan and Fashion Editor, Dan Wan, suggested I write something for this page (probably because he's too busy whining about something in a different section of the paper!). I realised because we're students, we're always going to be poor (any spare cash is for booze), and this whole economic meltdown isn't really helping us. So here's a rough guide of fashion necessities that can be worn for pretty much every occasion, and keep you looking natty: not nasty. Kate Moss has worked out that you only need to wear about five different things ever, and she always gets it right. This is really just for girls, because boys only ever have about five things to wear anyway. Get these right and you don't need to own anything else.

Alex

Leather Jacket or Fur Coat

Unless you're not into the idea of wearing the skin of another species, this will be a brilliant investment. It has been a consistently good look since it was pioneered by cavemen. The best thing though, is that they both keep you warm in the cold and don't overheat you when it's warm. Fur coats are good for winter (80% of the British year is winter anyway) but leather jackets are suitable for the entire year, anywhere in the world. Vintage shops (Beyond Retro, Absolute Vintage, Rokit, etc.) are the best places to rummage through (and in the case of fur, it at least means you aren't directly funding the killing of cute furry things).

if you're fat, you want plain blue skinny jeans. Black and grey are also good. You can get these anywhere, I'm a fan of the Cheap Monday brand which you can get at places like Urban Outfitters.

Sexy Black Dress

Have you seen Lilly Allen recently in one? She looked simply gorge and just wore head to toe black accented with red lipstick. Feel free to be as slutty as you like, it will still look classy if you wear all black. American Apparel has a really nice long-sleeved very short one with a big scoop back.

Grey Zip Up Hoody

Layer under a leather jacket or blazer, they are cosy and lazy and warm without looking like you just rolled out of bed. Once again, American Apparel is ideal for basics like this.

A Big Warm Cardigan

Cardigans are just so lovely. Everyone wears them: boys, girls, little kids, grannies and grandads. They unite

people of all ages with their cosy loveliness. Again, material is the key factor. You can get some really nice cashmere ones from vintage shops for less than you'd think.

Killer Heels

Get the most outrageous, ridiculous and divine pair you can. Go for bright colours and space age-looking things. Loads of these sorts of shoes are on sale right now because people aren't buying as extravagantly as before; take advantage! Shoes make or break an outfit, so have the fiercest shoes and the rest of your outfit doesn't matter that much.

Plain Boys' T-Shirt

Wear it to bed on its own, wear it to the pub with jeans and boots, wear it to a nightclub with oil slick leggings and heels, it's appropriate for almost every occasion. Big baggy and comfy are best, and if you want, make it less frumpy and cut the neck and sleeves off. American Apparel has a plethora of different t-shirt styles in different colours.



SICK



Boater Hats
Straw boaters, you know, like the ones those guys wear as they ply their trade on the rivers, er, streets, er, rivers, er...streets of Venice. Adds another dimension to an otherwise plain outfit. I'm imagining a dark blue or white outfit. Sick.



Collar Buttons
The inbetween of sick and shit this week is that of the collar buttons. Go 60s mod style and do your buttons right up to the top. Go one step further and find that classic Ben Sherman shirt with the ever-coveted button-down collars. Some say geek-chic is cool, but others have been telling me it's not.



Lady Gaga
Could there be anything more tacky than a woman who despite her zany exterior, has the personality of a brick? Oh, look at my bow in my hair! Haha, you're the fool, because its actually IS my hair! Well, probably extensions, but Paris Hilton described Lady Gaga as a musical and fashion 'icon'. She is neither. It's also been reported that her infamous vintage sunglasses have been snatched by a 'crazed fan'. To the fan, good on you. Now put them up on ebay for other morons to buy.

SHIT

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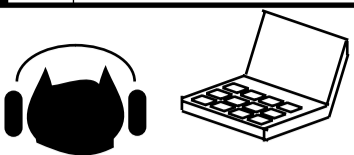
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@imperialcollege: What is Twitter?

Why is everyone going on about Twitter? Richard Lai shares his view on how to use this powerful tool.

Tom Roberts had just walked into the *felix* office, rambling on about how people had been trying to get him to join Twitter, but he struggled to understand why they are obsessed with “telling people I’m going to the toilet”. If you are thinking the same then you are probably wondering: what exactly is Twitter? And how has the 140-character limit turned the site into a \$200m business?

Twitter has been publicly available since August 2006, but it was only recently that the majority of Britain started to hear about this powerful online tool, thanks to the participation of local celebrities. First-time users may find that Twitter alone is merely a website with a text box, similar to Facebook’s “status update” feature which is technically a micro-blogging tool, but unlike Facebook your networking is not restricted by which group you are in - there are no groups, and you can “follow” any Twitter users so that their “updates” (or “tweets”) appear on your Twitter homepage. You can also reply to other users by including “@” in front of their usernames in your updates (hence the article’s title).

The Freedom of Twitter

Like most social networking tools and search engine optimization (SEO) products these days, Twitter was launched in San Francisco. Co-founder and active CEO, Evan Williams (@ev), was quoted saying that unlike many articles that provide a list of Twitter rules, there are actually no rules on how you should use the simple tool - in fact, most of the quoted terminologies used above were mostly likely to have come from the users “without any input from the company”. Furthermore, like YouTube, users have discovered all sorts of ways to harness the connection power for learning, sharing, marketing, or just for fun. (See the “What people use Twitter for” box)

It is this freedom and creativity that led to the birth of many Twitter clients for different platforms. For desktops (Windows, Mac and Linux), the star of the show is the London-designed TweetDeck, which not only automatically retrieves updates at set intervals, but also has a search feature which can be a nice alternative to Google for certain criteria. I will explain this later.

See Your Nearby Tweets

Smartphones are also responsible for the boost in number of Twitter users: the iPhone alone has at least four dedicated Twitter apps, and users of Windows Mobile and Blackberry also have a few options. The advantage of using Twitter on these devices is that most of the apps are location-aware, meaning you can read tweets sent from nearby devices.

For me, this location-aware feature was ever so useful when I was covering the CES in Las Vegas: using “Twinkle” on my iPhone, I was able to ask fellow bloggers for up-to-date information regarding the show, as well as reading CES-related tweets in a style simi-

lar to a simplified RSS feed due to the word limit, so that I could plan ahead for the following day; since I was also looking after a demo room for a little while, I was also able to use Twitter to invite people to visit us. In fact, I went as far as getting the attention of US tech show presenter, Patrick Norton (@patricknorton; currently hosting *System* and *Tekzilla*; you can subscribe the video podcasts on iTunes).

Celebrity Haven

Since the CES, I had tweeted directly with Patrick Norton again a couple of times. This is perhaps the main reason that people join Twitter: you get a chance to speak to celebrities directly. In Britain, we have nice celebrities like Stephen Fry (@stephenfry) who do respond to questions and greetings in Twitter, thus naturally gaining a huge number of followers: 207,434 as of Wednesday 8:50pm (ranked third most followers, with @cnnbrk and @BarackObama first), and going up literally by the minute! So if you do get a reply from Mr. Fry then you are extremely lucky!

You will also find other active and interesting British celebrities to follow (they should all be genuine):

- @bobbyliew (Robert Llewellyn) – Red Dwarf actor
- @WilliamShatner – ex-Star Trek actor
- @MayorOfLondon – funny man, Boris Johnson
- @CHRISDJMOYLES – BBC Radio 1 DJ
- @FearneCotton – BBC Radio 1 DJ
- @Wossy (Jonathan Ross) – BBC presenter
- @jupitusphillip (Phil Jupitus) – British comedian and team captain of *Never Mind the Buzzcocks*
- @JohnCleese – member of Monty Python and Fawlty Towers actor
- @GarethM (Gareth Mitchell) – presenter of BBC Digital Planet, also a lecturer in Science Communication at Imperial

This list should get you going – by checking out their “following” lists you should easily find other people that you might want to follow.

Practical Use

Of course, Twitter isn’t just about stalking celebrities. Earlier this week I had a new follower: Pamela Agar (@PamelaAgar), Head of Digital Media & Marketing at Imperial, who is part of the team behind Imperial’s Twitter account, @imperialcollege.

Ms. Agar said the idea of setting up @imperialcollege came quite recently: if you were affected by the heavy snow fall a few weeks back, you might have noticed the Twitter logo on Imperial’s weather alert page - that was when Ms. Agar’s team first signed up for Twitter, as “a helpful extra way to get news quickly around the College community about what was open or closed at the College”. When I asked what Imperial aims

to achieve by using Twitter, Ms. Agar expressed that they would like to keep the immediate College community, the extended College family (alumni, supporters, prospective students etc.) and anyone who is interested informed, “We’ll be aiming to do fun takes on what’s going on at Imperial – campus news and promotions, announcements, events and any other interesting or startling snippets about College we come across.”

On the student activities front, @imperialcollege has already tweeted about ArtsFest, RAG week, the Great Egg Race, Varsity Match, Union elections and careers talks recently, so if you were an organiser of any of the above, do send them a tweet to thank them, or better yet, send them a feedback or ideas via twitter@imperial.ac.uk.

We are not alone though - a lot of universities are already actively using Twitter. Ms. Agar listed @UniofBath, @warwickuni and @TuftsUniversity as their favourite ones, so do mention them to your friends who attend those universities.

Smarter than just “Googling”

As demonstrated by @imperialcollege, Twitter is able to provide the most up-to-date information within 140 characters, so by using the built-in search engines in supported apps, you should easily find relevant results to suit your time-critical needs.

Here’s a good example: yesterday I was looking for an Easter flight for Hong Kong, and while searching for airlines through the old Google way, I also tweeted the found ticket prices via TweetDeck, just to see if anyone had seen cheaper ones. Soon, a fellow Twitter user @sfahmy (who turned out to be an Imperial College graduate: MENG ISE ’99-’03, then PhD EEE ’03-’07; he followed me in the first place) recommended a few websites for comparing the quality of different airlines, and he also kindly provided some tips on collecting airmiles.

