

felix

The student 'news'paper of
Imperial College London

Guardian Student Newspaper of the Year
2006, 2008

Issue 1,427
Friday 6 March 2009
felixonline.co.uk



The old cat comes back to life

Work is finally under way for the creation of a new digital archive that will cover the past 60 years, see page 3

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News

News Editor – Kadhim Shubber and Dan Wan

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Nominations are over, elections are go go go...

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

It's official, the Imperial College Union Sabbatical elections are underway after the candidates had their first meeting on Monday. Deputy President (Finance & Services) and Returning Officer for the elections, Christian Carter, met the candidates to go over the election procedure, as well as the do's and don'ts of election campaigning. Nearly all of the 15 Sabbatical candidates turned up to the meeting, which the nine candidates for Student Trustees also attended.

This year, due to a change in the Imperial College Union [ICU] Constitution, candidates are allowed to mention their opposition in the campaign material. Candidates have, however, been warned that any statements made in their campaign material need to be backed up with strong evidence otherwise they face being fined or even expelled from the elections race.

Even though the Constitution was changed to allow negative campaigning, the one thing that wasn't changed that has raised concern, is the ability to remove seconders that the candidates do not recognise. The reason for this is that the seconders are immediately part of the campaign team for that candidate and as such must abide by the same rules; if they break the rules, the candidates get fined. This was the concern of some of the candidates both this and last year, though one of the major problems with removing seconders is that the candidate might not have the 20 required to stand for election.

Earlier this week, Mr Carter announced to the candidates that due his workload at this time of year, he has elected a Deputy Returning Officer,



The candidates at their first meeting this Monday, but who will win? It is up to you to pick the best person for the job, so go vote!

naming past DPFS John Matthews for the role. Some have found this move a bit strange as Mr Matthews is no longer a student at Imperial, however he is a life member which makes the decision legitimate.

Manifestos of the candidates will be released on the ICU web site as well as *Live!* today, and will appear in *felix* next week along with an interview with the two Presidential candidates.

Hustings will be held next week on Tuesday 10th March in the Junior Common Room and Thursday 12th March in da Vinci's. Voting opens on the Friday 13th March and closes on Tuesday 17th March. Below are a list of the candidates and the positions they are running for.

ICU President
Ashley Brown
Afonso Campos

Deputy President (Finance & Services)
Danny Hill
Peter Mabbott

Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)
Colette Gregory
Jennifer Wilson

Deputy President (Education)
Alexander Grisman
Matthew Kaufeler
Jonathan Silver

Deputy President (Welfare)
Caroline Clark
John James
Michael Powell

Felix Editor
Zoe Dobell
Kadhim Shubber
Daniel Wan

MANIFESTOS & VOTE: www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

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Friday 06/03/09



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

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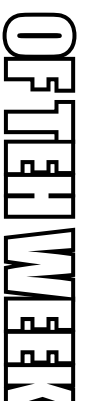
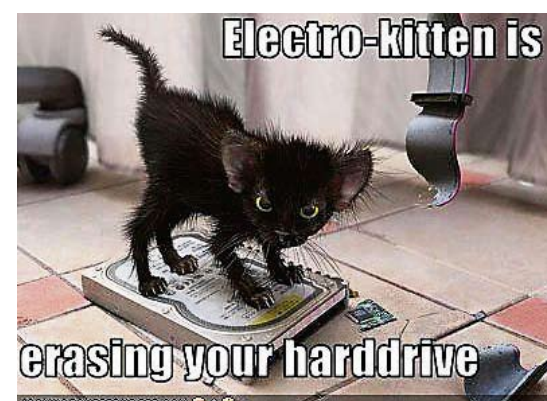
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felix to create first digital archive of its kind in the UK

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

Work is finally underway for a brand new digital archive of *felix* that will see every issue since 1949 being available to the entire world. The creation of the archive will come as a welcome relief to a lot of people at Imperial College (IC), none more so than the clubs and societies at Imperial College Union (ICU).

After many months of extensive research and numerous meetings, a company has finally been found that will digitise the past issues of *felix* and make the files fully searchable. The decision was taken last August when it was discovered that some of the bound editions were starting to deteriorate. The obvious solution to preserve these valuable archives was to digitise the editions in our possession and then hand over the bound editions to the Imperial College Archive Department. The project was discussed with several companies, before the University of London Computer Centre (ULCC) was finally chosen to undertake the project. It quickly became apparent that if a high quality product was to be produced, significant financial contributions would be required to fund this mammoth project.

The expected cost of the project will be around £55,000 which includes £25,000 for the digitisation of the archives and £30,000 for the final web site. Several sources of funding have been sought, in particular the Imperial College Trust as well as the the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) (who are funded by the UK higher



The current *felix* archive in the back room of the office

education and further education funding bodies to provide world-class leadership in the innovative use of ICT to support education and research). The final product will be a PDF for each issue, with a web-based interface that will allow users to search for individual words, issues and dates.

After speaking with representatives from ULCC and JISC, *felix* ascertained that this project would be the first of its kind, as no other university student newspaper in the UK has done this. There are, however, a few in the US that have undertaken similar projects and the feedback from them has been a positive one, something that will undoubtedly please both ICU and IC.

The first batch of issues has already

been sent to ULCC for digitising and the project is expected to be finished by November 2009. Once finished, the new web site will enable users to search for anything they like, which could range from looking up stories covering past Beit redevelopments to angry letters written by Rectors to editors of *felix*. This will be very useful to clubs and societies who wish to discover more about their history, as well as to alumni who will be able to relive their time as students at the College.

felix had a quick look through the archive to try and find some gems from the past, which can be found right. With the creation of the archive, you too will be able to search for some of the wacky news stories of yesteryear.

Ex-IC 'rich kid' sues school for £1 million

Dina Ismail
News Correspondent

An ex-Imperial student is suing his former public school for almost £1 million after he claims he was bullied by pupils who 'made his life hell'.

The former student has launched a landmark High Court case against Berkhamsted Collegiate School, claiming that staff failed to protect him from fellow pupils who taunted him for years.

The university graduate alleges that the experience left him mentally scarred and overshadowed his career prospects causing him to graduate with a second class degree when he had the potential to get a first.

Amongst the grievances mentioned, the student alleges he was taunted for being rich and living in a large house. Despite this he still managed to attain ten grade A* or A GCSEs and four A-grade A-levels. The school, which charges fees of £15,000 a year, has insisted that the incidents were too trivial to be considered bullying.

The 23 year old graduate's lawyer,



Berkhamsted Collegiate School where the student claims his time there "made his life hell"

however, alleges that by attending the school his client has been left with poor self-esteem and suffers from a depressive disorder. The school is accused of negligence and breach of duty of care towards its student who had unavailingly complained repeatedly to

staff and governors. The school, which is facing the possibility of a substantial payout, is denying any wrong doing.

If this landmark case wins, a new precedent could be set for compensation claims made against schools which fail to protect bullying victims.

Golden Oldies

Gilead Amit goes through the early copies of *felix* to find his favourite stories

The sixty years that separate us from the yellowed typewritten sheets of the early *felices* have unsurprisingly seen tremendous changes in the way students write and the subjects they are interested in. The passion for occasional risqué humour, however, has lasted. A flick through these past issues provides a very powerful image of student life in the middle of last century, and makes for very entertaining reading. Over the coming year, a fully-searchable archive will hopefully be up and running and accessible to all.

Issue 111, Friday 25 October 1957

Baby found in Beit Quadrangle

Unfortunate episode mars freshers' night

At 11 o'clock on the night of the first R.C.S. Freshers' dinner, a baby was found in the middle of the Union quadrangle. The President of the Union and the Warden of the Hostel quickly arrived on the scene and supervised the removal of the baby, whose name is believed to be Austin, to Prince Consort Road, where it was left for the night. By the following morning it had disappeared. Several such episodes have occurred recently; it is reported that steps are being taken to discourage the offenders.

Issue 128, Friday 16 January 1959

Women Professor for Imperial College

Dr. Helen K. Porter, DSC FRS, whose appointment to the Chair of Plant Physiology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology is announced by the University of London, becomes the first woman to hold a Chair at the College.

Dr. Porter's association with Imperial College dates from 1921 when, after graduating from Bedford College, she spent a year in the Department of Organic Chemistry and was then appointed Research Assistant in the department of Botany. Ten years later she joined the staff of the Research Institute of Plant Physiology attached to the College and concentrated primarily on research in the field of carbohydrate metabolism.

Shortly after the war she spent a year in Washington University, St. Louis, studying enzymological methods. The subsequent development of her work, in collaboration with a group of colleagues and postgraduate research students, led, with the support of the Nuffield Foundation, to the opening in 1953 of an enzymology laboratory in the Plant Physiology section of the College, to accommodate a research group under Dr. Porter's direction.

In 1956 she was elected to Fellowship of the Royal Society, the twelfth woman to be so honoured. In 1957 Dr. Porter was appointed to a new Readership in Enzymology at the Imperial College.

Issue 120, Friday 2 May 1958

Pyjama Party

In the evening a seventy-strong pyjama party, in luxuriant night attire, began their gay publicity stunt from S. Kensington; to the accompaniment of hot rhythm and hectic jiving (stationmasters and reporters getting hep) the party deviously reached Blackfriars, and then proceeded to Fleet Street.

Here that law appeared gaily whistling, attracting passionate blown kisses from passing nightshirts. On Trafalgar Square, humming patriotic airs, and provoking considerable public interest, Here the skiffle group provided music for jiving in the wonderful setting of floodlit fountains – onlookers joining in.

But the law at last politely but firmly intervened, informing the party that they were contravening the "Sessional law", as Parliament was then sitting. The procession was forcibly dispersed by 'A' Division but had soon re-formed, and disappeared into the depths of Green Park Station. The revellers returned, as they went, to the sound of strumming guitars.

The world beyond college walls



Cuba

President Raúl Castro has marked his first year anniversary in power by having a major cabinet reshuffle.

The reshuffle has seen 10 officials step down, including two well-known loyalists of former President Fidel Castro. The transition of power from Fidel Castro, who ruled Cuba ever since the communist revolution in 1959, to his brother Raúl has taken place quite smoothly.

The shake-up also included the merger of several ministries in order to make the ageing communist bureaucracy more efficient. It comes at a time of improving US-Cuban ties, as well as better ties with Latin America, China and old cold war ally Russia too.



Israel

The Israeli housing ministry plans to build 73,000 new settlements in the West Bank

These figures, released by the Israeli group Peace Now, have been denied by the Israeli government. The group however, says it has obtained data indicating that 15,000 new units had already been approved, and a further 58,000 were waiting approval. This doubling of settlement capacity in the Palestinian territory has been condemned by the Palestinian authority and by the EU.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was in the region this week, meeting first with Israeli leaders and then with Palestinian leaders in the West Bank. She has been urged to put pressure on Israel to back down from its settlement expansions. At present over 500,000 Israeli settlers live in the West Bank and East Jerusalem settlements, all of which are illegal under international law.



USA

President Obama wants to enjoy closer diplomatic ties with Russia than his predecessor

In a letter which was hand delivered to the Kremlin last month, Obama asked for greater collaboration between the two nations on the Iranian issue. In return, Obama offered to suspend plans for a US missile defence shield being built in Eastern Europe, which Russia has deemed to be threatening its own security.

The Russian government does not have any hand in Iran's missile program, most of the help on that comes from North Korea. However Iran is a market for Russian weaponry, airliners, and civil nuclear technology. As such, it has stronger cards to play at the negotiations table, and could back the tougher sanctions on Iran demanded by the United States.



UN – The Hague

Radovan Karadzic has refused to enter a plea at a pre-trial meeting of the UN tribunal at The Hague (in the Netherlands) where he is accused of committing war crimes.

Mr Karadzic, a former political leader of Bosnian Serbs during the Yugoslav civil war in the 1990s, was arrested in Serbia in July 2008 after spending a decade in hiding disguised as a doctor of alternative medicine. The exact charges made by prosecutors at the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) include two counts of genocide and five counts of crimes against humanity between 1992 and 1995.

The trial has been broadcast on TV in Bosnia, but judges have admitted that the proceedings have made virtually no progress since last July. Many observers believe Karadzic is using delaying tactics pioneered by former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic who was also on trial at the ICTY, but died in 2006 before a verdict was delivered.



Edited by Hassan Joudi & Raphael Houdmont

Imperial to increase rent in halls of residence

Lawrence Weetman
live.cgcu.net

The cost of renting Imperial College accommodation has had its annual review, with rents rising by 3.9% on average. However, Fisher Hall has escaped the rise.

Deputy President (Education & Welfare), Hannah Theodorou, passed on details of the rent prices for Imperial Accommodation for the 2009-10 session earlier today, following a meeting with the Committee on Student Residences. The rents are once again classified into different "bands" (A-F) and then into different room types: a system set up by the committee in 2008.

The rent review means that next year, the average price of renting Imperial College Accommodation will be £130.98. 27% of bed spaces will have a rent of less than £102.27 per week, 54% will be less than £118.86 per week and 7% of bed spaces will cost more than £177 per week.

Fisher Hall is the only hall in Central London to escape the rise in rent, with prices sticking at £92.40 per week for the cheapest single rooms and a very low £54.46 for a place in a triple room. This is to "provide a lower cost hall offering". The report notes that refurbishment in Fisher Hall will be carried out in Summer 2009, as planned. Miss Theodorou told *Live!*, "I am pleased

with the freeze in Fisher's rent, providing students with a low-cost accommodation option within walking distance of the campus. This will be happening despite a refurbishment this summer".

Postgraduate accommodation at Claypolds is set to increase by around 5.5% in order to reflect the refurbishment that has been carried out. Anyone living in areas which are still awaiting refurbishment will only be charged half of this increase (this affects 183 of the 330 bed spaces). This leaves the average price rise in these halls at 3.9%.

Rents at Silwood will be increasing by 5.1%, with a standard single room costing £80.41 per week a twin room charged at £133 per week between two people, a couple or family flat being charged at £172.88 per week and a bungalow now being charged at £204.25 per week. Twenty-eight beds at William Penney will be frozen at this year's prices (£72.52 per week), "following feedback from students". The freeze in rent at William Penney leaves the average price rise at Silwood at 3.9%.

In all other halls, the aim has been to widen the price difference between multiple and single occupancy rooms. This means that rents multiple occupancy rooms are being increased by 2.5% and single rooms and flats are being increased by 4.6%. Once again, this gives the average increase of 3.9%.

The report notes that The London

School of Economics "is proposing a base increase of 5% with some halls increasing by as much as 12%", which I presume is supposed to make us feel better about the increase.

This *Live!* reporter notices that the report only compares the increase that LSE is putting forward, rather than how the prices themselves compare to those at Imperial College (they could have been much lower before the increase). For example, LSE has beds in twin rooms available at £67 per week in Islington and £75 per week near Tottenham Court Road. Maybe this is something that the report can look at in 2010.

The report also comments upon private housing. It says that whilst there has been a reduction in the average weekly rent for private housing across London, rent in the Kensington area did increase during 2008. The report says that "in any case, it is still cheaper to stay in halls".

The report assumes that students who live in private housing live in Kensington, saying: "An average three bed house in South Kensington has a weekly rent of £800 p/wk or £266 per room. This excludes shared expenses such as utilities that add a further £26 p/wk. A private housing alternative is therefore approximately £292 p/wk for a room compared to £176.47 for a band E single ensuite in Southside."



The halls of residence at Evelyn Gardens have seen a rise in rent, all except Fisher Hall which remains unchanged

Imperial College accused of cheating in University Challenge show

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

Earlier this week, the University Challenge team from Corpus Christi, Oxford, were disqualified for fielding an ineligible member, after it was found out that Sam Kay had graduated in June 2008 and was currently working for PricewaterhouseCoopers in Reading.

Past presenter Bamber Gascoigne has lambasted the BBC telling the Radio 4's *The World Show* that "To fail to produce a University Challenge based on university life not within a single

university year is pathetic." Current presenter Jeremy Paxman told the *BBC* that "I do feel sorry for the Corpus Christi team - but rules are rules, and they had to be stuck to."

In a joint statement from the BBC and Granada, they said: "The University Challenge rules on student eligibility are that students taking part must be registered at their university or college for the duration of the recording of the series."

Ever since this small "fiasco", there have been reports claiming that other university teams had also fielded ineligible members in their team. Earlier

this week *The Times* had reported that two members from the Imperial College team that won in 2001 had already graduated when the show was being filmed.

There are no reports on what might happen to the previous teams if they are found to have actually cheated, but one thing that will need to be looked at are the rules. Since the show is filmed over the summer and effectively covering two academic years, it will mean that third year students and below will be the only ones eligible to participate, something which some students might find particularly annoying.

Vote Ashley Brown

for ICU President

ash4president.blogspot.com

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- Food that gets delivered to your table, while it is still hot

2 Improved evening entertainment (Don't worry, I'll let you pick the music.)

- Fewer nights where you have to pay to get in just for a drink
- More support for clubs to "adopt a night"
- Greater student involvement - tell me what YOU want to see

3 Commitment to students (I've been doing it for a long time!)

- Student rep for 5 years
- Experience on College committees, contacts with top staff
- An open approach so YOU know what is going on

4 Commitment to clubs (I've run a couple, I know what it's like.)

- Finally sort out problems with club finances
- Continued reductions in club paperwork
- Better advertising of big club events

**Change
shouldn't be
difficult**

Voting: Fri 13/3 00:01 - Tue 17/3 23:59 @ imperialcollegeunion.org/vote
Hustings: Tue 10/3 @ 12:30, JCR & Thu 12/3 @ 18:00, Da Vinci's

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Do you ever hear a quiet voice in your head that says, "Why am I doing this...what am I doing here...why AM I here?". This is the sign that you have still not yet discovered the purpose and the meaning of your life.