I then came across what seemed to be a cheap airline called “Jet Airways”. From Google the results were heavy on negative comments, which were not very helpful. I then switched to TweetDeck to search for “Jet Airways”, and immediately I had a list of relevant comments that were of similar lengths, making the comparison fairer. At the same time, a few Twitter users also responded to my earlier tweet regarding the said Indian airline: the general consensus was that Jet Airways is quite good, but sadly I later found out that the flight cost I saw did not include tax! Nevertheless, the point is that Twitter can efficiently deliver smart results, thus making your life easier.

Where’s the Money?

While it is true that the ultimate driving force behind Twitter is money, I say why not enjoy it while it is still ad-free? There have been speculations that Twitter will eventually start charging commercial users (marketers, retailers, etc.), but Twitter, Inc. is still keeping their mouth shut tight about their revenue model. This should not disrupt the average users like us anyway, so until then, why not join the party and see for yourself how Twitter can be such a useful tool? Happy tweeting, Tomo!



TweetDeck, a Twitter app designed by a Londoner



Twitter apps for the iPhone: TwitterFon and Twinkle

People use Twitter for...

imperialcollege: Imperial uses Twitter to highlight College news and announcements, campus activities and community events

jackpoe: news feed, a good laugh, celebrity haven (lately anyway), all round pretty addictive!

deancarl: I use it because I find the Facebook update feature to be too “closed”. Twitter lets me communicate outside my social group.

ddudgeon: I use it to keep up with the latest developments in my industry.

Lil_Wun: To share all the weird thoughts in my head ^_^

tadekk: I use Twitter mainly for facebook-status style microblogging but really hope it will catch on in UK, as it did in US

drinkuphyzider: I don’t understand this at all

richardlai: For me it’s instant messaging, news feed, travelling, celebrity-stalking, market research, video/link-sharing and blogging.



You little thieving piece of...

Dylan Lowe ponders what should be done when you find – and catch – a *Madrileño* pickpocket

I am not going to patronise you with the boring bits of Madrid: while writing pompous, repetitive accounts of Plaza Mayor or the Prado isn’t what I take pleasure in, making you endure reading them isn’t either. So forget the bull-fights (they don’t operate during winters anyway) and sangrias, let us delve into this one thing the Spanish capital is famed for: theft.

It appeared to be a bleak February afternoon when my plane landed on Spanish soil. The first SMS I received was a distressing one: my German friend, who had invited me to spend a few days touring the city in his company, suggested that I take extra caution over my belongings. What followed was the simple, but effective, statement: *my dad nearly got robbed*.

Standing alone and helpless within Barajas airport, I could think of at least 50 ways to lose my wallet and enact each in my paranoia-corrupt imagination. Until the customs officer called me over and gave me looks for my hideous passport photograph.

Settling down at *Cerveceria Alemana* (6 Plaza de Santa Ana), well-known as an Ernest Hemingway hangout, my companion gave a full account of the ordeal: his father was boarding a train earlier amidst a rush-hour crowd when a pickpocket, seizing the opportunity, snatched his wallet. Then, so clumsily, he dropped it. His accomplice, covering the tracks, proceeded to return it to its owner. However professional the acting had been performed, there were little doubt that foul play was involved.

And I naively came to believe that a tale is as close as I could get to the world of *Madrileño* treachery.



The Royal Academy itself, El Rastro

In came Sunday and it was El Rastro day. Madrid’s very own flea market, El Rastro is every bargain hunter’s fantasy. More like the ‘Royal Academy of Thievery’, for those preying on the visitors in the midst of the weekend frenzy. My friend, still traumatised by the incident in the metro, begged to proceed no further.

I relented; thus began an aimless wander around the city. Hours later, the glorious Calle Gran Vía soon came into view.

It wasn’t long before we made it into H&M. A short stroll into the store later and I felt the twitch around my thigh. Ultra-sensitive as I am, I readjusted the strap and my bag swung into view. The front pouch was unzipped. As my hand dived through the opening it sensed that *something* that didn’t belong there. Another hand. The fraction of a second that followed it swiftly retracted, its owner fully materialised as a Spaniard lurking behind my back, face dead guilty over his fraudulent deed.

I wouldn’t have lost anything more

than a packet of tissues, since I wasn’t foolish enough to leave valuables somewhere as accessible as the front pocket. Yet I didn’t exactly do myself any favours by holding a Lonely Planet and map in each hand, camera hung loose around neck like the clichéd Japanese tourist. I looked like every pickpocket’s ideal target.

What could I have done to the thief? I had the liberty to pin him down, declare him a *hijo de puta* for stealing, then hand the man to the police for his crimes.

The police would have discharged him due to lack of evidence. Only if they both detaining him in the first place. Forget the police. Just a good battering as punishment. But who am I to judge? Whether the man was driven to illegality by desperation or not, I would never know. It would take someone with some messed-up ethics to deliver a Judge Dread sentence. Besides, I was more likely to be persecuted for an act of violence than the pickpocket for an act of theft.

I could do nothing. So I did nothing. I am not saying ‘for God’s sake, avoid Madrid’. In fact, why should you be deterred from visiting the city, or anywhere else on Earth, by the risk of theft and loss? You shouldn’t. Not because these incidents are relatively uncommon, but because you can prevent them with the right precautions.

Once you have found – or caught – a pickpocket, you would have gained the experience to deal with a similar situation in the future.

And I will never wear a camera around my neck ever again.

3...2...1...

Jumping off a bridge with a latex rope strapped to your legs? You must be barking mad!

But who were the pioneers of bungee (or bungee) jumping? Who was responsible for commercialising this feat of madness?

Write a short account of bungee jumping’s humble origins (no more than 150 words), send it to travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk and win a chance to have it published in the next issue of *felix*.



To commit an act of utter bollocks



Tourist Vs. Traveller

Dylan Lowe
Travel Editor

In a rush to prove my worth and (fail to) make my *felix* debut shine, I forgot to introduce myself. My name is Dylan, first year geologist and avid traveller. Fingers crossed, I will live up to the standards set by my predecessors; for that reason I pledge only to deliver articles based on my own encounters and those of whom I know, rather than those freshly harvested from *Wikipedia*.

Mind you, I said ‘traveller’. Not to be confused with ‘tourist’, which is *not* a synonym of traveller – call me a tourist and I will hunt you down in retribution. There should be no confusion in distinguishing between the elegant traveller and the inconsiderate, pretentious industry that is tourism.

Or is there? I have always branded myself as a traveller, but only for vanity’s sake. I have heard disgruntled moans of fellow ‘travellers’ over the mistreatment they received from locals who ‘mistook them for tourists’. Not until now, however, have I actually mused on this subject with a philosophical depth worthy for such a controversy.

So where should we start? Oh yes. I hate tourists. And I hate being one. The way hordes of them pour out of air-conditioned coaches, the crackle as the suitcases hit the tarmac and the squeal of their wheels. They banter in their native tongue and whine about everything ‘foreign’, trample the streets with ignorance and disregard for the locals, and wreak havoc in hotel lobbies with their appalling take on fashion (and brightly coloured Gola shoes, in Afonso’s archetype of an Iberian tourist). Pass nightfall and yet another meal of Spag Bol later they find comfort in their beds, but not before screeching at each other across the corridors with booze-fueled rigour.

Mind changed: I don’t hate tourists. I loathe them, and I despise them. And aren’t we ‘travellers’ so different? We would come swaggering into the scene, dashing and graceful, appropriately dressed and full of enthusiasm, and get cozy in a local café. Ringing up the hostel we make an enquiry over our reservation using the local dialect. Feasting on local delicacies, we exchange colourful travel stories before descending into the fray that is a local festival. We treat these words by Paul Theroux, the legendary travel writer, with biblical authority: “tourists don’t

know where they’ve been, travellers don’t know where they’re going.”

Granted, like all existing stereotypes, my definitions of the tourist/traveller won’t work. A tourist is as likely to lodge in a hostel as a traveller in a hotel. A traveller may be the fashion nightmare while the tourist is well suited in a tux. The person in the local café can be the tourist, and he who peers through the windows of Starbucks a traveller (I plead guilty).

The distinction between the tourist and traveller should not be driven by materialistic measures.

It is in this phenomenon to dissociate oneself from the notoriety of tourists and, more ambitiously, tourism on the whole, that the class of anti-tourists is born. My paragraph-long rant is a prime example of anti-tourism: bitter, elitist, easily mistaken as the works of a xenophobe. We are the exact opposite of the tourist, as the ideology suggests, and we are better.

But is the ‘opponent of all principles touristic’ a suitable definition for the traveller? I don’t think so.

In fact, anti-tourists have a lot in common with their arch enemies. As F Daniel Harbecke, contributor to Brave New Traveler (www.bravenewtravel.com), pointed out: “travel becomes tourism when focus shifts from the experience itself to the vehicle of experience.”

The attackers of tourism have become tourists themselves. To truly become a traveller one must alter one’s attitude to – and expectations from – travelling. Which means casting off your homely delights, putting yourself in the shit, then come out having had not only an adventure of a lifetime, but a spiritual discovery of oneself. Explorers are not explorers unless they brave the uncharted waters, and neither are travellers travellers if they cover before unfamiliarity. The off-beaten tracks are where the magic of travelling happens, not the pretty photographs inside your Rough Guide. The world of travelling is reserved for the dauntless. And those who are not afraid to unleash their full potential.

I leave you with this challenge. Got any travel trivia to share? I would love to hear it. Send it to travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk and one will be selected each week to be published.





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

International Night 2009

Peter Welsby takes us through the highs (and well it was great) of the hip-shaking, tap-dancing, pride-making, Zorba-dancing night that is International Night

Friday saw the successful return to the Great Hall of Imperial College International Night 2009. Worries over ticket sales in the run up to the event proved unfounded as more than 300 students defied the credit crunch to attend a truly spectacular extravaganza of multicultural talent. After an initial Flag Dance introducing the International Societies to the audience the night began with a carnival feel thanks to the Afro-Caribbean Society's colourful dance. Next up was the Malaysian Society with their creative Stomp act. Special recognition is due here as they willingly took part with little notice as a last minute replacement for other acts which pulled out with only a week to go!