The answers are of course always within us but we don't know why we cannot hear them or see them! If you didn't already know the answers you could not create the questions!

Tonight Mike George will erect some signposts to the answers that we all know but forget, as he guides us through the 'Big Question Jungle' to find our own answers. Including

- What am I Missing and WHY? - Is it time to call off the search?
- What's the Point and Why? - Is there really a reason to be here?
- Where to Next and Why? - Is the future so important it has to consume our life NOW?



Mike George is an author, international speaker and spiritual teacher who has been teaching meditation and spiritual development for over twenty years. He brings together the three key strands of the 21st century - spiritual/emotional intelligence - management/leadership development and continuous learning. His publications include Learn to Relax and The 7 AHA's of Highly Enlightened Souls and Don't Get MAD Get Wise.

Monday 9th March 2009
Time 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Venue: Rydges Kensington Plaza, 61 Gloucester Road SW7 4

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FOR FELIX EDITOR

Manifesto - I will bring felix closer to students

1. I will set up a stall in the JCR each Monday at lunchtime to attract new writers and to hear your views on the paper
2. I will improve the design of the newspaper to give it a more professional feel while still retaining its loveable quirkiness
3. I will have the website fixed so that it is easy to navigate and operates like any normal news site. I will expand print content online with links, audio and video
4. I will keep the cat free. It's up to the Editor to protect the independence of your newspaper and I won't allow felix to be restricted in anyway in this respect

Read all 7 of my manifesto points at www.union.ic.ac.uk/vote.

Hustings: Tuesday 10th March - JCR 12:30 - 2pm and Thursday

12th March - Da Vinci's 6pm onwards. Online voting opens at 00:01

- Friday 13th March and closes 23:59 - Tuesday 17th March



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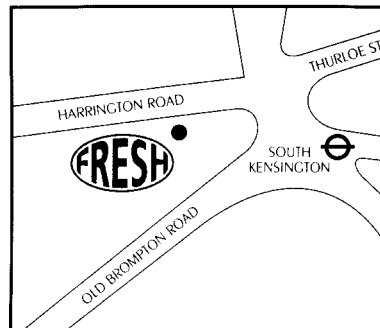
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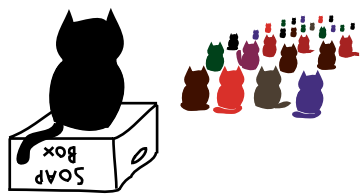
BIG IDEAS

Hustings: Tuesday, 10th March 12:30-2:00pm
Thursday, 12th March 6pm-8pm Da Vinci's

Voting: From Friday, 13th March at 00:01
until Thursday, 19th March at 23:59

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4. Campaign with College to secure larger prayer spaces.
5. Secure funding and plans for Phase 3 (Rebuilding Db's and DaVinci's) always ensuring your wants are prioritised.
6. Push for GSA interaction with the Union, introducing a pilot PhD mentoring scheme for undergraduates.
7. Fight to ensure clubs and societies will not suffer any funding cuts.



Comment, Opinion & Letters

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

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



Where are all my writers?

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

It has been a strange week here at *felix*, the office seems to be eerily quiet and I find myself with nothing but my own company for hours on end. People seem to appear only momentarily and then disappear as quick as they arrived. This is not so much of a surprise on Monday's as, well, there's nothing really to do for them as everyone is still waiting for the weeks content to arrive, but them not appearing on Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon, now that is a bit worrying.

As I quickly glance over to look at the issue plan I see that we only have 12 pages booked for this week. Not that bad as it means minimal work for me, but at the same time putting out 12 pages feels like a disappointment. Eventually life forms appear in the office, clearly stressed and in a hurry, I enquire as to what is happening to which I get one simple reply. ELECTIONS!

I had forgotten how much work goes into the elections, making sure your campaign material is OK'd by the Returning Officer before you can do anything with it, having them tell you that there is one minute problem with it, you having to change it only to be told that there is another problem. It is stressful, I should know, I've been through this whole thing about a year ago.

Seeing everyone work on their campaign material and fine tuning their manifestos it made me think about

what I promised the students of Imperial this time last year. Looking back, I must admit I could have done a lot worse. Setting up the light hearted material again was very easy as people were extremely willing to do it, and yes we might have pushed it a little bit too far with Hangman, but it is all about finding a balance. FUCWIT is back and proving to be a great success, the iPod's have clearly worked to entice people to take part while Coffee Break is providing some interesting content. "Bring Page 3 back", centrepiece, done! "Free the Cat" well it's nearly out of the bag, I'm pretty sure the stories on Maggers and the Masquerade Ball prove that. What else?

Ah, "improve the website," that was definitely not as easy as I thought and I must admit that thing just annoys me now. But it is OK dear readers, as a new website, of sorts, is on its way. As promised last year and after several months of research and talks, the digital archive is underway [see page 3] and it will be ready by November. So I've managed to stick to a lot of my manifesto points and for those that I haven't, I wholeheartedly apologise.

I really don't envy the candidates this year. The next two weeks are going to be full of people offering you sweets and other bribes in order to get your vote. You never know, the decision you make could actually make a difference, so when it's time to vote, please do!

Abdul Hannan argues that Muslims are the victims of a government strategy of forcible assimilation



There have been leaked reports that reveal that the UK Government plans to ban, in all but name, open criticism of liberal Western values by Muslims.

In the beginning of February, Julia Robinson resigned as Head of Meersbrook Bank School (Sheffield) after parents objected to her insistence that Muslim children fully participate in Christian assemblies. It appears that Ms Robinson wasn't on a personal crusade to force children of non-Christian faith to sing Christian hymns; the Government is instead beginning the next phase in its anti-Muslim strategy – forced assimilation of Muslims.

Britain likes to pride itself on being a pluralistic and secular society. Black and ethnic minorities make up nearly 12% of the population across the UK, and over one in three Londoners belong to one of these minorities. Political parties parade their black and minority members of parliament, or indeed any aspiring MPs like prize cattle hoping to court the ethnic vote. The Government's hardline stance would thus seem to be at odds with Britain in the 21st century.

However there is a view, both among the political right and left, that Muslims in Britain don't fit well with multiculturalism. Minorities have, in the past, been integrated into British society with relative ease, adopting the social and cultural norms of the dominant population; interracial marriages demonstrate the depth of integration.

In contrast, Muslims are not only visibly different (women's dress, men's beards) but their adherence to Islam, which defines their identity, is a serious obstacle to full integration. Thus, the Government's view of Muslims' adherence to Islamic values will be used against those who do not fall into broad agreement with Western values.

Muslims remaining silent or condoning the failures of secular liberal values and their incompatibility with Islam will be tolerated, just. Those Muslims who criticise, debunk, challenge or dare to condemn Western values will be rooted out, isolated, marginalised and demonised, even though they do not have a violent streak. This, together with Ms Robinson's stance of forced Christian assemblies for all children (Muslims mainly in this case) is nothing less than forced assimilation into the culture of the dominant majority population, aimed at blurring and eventually wiping out Islamic identity, values and thought.

This draconian emerging Government policy resembles how the British forcefully assimilated the Aborigines in newly colonised Australia. Sold as being 'for their own good', policies to assimilate Aborigines into British culture went to the extent of defining how the natives brought up their children, and led to the forceful separation of Aboriginal children from their parents. These children became known as the stolen generation, and are still searching for their families.

Some may argue that this representation is an over-exaggeration and scare-mongering. However, the stark reality is that since 9/11 we have seen significant anti-Muslim policy creep in, from anti-terrorism laws to preventing violent extremism.

This leaked new policy in fact exposes the failure of liberal democracies to defend their ideals from a viable alternative ideology that is widely gaining adherents from members of the indigenous population who have seen the breakdown of Western values as a way of life. Unable to win over supporters without offering funding and jobs to a few ex-Islamist ideologues, the Government is resorting to tyrannical tactics.



Kawai Wong and her head reunite

My head has been on holiday in the Andromeda NGC224 since 1986. This has rendered me one of the most clueless of the century. A-level Maths and Physics taught me how to add one to one. My bum has done my travelling head a favour - it sat the exams. That's how I am here at the fifth best university in the world. When I beckoned to the sky 2 years ago, seeing how exams weren't 1+1 anymore, my head agreed to travel back at the speed of light. But NGC224 is 2,520,000 light years away.

Scientists are cool. Engineers are cool. Only smart people can be them. I ousted the monster and saved the princess in the Final Level. Score, game over, now sit back and taste the victory for the rest of my life. Good uni, good degree. What could go wrong?

My interests have always been in the 'to be sorted' pigeonhole, next to 'priority'. I catered my personal statement to the admission tutor's liking. I would

say something the Head of Human Resources liked to hear. What do I enjoy doing? "For as long as I can remember, I have always been aspired to become a []". Fill the bracket with a desired noun.

It just never occurred to me that finding a career is nothing like attending exams. Recalling facts from my personal history and pasting the scattered memories onto an application form isn't exactly the best way to combat the life-long career battle. This is the only weird occasion in life that logical deduction is less sensible than "follow your heart".

My banker cousin smiled at me, revealing his gold teeth. "I want some gold teeth...", I responded cross-eyed. He has recently been made redundant. The spell on me has been broken. Do I really want some gold teeth? And more importantly, do I want to sit at a desk working on a spreadsheet while a genie at the back of my head goes "youaresoboredyoushouldleaveanddosomethingelse"? Do I then want to bang my head on the keyboard in the

hope that the genie will go away and subsequently get a bonus of "I LOVE MY JOB" engraved on my forehead?

Jack said finding a career doesn't really matter; as long as you have a "professional degree" you can get in anywhere. Anywhere. I don't want to go anywhere, Jack, I am after a specific somewhere, Jack. Now, with my head nowhere to be seen and my feet stuck in a sea of DNA and T-cells, where do I go from here? And who the hell is Jack? I don't know Jack!

Before my head and I parted in 1986, I wanted to be a writer. Then, I wanted to be a doctor. Then, I wanted to design an engine for BMW. If it was easy to score high marks in exams, surely it is easy to design an engine? Then, I was shafted by a screwdriver, in the derriere. Then, I wanted to combine science and literature, and biochemistry is quite wordy. Then, my cousin bit me with his gold teeth. Now, I have made my "Welcome Home" banner; my head is on its way now. Mate, where is your head?

Legalise drugs: Tom Culley

I am very pleased to see the article in last week's *Felix* about the legalisation of drugs because it is a subject that very few people are willing to openly discuss for fear of intense criticism. Not only did I agree with the sentiments but the points were argued far more succinctly and scientifically than I have been able to myself.

I have never understood how anyone can condemn the users of cannabis in one breath, while taking a drag on a cigarette with the next and helping themselves to a bottle of red wine. Just because an activity is allowed by law and has been for a very long time does not mean that it is somehow 'right'. Last century homosexuality, the suffrage of women, abortion and blasphemy were considered the utmost in social degradation and 'sinful' and yet none of these things would raise much more than a few eyebrows these days.

I am not advocating the use of currently illegal drugs and am not denying the potentially harmful effects that occur as a result of their use, but you could say the same about skiing. As someone who has never skied I think it is an odd thing to want to do, especially seeing the injuries that people can come back with, but I would never try to ban someone from doing it. Anyone that knows me should know what I think of smokers, but it is their right

to do what they want as long as it does not harm others.

Putting aside the hardest drugs, such as heroin and crack cocaine, for a moment, drugs are naturally occurring or at least easily synthesised so how can you stop it? And why should you?

We live in a free society, or at least we think we do, and surely if someone wants to partake in an activity that harms no one except possibly themselves then who are we to stop them? And before everyone starts shouting; no, even hard drugs do not harm innocent bystanders any more than alcohol or smoking does. Drug addicts can commit burglaries and robberies to fund their addiction, but only because they have been forced into it by the failure of society to deal with the problem. Even the harmful effects of the harder drugs, such as acute addiction, can easily be negated if help is freely available and the stigma attached to it is reduced.

Drug use, like prostitution, will not be stopped by making it illegal, it is simply driven underground where it creates far more problems than it could possibly solve and creates a divided society; the higher class in their high-value homes in suburbia with not a care in the world, and the lower class trapped in slums where the police will not tread. An exaggeration, maybe, but try and deny that it isn't true.

Gilead Amit begins a trek into the musical jungle



“Music played an important part in our home – but we have never played an important part in the music.”



There is a well-known Regency poet, or artist, or composer or some glut-tonous, decadent extravagant fop, whose name has been escaping me all morning. With Google proving surprisingly uncooperative and my reference books located in another country, the only way I can continue with my train of thought and finish this story with any degree of coherence is to invent an appropriate substitute. So be it. Sir Darcy Wilberforce St. John deLaney Hamilton, Bart. that well-known member of the landed gentry, ranked among the great artistic souls of his day. His infusion with the divine fire is often attributed to his wealthy mother, who insisted that her pregnancy be spent in the presence of great works of art: soothing glissandos delivered by periwigged pimpernels on harps, elegant marble statuettes, fine watercolours and the most refined topiary. Bear in mind that much of this comes to you straight and unfiltered from a notoriously unreliable memory.

If one of the greatest musical geniuses of the age was the product of such re-

financed practices on the part of the elder Mrs. Hamilton, then my own mother's nine-month must have involved long periods of silence, punctuated by occasional bouts of atonal shrieking from my father as he danced around her while whamming two metal frying pans together with a ladle.

I must stop before I do them an injustice. Music has always played an important part in our home – but we have never played an important part in the music. On my father's side I am the product of four generations of musical imbecility, with the more harmonious strands of our DNA having jumped ship somewhere in the transition from the *stetls* of Lithuania to the *stetls* of the Ukraine. On my mother's side the accident occurred more recently, as my grandfather's vocal inheritance is proving strangely elusive.

I think a key factor in all this – or more likely still, an off-key factor – is that the first sound I ever heard was a 10 pound baby tearing his lungs out in an attempt to gain attention from a hostile world. With that sort of introduction to the mesmerizing world of

sound, is there any wonder I have no sense of musical proportion?

My tonal eccentricities are well-known to most of my friends and all of my enemies. As a result, I am usually forbidden to approach the microphone on karaoke evenings, and am only allowed out of the closet to reluctantly deliver my highly sought-after imitation of Sir Mixalot in idiosyncratic tones.

The situation is aggravated by one of those tragic twists of fate which has ensured that all of my friends seem to have dangerously overdeveloped musical glands. I have two friends who are concert violinists, a third is a gifted flautist who currently conducts the orchestra of a prestigious London university, and sopranos, tenors and baritones crowd for space on my facebook friends list. To rub salt, pepper and a hint of tarragon yet further into the wound my flatmate, in an attempt to become acquainted with one instrument of every family, has recently started learning the cello. I alone of my acquaintances receive pitying glances and sorrowful embraces from friends and family when

circumstances compel me to break into 'Happy Birthday'. No-one else receives the raised eyebrow or the quivering upturned lip of barely concealed laughter as they produce vague humming sounds in an attempt to recapture a particularly stirring movement in a piece of classical music. Years of self-confidence have at least ensured that I make up in gusto for what I lack in talent, but the embarrassment remains.

This embarrassment is irrational and all-consuming. Where no music of any kind is involved, I can interact with any of the above-mentioned virtual virtuosi with the greatest of ease. I can discuss literature and philosophy, quote sitcoms and web memes, don an air of loving condescension or ironic detachment and generally proselytize, pontificate and pun to my heart's delight. The moment a bow is raised, a throat cleared or a middle C pressed, however, my ego goes the way of the stock market and I become a dribbling sycophant with a gift for words surpassed by most species of canary.

An intense feeling of inferiority sets in – and rightly so. These individu-

als can do more with the emotions of an audience than I will ever be able to achieve in any other way. By playing on their instruments they can play directly on human heartstrings. No other artform has so true a course through the emotional centres of our brains, and no other artist can achieve so much with what seems to be so little. I cannot, in good faith, take a dislike to people who can play an instrument as I know that within the space of four bars my respect for them will be soaring to the B above high C. If there is one ability I have ever admired and envied and craved for my own it is the opportunity to produce music.

And so, after ten years of salivating over instruments of all shapes and sizes, I have finally decided to give it a go. I enter the vast unexplored jungle of accidental notes and tangled staves, of dominant chords and elusive sevenths armed with nothing but a battered music notebook and sensible shoes.

Tune in next week, same time, same place, to hear what happens next. Be warned though – it may not be so easy on the ears.

Kadhim Shubber's club has an image problem



“The House of Tight Trousers is a mess. It doesn't employ a cleaner and its members don't tidy up after themselves”



The household that I live in is rather like a Gentlemen's Club. There are peculiar customs and bizarre rituals, we have annual dinners and like all good Gentlemen's Clubs it is... well, 100% gentlemen. We fulfill all the basic requirements.

However in other ways it's very different. It doesn't have a long or prestigious history, Churchill was never a member and Lord knows (as do any visitors to our flat) that the premises aren't exactly grandiose.

It's for this reason I believe that my club, hereby named The House of Tight Trousers, hasn't been a riotous hit amongst the great and good of London. All Gentlemen's Clubs are judged on two things: their facilities and their membership. Nobody wants to spend time with a horde of boorish, shallow fools (no matter how wonderful the surroundings) but equally one can always take good company with one if the premises aren't up to scratch.

I'd say that my club wouldn't be judged too harshly by its membership. Admittedly there are only three of us: myself, Rob and Carlos. But it's multi-ethnic, multi-national and multi-faith and although I live with a man who never stops revising and a man who never rises before 3pm, I like to think that if you came to The House of Tight Trousers for some company and conversation, you wouldn't be disappointed.

Sadly though, the environment might permanently deter you. The club doesn't employ a cleaner and 66% of its members are unable to find the strength to tidy up after themselves. The result is, of course, chaos (not the organized chaos of say an anarchist commune, we're talking a kind of 2003 post-invasion Iraq type of chaos). Like 2003 post-invasion Iraq different areas of the club are maintained to different standards. Rob's room has avoided the chaos of the rest of the flat; it is a veritable oasis of cleanliness, structure and

general civility (Carlos and I suspect that this is linked to the fact that he's the only one in the flat with any storage space: there are two wardrobes in our flat, both in Rob's room; that and the fact that his room is in the Green Zone). Carlos' room on the other hand is the absolute opposite of Rob's room; if Rob's room is the well-protected oil wells and pipelines of Iraq then Carlos' room is the Iraqi National Museum. He is at a disadvantage, I'll admit, in that he has the smallest room but the most clothes by a long way. His room has become a jungle; his clothes racks are the trees, the hangers are the branches and the leaves are brightly coloured socks from Uniqlo or American Apparel.

Perhaps our club might be judged better if the rest of the flat resembled Rob's room rather than Carlos'. At first Rob's constitution was strong enough to keep The House of Tight Trousers to a certain standard but the weight of his flatmates' slovenliness overwhelmed him; like the British in Basra he now

only keeps order within his base.

Even if The House of Trousers were to be cleaned spotlessly, like Iraq it would still face problems due to poor infrastructure. There is an extreme shortage of working appliances. We lack a freezer, the Hoover seems to expel more dust than it inhales and the door of the washing machine has to be prised open with a knife. However, there are two appliances that truly make me reconsider not taking that flight to Baghdad; the dryer and the boiler.

I should correct myself, there is no dryer and there never was a dryer. The dryer is the WMD of The House of Tight Trousers. I look at images of Iraqis queuing in the unrepentant heat for petrol and I dream of a life with dry clothes. I dream of a world where my clothes didn't cling uncomfortably to my shoulders and where the first 3 hours of each day weren't spent shivering as my body struggles with its new job as a radiator... wonderful.

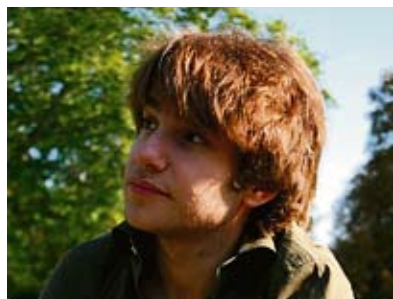
But surely, I hear you cry, you could

just dry your clothes on an actual radiator? Sadly not, I reply, since the boiler has shuffled off its mortal coil and departed to boiler heaven. I have cold radiators and even colder showers. Thrilling as cold showers may be, there is something distinctly unsatisfying about moving from a cold shower to a damp towel, before 'slipping' into even damper socks and jeans.

The atmosphere therefore at The House of Tight Trousers is as you may have guessed it... damp. Visitors view the piles of dry, unwashed clothing or clean but damp clothing with suspicion, as if insurgents might suddenly leap from behind them. They bring beers and enthusiastically offer to chill them in the non-existent freezer and are always confused when we offer them a map and a machete before they enter Carlos' room.

Still there's hope that we'll be out by August 2010. Rob says there's a place two doors down that we could move to but Carlos and I aren't enthusiastic.

Afonso Campos can polish his own shoes



“It’s got to be the fuse. I will change this fuse and then, I will change the world”

Being a man used to be infinitely easier. Ever since we have hit the debauched and certifiably unstable noughties, things seem to have gotten a hell of a lot tougher. The cosmetic issues which a man is pre-occupying himself as of late are wildly different (but not necessarily less important) to anything previously experienced. While the infamous metrosexual term dubbed by the prominent Mark Simpson in an issue of a mid nineties *Independent* has been strong before, only now can we feel the full force of this gail.

Shelves at Harrod’s, Selfridge’s, Harvey Nich’s et al, are lined with androgenous beauty products that are capable of befuddling even the most informed and liberal of men. A tinted mosituriser by Jean Paul Gaultier is no longer the domain of the female species and men-only spas and salons are cropping up

like mushrooms in the unlikely places across the country; from Blackpool and Preston to the deepest, darkest Surrey and Cumbria. Not all men (or women for that matter) are fully comfortable or content with this increase in personal grooming or changed aesthetic values. Some find it feminine that a guy would care about skin. I’m not totally obsessed, but it would be a lie if I said I didn’t care. I scrub and I moisturise, but that’s about it.

Despite the complicated environment that the modern man has been thrown into, there are still three key things that any male should absolutely know how to do. Regardless of wealth, social status or pikeyness level, these are the crux of what can really make a man. Apart from the first one, they are in no order of importance and I stand by that they deserve equal recognition as far as manliness goes.

The most basic is the most impor-



tant. Even if you are a high powered CEO who gets his shoes waxed, polished and shone in front of 85 Broad Street in New York City, it is still vitally important that you know how to do it yourself. Not because there isn’t anyone else to do it for you, but it truly is the epitome of being a dude. It’s really not difficult and there is some sort of satisfaction that can be obtained from spending a lazy Sunday afternoon taking care of your shoes. If well treated, any expensive pair of shoes has the potential to last at least 5 years, irrespective of how often they are worn. I suggest you run a hot bath and leave your shoes for 20 minutes just sitting in the steamed up room. Commence by cleaning the dirt using a shoeshining brush. When this is done, using a paper clip and a toothbrush clean out the brogues and apply the right coloured polish or clear wax to the entire shoe in a circular motion. Wait about 20

minutes and brush again. Using an old T-shirt, buff the shoe until it is shining beautifully. Easy. Fast. Manly. Do it.

The handiman in you naturally jumps up and down with unadulterated excitement when a fuse blows. Even though you may know nothing about changing a fuse or have never attempted the most softcore DIY task, this is your time to be elevated in the man world. You proudly claim, “It’s got to be the fuse. I will change this fuse, and then I will change the world”. And then, you realise you can’t do it, so I’m here to save you. It literally is as simple as 1, 2, 3. Turn your fusebox off, remove the malfunctioning fuse by pulling it out and insert the new one into the base. Despite this being an effort of unprecedented proportions, it will lift your spirits and it is possible that you will walk around with testosterone coming out of your ears for the rest of the day. I know I do. It also makes for

an interesting auditory experience.

Last, but just as important, is the ability to properly iron a shirt. Usually, there is always someone to do it for you, be it a dry cleaner, your mother, wife, daughter, whatever... Granted, this is not as manly as changing a car carburetor, but it can take you almost as far in some weird metaphorical sense I’m not fully sure I comprehend. This is the art of ironing a shirt to perfection. It’s a little trickier than the other two but in terms of sartorial knowledge, it doesn’t get much better than this. Unbotton the shirt and lay it on the board, chest side up and begin at the tip of the collar working inwards towards the middle. Iron the yoke on the thinner end of the board and repeat on the second shoulder. Cuffs are easy; open then and iron them fully. Now, slip the shirt over the board and iron the back. Repeat if there are creases.

You are now a man. Go live your life.

Dan Wan gets stuck in the middle of everything



“Hence, a natural instinct for ease and comfort has become referred to as ‘a cultural divide’”



Dinner was cooked. We had decided, for once, to make a shared meal. We split the cost, the workload and the cooking. There was a warm sense of altruism as we sat down at the table. We were finally forming a tight friendship. As I took my first bite of the meal, dipping my head low to the plate, I’m suddenly distracted by the general sogginess of the food. “Needs brown sauce!” announced a voice from my right. “No, it needs soy sauce,” exclaims a voice to my left in disagreement. As I evaluate this return of statements like a spectator at Wimbledon, my friend sitting opposite pipes up. “Well, I think its....” The other three of us gaze at her momentarily as we wait for her to finish her sentence. There was no verbal finish, but a rotating jiggle of a pointed hand towards her cheek, as she grins manically. Our gazes turned to frowns of utter confusion.

She gauged our reactions and quickly went onto explain that it was a childish gesture in Italy that signals when something is ‘yummy’. You can probably guess that the guy that thought our food needed brown sauce was from the North. The girl that disagreed and claimed soy sauce would solve the bleak blandness of our meal grew up in

Beijing. There was actually meant to be a fifth friend joining us for dinner that night, but he was off getting hammered on a boat with other Medics.

That little story (to call it an anecdote would be pushing it) recounts one of the first instances at Imperial that I noticed a culture difference. Imperial College prides itself on being one of the most culturally diverse universities in the UK, and there is no doubt that it should be celebrated.

As I grew into the very international surroundings of Imperial folk, I have grown to realise there are divides within the student population. I think many other people have realised the same, but realisation does not necessarily infer vocalisation of the matter. Divides are not healthy.

Let’s start with the obvious: Medics versus the rest of College. As proven at my dinner, the absent person was at a Medic Freshers’ event, on a boat, probably making his very best friends for the next six years. Varsity also happened recently, and it did nothing to dampen the rivalry. However, it’s a rivalry that does little harm to the social fabric of Imperial. My best mate from Freshers’ Year is a dirty Medic, and as he wanders into the SAF once a fortnight like he’s the Don of South Kensington, I don’t feel any acrimony to-

wards him. In fact, I see it as a pleasant surprise that I haven’t had to schedule ‘lunch’ with him.

But this is where I struggle to comprehend. It is obvious that Imperial has some of the brightest students from the South East Asian region. My parents are of Malaysian descent, but I was born and raised in Watford; about as far away from Malaysia you can get. What this gives me is a good understanding of both cultures I believe prevalent at Imperial. There is the Western culture that I have grown up in, but there is also a very different culture. A lot of students that have had their schooling solely in countries such as Hong Kong or China understandably have the same needs, habits and essentially lifestyle. Hence, there is a natural divide in culture.

It is not a divide I have any disdain for, though, as I can appreciate the issues and circumstances one is faced with when moving to a foreign country. No one can deny that when placed in a similar situation (for example an English student moved to China) the easiest and most comfortable option would be initially to stick around with other Western-raised people. A common bond is found in uncertainty, and this is where long friendships are made. Already, purely out of comfort, you would have made a hazy but slight

separation from you and the general mass. Due to Imperial’s 34% international student proportion, this hazy separation is not small. It occurs on a larger scale. Hence, a natural instinct for ease and comfort becomes ‘a cultural divide’.

During Freshers’ Week, it became an amusing experience to watch international students approach me expecting me to share their background. Many were perplexed at the idea that I’d rather speak in English, with my uninhibited colloquial slang littered through each of my sentences. Explaining why I was using the word ‘sick’ to describe something good became a tedious task. I’ve since stopped using the term.

I didn’t feel comfortable when they gauged each other’s hometown for the very first time. They reminisced about places ‘back home’ I should know, but didn’t. My sporadic interjections about the quite honestly culturally pale arse-end of Watford were met by silence and polite chuckling before they swiftly moved back on the subject of the Race-course at Happy Valley, Hong Kong.

I’d rather talk to someone from the London area, who knows about where I grew up (it usually ends in humiliating laughter). But there you go; it proves everyone, including me, prefers comfort in cultural familiarity when

faced with a socially clean slate that is Freshers’ Week.

Of course, though, there are the brave ones; the ones that have the confidence to approach anyone and everyone without hesitation and a fear of not being understood. They are ones that do not need the comforts of their homeland through their friends. To those people out there, I firmly salute you. Sadly, I’m not one of those people, because despite my interest in wildly different cultures to my own, I will probably never properly integrate myself into one.

I’m stuck in the middle, but I don’t begrudge my mismatch of ancestry and upbringing. It allows me to appreciate both sides of this natural divide. However, the word ‘divide’, I feel, infers a sense of detrimental isolation. So maybe ‘divide’ is too strong a word to be using to describe a culture difference seen in every society on every scale. Imperial sees the effects enlarged, due to it being such small, compact body of students in South Kensington.

There is simply an emphasised natural divide within the student body which no one can blame. However, I still don’t understand why my Northern friend from dinner that night thought brown sauce was the answer to egg fried rice.

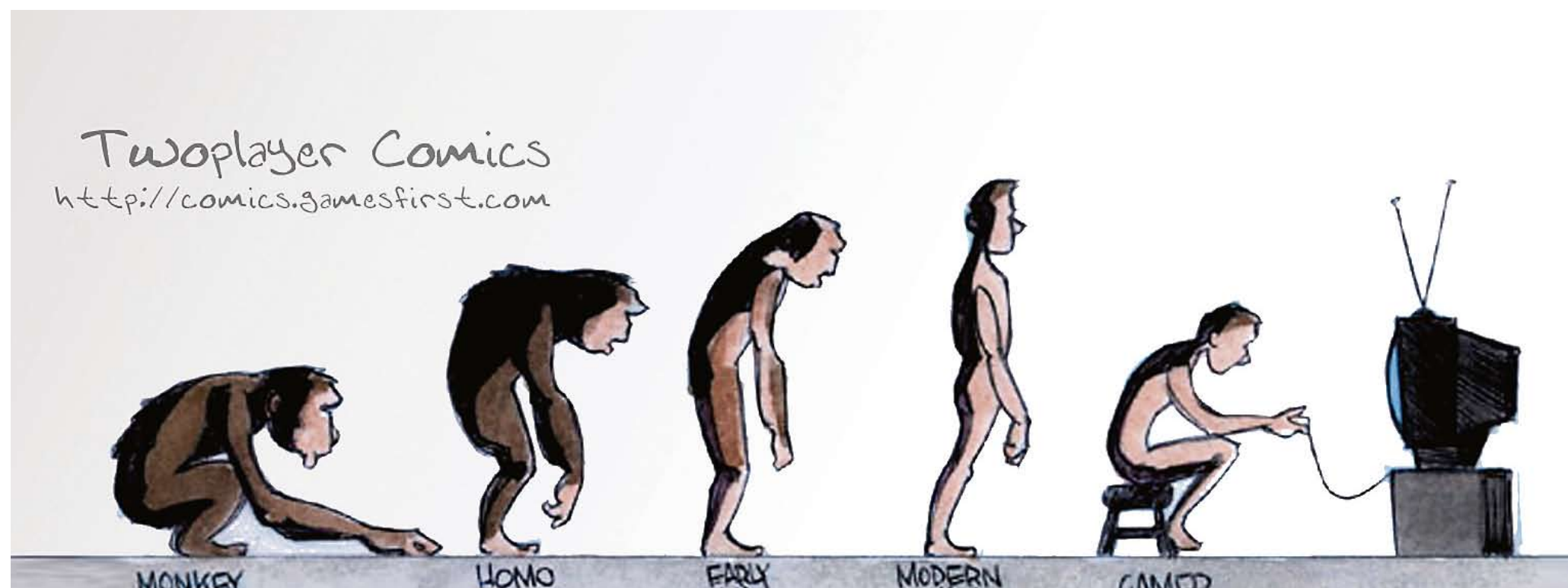


$$-\frac{\hbar^2}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + V(x)\psi(x) = E\psi(x)$$

Science

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Celebrating 200 years of Charles Darwin

Felix Whitton
Science Correspondent

Two hundred years ago, Charles Robert Darwin was born in Shrewsbury, a small town in the west of England. His theory of evolution by natural selection was to cause upheavals during his lifetime. Today a strange awe still surrounds his name. His life and work continue to inspire strong emotions in many people, ranging from disgust, through bafflement, to reverence. He is praised as an inspiration and slanderously misrepresented in equal measure.

Of all the great post-enlightenment thinkers (and believe me, Darwin spent most of his life in deep thought) he has had perhaps the biggest impact on present day thinking. Isaac Newton's supporters might cite his fundamental laws of physics; those of Einstein relativity; Faraday's electricity; and so on. But to Darwin and Darwin alone we owe a single – and “beguilingly simple” according to Richard Dawkins – all-encompassing idea to explain life in its many forms and guises; as the 20th century evolutionary biologist Theodore Dobzhansky poetically put it; “*Nothing in biology makes sense, except in the light of evolution.*”

But I want to put Darwin's achievements in some kind of modern-day context. After all, this is not a static,

stale piece of history but an idea that has constantly shifted, been added to, adapted, and rigorously tested – and never found wanting. One might say that the theory encapsulates everything it describes; others have arisen but withered in the face of evidence and scientific advance, whereas natural selection has proved itself to be the fittest over the long haul; thus it survives intact, 150 years after Darwin first published “*On the Origin of Species*”.