The Belly-dancers continued to wow the crowd with their hip-shaking antics whilst the Imperial College Advanced Tap Team performed a great audition for the next James Bond introduction video. In their first performance of the night the Cypriot Society were welcomed onto the stage by their huge following of fans to perform a medley of dances including the Syrtos, Stamma and Sousta. The final act of the first half was a highly entertaining comedy sketch from the Arabic Society who showed us just how much fun Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, The X-Factor and Gladiators can be.

The crowd were reawakened after the interval by the new pioneers of Chinese rock, MACE, representing the Chinese Student and Scholars Association. Super Mario, Zelda, Link, Peach and of course Pikachu were given a big fright by the mighty Godzilla in a Japanese sketch demonstrating the importance of pride and bravery. A stunning display of martial arts was given by the

"The belly-dancers continued to wow the crowd with their hip-shaking antics"

Wushu Society who impressed the audience with their powerful routine. The scene was then set for the return of the crowd-pleasing Cypriot Society who performed the ever popular Zeibekiko and Zorba the Greek. It was a fitting final act before the Grand Finale where all performers were welcomed back onto the stage for some final recognition from the audience.

The Arabic Society won the Best Act award as decided by the OSC to com-

plete a clean sweep of awards following their success in the OSC Football World Cup in November last year. The night was a fantastic success which ran

without any problems thanks to the hard work put in by many including DramSoc, the OSC Exec and all our volunteers who helped out. The after-

party at the Union continued until the early hours where performers celebrated together after many hours of practice. Roll on International Night 2010!



East Meets West: the ultimate celebration of culture

Saman Zaman gives us a quick preview into what the spectacular show has to offer this year

Now in its 17th year, with tickets already in sale, this February will once again see the return of the popular charity cultural variety show: East Meets West.

Presented by Imperial College's very own Indian Society, the show first began as a small student fashion show held annually in lecture theatres around Charring Cross Hospital.

It only featured 20 participants and fewer than 100 audience members: a far cry from the 1500 sell-out last year! As the popularity of the event increased, the show started to diversify and widen by adding dance and music from Indian and Western cultures.

This unique yet simple concept of merging the best of both cultures and blending traditional acts with contemporary ones was a phenomenal success and in 2003, East Meets West was held in the Hammersmith Apollo: the first year that the show had taken place in a venue other than Imperial's Great Hall.

Since then, to accommodate the ever-increasing audience and mark its

ascending acclaim, the show has taken place in a number of prestigious venues in the heart of London, including the London Barbican, Shaftesbury Theatre and London Palladium. Over the years, the show has also progressed to feature more cultures from all over the world, such as Chinese Wu Shu, Russian Ballet and Afrogala, and the variety of acts has included drama, comedy, singing, catwalk, dance and live performances from special celebrity guests on the night!

From its humble beginnings to what it is today: the largest show in Imperial and the longest running student show in the UK, East Meets West 2009 promises to be even more spectacular and memorable.

This year's line-up of scintillating acts boasts the finest student talent from universities across London, as well as the best from Imperial College of course!

In particular not to be missed are the amazing performances by IC Funkology and also bhangra by IC's Groundshaker: runners up of The Bhangra Showdown. Following last year's im-

mense success at the London Palladium, the show returns to the West End again at the Theatre Royal and the evening will be hosted by legendary comedian and household name: Nina Wadia of 'Goodness Gracious Me' and 'All About Me'.

Finally, and most importantly, we must remember the core purpose of this show: to raise money and awareness for the worthy causes that are the charities we are proudly supporting this year: Save the Children, Care Education Trust India and Africa and The Winnicott Foundation for neonates (RAG charity 2009). Last year EMW raised about £10000 for charity and with your help we are hoping to top that this year!

The essence of the show has been in transcending all barriers and uniting people from all ages and backgrounds to celebrate the glory of every culture, and by staying true to this ethos, East Meets West continues to grow from strength to strength.

We hope to see you all at the show that it meets and even exceeds all your high expectations, see you there!

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What's on...



Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editors - Lily Topham & Rachel D'oliveiro

whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Monday

Ethical Careers Exhibition

The Ethical Careers Exhibition is back! Why not come along and find out more?

Seminars:
11am: Development in Action
11.30am: Coral Cay Conservatories
12pm: Corporate Social Responsibility
12.40pm: Futerra Sustainability
1.20pm: Energy Futures

All seminars take place in the Union Dining Hall and are free.

Stalls from various organisations on Sherfield Concourse Levels 1&2.

EEE Revue

The annual variety show put on by students and lecturers from the EEE department with music, comdey and dance!

Time: 12-2pm
Place: dB's, Beit
Price: £3/£4 (EEE Students/ Non EEE)

Fairtrade Fortnight

Fairtrade Fortnight kicks off this lunch time! Come and get free samples of Fairtrade snacks and drinks and look at Fairtrade jewellery from Nepal, displayed and sold by MySmallshop.

Time: 12-2pm
Place: Junior Common Room
Price: Admission Free

Tuesday

Chocolate Tasting

The newly formed Chocolate Society invite you to their second chocolate tasting.

This week, the session will be comparing chocolates of the same percentage cocoa from different brands.

This is a great chance for those of who want a bit more out of your chocolate.

Come along, meet new people and find out about the world of cocolate tasting and chocolate!

Time: 5-6pm
Place: Meeting Room 1, Beit
Price: Free/£3 (Members/Non-Members)

Krishna Consciousness

Krishna Coscioussness Society will be holding a debate entitled "The Mysterious Origins of Man?".

There will be discussion about Charles Darwin's Theory of Evolution.

Time: 5.45pm
Place: Room 342, Huxley
Price: Admission Free

Saturday

Wednesday

Varsity 2009

Don't miss out on the opportunity to get involved in the most anticipated sports event in the Imperial calendar!

Will Imperial Medicals manage to win the overall championship and will Imperial College be walking away with the JPR Williams for the first time since the start of Varsity in 2003?

There are matches starting at Harlington and Ethos from midday, culminating in the JPR Williams Rugby Varsity match at 19.30 at Richmond Athletic Association Ground.

For tickets and more info, see www.imperialcollegeunion.org/union-products-295/varsity-day-2009-1122

Time: 12 noon-10pm
Place: Richmond Athletic Association Athletic Ground, Harlington, Ethos
Advance Price: £10/£7 (All day ticket/JPR Williams Cup only)

Fairtrade Fortnight

What do you know about Fairtrade? How does it work?

Learn more by Sally Reith from Shared Interest, a Fairtrade lending society, who will talk about Fairtrade and what Shared Interest does. The talk will be followed by an open discussion and free snacks and drinks will be provided.

Time: 12.30pm
Place: Room 311, Huxley
Price: Admission Free

Thursday

Fairtrade Fortnight

Wholefoods Market is joining us for the day, so come along to sample their products, have a look at their literature and hear more about what they do!

Time: 12-2pm
Place: Level 2, Sherfield
Price: Admission Free

Welcome to What's On!

As usual, this page will feature club and society events running from Monday to Sunday of next week, so get in touch to let us know what you are up to!

The deadline for next week's edition is mid-night on **Monday 23rd February**.

To feature, please send in the following:

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

All submissions should be sent to:

whatson.felix@ic.ac.uk

Friday

Fairtrade Fortnight

We'll be sampling Fairtrade products and handing out information about Fairtrade. Come and see us for a chat, a snack or to buy a ticket for the raffle or our Cheese and wine evening next week!

Time: 12-2pm
Place: Level 2, Sherfield
Price: Admission Free

Malaysian Night

IC Malaysian Society presents the spectacular Malaysian Night 2009: DIAMONDS!

The allure of diamonds and an elaborate plan unite 3 unlikely people, Leung, Karim and Samantha. However, when things go wrong, Anis, a carefree girl, and her caring boyfriend Aaron are sucked into a world of greed and treachery.

As secrets and desire threaten to push Aaron and Anis to the point of no return, the fate of the diamonds, and the people involved are precariously poised for disaster. Can Aaron and Anis survive the pandemonium, or will greed have the last laugh?

Tickets will be sold in the JCR every day before the event.

Time: 7pm
Place: Great Hall, Sherfield
Price: £10 (includes Malaysian meal after the show)

Picocon 26

Come to Picocon, the Sci-Fi Society's Annual Convention! The day features special guests including Robert Rankin (Humour - Brentford Trilogy, Sproutelore Massacre) along with LAN, booksellers, board games, the annual Picocon Quiz (with fabulous prizes!) and more!

Time: 10am-7pm
Place: dB's, Beit/ LT1, Blakett (talks)
Price: £8/ £10/ £5 (Students/Full Price/ICSF Members)

Malaysian Night

IC Malaysian Society presents the spectacular Malaysian Night 2009: DIAMONDS!

Tickets will be sold in the JCR every day before the event.

Time: 7pm
Place: Great Hall, Sherfield
Price: £10 (includes Malaysian meal after the show)

RCC Nighthike

The Nighthike is an annual team event for walkers, runners and orienteers around the woodland and hills of Sevenoaks, Kent. The event is organised by the Imperial College Union Recreational Clubs Committee and is open to all. This is a great night of clue-finding, adventurous walking and hopefully a bit of map-reading (but if you can't, don't let that put you off!)

Time: 7:30 Saturday 28th February - 10am Sunday 1st March
Price: £5 (This covers logistics, hut hire, minibus support during the event, maps, prizes, refreshments and a cooked breakfast.)

More info: www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/nighthike

Coffee Break

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



RAG-tacular!

Ravi Pall
Coffee Break Editor

This week has quite possibly been my busiest week yet. So many things happened it's almost like a blur of unadulterated excitement.

I write this column as I speak to Enoch the mastermind behind the crosswords you all enjoy so much. Well not anymore. He has now stopped making them, but whatever. Anyway here I am telling him everything that makes my life so busy, stressful and exciting at the same time. I would regale the long and some what entertaining stories to you, however there is no where near enough space. Sorry.