So what can Darwin's “dangerous idea” – in Daniel Dennett's words – still teach us? In the most basic philosophical terms, it replaced the prevailing Christian view of humans as stewards, masters of all they see, created by God to protect and prevail over nature as they wish. In its place, evolution brings the uncomfortable (for some) truth that we are not intrinsically special, but just another twig on the tree of life; our cousins scuttle, scurry and fly all around us; our ancestors lie fossilised deep beneath us. Of course, Darwin himself put it best in “*The Origin*”:

“When I view all beings not as special creations, but as the lineal descendants of some few beings which lived long before the first bed of the Cambrian system was deposited, they seem to me to become ennobled.”

This concept of nature encompassing humanity, although only hinted at in his great work, is perhaps Darwin's most

vital contribution to conservation.

How about the more practical side of things? After all, Darwin posited a hypothesis for the great diversity of life on earth, but did he contribute anything towards saving it from crisis? Maybe not directly; he was a man of his times, and collecting in those days involved a “shoot first, ask questions later” approach to the study of natural history. But numerous quotes point to the fact that Darwin's theory hinges on how populations of animals or plants react to great stress. For example, in the chapter on Natural Selection he introduces the idea of environmental change:

“*We shall best understand the probable course of natural selection by taking the case of a country undergoing some physical change, for instance, of climate. The proportional numbers of its inhabitant would almost immediately undergo a change, and some species might become extinct.*”

Even the concept of extinction was controversial in early 19th century England, when species were still thought to be immutable. But Darwin could not ignore the vast amount of evidence he found on his travels and from looking at fossils and rocks – species had existed in the past that were not around today. He continued; “*Rarity, as geology tells us, is the precursor to extinction.*” And, as if to drill the point home,

in chapter ten he wrote: “*Species once lost do not reappear.*”

So Darwin not only introduced the radical idea that species could disappear just as easily as they came into existence; he encapsulated two of the most pressing issues facing contemporary conservation; rarity and environmental change. Many scientists now talk of a “Sixth Mass Extinction”, with unprecedented rates of biodiversity loss – but without Darwin's insight, this way of thinking would be incomprehensible.

Conservation science as a discipline only really took off towards the end of the 20th century, and it relies heavily on applying methods developed by evolutionary biologists in the so-called ‘New Synthesis’. Population genetics and the discovery of DNA has allowed us to better appreciate what defines a species, how small populations can prosper, and whether species, communities and ecosystems can adapt to rapid changes in habitats and climate. Again, none of this would have been possible without Darwin.

It is likely that our current state of affairs would have dismayed him. After all, even the catalyst for his theory, the Galapagos Islands, is under threat from tourism. (tinyurl.com/c9awob)

He would certainly be aghast at the rejection of science by vast numbers of the public, both his own theory (ti-

nyurl.com/b42n4o) and the more general flat-earth-ism of climate change deniers.

But I think there would also be much to delight him. Popular figures such as David Attenborough (tinyurl.com/dy8-kj7), himself inspired by Darwin, strive to communicate the beauty of nature, and in doing so educate future generations of conservationists. He would no doubt be amused by belated apologies from the Anglican and Catholic churches for their awkward treatment of his theory over the years (tinyurl.com/b8kzva). And he would no doubt dismiss as puerile the fabricated debate between evolution and religion, much as he did during his own lifetime.

Most of all, his theory continues to evolve, and is today more wide-reaching and powerful than at any time in the past.

So today let us forget the dismal conclusions and revel in the words with which Darwin ended “*The Origin*”, and which always send a shiver down my spine:

“*There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved.*”

Schizophrenia genes found

Chloé Sharrocks
Science Correspondent

New research carried out by Imperial College in conjunction with Glaxo-SmithKline has revealed that Schizophrenia could be caused by faulty signalling in the brain.

In the largest study ever conducted, researchers looked at brain samples donated by people with the condition and identified 49 genes that work differently in brains belonging to schizophrenia sufferers, according to new research published in the journal *Molecular Psychiatry*.

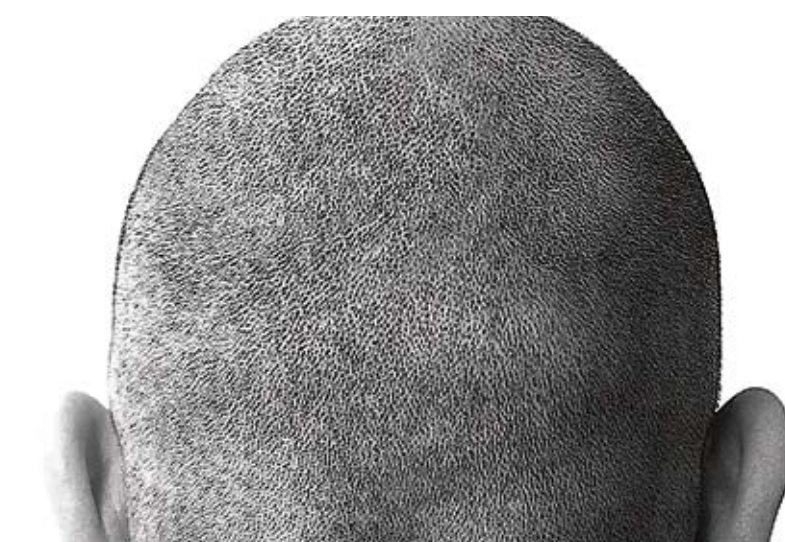
Current theories behind schizophre-

nia believe that it could be a result of the brain producing too much of the chemical dopamine (since drugs that block dopamine are an effective treatment for the condition), or that the protective myelin sheath which surrounds nerve cells is damaged in sufferers of the disease. However, this new study found that the genes for both dopamine and myelin appear to be acting normally in schizophrenia patients and seem to suggest that the disease instead involves abnormalities in the way cells communicate with each other.

The disease affects around one in every 100 people and although suf-

ferers experience little physical effect on the brain, they can have a range of symptoms from hallucinations to lack of motivation and impaired social functioning. Better understanding of how the disease affects patients could lead to improved treatments and earlier diagnosis of the condition.

Professor Jackie de Belleruche, from Imperial College and an author of the paper has said: “The first step towards better treatment for schizophrenia is to really understand what is going on, to find out what genes are involved and what they are doing. Our new study has narrowed the search for potential targets for treatment.”



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



Business

Business Editor – Luke Dhanoa

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New Obamanomics look the same as our old failed Brownanomics

Luke Dhanoa
Business Editor

They say that there are five things you can do to stimulate a receding economy: you can cut taxes; you can make money cheaper to borrow; you can spend on infrastructure and education; you can lower trade barriers and you can create a clear and transparent governmental, legal and financial system. And if you look at any stimulus plan issued by any of the major governments, the policies all fall into these categories. For the UK's part we have tax cuts (like

was that governments were running economic stimuli to push their economies as hard as they could to keep up with each other, rather than readying their countries for long term growth. Almost like runners sprinting early in a race to get to the front, even though there's a long way to go. Eventually though, like the runners, these plans ran out of steam as people no longer had any more money to debt finance further growth, leaving things, as you know, where they are now.

So when Obama or Brown or any other government announces its rem-

and lose the confidence of our businesses. Therefore those that can move abroad to where they can get benefits will do so, leaving the country weaker, with fewer talented people.

The short term pain will also push the country far behind its peers, doing damage to our GDP, employment, infrastructure and human capital that could never be undone by the same market forces that failed to self-regulate these last few years. If we let this current recession "burn itself out" the damage it will do in the process will be irreparable.

All of which leaves us trying to solve the problem with the hair of the dog that bit us, almost. Except the new stimulus policies put forward all have one thing that the old growth policies didn't: regulation.

Changes to the way that banks work and are regulated aren't really welcome by the bankers that will be watched, even though they will most likely have a positive effect on the bankers in question. Most city folk balk at the idea of having to operate in a transparent clear system that allows their competitors to watch what they do, but it is precisely the opaque nature of the derivatives and securities markets that makes them so dangerous and when you think about it, it makes perfect sense for risk products to be transparently traded. Derivatives exist to transfer risk from one place to another, but if you can't see how risk is being allocated in the open market, then you can't make an effective assessment on how much risk really costs, turning a potentially useful tool into a big gambling match. One of the things that makes this whole financial meltdown so potent is the fact that none of the banks involved has a truly accurate understanding of what their instrument investments are – something which has to change.

And extra government investment isn't all bad news either. If it's properly managed it could tackle some pre-existing problems that we've taken too long to get around to. Currently the UK ranks 24th in terms of basic requirement provision, which puts us below Cyprus – a country with less than three quarters our GDP per capita. With some well placed extra spending the UK has the chance to develop its key infrastructure into what it should be. Of course, all this hinges on the idea that the government won't waste the money it should be using to fix things, which is patently absurd.

So that's it. The current economic plan is to do a lot more of what we've been doing already but keep more of an eye on things. Awesome.



Forget about LOLCATZ, we now have LOLBAMAS

the VAT one earlier), cash injections into banks (in the form of bail outs and buy outs), infrastructure spending (apprenticeships and other announced government projects), trade talks with other EU countries, the US and the East, and new financial regulations for the banks. On 2nd April at the London summit when Gordon Brown reveals his 74 page, detailed plan to the EU, the EU will most likely follow suit, much as the US already have with their plan for new tax cuts, bank injections, fresh government investment, 0.25% interest rate, new trade talks and a raft of new financial regulations.

So, if governments are responding in the way that history and the textbooks say they should, why is the economy still shrinking? Why is it that every time a world leader unveils more policies, the markets drop? Why does no one seem to think that they will work?

Well, because they're the same sort of policies that caused this recession in the first place. What was spectacular about the 90's and the early 00's was the fact that governments had begun adopting a mix of Keynesian and Monetarist policies which actually seemed to work. Low interest rates, high government spending, massive globalisation and (relatively) low taxes all spurred on new growth unhampered by excess regulations.

However, what was really happening

edies for the current situation, they're essentially going through the comic below.

Which, understandably, gets everyone upset. But what really has people worried is the fact that this plan is the best that anyone can come up with. Everyone from Nobel Prize winning economists to know-it-all university newspaper business editors accept that there isn't really a lot else that anyone can do. While it's easy for political snipers to pick apart plans that are laid out, those very critics' (Conservatives, Republicans) own plans are either effectively the same, or poorly thought out. It's easy for people to talk about the perils of printing money or the dangers of public debt but what else can anyone do?

Nothing.

The alternative put forward by free market economists is just to let the whole thing sort itself out and thus keep away from the problem. Claiming that if we allow the central banks to set the rate as they want to, and let governments focus on resolving national debt then everything will eventually work itself out.

On the surface it seems like a great idea – we just let the market solve everything, but if you think about it for a few moments, it's actually a pretty terrible thing to do. By doing nothing we will lose the confidence of the people



Buffett's new letter to shareholders: awesome as usual

Back in the pre-9/11 days when the stock market kept going up and up and everything seemed to be going along just swimmingly, there were two mandatory readings for every serious businessman. One was the transcripts of Alan Greenspan's congressional testimonies (Greenspan was the head of the US Federal Reserve throughout the 90's and early 00's) which were long winded and ridiculously hard to understand.

The other was Warren Buffett's Letter to Shareholders, the letter sent out to investors in his Berkshire Corporation explaining the last years performance and what Buffett thought would happen in future, which has always been clear and easy to read.

Since those days Greenspan has had to admit that he misinterpreted how capitalism works, whilst Buffett has gone on to beat the S&P 500 index by 27.4%. Berkshire's book value fell only 9.6%, compared to a fall of 37% for the prices of 500 large, highly tradable, US, company stocks) leaving investors carefully combing through last week's Letter to Investors for anything they could use to help them work out the future. Luckily for them, Buffett is a man who delivers.

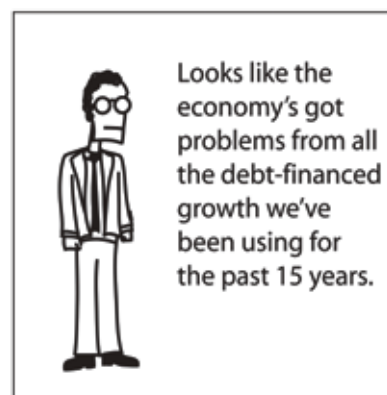
This year, amongst quaint stories about restaurants with "In God we trust, all others pay cash" on the walls, and bits about birds caught in badminton courts, there were some real pearls of wisdom.

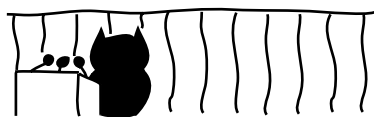
Probably the most important prediction made is the future unwillingness of newly bailed out firms to go back to the status quo. We have essentially started to reward firms for failing (at least in the banking sector) and so effectively punished those who have done well. While in the short term, this allows the financial systems to keep hobbling along, in the medium term, we've wrecked the natural selection system that capitalism relies on.

Now that banks are getting used to being bailed out every time they mess up, in the longer term they're going to need more injections just to keep going. On top of that we're going to be bombarded with random and ridiculous requests for help from all sorts of other industries and groups. One good example is the ludicrous strike from unions over "British jobs for British Workers" which would never have had a chance of succeeding before the credit crunch, and yet may now be mirrored elsewhere.

The upshot from all this is a move away from straight up capitalism towards a pseudo-capitalist state in which the government has a big say in how firms operate. For instance, we've begun to see new long term, government backed, low interest mortgages being offered by the newly government controlled RBS and Northern Rock and it is likely that there are more to come. When firms are bailed out, they become part controlled by a government, who can then exercise their rights by forcing firms to do what's in the nation's interest, rather than their own – like a watered down form of communism. More and more frequently the idea of nationalising institutions seems to be brought up subtly and snuck past opposing naysayers under the guise of "emergency actions".

So it's possible that we may see the end to the free market deregulation push that has driven growth for the last 20 years and instead see a return to more centralised economics. Not that this will be widely publicised, as the two n-words you can't say in politics are n****r and nationalisation, but it does seem as though governments will be exercising their new ownership for the good of the common man. Or at least, they will in the short term before people figure out that the Government is incompetent and force them to give up control and deregulate again.





Politics

Politics Editors – James Goldsack & Katya-yani Vyas

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Corruption pervades the workplace

Hassan Joudi

In 2004 the US suffered from \$525m worth of robberies in street crime. However in the same year an estimated \$600bn was stolen through employee theft and fraud in the workplace in white-collar crime. Noting the 'bn' on that second figure, the latter is greater by a factor of a thousand.

Although muggers on the streets or opportunist burglars roaming quiet residential roads are criminals that society detests, what really costs us dear are the educated workers in suits sitting comfortably in their offices, embezzling money, giving bribes and practicing "creative accounting." Perhaps the most high profile piece of "creative accounting" in living memory must be that which caused the collapse of Enron – an American energy company – in 2001, when the manipulation of its accounts was made public, causing its share price to plummet and forcing it to file for bankruptcy.

The US congress, partly in response to Enron's collapse, passed the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. The legislation attempted to limit the interaction of congressmen with businessmen and lobbyists by, for example, banning serving free meals to congressmen at "widely attended functions" and giving free flights in "fixed-wing aircrafts." Instead businessmen and lobbyists circumvented the rules with limited functions with guest lists, and by flying congressmen in helicopters.

Corruption in government is a form of white-collar crime too and is often called 'sleaze', a term coined by the British press to describe political scandals involving corruption during the 1980s and 1990s. Government sleaze is perhaps worse than corporate corruption

because the money it involves belongs to taxpayers rather than private shareholders. Sleaze is certainly not new to British politics; in fact sleaze was one of the factors that caused the defeat of the Conservative Party in the 1997 general election to the Labour Party.

But despite their rebranding as "New Labour" and Tony Blair's promise that they would be "whiter than white," the Labour Party has suffered its fair share of sleaze accusations over the past decade. From the tobacco in a F1 advertising scandal with Bernie Ecclestone months after victory in 1997 to the police questioning of Lord Levy in 2006 to Peter Mandelson meeting Russian billionaires on a luxury yacht in 2008, it could be argued that Labour have been more corrupt while in office than the Conservatives.

And recently sleaze stories have continued to emanate from Westminster like snot balls from a runny nose. The *Sunday Times* investigation in January 2009 found that several peers offered to amend laws in the House of Lords in favour of certain businesses and engineering companies in return for cash payments of up to £100,000. Moreover on 20th January, the day President Obama was inaugurated in the US, the House of Commons was about to vote on a bill preventing the publishing of MPs' expenses receipts under the Freedom of Information Act by giving MPs a protected status. Critics were sceptical saying the proposed changes were deliberately announced that day to bury bad news.

Cabinet ministers, MPs and civil servants are in unique positions to commit corrupt acts for their own interests because their job exposes them to such opportunities on a daily basis. Political parties need funding from



Mr. Burns showing what seems to be, amongst the high-powered, an archetypal greed for money

generous donors, MPs have allowances to spend and government departments have contracts to award. This was beautifully captured in a scene from *The Simpsons Movie* (2007) when the residents of Springfield were first trapped inside the giant glass dome. On a huge screen the head of EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) says the dome is the last thing they wanted to do, before adding, "Well I do own the company that makes the dome, but that's beside the point." This echoes the usual sentiments of Simpson's regular,

Mr. Burns.

In Islam there is a beautiful story involving Imam Ali (A.S) during his time as leader of the Muslim Umma (nation). While working in the Treasury of the Islamic state, he was visited one day by two men. Upon their arrival he extinguished one candle that was lighting the room and lit another. Before starting their business the two men asked the Imam why he did this. The Imam replied, "That was a candle bought of Treasury funds. As long as I worked for the Treasury, I used it.

Now you have come for some personal work, so I use the candle bought of my personal fund."

There is absolutely no doubt that it is difficult to implement such a high moral standard in our daily lives, and with many Imperial students progressing to high-flying jobs in business and government after graduation, many of us will face opportunities like those mentioned in this article. Let us not abandon our integrity and give in to the corruption to become like the head of the EPA.

Gordon Brown urges US to 'seize the moment'

James Goldsack
Politics Editor

Gordon Brown, only the fifth UK prime minister to address both houses on Capitol Hill, will urge the US to "seize the moment" to "make the future work for us". The Prime Minister is facing growing media pressure to apologise for the state of the economy. Despite so far declining to do so, he said "humility" and "collective responsibility" were always needed. He said: "this is [not] a British problem that was a British government mistake, as everybody understands, the whole global financial system seized up."

Gordon Brown said he was not sure a British regulatory system could have picked up the problems because of the global scale. International cooperation and supervision would be needed. "We should have been tougher in some areas but we have got to remember, of course, that when it comes to the sub prime mortgages which ended up in the ownership of British banks, that's something that happened in America, the risk was also passed on but they were rated as triple-A products " he said.

The Prime Minister's close ally Ed Balls said, of the regulatory system, "in retrospect, it is clear we were nowhere near tough enough".

In the speech, Gordon Brown will tell

Congress that "now more than ever the rest of the world wants to work with you" and will say the major challenges faced are global challenges.

"And let me say that you now have the most pro-American European leadership in living memory. A leadership that wants to cooperate more closely together, in order to be a stronger partner for you. There is no old Europe, no new Europe, there is only your friend Europe. So once again I say we should seize the moment – because never before have I seen a world so willing to come together. Never before has that been more needed,"

After a meeting between Barack Obama and Gordon Brown on Tuesday, the US president said the "special relationship" between the countries would "only grow stronger".

After about an hour of talks at the White House, Mr Brown and Mr Obama said they agreed that improvements were needed to the regulation of the global banking system. Mr Brown said the two countries were pursuing a "common interest" in a "global new deal".

Mr Obama warned that countries should not "project inwards" by encouraging protectionism. Gordon Brown has also said that world leaders needed to "enlist all the energies of people in different parts of the world to deal with problems that we all face".



Prime minister Gordon Brown signals his desire for cooperation with the US to solve the financial crisis



Picasso: Challenging the past

Emily Wilson travels to the National Gallery to see some of Picasso's masterpieces

When it comes to most things, I tend to avoid the mainstream. I like hunting down books and music that nobody else has heard of so I can hoard my secret treasures smugly and nobody else can ruin them for me. But when it comes to my favourite artists, I can't resist the standard names. Ask a randomer on the street to name a famous artist, and they'll probably say "Picasso". Pablo Picasso is one of the best known artists of all time but I still can't help loving him.

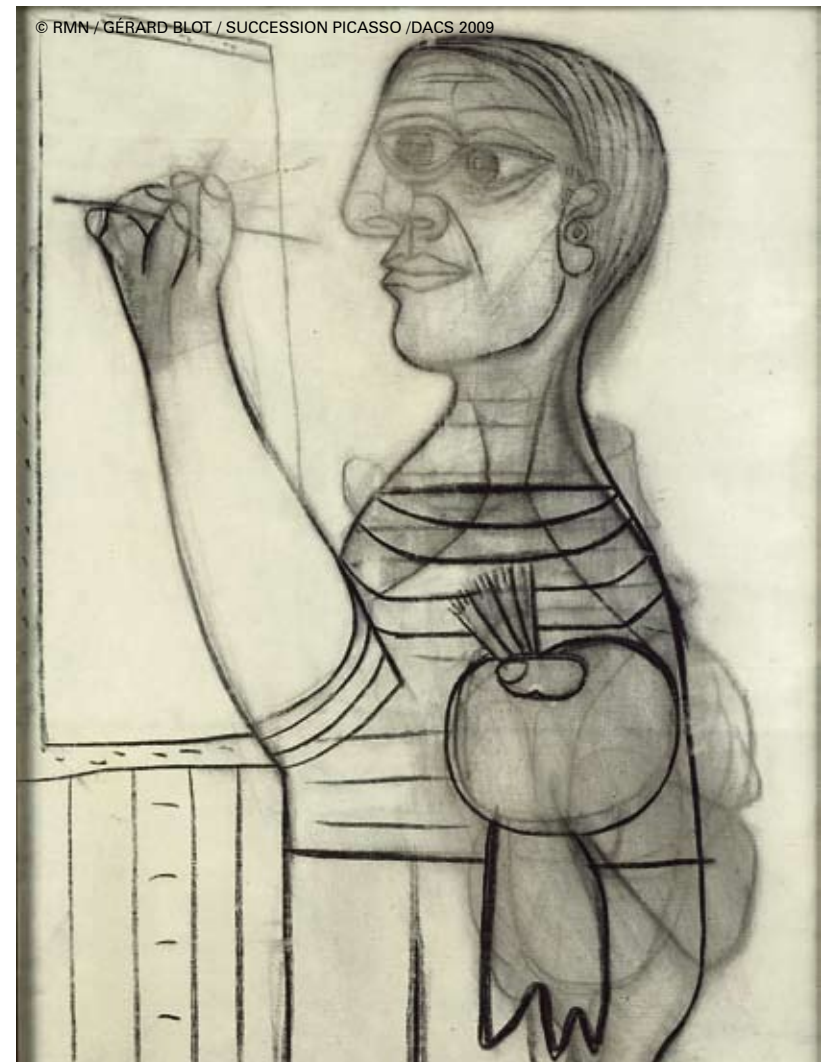
"Picasso: Challenging the Past" is a high profile exhibition on now at The National Gallery. It looks at Picasso's life and work from a different perspective. He is known for being an artistic radical and an innovator, but here we see Picasso's devotion to and imitation of the artists he adored – figures he idolised but who are now often second to him in fame – Raphael, Goya, Ingres, Cezanne, Manet, Delacroix, Velazquez

and others. The exhibition is also organised a little differently to the norm. Instead of the standard chronology the paintings are arranged by subject matter, ranging from self portrait to female nude to still life. This is one of the best things about the exhibition because you can marvel at the full range of his skills and styles. After all, Picasso wasn't just a Cubist. His style can be clean and simple or frenzied, muted or colourful, abstract or near-photographic. All are represented here.

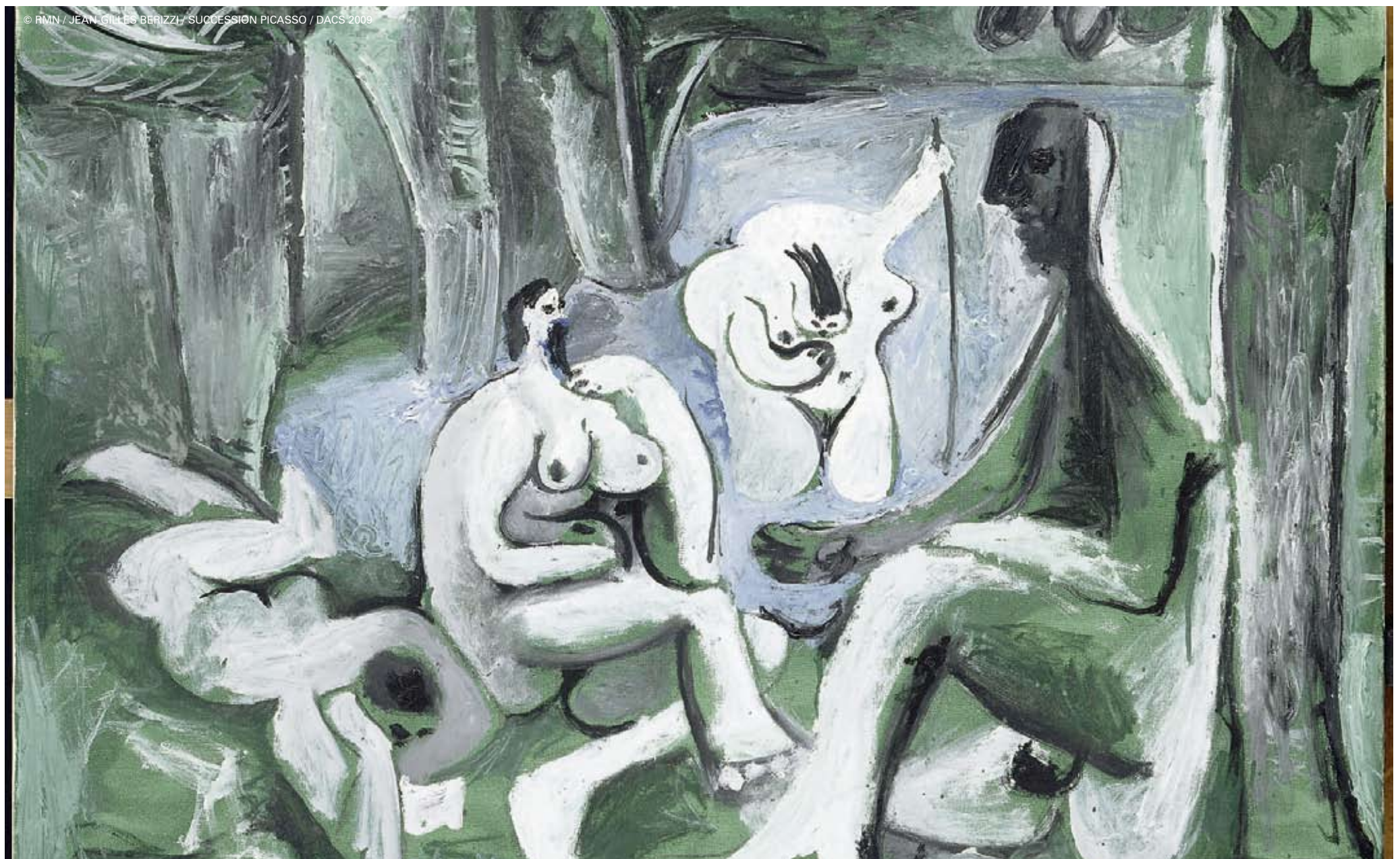
The exhibition isn't as big as I expected; only six rooms, with a different subject matter in each. This makes it manageable and accessible to arty newbies. It's also well annotated by helpful labels next to each painting, which always goes down well with me. This makes the audioguide, which the majority of visitors fork out £3 for, unnecessary. One of the few things I disliked on my visit was the constant, ear-splitting "EEEEEEEEEEEEEE" given out by the audioguides around me as

they changed tracks. I'd actually recommend getting yourself an audioguide just to block out the sound of other people's. At one point it hurt so much I had to sit down and cover my ears just to numb the headache. It doesn't really make you want to linger and savour the art.

The art is varied and holds your interest throughout. The exhibition starts with self-portraits, which were light-hearted and enjoyable. It always interests me to see how artists portray themselves. "The Artist in front of his Canvas" and "Self-Portrait with a Wig" are fine examples of the quirky fun to come. You start to see the playful side of Picasso. I was less keen on the room of "characters and types", which was probably the lowlight. I found the dark portraits cavaliers and historical style figures like "Portrait de Jaime Sabartes en Grand Espagne" all a bit too sinister, but I dare say this is down to personal taste and others will find this room the highlight.



The Artist in front of his Canvas, 1938



Le Déjeuner sur l'Herbe, after Manet, 1961 which is at the Museu Picasso de Barcelona

I was struck by Picasso's different relationships with women. In the room of "models and muses: nudes" Picasso comes off as a bit of a playboy, or possibly just a dirty old man. Some of the annotations and commentary here is amusing, with titbits such as "from his earliest years Picasso painted female nudes, often as women at their toilette or enjoying the privacy of the boudoir... these are women abandoned to the sensuality of their bodies, a subject Picasso never tired of exploring". No, I bet he didn't. There was also a comment at some stage about how he would frequent brothels for research purposes. But this contrasts with a room of "models and muses: the pen-sive sitter", which is full of respectful portraits of elegant, intelligent women. I looked at them, in particular the stunning "Portrait of Olga" and longed for Picasso to paint my portrait and make me look so regal and knowing.

I'm a big fan of Picasso's still lifes. "Skull, Sea Urchins and Lamp on a Table" is so quintessentially Picasso and yet something that wouldn't look out of place on your wall at home. I love how he echoes Cezanne in so many of these paintings – you can see it in the apples. Skulls are always a popular subject in still lifes, and Picasso shows off his limitless talent in "Ram's Skull", which is raw and bold but still with incredible depth and realism. They've been left to the end but make sure you take a few minutes to give them the attention they deserve.

The stars of the show are his "variations". Picasso loved to produce variations of iconic masterpieces, taking classic images and scenes and offer-

ing his personal twist. I hadn't known about this passion of his until I saw this exhibition, and it's unmissable. He takes "Women of Algiers" by Delacroix, awe-inspiring in its own right, and turns them into something almost unrecognisably vivid and exciting and filled with garish colour. It's totally different but somehow in the spirit of the original. He does the same several times over with Manet's "Luncheon on the Grass", desperate to do it justice and also add more, streaking blue and grey and adding his own classic form to the nudes. You should be utterly wowed by his take on Velazquez's "Las Meninas", which takes pride of place in the exhibition. At first you can't even tell what the painting's of, and it takes a second glance for it to hit you. This, like most of the variations, need to be viewed from afar first to place the figures and objects in the frame. My personal favourite variation is tucked in a corner subtly – "The Rape of the Sabines". It's in cheery brights and pastels but depicts a haunting scene of rape and destruction that grabs the soul. It's like a scaled down, doodled "Guernica". Look at the female forms, screaming faces and babies that looked like stuffed toys. My one niggling criticism is that these paintings would be infinitely better if hung next to their originals or, more realistically, even bigger reproductions to at least allow comparison.

My only criticisms are the whole audioguide-based agony, my usual whinge about the price of tickets (though being a student gets you a substantial discount) and the fact that the exhibition space in the Sainsbury wing of The National Gallery is a bit like a



Les femmes d'Alger, 1955 owned by a European Private Collection

cave. If you're thinking about going, you might want to book your tickets because the exhibition is bringing in the crowds – I went on the first Sat-

urday after it opened and you could hardly move in there. That or go at a funny time on a weekday. This exhibition is beautifully presented and some

of the paintings are unmissable. Don't go expecting to see all his usuals; this is an excellent chance to see what Picasso and his art were really like.

Roni Horn shows us who she is

Emile Beuchamp discovers the 'special' world of Roni Horn and her different ways of expressing herself

So many times individuals have asked themselves the question: "who am I?"... The visual artist Roni Horn has made it her vocation of trying to explore all different themes of identity, seeing it as mutable and multiple rather than fixed.

Born in New York in 1955, she is one of these artists who became automatically jaded of classical representations of art and accepted Minimalism as a basis for creativity. Throughout her life, she investigates what creates identity and how it can be manipulated, changed. This can be reflected in her art by the various medias she uses to express herself; drawings, sculpture, photography, video, etc... Central to her theme of identity is also the idea of place, or how place defines identity by the process of "becoming".

In that sense, she mostly tries to relate to identity through the different relations that create it; the place where one is will define one's identity, which can be altered in another setting. Her perception of art's purpose is also based on that principle. For example, what a piece means, or what it is, for the viewer will depend on where he is from, what he has experienced in his life, etc. This mixture of existential concepts translates into arts through various means. One of Horn's realizations is the use of identical pieces, paintings or sculpture, displayed in three rooms in a different order each time. While the objects are the same in each room,

the experience of the viewer is different every time as it is seen through the memory of the previous works. In fact, Horn believes that what is familiar becomes unfamiliar just by the fact of becoming familiar... Hum.... What? In short, Horn asserts that it is the experience of the audience that creates the art, and not the art itself. The latter is in itself a statement that can be much discussed, being relentlessly linked in a loop of circular reasoning to the question of identity and purpose of art, or of the self if the self depends on art. Therefore what is the self, and what is art?

If you think you have a headache, wait until you reach her theme exploring the identity of water, it is overwhelming like a tsunami... In fact, the collection of Still Water (The River Thames for Example) is built on a series of close-up photographs of different currents and colors of the Thames, provided with the personal analysis of the author in the form of footnotes to "you". Once again, the interaction between the piece and the viewer will define his experience and therefore the piece itself. With statements such as "Is water sexy? Black water is not sexy", the audience is left to ponder if it makes any sense at all.

On the other side, why ask so many questions on art, why not solely enjoy it? However, Horn's work can be found to stand within a profound vacuum if not related to the questions they explore as in themselves they possess



Roni Horn's installation view at Whitney

very limited technical qualities. Most photographs are not bad, but do not have any character in themselves if separated from their existential "meaning". In that sense, Horn really succeeds in creating a discussion on identity for all viewers, as for almost every piece

it is inevitable to ask oneself what exactly it that thing in front of you. For those ready to reach deep in their inner self and submit to an introspection on what is it, where is it and why is it there, Roni Horn aka Roni Horn is a highly concentrated dose of these con-

temporary, abstractly conceptual exhibitions that so well reflect how society if lost today. Fit in an appointment in advance with your shrink if you already have one. For those less thrilled, may I suggest Rodchenko and Popova's exhibition right across the corridor?