I will tell you one story. The tale of the mascots. In particular the CGCU mascots (Spanner and Bolt) and the RSM mascot (The Davy). Both unions are fiercely protective of their mascots, and are probably prepared to throw a few punches to ensure the safety of these immensely heavy metal trophies. Well as the story goes RAG (that's ICU RAG, not ICSM) bum rushed the CGCU office, and stole Spanner and Bolt, successfully might I add. After securing the oversized spanner and bolt, it was placed in a high tech, maximum security location. Known only to a select few individuals with national

security clearance. Seriously these guys p0wn MI6. Yes I just wrote p0wn, tough! Somehow though, the Spanner was stolen from RAG (making this location not so secure). Whadafuh?

This was a seriously not cool move. Who would steal from a charity? Many suspected RSM (Royal School of Mines for those that don't know). Would you know it, the RSM played to these suspicions, and organised a trade (previously in the year CGCU stole the Davy). The trade was the Davy for Spanner and Bolt, to which CGCU agreed. The meeting time 11 PM, the meeting place Queens lawn. Come 11:30 there was no sign of RSM, Could this be a ploy to steal the Davy and not return Spanner and Bolt? Or do they even have Spanner and Bolt at all? Turns out they didn't. The RAG committee got a text in the late hours of last Wednesday night, detailing Spanner had been buried in a certain location. RAG quickly recovered the giant tool, and there were no longer any lost mascots. Good times. All in all, we are now in happy times. CGCU paid a ransom to RAG, which all goes to charity.

Also too many texts this week, the cat phone actually caught on fire, so keep them coming!

Battle of the Chamberlains

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



Owen

Known from:

Particle Physics

Biggest Achievement:

Together with Emilio Segrè, they discovered the presence of antiprotons, a sub-atomic antiparticle which earned them both the Nobel Prize in 1959.

Education:

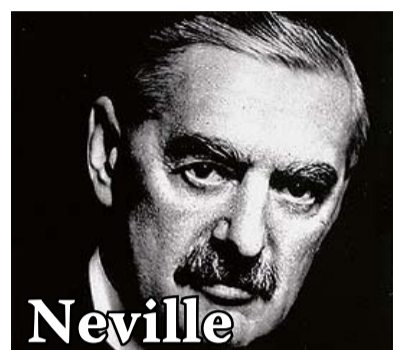
Dartmouth College, University of California, Berkeley, University of Chicago.

Diseases:

Diagnosed with Parkinson in 1985.

Fact:

He was a member of Scientists for Sakharov, Orlov, and Shcharansky, three physicists of the former Soviet Union imprisoned for their political beliefs.



Neville

Known from:

Politics

Biggest Achievement:

Was made British Prime Minister in 1937 when Stanley Baldwin retired after the abdication of Edward VIII.

Education:

Mason Science College.

Diseases:

Bowel Cancer.

Fact:

Signed the Munich Agreement in 1938, conceding the Sudetenland region of Czechoslovakia to Germany. As a result, he has had tea with Mussolini and beat Hitler in a moustache-growing competition. (OK so not strictly true, but it could have happened!)



Mark

Known from:

Medic President

Biggest Achievement:

Becoming the leader of the pack for the medical students, despite being well into his bondage and S&M.

Education:

Not important really, he's a douche.

Diseases:

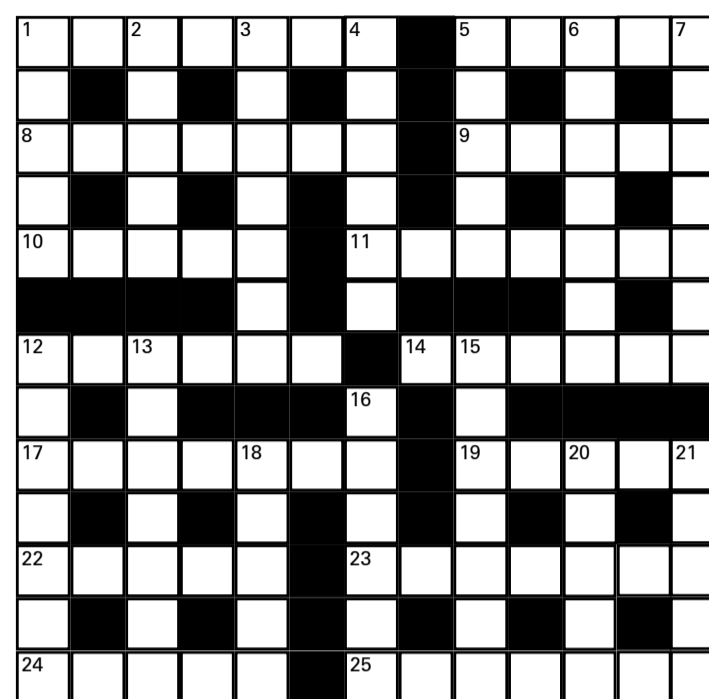
Gonorrhea, NSU, Syphilis, Herpes, Genital warts, Pubic lice, HIV, Bad AIDS, Chlamydia and Micro Penis. Think of any STD and he's had it.

Fact:

Slept with his cousin in freshers' week last year, then realised it was actually a man which made things worse.

Fun & Games

A Quickie (Crossword) 1,425



Solution 1,424



Last week's winners were **Möchten sie mein Mannschaft** who took it upon themselves to win everything... well done lads!

Jov was really upset that nobody came down to claim their free kisses from you guys, so to ensure you get full points make sure you pop down to *felix* office in the West wing to register your entry within 30 minutes of submission. All entries will be charged, but may not be counted.

ACROSS

- 1 From days gone by (7)
- 5 Snares (5)
- 8 Smooth finish (7)
- 9 Month of the year (5)
- 10 To lose bodily fluid (5)
- 11 Silhouette (7)
- 12 Knock over (6)
- 14 Moral; clothed (6)
- 17 Swaggering show of courage (7)
- 19 Grown-up (5)
- 22 Timepiece (5)
- 23 Epicure (7)
- 24 Had enough courage (5)
- 25 Make an object with liquid and a mould (3-4)

DOWN

- 1 Off the cuff (2-3)
- 2 Repeating unit (5)
- 3 Country in Latin America (7)
- 4 State of apathy (6)
- 5 Drink to one's health (5)
- 6 Transportation company (7)
- 7 Liquid used in solutions (7)
- 10 Resolute and unflinching (7)
- 11 Agricultural machinery (7)
- 15 One who is removed from an area at risk (7)
- 16 Determined (6)
- 18 Pest eaten by ladybugs (5)
- 20 Extreme; very (5)
- 21 Fundamental principle (5)

Ho-down-roscopes. Somebodies shot your generic male/female relative!

This week *felix* have been taken on school trip to Texas in the US of A. We found it to be very dangerous



Aquarius

Your fortunes will be mixed. You will have enough time, money and motivation to complete necessary tasks. You will or will

not meet a boy/girl, if you do they will be a 5 and you will talk about the weather and have less chance of converting than the Milk Man. In summary this will be a plain week, lacking extremes. You either will or will not enjoy it.



Pisces

Ordinary, unexciting and drab summarise your week. Nothing controversial will happen at all. Your application to the

Union fun police has been turned down on the grounds that you once stayed out past midnight and had more than the weekly recommended alcohol limit in 6 days. You are a fucking beigeist.



Aries

Today will be a good day. You will take a shit so large that it will have three breather rings in it. For those of you

who don't know, a breather ring is when you take a breath mid-poo and your sphincter contracts, but doesn't cut through the turd – just thins it out over a small section. Under inspection you will be proud.



Taurus

You might have thought that the song 'Boom Boom Boom' by the Venga-people was just mindless 1990's

pop, but if you did you'll be wrong. It's actually about, or maybe not about, fierce masturbation over your girl/boyfriend's hair/scalp. Just listen to the lyrics... having said that Vengaboys are actually shittier than a Phil Collins drum solo.



Gemini

Stepping out with your generic asexual partner this week then. Nice. Make sure you form a mutually beneficial

relationship based on trust, equality and respect. Oh yer... don't go for a dump in the morning, at all. Do not run the risk of shitting out a brownie so large that it leaves the toilet absolutely decimated.



Cancer

This week the *felix* team discovers that 'somebody' in the the College reads the horoscopes. Apparently they

don't enjoy reading about their daughters getting anally raped by a horde of drunken Football Club members in an alleyway in Hammersmith. Well, if you don't like reading about it, we'll send you the dvd.



Leo

You come home this week to find that you have been burgled. Unlucky son/female relative!!! The burglar was either male

or female as the quality of both sex's tea-leaving can only be described as equal. However you assume it was probably a member of IC Football as your anti-sexist views don't help quash your prejudices against sports clubs.



Virgo

You are the lucky chunt (see next week for a definition) that is sent over the pond to Texas. Have fun, because over there

they possess the intellect comparable to that of my middle toe on my right foot, i.e. not much. Try not to use words longer than two syllables- or expect long delays as they attempt to process the sentence before answering 'dunno'.



Libra

I heard that someone had told me something that I didn't really understand or care about. No? oh,

probably just me then. No one likes the little Chinese TV wannabe anyway. He smells of sweet and sour pork that had been regurgitated into a pint of Guinness and allowed to brew for 24 hours in an atmosphere of beer slop gas.



Scorpio

Apparently Kent has been over run by a gang of teenage layabouts who have had their belts stolen so their trousers keep

on falling down. That's only a minor problem, the fact that they have a penchant for raping old women is probably one that needs to be addressed. Having said that, old ladies probably don't get much so I guess they might enjoy it.



Sagittarius

My my, look at you; having a read of a newspaper. Fool. Why not get yourself down to the newsagents on the walkway and

pick up a copy of Nuts so you can wank yourself into a frenzy over pictures of girls/boys that you will never get. Oh yeah, this week you will have trouble opening a bottle of bolognese sauce. Your Uncle/Aunt may be able to help.



Capricorn

This week you take a boy/girl home from the Union. Big hand fella/lass – he/she had a cracking set of moral ethics. When

fornication starts she/he immediately goes down to your meat sword/tuna canoe. Kerrching! Then suddenly without warning he/she bites your penis/clunge clean off, you shriek in pain, but it's too late, he/she ate it. Pint?

Ideal Girlfriend



Cut them out!

Highest score wins

Collect them all!

Watch this space for additional cards

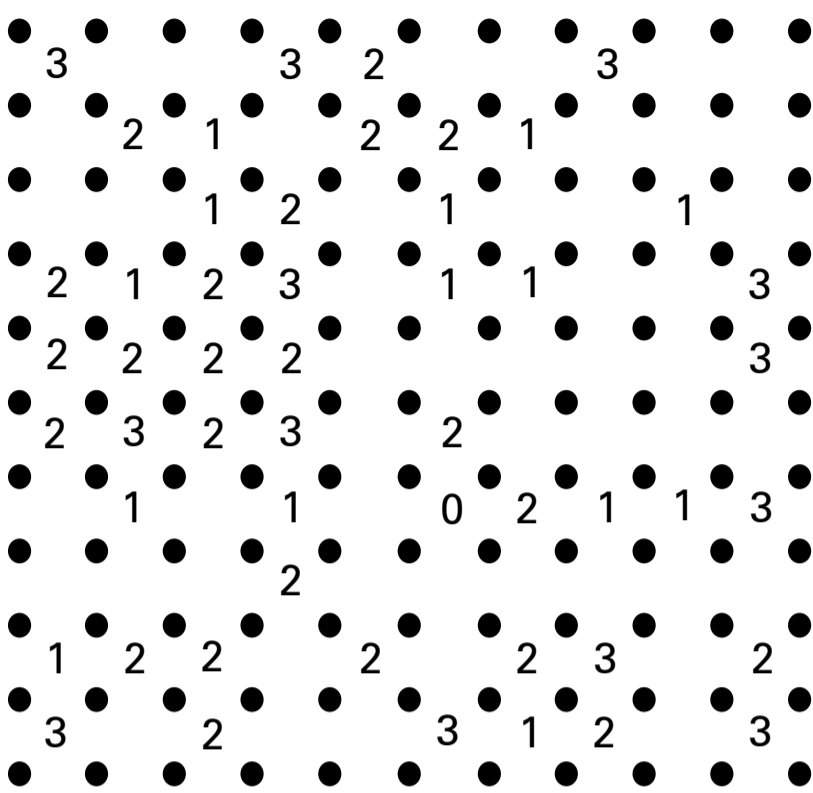
Age:	19 years
Weight:	110 lbs
Height:	5 ft 8"
Combat Skill:	0
Intelligence:	0
Agility:	10

Take better care of your beaver LSE!

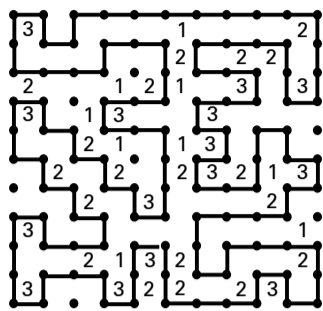


Manny, Swirly & Felix in front the Beaver newspaper stand

Slitherlink 1,425



1,424 Solution



After a few minor cock ups we are back on track... hopefully. Winners of last week's epic foray into the world of dots and lines were **Möchten sie mein Mannschaft**. Safe.

How to play:

It's quite simple, all numbers are in a cell and must be surrounded with a corresponding number lines. Lines cannot split and there can only be one continuous line. Any cells with no numbers can have any number of lines. Look at the solution above for help.

Wordoku 1,425



Scribble box

1,424 Solution



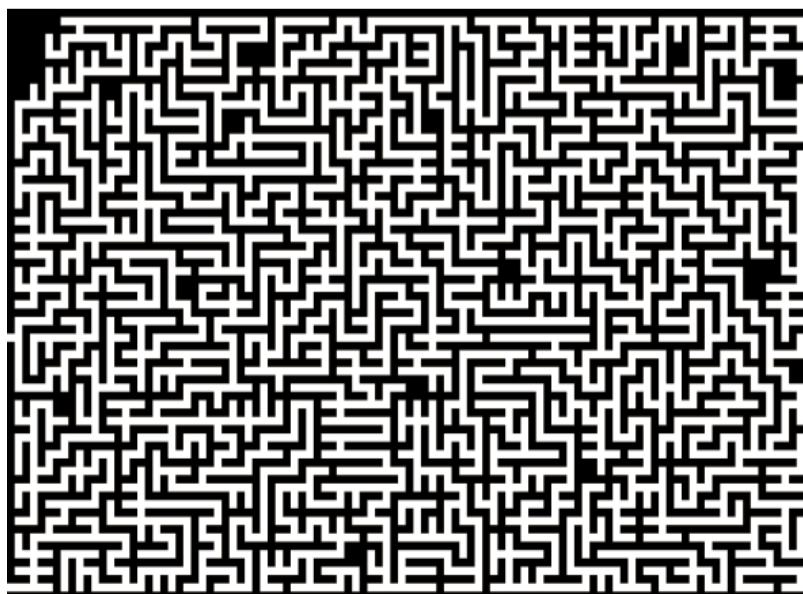
Möchten sie mein Mannschaft managed to sneakily pip all others to the post with last week's Wordoku answer of ADULTPORN. To all those who wrote in saying I have got it wrong. NO YOU'RE WRONG!!

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

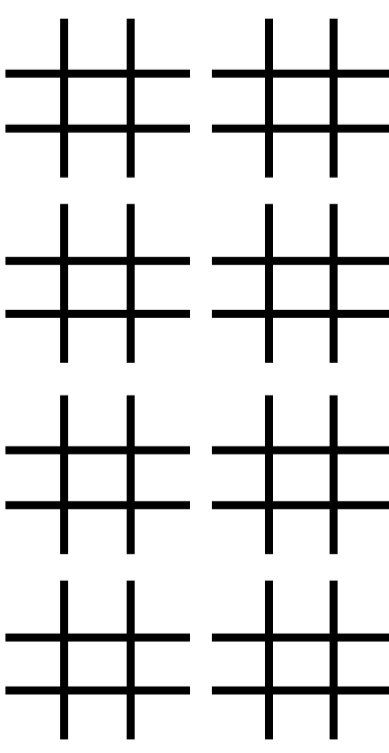
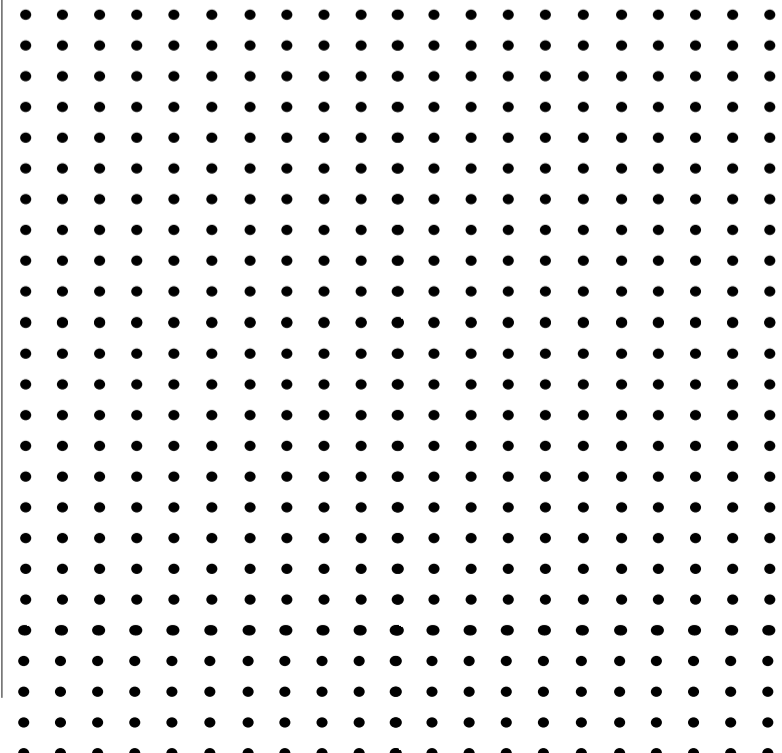
Mentalist Maze...

Mentalist Maze has returned and is the easiest five points that you can get. Well doen to last week's winners, **Shotgun** who seem to quite like my

new feature... but to be honest you wouldn't? I am the Puzzles Supremo, follow me to a world of fun and games. Check it.



DIY puzzles corner- go mental



This week's texts:



07726 799 424

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

"I'm pretty sure I just saw a cross between mini Rupert the Bear and Beaker run out of the Union. Whadafuh"

"Is the only organisation more hated than the football club Al-Qaeda?"

"Murdoch, we want our money back. ACC was shit and we never got any beer. Pay up!"

"Malcolm, you're a cunt!"

"Sorry, that last one wasn't harsh enough. You're a drug dealing, crack smoking, thick headed, un-talented cunt."

"Chaz, will you stop cocking up the puzzles. Some of us are trying to get an iPod here"

"Also thanks for last night xxx"

Going Underground

Last week was a tricky one, but if you really wanted to win, you would have found the obvious answer HYDE PARK CORMER, which adds to 160. Well done to **Enoch** who is taking his holiday away from the cryptic cross-words to focus on winning an iPod.

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

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 152?

152

Olympic and World champions defeated

Imperial College Boat Club's Freeman-Pask in impressive form as he takes LM1x title at Great Britain trials

Christina Duffy

Adam Freeman-Pask was unbeatable in the third phase of GB rowing winter assessment trials at Boston, Lincolnshire taking top ranking in the LM1x. 16:27.92 was the winning time; the fastest clocked time over all divisions on the day. This was almost two seconds ahead of Paul Mattick of Wallingford RC who in 2007 took gold in the LM4- at the World rowing championships.

In third place, twelve seconds behind Freeman-Pask, was Olympic reserve Rob Williams (London RC). Williams was also the winner of the final cycling time trial at a squad training camp in Sydney this January, which Freeman-Pask did not attend.

Coaches Steve Trapmore, Stuart Whitelaw and Cox Henry Fieldman accompanied the ICBC posse of LM1x entries Freeman-Pask & Andy Gordon, M1x entries Simon Hislop & Dan Cadoux-Hudson and M2- entries Dom Meyrick-Cole & Henry Goodier.