GREEN WEEK

imperialcollegeunion.org/green

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Top prize - £1000

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Check our new Green Imperial website to see some of the College and Union's current initiatives and gain some inspiration!

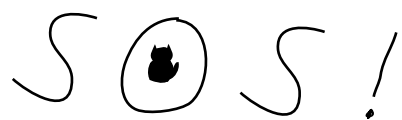
You can enter by picking up one of the Greening Imperial flyers from around campus or by going online to imperialcollegeunion.org/green.

Entries close 27 March 2009 and the winners will be announced online on 1 May 2009 at imperialcollegeunion.org/green and rcsu.org.uk.

There will also be stalls everyday during the week with information about some of our student societies' green initiatives including Community Action Group's Foodworks programme and Equinox's renewable energy projects overseas.

imperialcollegeunion.org/green





Welfare

Welfare Editor – Hannah Theodorou

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Is Green really the new black?

With the increasing trend for eco-friendly products and yummy-mummies swapping their 4 wheel drives for Priuses, Laurence Fahrni wonders why there's still so much apathy amongst students at Imperial.

It almost didn't surprise me to notice that when topics of energy and environment would come up in the discussion at the end of the regular Political Philosophy Society debates, a lot of people would suddenly remember a previous commitment and try to discretely leave. To me it seems this 'co-incidence' seems attributable to three factors really impeding the embracing of 'green' issues in the wider population. It is likely there can be a feeling of it being to heavily shoved down our throats on a daily basis I'm sure. But there must also be some feeling that it's not yet affecting mankind and may not do so in our lifetime. Finally even at Imperial that feel they don't know if the science is right or that the immediate economic benefits of not being sustainable outweighs the long-term costs. Perhaps Greenpeace has just been getting on everyone's nerves since the seventies.

As much as I'd like to avoid engaging these three in too much detail, it

stands to note that the World Health Organisation estimates 150,000 deaths in 2000 may be attributable to anthropogenic climate change. This figure and the projections of increase is an equivalent number of deaths to fifty 9/11's every year.

Is being an environmentalist a bad word? I'm going to be bold. If you care about animals and extinction, you're an environmentalist. If you care about people in developing countries, you're an environmentalist. If you care about the long-term future of the economy, you're an environmentalist. OK, you may not be attending rallies, and are perhaps more conscious of being labelled a hippy than the more vocal of us, but the interests are fairly common and rudimentary. To me it seems bizarre to try to dispute the science, especially understanding the framework of scientific research, and the level to which expertise is reached in the post-graduate world. If they had the time, I would say why not have a chat with

the Professors in the Department of Atmospheric Physics? Sure you'd be told that the models aren't perfected, but when are they? In fact, it has been suggested that the IPCC (Intergovern-



Remember not all plastics can be recycled in the College's scheme

mental Panel for Climate change) are too conservative in its estimates due to the intense scrutiny it receives from interest groups and sceptics.

At times the expertise gap between the most polar sides of the debate seems comparable to the one that can be seen with evolution's critics. That's not to say any criticism of details of the research is invalid, but rather than go down that long and winding road, why don't I use this opportunity to emphasise some of the smaller and simpler things that can make prove a significant and helpful step when done properly and en masse.

Aluminium is arguably the most important thing to recycle due to the energy used in production, tins and cans are probably the ones to remember the most. Remember not all plastics can be recycled. At the moment in the College recycling scheme it's plastic bottles, or anything that has a number 1, 2, or 3 in that little triangle of arrows that graces each plastic item. If there's too many 'contaminants' (over 10%) in the recycling (and this includes the wrong materials, but especially things like lumps of food) then the whole wheelie bin is

going to be sent to landfill. Having said all that, reports from the new recycling scheme have been positive.

The planet naturally does a lot to neutralise and sequester our effect, but at the end of the day it is a question of scale, and the sheer volume of greenhouse gases leaked by our civilisation is simply greater than can controlled by our ecosystems. There is an army of people thinking about what can be done about this, but the problem requires an even bigger army actually doing so.

Regardless of personal feelings about the best approach to protect the environment and the economy, there is a simple common sense reason for reducing consumption of resources, especially fossil fuels. To quote the Institute of Mechanical Engineers' journal Professional Engineering "It is the simple fact that it took rather a lot more years to make the stuff than it seems likely to take to consume a good proportion of what's there".

Is the environment reason enough to go veggie?

Reuben Gibbins
VegSoc

Would you eat a puppy? If you told me it was reared in a carbon neutral fashion I certainly would.

There are many reasons to be a vegetarian, for some it's because of the treatment of animals in most large-scale farming practises are not the nicest for the animal, a lot of the meat sold in the supermarket for next to nothing probably lived in appalling conditions. Other people are vegetarian for religious or cultural reasons. Another argument I know about is the one I think has the most weight and persuasive ability behind it. At the moment the news is mainly focussing on the economic climate which I have gleaned isn't the best. It has also been said that the recession is going to push 'Climate Change' onto the back Russian-piped gas burner, and that is probably true because who cares about the ice-caps when you are redundant with a mortgage payment due last Wednesday. I still care about the ice caps melting when you're redundant with a mortgage payment due, I'm afraid, and there has never been a better time to set large scale changes in motion. However, there is also something that each of us omnivores can do, and that is to start embracing the herbs, and by embracing I mean cutting and cooking into something delicious.

Firstly, cows and sheep fart a lot. Rainforests burp every now and then I know, but they can be forgiven because they are a huge carbon sink. Cows on the other hand fart out methane (around a third more potent as a Green House gas than CO₂) in incredible quantities (500L a day). In total these animals produce more greenhouse emissions than the world's transport systems. Additionally livestock animals produce nitrous oxide and ammonia on a gargantuan scale, not forgetting CO₂, thus contributing greatly to the green

house effect and acid rain. The animals reared also poop, and this has annoying complications of contributing to algal blooms in the water systems, which in turn can lead to dead zones.

Then there are the resources required to produce the meat; which is horrifically inefficient. There is the classic example that a kilo of beef requires at least 13,000 L of water (dependent on location and breed) while a kilo of wheat requires a mere 2000L. This is of course a simple example because I don't want to limit my diet to things made of wheat and I am aware water demands of other plants, such as rocket, are much greater, however it doesn't even approach the requirements of that kilo of beef. The crisis relating to water is so great it not only has an international day (March 22nd) we are currently in a decade of action – Water For Life – because a sixth of the world's population do not have access to clean water. Of course, you could point out that the glaciers are melting and more interesting weather patterns will balance out this water loss, however rain not falling on the right catchment area is effectively useless and most water will end up salinated. Desalination isn't yet as cost effective as better water use practises and proper conservation.

Currently 70% of agricultural land is used for farming animals, either through grazing pastures or for the crops to feed the beasts. To meet demand agricultural land is sourced from what would otherwise be unused, resulting in considerable deforestation across the globe. In terms of energy, being vegetarian is a much more efficient way of living as you remove the food chain process, requiring less land and water to support you. Furthermore feed has to be transported to the farms, as well as the produce transported away and packaged, although these factors and industrial processes are smaller in comparison to the produce from the animals themselves they still add up to

the environmental hoof-print that we have created; the post-consumer 'food mile' is less than half that of produce transport emissions.

It is not only the legged animals we should stop eating; pescetarianism is a step in the right direction but it doesn't take into account that fish stocks are in

ism is essentially a solo switch. Even if the whole of the UK switched to vegetarianism and adopted greener life styles, the rest of the world will still be getting their steak knives out. In the same way that everyone wants a car, as nations become more wealthy they will desire similar diets that are indicative



Cows are good at farting. In fact they manage to fart out 500L of methane a day, which is a more potent greenhouse gas than CO₂.

a fairly bad place. Although better aquaculture techniques are sure to arise, at the moment two thirds of the world's fish species are either fully exploited or depleted. The removal of key species also messes with the ecosystems in place, which do not help when you remove prey for the sharks and whale and then go hunting them for scientific purposes; I'm looking to you Scandinavia and Japan. Overfishing can lead to situations where remaining stocks are unable to restock the oceans properly and the process of by-catch where the majority of what is caught is discarded as waste is highly inefficient.

Many of these arguments are applicable only when applied to a global scale, and yet the change to vegetarian-

of opulence. If large enough numbers of people start to do something eventually the numbers will reach a critical mass and everyone will adopt the action, thus should enough of us change our lifestyles people, like the cattle we're refraining from eating will follow suit, or see that you don't have to begin to consume animals. This ties into how meat is fairly expensive, which is not surprising when taking into consideration the higher requirements of water and feed compared to vegetable products.

I'm well aware most of my arguments are not reasons to turn vegetarian, rather reasons to not eat meat, but if you smoke you look cool but also make your lungs upset, and dumping

toxic waste into river sources is good because it's not your problem anymore leads to all manner of cleaning up being required down the line. Meat is an unavoidable part of our society.

In a perfect world there shouldn't be arguments for turning vegetarian, rather highlighting it as a choice that some people believe is healthier and kinder to our animal kin. Ideally a sustainable farming situation will arise allowing people to eat anything may want, however with the ever increasing global population that is unlikely to arise no matter what wide spread changes occur. I appreciate that radically altering your diet may seem at first a large and daunting task to undertake; you could try going vegetarian for a month, but there would not be any tangible prize at the end other than self satisfaction of completing the challenge or the great first bite back into meat. However, by making small gradual changes one would make gradual reductions in one's impact on the environment. I don't know of many people who eat meat every day, and it is not a tall order to further reduce this to limiting yourself to meat only once a week or once a month. This would dramatically reduce your carbon footprint as well beginning to illustrate that a vegetarian lifestyle is feasible. Furthermore, if you begin a habit of pseudo-vegetarianism you are more likely to expand on it to the point where you eat less meat.

Personally, if I said I was going vegetarian for life it would be a lie, likewise I know I will travel in a plane, even if I would prefer to travel overland (I don't do seas too well), and I will at some point probably buy a car, although hopefully by that time I hope it will be technologically better and environmentally less damaging than those around today, but I reckon I could be in the position where I only eat meat on special occasions. And even then, it'll probably only be roadkill on Christmas Day. Yum.

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Music

Music Editors – Peter Sinclair, Alex Ashford & James Houghton

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Brixton yields to death metal crusade

Four monsters of scary goth-metal - Five Finger Death Punch, Unearth, Dimmu Borgir and Lamb of God - team up to unleash satanic imagery on Brixton Academy. **Duncan Casey** reports

Duncan Casey

Never really a gig to watch with your mother, the Defenders of the Faith tour this year brought with it three fast, aggressive and technically skilled shouty metal bands. And Dimmu Borgir, but you can't have everything. Having missed the opening band of the night, (the friendly-sounding Five Finger Death Punch), due to the vagaries of the London transport network – thanks, Boris – by the time me and my friend finally got into Brixton on Saturday we were both well in the mood for a romantic Valentines night of sonic assault and battery. Which was lucky, considering the occasion.

Unusually for a rock concert, the air-conditioning in the place had been turned up to 11 – in deference, one assumes, to the fact that fully half the crowd were wearing floor-length leather trench coats. Very rock. Still, it was bastard freezing outside, so the Goths got to feel smug for a change.

Unearth were just hitting the stage as we got the first beers in. The US five-piece aren't famous for their subtlety, but if brutal, unrefined aggression is your thing then you can definitely do



Lamb of God guitarist Mark Morton gazes wistfully into the distance

worse. The larynx-shredding vocals of the obligatory long-haired lead singer, along with his uncanny ability to piss off the security men, meant that despite the early bill the band secured a rapturous reception from the circle

pits which quickly formed at the front. Not that I was anywhere near them – I am definitely too old for that shit.

The atmosphere was ruined a bit, though, by the appearance of Dimmu Borgir, with the kind of posturing self-indulgence that would make Axl Rose blush. The band are a bit like Lordi (of Eurovision fame), only without any noticeable sense of irony, replete with make-up, studded pauldrons and an utterly unnecessary preponderance of pentangles. However, what really killed the mood was the noise they made – a kind of gothic elevator music: think Lord of the Rings: The Musical, only shit. Et tu, Gimli?

“If brutal, unrefined aggression is your thing then you can definitely do worse.”

Despite the best efforts of the crazy Norwegians, Lamb of God's closing set was a triumph of stripped-down, no-bullshit Southern US death metal. Boy, these lads have some issues, although the chances of you hearing much about them over the relentless intensity of the bass pedals were fairly limited. Still, the crowd knew the words off by heart and although the format of the show necessitated a pretty short set – an hour, at most – the combination of the tempo, the strobes, the sheer bloody volume and the mist of testosterone in the air meant that everyone left stress-free and happy, having snarled away their week's woes at the rafters. Now there's a way to beat the credit crunch...

Keane live at the O2 Arena

Susan Yu

You can't really get much grander than the O2 arena, AKA the Millennium Dome. With a capacity of 20,000, when it's full to the brim on a sold-out evening, as it was when Keane hit the stage a couple of weeks ago, the atmosphere could be palpably energetic and emotionally charged.

'The Lovers are Losing' from their 3rd album was the surprising opener, which did its job to rouse the hungry hordes. Tom Chaplin, the front man, once a chubby face, now adorning a new trim and more mature look, took our breath away with his electrifying stage presence and angelic voice. With his flashy, rusty gold jacket and skinny jeans, all eyes were drawn to Chaplin as he delivered with his bandmates a combination of 22 songs from a repertoire derived from all past albums.

Halfway through the night, the B stage paved way for a splendid acoustic set, allowing Keane to treat us with some rarities like the melodic, quintessence of soothingness that was 'Sunshine', 'Snowed Under' from their extreme early days that pleased hardcore fans and last but not the least, the amazing 'Try Again' that was simply delicate and beautiful. By returning to their roots and going back to the basics, Keane showed us exactly why they are where they are now. Spotlights from the front and back of the arena lit up this second small stage, 'under the iron sea' of darkness, Keane were the source of energy and light, taking us away from 'the bad dream' 'again and again.'

In contrast to the soft melodic interlude, Keane followed up with their



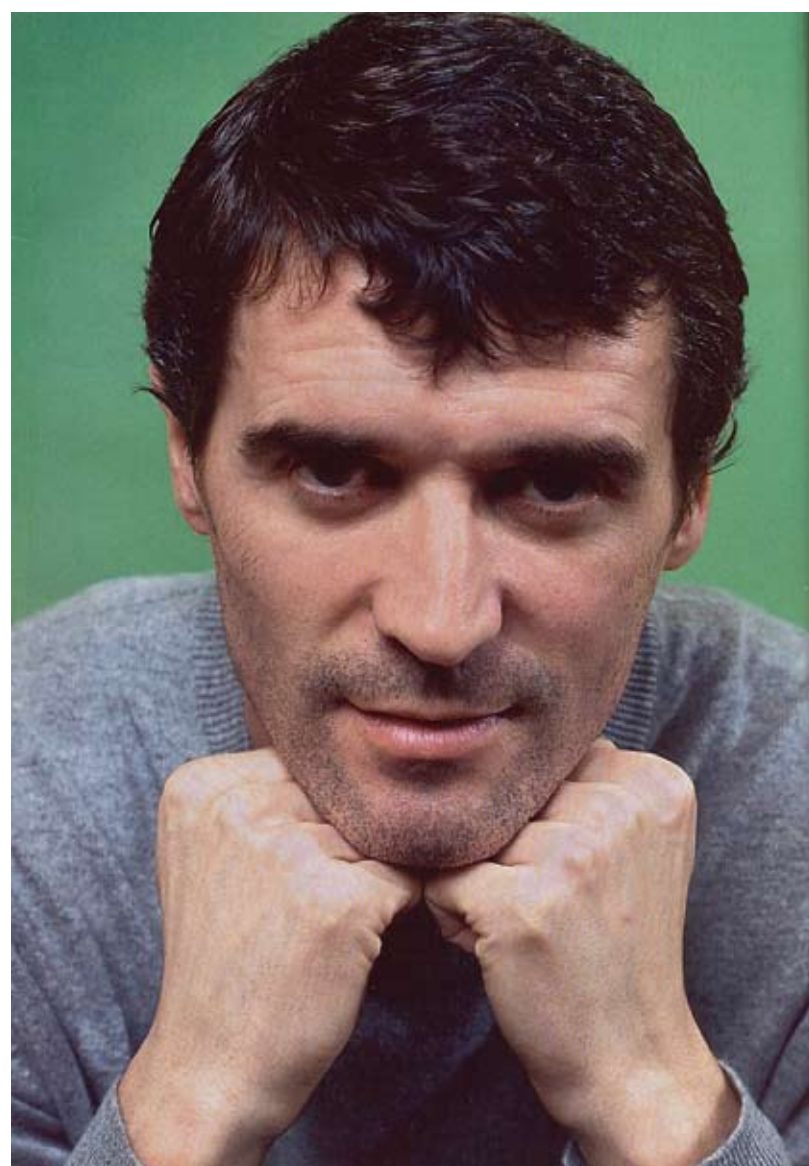
The dude from Keane doing stuff

pulsating artillery in the form of current dynamites such as 'Spiralling' and 'Perfect Symmetry'. The electro-dance beats and strong rhythmic tunes drove the crowd to a frenzy. Other tracks that were triumphed on the last included 'Crystal Ball' that had the whole audience clapping and singing along, as well as 'Is it any wonder' that further enraptured the fans across the whole arena.

The night drew to a sad nostalgic end; everyone sang their hearts out to 'Bedshaped'. Only the lucky ones that had tickets to the Friday show the following night could be infatuated by Keane once more. I know for a fact that this is not the last time that I will be seeing them.



After the publicity wanes, these people will have to get day-jobs



The other kind of Keane. This article is not about this Keane

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Food

Food Editors – Rosie Grayburn & Afonso Campos

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Daffs, leeks and sheep: oh my!

Rosie Grayburn
Food Editor

Dydd Gwyl Dewi hapus! I'm writing this on Saint David's Day, so a belated Happy St. David's Day to you all. Instead of celebrating this National Welsh Day by downing vodka infused with Welsh-cake (guilty), I've tried to come up with lots of leek-based treats for you to morsel. I don't have any daffodil recipes up my sleeve, but if you have one, let me know!

I don't have a Welsh bone in my body (France 21-16 Wales... that's all I'm saying!) but when it comes to Welsh culture, I just love their food: leeks, lamb and all the Welsh produce you find on a jaunt across the border into Cymru.

On a walking trip to Cader Idris, we once stumbled across a butcher's shop with the slogan, "All our meat is vegetarian". Intrigued, we stepped inside to find an Aladdin's Cave of home-made sausages, local cheeses and two fingers up at the Vegetarian café next door. That's the Welsh for you – amazing boar and orange sausages and a good sense of humour. And so follows a [belated] selection of Welsh recipes in celebration of St. David's Day.

1. Leek and Sheep Cheese Parcel – one for meat-sceptics. Preheat your oven to 200°C. Slice 2 leeks and an onion and fry in a dash of oil. If you happen to have any other leftover vegetables that need using, add those to the pan too. Why not. Once the vegetables are softened, take the pan off the heat. Crumble ½ a pack of feta (or ewe) cheese into the mixture along with a handful of grated cheddar. Season with pepper.

Now, line a heatproof dish with 3 sheets of filo pastry and brush with a little melted butter. Tip in your leeky, cheesy mixture and fold the filo over the filling to make a parcel. Brush the pastry with melted butter to stop it burning, and then bake in the oven for 30 minutes. The pastry should be golden and crunchy. This is nice served with salad and cold white wine.

2. Simply Welsh lamb. Make sure it is Welsh, or I won't be happy. What's the point in flying in lamb from 11,680 miles away in New Zealand when there are plenty of tasty sheep just 130 miles away in Wales? Madness. Anyway, get some nice Welsh lamb chops and season them

with salt, pepper and thyme on both sides. Pop it in the oven (180°C) for 40 minutes.

Meanwhile, make a simple mint sauce by dissolving 1 tbsp sugar in 150 ml vinegar and then adding 1tbsp chopped mint. Get your meat out of the oven and serve with the sauce, tatties and greens. Lie back and think of Cymru!

3. 'Cold and Wet in Wales' Stew. This stew has saved me on occasion from hypothermia after a day out in the Welsh wilderness. It is heavenly, but you have to walk at least 9 miles in cold and wet Welsh weather before you deserve it! Chop 4 leeks, 2 onions, 3 carrots and 2 parsnips. Place in a pan with 200g rice and 600g neck of lamb (or any other cheap cut). Season well and cover with plenty of water. Simmer for 2 hours, skimming as you go, then remove any stray bones from the meat. Serve with lots of parsley and a hunk of bread.

Before I sign off, I must remind you that this week is the official Great British Pie Week, so make sure you get your rolling pin out or pop down to your local pub for a slice of pastry-topped goodness... just don't decide this is the week you will watch Sweeney Todd. Pies are amazingly versatile – name any meat, vegetable or fruit and you can make a pie from it!

In fact, our ancestors even dispensed with the fact that the meat used should be dead, as you'll remember from that creepy Blackbird Pie nursery rhyme. Pies were often used as forms of entertainment, laid out at an extravagant dinner party. When the pie was cut up, live frogs, pigeons or baby rabbits hopped or flew out, causing a roar of cackling laughter from the overfed upper classes. Personally, I find pies more entertaining when they're cooked and in my belly, but that's just me.

I hope you enjoy the food section today. James 'I am A.A. Gill' Copley pays Levi Roots' takeout a visit, while David Wallis carries on his Slow Cooking series.

As usual, I would love to hear from you if you want to contribute an article or recipe to the food pages. Or, if you want to make any suggestions as to how we could improve the food section get in touch: food.felix@imperial.ac.uk is the address. If you fail to do so, I'll stick a Peter's Leek where the sun don't shine... that's a daffodil to you and I.



"Happy Saint David's Day", said one daffodil. "Shut it", said the other, and promptly put the nice daffodil in a headlock. Ah well.

Levi Roots and his Sauce

James Copley visits the Temple of Reggae Reggae Sauce



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Best: Good, traditional Caribbean food!

Worst: Not knowing the words to the Reggae Reggae theme tune, 'Proper Tings'. Oh! the shame.

Price: From £4.50 for mains; breakfast items from 60p

Those of you who watch far too much television will recognise the name Levi Roots from BBC's *Dragon's Den*. This eccentric Jamaican man won the nation's heart with a blend of music, enthusiasm, and his grandmother's jerk sauce. Since then Reggae-Reggae Sauce has spread like wildfire from its humble beginnings in Brixton market. Far from being a temporary craze, it is remarkable that, over two years after *Dragon's Den*, Reggae Reggae sauce is still being sold in almost every supermarket across the country. Roots, ever the entrepreneur, has marketed CDs, cookbooks, and even a Subway sandwich....

All of which made it no surprise

when Roots opened his first takeaway in June 2007. The Papine Jerk Centre itself however, is a world away from the showbiz razzamatazz now associated with its owner. Located in darkest Battersea, moments from Clapham Junction station, it sits on an inauspicious row of shops surrounded by the imposing tower blocks of the Winstanley and York Road estates. A world away from primetime BBC1, I'm sure you'll agree. Roots seems committed to using his good fortune to help the locals however, and there is a strong ethos of educating people about healthy eating. Somewhat endearingly, he ran a competition, promising kids a month's free food if they could sing his Reggae Reggae Sauce song 'Proper Tings' with no mistakes.

The Jerk Centre has all the trappings of the standard Caribbean takeaway: bright yellow, green and red frontage, a couple of moulded plastic tables. The one difference being that you cannot move for bottles of that ubiquitous sauce. Now available in a range of flavours including "Love Apple Tomato Ketchup". Quite.

The centre is open for breakfast six days a week, with a range of classically Jamaican dishes on offer. Saltfish with either calaloo (a leaf vegetable) or ackee (a fruit which, when eaten unripe, causes the wonderfully named Jamaican Vomiting Sickness). For ichthyophobes such as myself, there is the option of fried dumplings or plantain, a range of patties, or the slightly less

exotic, but no doubt delicious, organic porridge. So, if you ever find yourself coming into Clapham Junction in the morning, resist the West Cornwall Pasty Company and go get some music in your food.

To be honest, the main meals are those found in almost every Caribbean restaurant across the land. The jerk chicken is fine, probably one of the better ones I've had, but after all the hype, expectations were a little bit higher. It is difficult to overcome the familiarity of the taste of that bloody sauce. The Papine Jerk Centre is typical of its type: honest, good value, spicy Jamaican food.



Warning: Not to be used in foreplay. Ooh!



Slow-cooked Ragu

Serves 2

370g stewing beef (something with lots of fat running through it)
Half an onion, finely chopped
1 carrot, finely chopped
2-3 cloves of garlic, squashed and finely chopped
Handful fresh sage or thyme leaves.
4-5 rashers streaky bacon or pancetta (preferably smoked), cut into 1cm thick strips
Olive oil
300ml red wine
400g tin of chopped tomatoes
6 open-cap mushrooms, sliced
Tagliatelle
Parmesan cheese for serving
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Dice the beef (1cm or 2cm chunks) and season well with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Heat a tablespoon of olive oil in a frying pan over a medium-high heat and fry the meat until browned on all sides (if your frying pan is a bit on the small side, do this in batches). Remove the meat from the pan and set aside.

Return the pan to the heat, adding a bit more oil if necessary, and fry the bacon until the fat turns golden and starts to crisp. Turn the heat down a fraction and add the finely chopped vegetables, garlic and 2 thirds of the herbs (not the mushrooms), frying until soft.

Return the beef to the pan and pour in the wine, turning up the heat and simmer vigorously for a couple of minutes before adding the chopped tomatoes. Turn the heat down to low and allow to simmer gently for 1 1/2 to 2 hours, stirring occasionally and adding a splash of water when needed so as to keep the meat covered (you can actually get away with adding quite a lot of water without even remotely impairing the taste as all it does is cook off- helping keep your meat nice and tender and sauce nice and silky).

Half an hour before serving, add the sliced mushrooms and check the seasoning. Ten minutes before serving, cook the pasta in well-salted water until al-dente or according to the packet's instructions.

Drain the pasta and add to the pan with the beef, mix well and serve with plenty of Parmesan. Enjoy with some garlic bread and a glass of red wine.

Written and Created by David Wallis

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New season old memories

As consumers we can actively help to reduce the annual 1.5 million tonnes of unwanted clothing clogging up the British landfill sites. **Kawai Wong** goes to the Gloucester Road Oxfam Shop this week and proves that urban outfits don't have to cost a bomb. Forget urban, go retro and be totally charitable and ecological

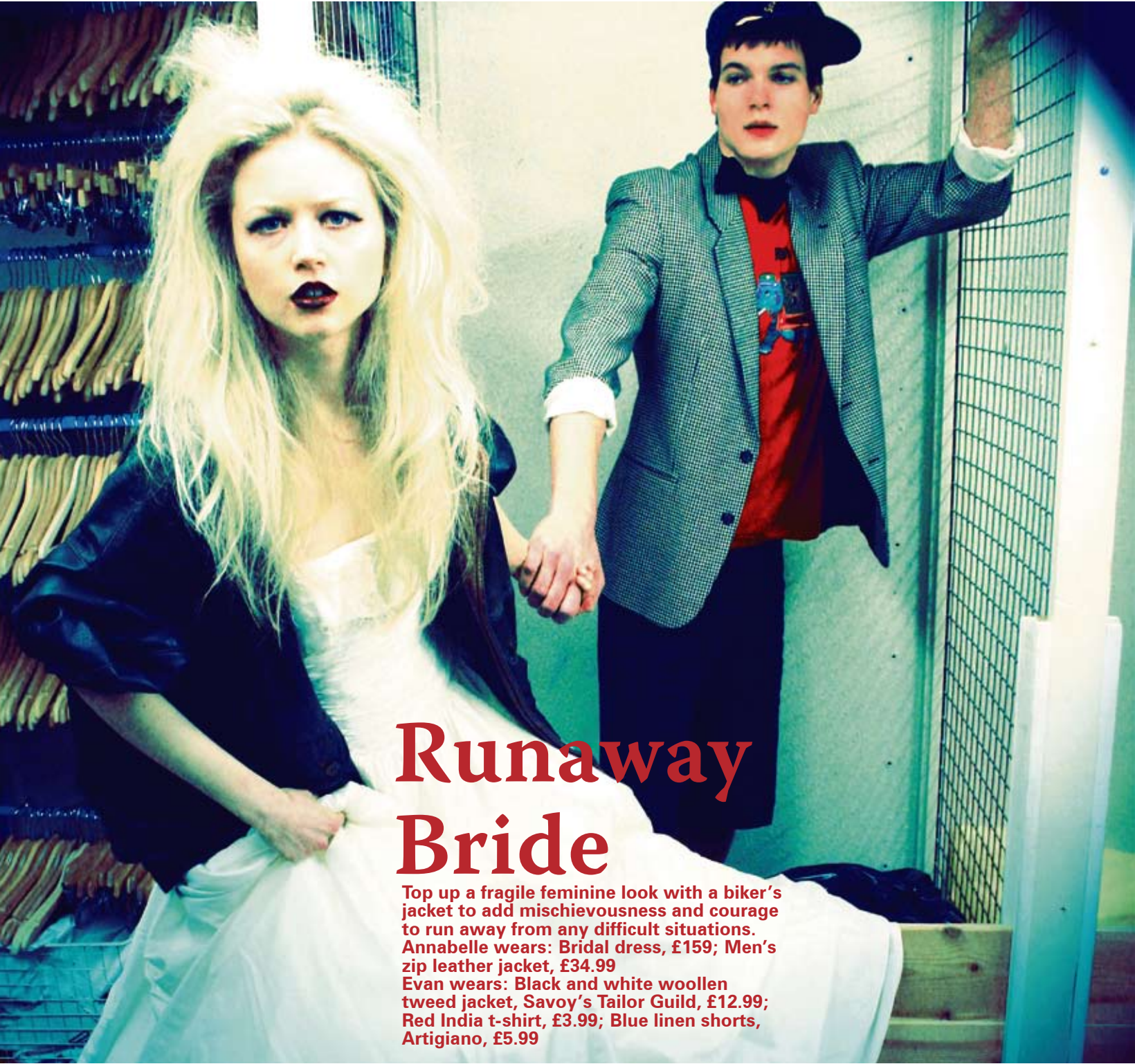


Tribal Girl

Goodbye to boho, hello to tribal. Any solid colour geometric pattern can combine to give a neatly chaotic look. Annabelle wears: Colourful tribal baft dress, £24.99; Black and white knitted wrap, Jaeger, price upon request; White plastic shoes, Herte, £9.99



Models: Annabelle Rose Harris, Evan Jones. Photographers: Andreea Babiuc, Anton Korneev. Lighting: Alfred Yu. Stylist and Make-up: Kawai Wong. Hair: Jihee at Toni&Guy. Special thanks: James at Oxfam Gloucester Road. Oxfam is a registered charity. Oxfam works on areas such as education, conflicts and natural disasters. See www.oxfam.co.uk for details.



Runaway Bride

Top up a fragile feminine look with a biker's jacket to add mischievousness and courage to run away from any difficult situations. Annabelle wears: Bridal dress, £159; Men's zip leather jacket, £34.99 Evan wears: Black and white woollen tweed jacket, Savoy's Tailor Guild, £12.99; Red India t-shirt, £3.99; Blue linen shorts, Artigiano, £5.99



Ballerina

Spice up your romantic outfit with acidic yellow and green. Annabelle wears: Floral sheer blouse, LK Bennett, £7.49; Duck-egg blue tulle ballerina petticoat, Chelsea, £35; 1920 Vintage silk wedding coat, £80; Gold and silver checker leather heels, price upon request

SICK



Milan Fashion Week
It was a fairytale for Milan Fashion Week. Agatha Ruiz de la Prada, famous for her colourful and fun designs, injected a childhood legacy into her A/W 09 RTW show. The show opened with an upside down umbrella that probably won't prove very useful in London. A dress perfect for seduction, equipped with a piano keyboard printed on the side. A tablecloth-dress with two eggs accessorised with a baguette hat that are reminiscent of a tea party. No sarcasm, check out the collection. <http://content.coutorture.com/2881452>

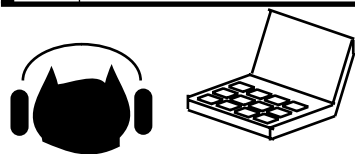


Dolce for Gisele
Congratulations to Gisele who married Tom Brady in a Dolce and Gabbana gown last week. Her ivory wedding dress was strapless with a trumpet skirt and a long train.



No More Arena
Arena, "Britain's original style magazine for men" has suspended publication after 22 years. The final issue goes on sale on the 12th March. At the mean time, Conde Nast has launched a fashion biannual called "LOVE" in February. Editor-in-Chief Katie Grand - who also founded Dazed and Confused - promises that the magazine will be "real". With the first issue featuring a half naked Beth Ditto on the front cover, we trust that Katie is for real.

SHIT



Technology

Technology Editor – Richard Lai

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Thoughts on e-ink devices

Richard Lai
Technology Editor

Apologies for my absence last week - we spent more time and effort than expected into our group project presentation, but I think it paid off. At the same time, I also had the opportunity to put Apple's iWork '09 - specifically Keynote - to practical use instead of making price comparison slides of new Apple products, and the result was beautiful. Mac users are strongly encouraged to try it - you can download the trial version from Apple's website.

Now to the subject: by now most of you gadget fans should have heard of or read about the Amazon Kindle 2 e-book reader. It is no doubt a great improvement from its predecessor: better button layout, slimmer design, 25% longer battery life, faster display, new dictionary, and the controversial "Read-To-Me" text-to-speech feature; but I still have doubts about whether the current range of e-ink devices will win the hearts of traditionalists.