Competitors were staying in the Anti-Comfort Inn at Boston and were just lulling to sleep when animal noises (later described by distressed witnesses as macaque mating calls) were heard across the hall. The source of this nocturnal wailing was swiftly identified as the M2-'s room.

Sporty and Ginger Spice's racing combination are a nautical extension of the cottage love-pair starring just one member of the original version.

Come Saturday morning it was serious business and Led Zeppelin was drafted in by Freeman-Pask and Viper Fieldman for some final inspiration.

Trapmore gave an in-depth pre-race chat on "the finer points of sculling" which was quickly summarised by Whitelaw informing Freeman-Pask "You're not a bad sculler".

This seemed to do the trick and with a pat on the back AFP was sent on his way to destroy the field.

ICBC had entries in all three men's competitive categories (LM1x, M1x & M2-) with good results overall. Joining Freeman-Pask in the lightweight single sculls was Andy Gordon who came



Last year's ACC sportsman of the year, Adam Freeman-Pask yet again makes a strong case to be considered again for the 2009 award

14th in U23 (29th overall).

IC student Oli Mahony competed for London RC and came 10th in the trial.

In the heavyweight single sculls race there was tough competition with Alan Campbell of Tideway Scullers taking a clear sixteen second victory ahead of Ian Lawson (Leander) in second and Andy Triggs-Hodge (Molesey BC) in third. ICBC's Simon Hislop and Dan Cadoux-Hudson finished 13th and 20th (6th in U23) respectively.

In the pair's race Goodier and Mey-

rick-Cole came 18th overall (9th in U23/5th in U20). At the half-way point Run DMC had exhausted all leg reserves and had an unscheduled switch to guns. Unfortunately these were depleted even faster and after a failed attempt of switching to lats there were only a few strokes left in the race.

Back at ICBC basecamp Freeman-Pask's 101.2% gold rank win has been an inspiration to the entire boat club.

The gym's FitVibe machine has been vibrating non-stop since the news with

crews trying to replicate the success.

Recent reports claim ITB foam rollers (or AFP foam rollers) are sold out across London. Pre-early morning sessions have seen squads releasing all tight fascia tissue and decreasing tension on the iliotibial band in a gracious tribute to their hero.

But before we all get carried away with Pask-mania let the truth be known that Bill "Rigmeister" Mason (of ICBC Club Room fame) laid his magic hands on the winning boat a week prior to

racing.

Mason was modest in his contribution to the result when speaking to Freeman-Pask later; "You owe me one". Freeman-Pask has been developing momentum this season, posting two consecutive personal bests on his 2km ergo scores [6:14.7 at a weight of 72kg].

This is testament to the hard work that he has put in over the winter and a big public statement for the development of rowing at Imperial College.

ICUGFC in Birmingham

Continuing from back page

matches before taking the field again themselves. It was becoming clear that Nottingham would be the team to beat this afternoon with Bedford closely following. Abertay rarely threatened and Rennes seemed to be there mainly for the steam. Commendations to them though for fielding, the presence of a French team (in this their 2nd year competing), alongside IC in our first year with further rumours of LSE and UWE joining next year seem to be pointing to a second renaissance in GAA and perhaps a ULU League in the near future. All part of Michael Cusack's vision no doubt...

Our complacency regarding Rennes was soon to be shaken off in our second match, when the French visitors against all expectations snatched a goal in the first minute. Frank O'Neill's inimitable match analysis pointed towards a distinct player who would need to be marked out of the game - enter Pat McMullen. With McMullen keep-

ing the Rennes playmaker out of the game, IC opened their account with a point from Lavery on the left wing. IC added a few more scores with Conor Taylor prolific himself and once again combining well with the full forward O'Neill. Despite holding the ascendancy IC were not allowed to settle in the second half and Rennes with some good fielding and fitness managed another goal and would've had more were it not for some fine shot stopping by Chris Farrell. Full time score 2-07 to 2-00.

The third group match was against rivals Bedford. The humbling defeat endured at Fortress Harlington was fresh in many minds and IC took to the field to demonstrate some Darwinism and pain. This was to be our finest match of the tournament; the team held its shape perfectly and there were flashes of inter county standard football particularly by Haugh, O'Shea, McCann and again Taylor. Supreme fielding saw IC win every midfield battle, supplying an untiring forward five who added

score after score. On the few occasions when Bedford did manage to break into the IC defence there were stopped in their tracks by O'Hare and Stranney; McMullen and Lavery allowing nothing through to trouble the keeper. Our best and most satisfying match of the weekend 4-07 to 0-03. Justice.

With daylight waning our final match was against a respectable Nottingham team who were eager to beat us to topping the group. With qualification already guaranteed at Bedford's expense IC took their foot off the pedal and rested Jimmy Haugh in nets. Nottingham took first blood and went in at the half time break with a two point lead.

The second half saw IC regain the impetus and decide they wanted to go unbeaten on Saturday. Four well taken points without reply took us into the lead which was held on to in a fast paced and physical closing ten minutes, including a spectacular double save by Haugh in nets when Nottingham had broken through.

Sheffield Hallam. IC sadly denied the opportunity to Run New York then. The return of Donnacha Kirk and Noel Ryan to our ranks visibly lifted the team and with a newly strengthened defence, McMullen was moved into half forward and Haugh remained in nets. Immediately Sheffield were keen to play a physical game, with some audacious fouls which should've seen the referee reach for his cards on at least five occasions, O'Hare bearing the brunt of this ill tempered exchange - clearly one of Sheffield's main threats.

Played on a soft pitch with legs already heavy from yesterday's four matches IC were a wearied team. Our forwards who had dominated the day before were tested a lot more by the opposing defence and chances that should have been converted were missed, whilst defending was at times slack, allowing Sheffield's pacy corner forwards the opportunity to score.

At half time we were down but not out, one point being the difference in a low scoring half. We drew level straight after the restart but in the next ten minutes Sheffield piled on the pressure, helped by a large amount of cynical fouling and the referee giving them

the benefit of doubt, they ran out into a strong lead. IC never gave up though and did snatch a goal in the closing minutes. Too little too late though, as Sheffield had done enough earlier. It was a disappointed IC team that left the field but with a respectable score line of 1-05 to 2-07 against a strong Sheffield team who did go on to win the tournament.

IC have a lot of positives to take from the weekend, and eagerly await the same Championships next year. A great weekend of football was had with a strong team ethic and some fantastic individual performances. Man of the tournament went to Edward O'Hare who commanded the half back line like it were his own and was responsible for keeping IC's conceded scores to the minimum of all teams in the tournament.

IC Gaelic Football has come through it's maiden season with flying colours; respectable League performances, club members McCann and Gallagher being called up to the national side and reaching the semi-finals in the UK Championships point to a bright future for the club. Gaelic Football is here to stay.



A chin-wag with the rector

Jack Cornish & Mustapher Botchway
Sports Editors

Well, we managed to strong arm Nedic into providing us with an excerpt of his interview with our esteemed rector, Sir Roy Anderson. Lo and behold:

felix: You recently said that all departments across the university will be experiencing a 5% cut in their budget. Many are worried that the cut will affect clubs and societies at Imperial whilst others argue that this wouldn't be so much of a problem if we didn't have so many. Do you think there is such a thing as too many clubs or societies?

Rector: I can't make that judgement. I'd have to part of student community I think. Though you should review it every now and again, see how many members they have, what they contribute to College life. It's like any business environment where you do a cost/benefit assessment.

felix: Seeing as you were such a keen rugby player when you were a student here, who do you think will win at this years Varsity?

Rector: Terribly difficult decision to make. I played six years for Imperial College 1sts and we had a fixture list that was much better than the medical hospitals. On the other hand I worked most recently at St. Mary's in the bio-

medical field so I can make arguments for both. I'm looking forward to a very interesting game and I'm going to be ruthless about judging the quality of the rugby.

Now, for our take on the matters raised...

Varsity, sports, Clubs and Societies – where do they fit in on the IC agenda?

Officially, "Imperial provides world class scholarship, education and research in science, engineering, management and medicine."

So where does sport fit in? For that matter, where do all the clubs and societies fit in?

Personally, and I know this is the case for a lot of students at Imperial, the extra-curricular student activities are a well needed relief from the day to day stresses of labs, exams and lectures.

Moreover, with job prospects as they are the added line in your CV noting your involvement in give-a-shit soc may just swing the employer your way.

So what am I getting at? Well there are two things:

Firstly why so many clubs and societies and secondly why the difference in funding between them?

In terms of job prospects there is the argument that some positions of authority within the union are worth more than others, even the Rector agreed asking for the need of a 'cost/benefit assessment'.

As diverse an environment Imperial College is, we do not need a society for each food group and we do not need six hockey clubs. Correct me if I'm wrong, but with minimal investigation it can be suggested that the view of 'any club goes' is being taken to the extreme.

The process could be described as so: 'Join me if you want, put twenty names on a piece of paper and we are away'. 'If we convince them [New Clubs Committee] that what we want to do is worthwhile then we are away, funding and all. All we need now is a name!'

My other issue that I mentioned in passing is that some clubs and societies valued more than others.

Maybe I have answered this in my previous paragraph – some clubs are merely there because they provide a

group of mates with a focus or it was a pie-in-the-sky idea on a Friday night that was followed through by the more eccentric member of College.

Although I agree with the Rector that 'it is nice that there is so much diversity' there is a certain amount of favouritism. Simply on a monetary basis I can tell you that per head, the subsidy given by the union can range from hundreds of pounds to a measly few, and it doesn't stop there.

Some clubs go on to receive College funding as well! So why this favouritism?

Well firstly, as a long running top UK World university, having decent sports clubs and facilities is important for the reputation of the institution.

Secondly, in recent years university league tables have started to take into account the sporting prowess of the institution, hence the formation of Sport Imperial whose aim is to "promote and enhance the performance and participation in student sport across the College in a safe environment through professionalism, relevant administrative support systems and advice" and essentially improve facilities and standards of teams.

Floorball perform well in 1st leg of Varsity Cup

Jay Zhongjie Chen

Last Sunday, nine brave men from the Imperial College Union Floorball Club battled on the courts of Bath University. The inaugural Varsity Cup, involving ten teams from six universities, was the first ever competition for the newly formed club and they were ready to draw first blood.

The first match of the day was a friendly with the Great Britain Youth Team. Things started off brightly with our strikers quickly establishing a 2-0 lead. The kids clawed back to draw level at 2-2, before Hocks stamped our authority with a goal to make it 3-2 at the end of the first half.

However, things went south from there when Gabriel suffered a shoulder dislocation from the over-enthusiastic play of our youthful opponents. With a vital man down for that match, we lost 3-7. An after-action review resulted in a reshuffle of positions.

The team had too many forwards, and no one to defend. Bravely, captain Jay, vice-captain Abiel and all-round maestro Stepan volunteered to take up defensive duties. Skilled and dependable hockey-converts Gabriel and Amrik masterminded the centre, while natural poachers Hocks, Ben L and Ben G would net the goals.

Our next match was against Bournemouth's 2nd Team and this would count towards the Cup standings. After the shake-up, our defensive line held strong and our opposition had nary a sniff of goal, with goalkeeper Tomy caught relaxing by the keen eyed spectators.

At the other end of the court, Hocks delivered with a goal smashed in from close range. Half-time score 1-0. Having settled into our new roles, floods of goals came streaming in during the second half. Ben L, Ben G, Hocks, Amrik, Stepan and Jay all claimed goals to seal an emphatic 8-0 victory. What a way to mark the competitive debut for ICU Floorball!

The second match would be tough, with Warwick's 1st Team who were demolishing all opposition left right and centre. Right from the starting whistle it was clear our opponents were a superior team that trained together far longer than we did.

Imperial closed down every opening and denied Warwick for much of the first half. However, rapidly tiring from our lack of substitutes (just three compared to their seven), we eventually conceded and ended the half at 0-3.

During the break, the team decided we had nothing to lose and should press home the attack. With all guns blazing we took the game to the opposition in the second half.

Pressure from our forwards earned us a rare penalty which Stepan valiantly

took but was saved. Then, Hocks came tantalisingly close after working some magic in the box. At the final whistle, the score was bordering respectable, at 0-5.

Buoyed by the otherwise decent results thus far, we were ready to show Nottingham what we were made of.

The match was scheduled to be the final fixture of the day. However, Team Imperial were starting to show signs of fatigue from the lack of said substitutes. Nottingham, with an abundance

of substitutes, came at us in full swing.

The Notts players were far more physical than we expected, but complaints to the referee fell on deaf ears.

By the end of the first half, Notts had taken advantage of our battered bodies and crashed in 3 goals. Even so, the team knew one truth - we were the better team technically. 'Just keep calm and play our game. The goals will come.' We told ourselves.

The second half started brightly for us, steeled for the battering our de-

fence proved an impenetrable wall.

As predicted, the goals came. One, then two and with just five minutes to spare we scored the equaliser!

Final score: 3-3.

It wasn't the ideal result, but we took pride in working closely as a team with determination and spirit.

This was the first of three legs of the Cup and hopefully, we have shown the other universities that we are a force to be reckoned with in the remaining legs to take place next month.



Team Imperial's 9 brave men delighted with the biggest win of the day

ICURFC continue run of form before Varsity

Continuing from back page

off an impeccable midfield move off a scrum initiated by O'Mahoney and carried on by wing Joe Harris and eager beaver/flanker Nick Johnstone.

Then the guests decided that they didn't want to totally humiliate themselves and looked likely to score, too, but their #7's solo effort was stopped 20m in front of the IC try line by a breathtaking tackle from Joe Brown. It was obvious that this run was a one-off and Cardiff didn't want to push their luck too much so they settled on using their forwards to cross the Imperial line. After Freddie Chalke made a cheeky escape off the pitch with an injury, they finally managed to push one of their props over but this didn't stop the hosts from getting right back into their faces.

Joe Brown finished off another great backline run on the left wing by skin-



Strength and determination is key in the scrum. That plus bottle will be required for the JPR Williams Cup

ning their replacement winger while replacement centre Adam Foley (from Cardiff) got a bit homesick. That resulted in an unbearable urge to join his "comrades" in their try area. It was no surprise then that the Exfoliator came

up with a great individual try after handing off numerous fellow Welshmen before powering over the try line just next to the right corner flag. Alex Johnstone finished the game in style by converting from far right to make it

38-7 but had to acknowledge that IC's superiority in the back-three was a lot more important today than just kicking balls off a tee - they can even kick out of hands which resulted in man of the match for fullback Max Joachim

who didn't hesitate a second in saying that the whole pack's performance was amazing on this memorable day at Fortress Harlington.

All is set for a massive Varsity tie next week. Who would want to miss that?

The Rival

Varsity.
Next week.

Watch out for comprehensive coverage of the day in The Rival.

Coming soon



Varsity 2009

Fixture List:

Ethos (from Middy)

Badminton
Men's 1st & 2nd team squads

Basketball
Men's and Women's 1st team squads

Netball
Women's 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th team squads

Water Polo
Mixed 1st team squads

Harlington (from Middy)

Football
Men's 1st and 2nd team squads

Hockey
Men's and Women's 1st and 2nd team squads

Lacrosse
Mixed 1st team squads

Rugby
Men's 2nd, 3rd & 4th team squads
Women's 1st team squad (Rugby 7s) squads

Richmond Athletic Stadium (19.30)

JPR Williams Cup
Imperial College Men's 1st XV vs Imperial Medicals Men's 1st XV

Retain your Bottle RSM and College may return with the JPR Williams Cup next week

Game on. It truly is... A week of passionate sport and long lived traditions starts here in *felix* as 25 February 2009, Varsity approaches. First off however, a brief introduction to The Bottle match.

Timothy Chalk

Now in its 107th year, the annual Bottle Match between the Royal School of Mines (RSM) of Imperial College and the Camborne School of Mines (CSM) of the University of Exeter is the second oldest varsity match in the world.

The link between RSM and CSM is thought to have formed in the 1850-1870's when the two schools were established and became the two premier mining schools in the country, and indeed the world.

The first recorded RSM vs CSM rugby match was played on the 16th December 1902 and though it was described as an honourable draw, we are unsure of the score.

Since then the match has taken place every year, and was named the Bottle Match in 1946 when some RSM students procured a 3 ft beer bottle from a Bass lorry and this was made the trophy.

It was adorned with the crests of the two schools, one on each side, and is currently displayed in the Union bar as the RSM were victorious in 2008.

Of the recorded matches, RSM have won the rugby 39 times, CSM 33 times, and there have been six draws.

In the case of a draw, the winning team from the previous years match



Will RSM return back to dominance on Saturday? They have won 10 of the last 11 encounters

keeps the Bottle.

This year the RSM are fielding 77 athletes playing golf, squash, Hockey (men's and women's), football and men's rugby.

The competition will be at home this year, starting today (Friday 20 February) with an afternoon of golf out at Trent Park, followed by squash, which starts at 7.30pm in Ethos.

It's an early start at Harlington on tomorrow for the hockey players with the ladies match at 9.00am.

This is followed by back to back men's hockey and football and then finally, at 2pm, the all important rugby match!

After showers it is back to South Kensington for the Players' Dinner and the always-entertaining awards ceremony in dB's from 9.00pm.

The Bottle Match has, and always will be, the main annual event for the RSM because of its tradition and the passion that surrounds it.

This year, not only do we have the largest pool of players from which our captains have been able to pick from, but also the most supporters we have ever had by a long way!

Everyone is now ready to smash Camborne apart and we plan to make this trip to London one they'd rather forget! Watch this space...

Volleyball qualify for Sheffield

Volleyball	
Imperial Women's 1st XI	3
Exeter Women's 1st XI	0

Emanuel Balsamo

Wednesday 11th February saw the Imperial College women's Volleyball Team qualify for the final 8s at the BUCS Championships after defeating Exeter University in the last sixteen playoff, 3-0 (25-18, 25-8, 25-23).

Having won the Southern Conference 1A convincingly, the side were drawn to play at Ethos and took full advantage.

Inspirational captain Alana Johnson passed a late fitness test on her elbow to lead the attack line. The first set was tight up until the midway point, with both teams exchanging point after point.

Imperial began to impose themselves on the opposition with some heavy hits and tight defence. An excellent serving run by playmaker Ashly Devon Black raced Imperial into an unassailable lead and they ran out 25-18 winners. Defensive specialist Regina Zoby showed Brazilian class with a flawless passing game.

Imperial now had the upper hand and it was imperative that they carried the same intensity and level of performance into the second set. They did, and produced an emphatic set of volleyball winning 25-8.

French PhD student Amelie Seguret was in scintillating form, demonstrating a great range of attacks from strong hits to deft drop shots. First year Linda Vaccari was also impressive as middle hitter, showing great determination and immense blocking ability. More serving pressure from Barbara Kiskovski saw Exeter fail to reach double figures.

In the third set, a few unforced errors crept into the Imperial game and Exeter started somewhat of a fight back. At one point the opposition were 19-15 ahead.

Time-outs called by Head Coach BALSAMO gave the team a chance to regroup and begin their own trademark comeback. They fought their way back into the decisive set with some real hustle.

First year Jen Smith produced some crucial winners and overall had impressive hitting stats, using the ball intelligently every time.

Imperial edged it 25-23 to complete an impressive and historic victory.

With BUCS volleyball giants Loughborough sensationally knocked out by Dundee University, the finals in Sheffield are wide open and Imperial will be challenging for the prestigious title.

The other qualifying universities are Bath, Birmingham, Durham, Leeds, Manchester and Oxford.



Alana and her charges prepare for another well rehearsed move

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	10	9	0	1	153	34	119	90	4.10
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	9	8	0	1	51	11	40	89	4.00
9 ICSM Badminton Men's 1st	6	5	0	1	28	20	8	83	3.50
10 Badminton Men's 1st	10	7	2	1	52	28	24	70	3.50
11 Table Tennis Men's 1st	12	9	0	3	133	68	65	75	2.75
12 ICSM Netball 3rd	8	6	0	2	253	171	82	75	2.75
13 Squash Men's 2nd	8	6	0	2	25	13	12	75	2.75
14 ICSM Netball 2nd	7	5	0	2	231	131	100	71	2.43
15 ICSM Hockey Women's 1st	11	6	1	3	47	26	21	55	1.82
16 Basketball Women's 1st	8	5	0	3	387	345	42	63	1.63
17 Hockey Men's 3rd	8	3	3	2	16	25	-9	38	1.63
18 Hockey Women's 1st	11	6	1	4	38	28	10	55	1.45
19 Hockey Men's 2nd	10	6	0	4	37	30	7	60	1.40
20 Squash Men's 3rd	7	4	0	3	14	9	5	57	1.14
21 Basketball Men's 1st	7	4	0	3	496	474	22	57	1.14
22 Badminton Women's 1st	12	6	1	5	57	39	18	50	1.00
23 Badminton Men's 2nd	6	2	2	2	24	24	0	33	1.00
24 Squash Women's 1st	11	2	6	3	20	28	-8	18	0.91
25 ICSM Hockey Women's 2nd	7	3	1	3	21	21	0	43	0.71
26 Tennis Men's 2nd	9	4	1	4	35	46	-11	44	0.67
27 ICSM Football Men's 1st	9	4	1	4	15	20	-5	44	0.67
28 Football Men's 1st	9	4	1	4	19	20	-1	44	0.67
29 Rugby Union Men's 3rd	10	5	0	5	192	192	0	50	0.50
30 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 2nd	10	5	0	5	158	143	15	50	0.50
31 Fencing Men's 2nd	6	3	0	3	722	690	32	50	0.50
32 Rugby Union Men's 2nd	13	6	0	7	231	286	-55	46	0.15
33 Football Men's 2nd	8	3	1	4	19	27	-8	38	0.13
34 Hockey Men's 4th	6	2	1	3	13	22	-9	33	0.00
35 Tennis Women's 1st	10	4	0	6	44	56	-12	40	-0.40
36 Volleyball Men's 1st	8	3	0	5	7	10	-3	38	-0.63
37 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 3rd	9	3	0	6	105	241	-136	33	-1.00
38 Football Women's 1st	7	2	0	5	10	25	-15	29	-1.43
39 Hockey Women's 2nd	8	2	0	6	8	32	-24	25	-1.75
40 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 1st	13	3	0	10	236	394	-158	23	-1.92
41 ICSM Netball 1st	13	2	1	10	314	497	-183	15	-2.15
42 ICSM Hockey Men's 2nd	10	2	0	8	15	18	-3	20	-2.20
43 ICSM Football Men's 2nd	5	1	0	4	7	16	-9	20	-2.20
44 Football Men's 3rd	6	1	0	5	11	25	-14	17	-2.50
45 Rugby Union Men's 1st	13	2	0	11	158	423	-265	15	-2.62
46 ICSM Hockey Men's 1st	7	1	0	6	12	23	-11	14	-2.71
47 Lacrosse Men's 1st	8	1	0	7	40	114	-74	13	-2.88
48 Netball 3rd	8	1	0	7	86	284	-198	13	-2.88
49 Rugby Union Men's 4th	10	1	0	9	95	421	-326	10	-3.10
50 ICSM Badminton Women's 1st	11	0	1	10	11	78	-67	0	-3.45
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	8	0	0	8	162	306	-144	0	-4.00

Fixtures & Results

in association with Sports Partnership



Saturday 14th February

Football

Men's 1s ULU 2

LSE 3s ULU 2

Men's 2s ULU 2

LSE 2s ULU 1

Men's 3s ULU 1

King's 3s ULU 0

Men's 5s ULU 3

Queen Mary 3s ULU 2

Men's 7s ULU 0

Royal Veterinary College 2s ULU 1

ULU Cup

Men's 4s 4

Queen Mary 2s 3

Sunday 15th February

Hockey

Men's 2s ULU 1

Royal Veterinary College 1s ULU 1

ULU Cup

Men's 1s 4

UCL 1s 4 (a.e.t)

(UCL win 4 - 3 on penalty flicks)

Lacrosse

ULU Cup

Mixed 1s 11

Royal Holloway Mixed 2s 3

Rugby

ULU Cup

Men's 3s 19

Royal Holloway 2s 12

Monday 16th February

Squash

ULU Cup

Men's 3s 5

LSE 3s 0

Wednesday 18th February

Badminton

BUCS Cup

Women's 1st 3

Bournemouth University 1st 5

Basketball

Men's 1st 64

University of Kent 1st 62

Women's 1st 61

University of Surrey 1st 36

Football

Men's 1st 3

St Mary's University College 3rd 0

Men's 2nd 1

UCL 2nd 1

Men's 3rd 3

Canterbury Christ Church Uni 7th 0

Men's 6s ULU 2

RUMS 4s ULU 1

Hockey

Men's 1st 6

St Barts 1st 0

Men's 2nd 2

University of East London 1st 6

Men's 3rd 0

Royal Veterinary College 1st 0

Men's 4th 1

Brunel University 3rd 2

Women's 1st 1

University of Chichester 1st 6

Women's 2nd 0

Royal Holloway 2nd 11

Lacrosse

BUCS Cup

Men's 1st 0

University of Birmingham 1st 21

Women's 1st 14

Swansea University 1st 3

Netball

Women's 1st 23

RUMS 1st 35

Women's 2nd 23

Brunel University 5th 22

Women's 3rd 13

Roehampton University 2nd 44

Rugby

Men's 1st 38

Cardiff University 1st 7

Men's 2nd 11

Royal Veterinary College 1st 10

Men's 3rd 19

King's College 2nd 6

Men's 4th 0

St George's 2nd 28

Squash

BUCS Cup

Women's 1st 3

University of Exeter 1st 1

Table Tennis

BUCS Cup

Men's 1st 9

Bournemouth University 1st 5

Tennis

Men's 2nd 0

Royal Holloway 1st 10

BUCS Cup

Women's 1st 5

University of Gloucestershire 1st 5

(Gloucestershire win on tie-break shootout)

Volleyball

Women's 2nd 0

University of Essex 1st 3

Saturday 21st February

Football

Men's 1s ULU vs Royal Holloway 2s ULU

Men's 2s ULU vs Queen Mary 1s ULU

Men's 3s ULU vs UCL 3s ULU

Men's 7s ULU vs St George's 3s ULU

ULU Cup

Men's 4s vs King's College 2s</



ICUGFC make 1/2-finals

Gaelic football produce a respectable performance in their first season.

Andrew Lavery

Last weekend ICUGFC competed in our first British Universities Gaelic Football Championship. Getting to Birmingham to compete though was not going to be easy. Unfortunately due to the snow the week previous, the tournament was postponed from their original date with the result that many teams (including Southern rivals Oxford and Cambridge) were unable to field at such short notice – the Gaelic playing boys of IC were not going to quit though.

In the dark of early morn, on Saturday we gathered at the Union, it was a much-depleted IC team that were making the journey but the atmosphere was buoyant and every man there was in anticipation of the battles that lay ahead, our man from Galway perhaps more so...

The format of the competition was for four 30 minute matches for each team to be played in a group stage that would see the top two qualifying for the semi-finals the following day. Those unlucky enough to be drawn in the ruinous IC group were: Abertay, Nottingham, a guest French entry

from Rennes and from our first fixture in October - Bedford.

The basic line began with Chris Farrell in nets, playing behind Pat McMullen and Andrew Lavery in the full back line. Edward O'Hare was marshalling the half back line with Fergal Stranney and Tom McFadden on either side. Finian McCann as usual was in mid-field playing alongside Niall O'Shea. Our prolific half forward line was James Haugh, Conor Taylor and Paddy Heugh with Frank O'Neill and Stephen Gallagher up front. It was a strong line out with an experienced central spine with very proficient draftees brought in to replace our missing players, special mention to rugby's McFadden who came in at late notice and had a faultless day at left half back.

Our first match featured Abertay, a team that in 2001 had actually won Gaelic football's top-flight competition for British Universities. They were however were a shadow of their former glory and although IC were sluggish to start we ran out comfortable winners with a score line of 3-04 to 0-01.

IC watched the next two group

Continued on page 39



1st XV shear Baahdiff

Rugby

Imperial College 1st XV	38
Cardiff University 1st XV	7

Max Joachim

The final match before Varsity was upon us and who better to play than Cardiff University in order to prepare for the Medic scum? Everything went according to plan before the game with the Welsh being confused by the inconceivable shortage of sheep on the road, which meant that one of their minibuses, got lost. They made it to Fortress Harlington in the end and didn't know what hit them when the first whistle sounded.

Even the referee immediately recognised that there would only be one team dominating this pitch today. So while refereeing and, even more so,

commenting the game he decided that there was no point to give any favours to the visitors. The game was all in IC's hands and after a few kicks from their sheepish 10 which were promptly returned by the Imperial backs, the hosts started to play some fabulous rugby which pinned Cardiff in their own 22.

A few chances to score were blown but then the outstanding fly-half Joe Brown decided to take matters into his own hands by seeing off the guests' pathetic excuse for a back-line before scoring in the right corner. Alex Johnstone missed the conversion. In defence, Imperial was sound and could work well around the rucks whilst the backs made some great runs off turnover balls. One of them could only be stopped deep in the Cardiff half. Some quick hands towards the left touchline saw fresher Jack Newton touch down for a try in the corner. 10-0 wasn't good enough for the hosts, though, who decided that a larger result would reflect

the first half a lot better which meant that Flannan O'Mahoney, actually a wolf in sheep's clothing, stole yet another Cardiff lineout after a kick deep into their half from the Imperial back-three. A few phases later, prop Joe Saunders found himself in the middle of the IC back-line so once he realised that running sideways is not what you do in rugby, he gave the ball to fullback Max Joachim who, still influenced by the 2009 Super Bowl, dummied a quarterback pass to the wing only to find himself a clear line towards the Cardiff try line. This time, Johnstone wanted to put his name on the score sheet, too, to make it 17-0 at half-time.

The second half started slowly but some aggressive defensive work by Imperial's back row and centres produced a fair number of turnover balls which were eventually put into points when scrum-half Freddie Chalke finished

Continued on page 41