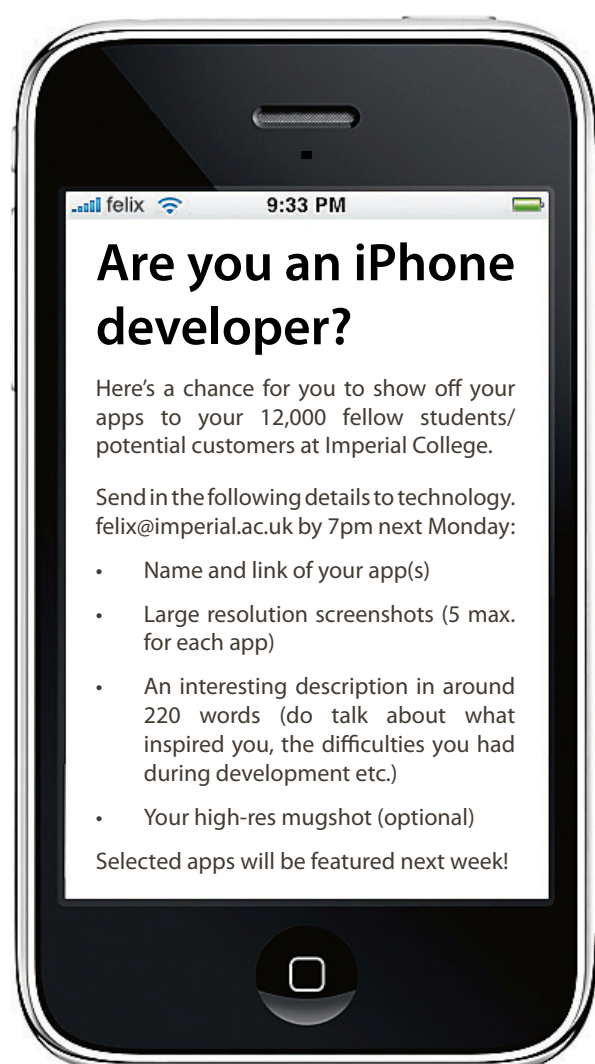
You see, the success of any new piece of gadget depends heavily on how natural one feels with its interface and form factor. To some the problem with the Kindle 2 and similar devices is that the reading experience on them is still very different to the real deal. Let us start off with their form factor: we tend not to read books in a tablet form, and I personally like to hold my novels with my one hand holding below the V-shaped gutter. To satisfy me and like-minded readers, the device would have to utilise some sort of folding in

the middle.

Fine, the rest of you may argue that some like to fold their books in half, but what about the softness of the book? That is another sensation which the e-ink devices lack (the Kindle 2 has a cold metallic back!), and will no doubt be a challenge for the developers to come up with a durable material that gives the same feel as paper. This should be possible, as demonstrated by the current Wacom drawing tablets: back in the early days the tablets I used were very slippery, not comfortable to use after long periods; when I read that Wacom's Bamboo tablet offers a "paper-like work area for a natural experience", I bought one straight away and it really feels like writing on paper.

Next we have the page-turning experience: for me I get a greater satisfaction with flicking through pages of paper compared to using the scroll bar or scroll wheel. Understandably, since the e-book devices are not multi-paged it is hard for them to offer the same sensation. One possible solution is to implement a touchscreen and have a lagless sliding animation like the one used on the iPhone's photo viewer, but this would restrict the device's form factor as I don't think this is possible on flexible materials yet, and let us not forget that this would need greater graphics power too (thus money and battery).

I'm probably moaning too much, but I am very keen to see a device that will give the right e-book experience. What do you think? Drop me line on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/richardlai>.



Living in the Cloud...

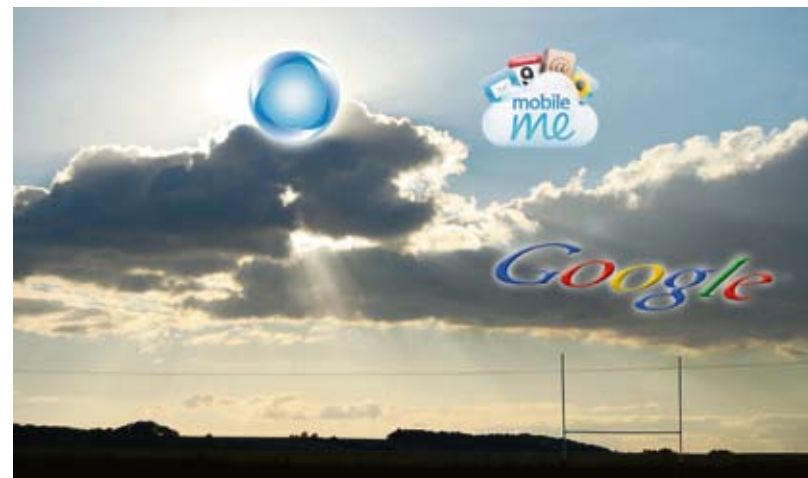
Richard Lai compares some of the hottest cloud sync services

You may or may not have heard of cloud computing, but the chances are you are already using a few services offered by such technology. In a nutshell, cloud computing is computing using various online services, i.e. using the Internet (or metaphorically the "cloud") instead of your desktop PC as your computing platform. Think about Google Maps: users do not have to install any extra apps on their computers in order to use it (that is assuming the computer already has a compatible Internet browser), as all the data is stored in the cloud.

Obviously, the fact that such services are on the Internet means that you can access them from anywhere - specifically on any devices equipped with an Internet browser or relevant app. You don't even have to worry about which operating system you are using, as most of these services are designed to be at least accessible with all major browsers in the form of a website.

Don't get me wrong though: cloud computing is not just for mass-data services like Google Maps, nor is it just for enterprise services like Amazon's Elastic Cloud Computing (EC2). Here are a few options for us majority users:

Google has been one of the longest cloud service providers with their Google Apps platform, with Google Docs being their main cloud storage product. I've personally used it to store member records (as a spreadsheet) for a student association outside Imperial College, but since I'm not free to edit it all the time, I share the full editing access with another secretary and the chairman - all they needed to do was to sign up for a Google Account. Google Docs also has the essential online editing tools for word documents, spreadsheets and even PowerPoint presentations, saving us from having to download and upload files for even the smallest changes. Two other features



The three major cloud storage service providers fighting for coverage.

worth mentioning are: revision history for each document - an essential tool for group collaborations, and an offline mode which allows you to view and edit documents in your browser without Internet connection (and syncs with server when next online).

Microsoft offers a similar service with their Windows Live platform. Their Google Docs equivalent is Office Live Workspace and shares many common features with it, apart from the lack of web apps for viewing and editing the documents - you need to have Office installed! But the service that I want to highlight is Live Mesh: a sync service between multiple computers (including Mac) and the cloud. This involves installing a client app on your machines and then choosing which local folders you want to sync with the cloud. Likewise, you can also sync your machines with the other folders already on the cloud server. This excellent feature eliminates the need of manual file transfer from one computer to another, as the Live Mesh client syncs with the cloud instantly as you edit and save the files. I use this to keep my lecture notes

and *felix* documents synced across my two laptops (a Dell and a MacBook), and if neither machines are with me, I can use any computer and log onto my "Live Desktop" to view all my cloud files. Now you can see why I hardly ever use my pen drive these days!

Last but not least, we have the famous MobileMe service from Apple. Unlike the previous two, MobileMe is a paid service but includes a more advanced sync service (that be push e-mail, push contacts and push calendar) for iPhone users. As well as some generous storage space, the package also offers a web hosting service for your personal website, and photo-sharers have an elegant gallery to play with as well. I personally wouldn't pay £58 for a year given the free alternatives, but it does sound like a great gift for Mother's Day (22nd March!).

While these three services offer slightly different services, they all allow you to choose what is private and what is available for public viewing. Have a look at the table below - you're bound to need more than one! Use them wisely and your life will be a lot easier!



Windows Live Mesh

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ✓ "Sync-as-you-edit" connectivity | ✗ No direct public link to each file |
| ✓ Public folder | ✗ Lacks online apps for editing |
| ✓ Virtual desktop to view cloud files | ✗ 5GB only (but it's free!) |
| ✓ Group collaboration on folders | ✗ Still in beta |
| ✓ Free | |



Google Docs

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ✓ Online apps for editing | ✗ No direct public link to each file |
| ✓ Revision history for each file | ✗ Only supports 4 types of files |
| ✓ Group collaboration on docs | ✗ Still in beta |
| ✓ Offline editing mode | |
| ✓ Free | |



MobileMe

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ✓ Website hosting service | ✗ £58-per-year subscription |
| ✓ Elegant photo gallery | ✗ Lacks online apps for editing |
| ✓ Public folder | ✗ 200GB monthly data transfer limit |
| ✓ Direct public link to each file | |
| ✓ Assign expiration dates for links | |
| ✓ 20GB of email and file storage | |
| ✓ Push data for iPhone | |



East Meets West 2009

Sama Zaman and Kavita Aggarwal review this year's event at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, as well as giving a quick insight into the show's past

After many months of preparation and much anticipation, the country (and Imperial's!) largest and oldest student show, East Meets West, presented by Indian Soc, returned to the stage on Sunday 22nd February 2009 at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. With an illustrious 17-year history, the show has established its own special place in the hearts of both performers and audience alike, and with expectations even higher after last year's stupendous success at the London Palladium, the pressure was certainly on. The evening began with a spectacular opening act, after which we were introduced to the event's celebrity host, legendary comedian Nina Wadia, who brought with her a most delightful surprise in the form of fellow *Goodness Gracious Me* actor Kulvinder Ghir, whose perfect comic timing and hilarious quips had the audience in stitches for the entire show. The acts themselves were a joy to behold not only due to their exceptional high quality performances, but also due to their variety, which is exactly what East Meets West represents and what makes the show so memorable and so unique. The spectacular array of talent seen included the renowned street dance form of Funkology, which was executed with so much passion that it looked almost effortless; scintillating traditional Russian ballet; an incredibly enthusiastic Light Opera performance and what many considered to be the highlight of the evening: bhangra by the Groundshaker team. Overall the evening was extremely enjoyable and certainly delivered on its promise of 'the ultimate celebration of culture' whilst raising proceeds for and awareness towards three very worthy causes: Save the Children, the Care Trust Education and this year's RAG charity the Winnicott Foundation. With yet another successful year to add to the show's legacy, we look forward to seeing what East Meets West will offer next year!

In the beginning...

Starting out in Imperial College's Great Hall, the inaugural show was a great success with a sell-out audience of 400 people. It began with the simple idea of merging classical eastern acts with more contemporary western performances, and has since grown into the inconceivable, ever widening and ever-diversifying production that it is today.

Previous venues have included the highly exalted Shaftesbury Theatre, Shepherd's Bush Empire, Hammersmith Apollo, as well as the Barbican and many more prestigious locations.

And now...

Set in the heart of London, the prestigious Theatre Royal, Drury Lane is the perfect setting for this magical evening. The Theatre Royal is found in the West End of London. Officially situated on Catherine Street, the theatre backs on to Drury Lane just to the east of Covent Garden. It was designed by Benjamin Wyatt and opened on October 10th, 1812 with a production of *Hamlet*. The interior has been redesigned and overhauled many times since then and now boasts a seating capacity of 2,205. It is one of the West End's largest venues and is currently the home of the hit West End production of *Oliver* with Rowan Atkinson.

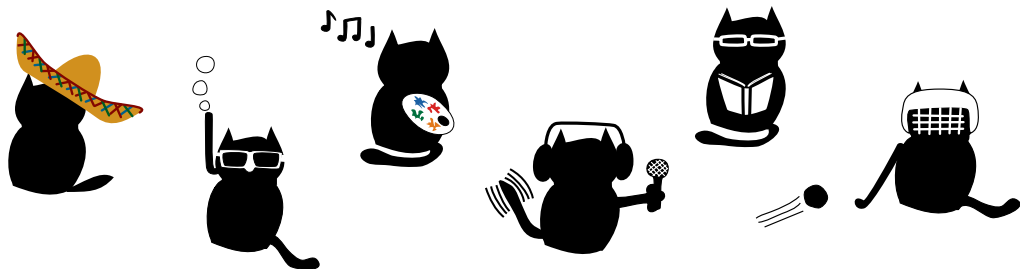


What's on...

Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editors – Lily Topham & Rachel D’oliveiro

whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Monday

Caribbean Party

Imperial’s West Indian Society proudly hosts the first ever Caribbean ‘Soca’ Party!

This is not just another dB’s event, after all its Caribbean people we talking about here. We’ll be dimming the lights, cranking up the bass and pelting out some wicked tunes to get yuh waistline moving, blood pumping and feet jumping!

There will even be ladies in Carnival costumes to give that authentic Caribbean feel, so come along and join in the fun!

Time: 8:30pm
Place: dBs, Beit
Price: £4/£5 (Members/Non-members)

Welcome to this week’s What’s On....!

As usual, this page will feature club and society events in the upcoming week, so let us know what you are up to!

The deadline for next week’s edition is mid-night on **Mon 9th March**.

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

Tuesday

Cheesefest

Here it is. The event you’ve all been waiting for – CheeseSoc’s main event of the year - CHEESEFEST!

For those of you who are in ignorance, CheeseFest is a celebration of the goodness of cheese.

For a very small amount of money, we’ll provide you with an evening of cheeses from around the world and, to make things better, free alcohol. What more could you ask for?

Time: 6pm
Place: Room 344, Huxley
Price: £4/£6 (Members/Non-Members)

A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum

Musical Theatre Society are proud to present this years Spring Show. A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum is a multiple Tony award winning show, written in 1962 by Stephen Sondheim.

It is a bawdy comedy following the story of a slave, Pseudolus, and his attempts to win his freedom by trying to unite his young master with the girl he loves, a courtesan from the house next door.

Come and be entertained by this fast paced show, filled with colourful characters and rich in farcical humour.

Time: 7.30pm
Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit
Price: £5/£7.50 (Members/Non-Members)

Wednesday

Asian Expression

The event is going to highlight the Arts and Culture of Pakistan.

There will be a lot of things to look forward to on the day including paintings, photography, digital art, videos, handicrafts, poetry and live classical music from both professionals and students.

Traditional snacks provided.

Time: 6pm
Place: Room 301, RSM
Price: £5

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Come and be entertained by this fast paced show, filled with colourful characters and rich in farcical humour.

Time: 7.30pm
Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit
Price: £5/£7.50 (Members/Non-Members)

Thursday

Classical Guitar Concert

After the success of last term’s concert, Classical Guitar return once more to the Read Lecture theatre to bring you more of the best of classical guitar music. Why not come along and enjoy an evening of wonderful music with your friends?

For more information, contact classgtr@ic.ac.uk.

Time: 6.30pm
Place: Read LT, Sherfield
Price: £1.50/£3 (Members/Non-Members)

A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum

Time: 7.30pm
Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit
Price: £5/£7.50 (Members/Non-Members)

Martial Arts Play Darts

ACC Marital Arts clubs have got together to challenge everyone’s reflexes in a darts tournament. Come and beat them!

No need to be a pro, and they’ve promised not to bust out too many kick-ass moves if they lose. (No guarantee).

3 people in a team, with prizes for winners, free food and soft drinks.

Time: 6.30pm
Place: The Union Bar, Beit
Price: £5 teams / £0.50 supporters.

Friday

A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum

Time: 7.30pm
Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit
Price: £5/£7.50 (Members/Non-Members)

Science Challenge Final

Come and find out this year’s overall winners, celebrate the successes of the competition and mingle with the special guests.

The Royal Society, itself celebrating 350 years as the UK’s national academy of science, will host a champagne canapé reception followed by a three course meal in its exquisite marble banquet hall.

Dress is black tie. Tickets must be purchased in advance from: www.sciencechallenge.org.

Time: 7pm
Place: The Royal Society
Price: £10

ICSO Concert

Programme: Tchaikovsky — Hamlet, Strauss — Orchestral Lieder, Stravinsky — Rite of Spring.

Imperial College Symphony Orchestra invite you to their Spring Concert, featuring student soloist Naomi Mason.

Time: 8pm
Place: Great Hall, Sherfield
Price: £3/7 (Students/Non-Students)

A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum

Musical Theatre Society are proud to present this years Spring Show. A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum is a multiple Tony award winning show, written in 1962 by Stephen Sondheim.

It is a bawdy comedy following the story of a slave, Pseudolus, and his attempts to win his freedom by trying to unite his young master with the girl he loves, a courtesan from the house next door.

Come and be entertained by this fast paced show, filled with colourful characters and rich in farcical humour. From puns and mistaken identity to cross-dressing, satire, and innuendo, this comedy of errors has it all.

Time: 7.30pm
Place: Union Concert Hall. Beit
Price:£5/£7.50 (Members/Non-Members)

Saturday



This week I read a book!

Ravi Pall
Coffee Break Editor

This week I finally read a real, made from paper, book. Up until this point I had only read 1 book before. Well besides the Biff and Chip collection at primary school. That book was Harry Potter! Then the movies came out and I gave up. Well the book I read was Oscar Wilde's short stories. Yes I know it was written for children, but it was really really good. When I say this I mean it! It's not often I read in general, heck I struggle to read my own lecture notes (but that is most likely due to my bad handwriting). Point being, I don't consider reading literature an important part of my life. I also imagine many of you do the same. Sure I know lots of people read books nightly, however I am sure many people just don't bother like me. Why would they, I can bet you that more people at Imperial have a laptop (or computer) than a book to read at night. In conjunction with the interwebz, there is a plethora of interesting material to read. Whether it be the latest blog post by Stephen Fry, or the news. It would seem the printed word is becoming obsolete. I can't begin to imagine a day where this newspaper (*felix* incase you

had forgotten) becomes an online publication. This would be unfortunate, however with news also breaking out in competition (read Live), the only saving grace I can see is the fact *felix* is free. Let me assure you, it will continue to be free and awesome. My point here is that there will come a point where books will become obsolete. Have you guys ever heard of Amazon's Kindle II? Is a sweet slim line device made by Amazon, that has wireless broadband built in. It connects directly to the Amazon store and downloads any book they have available. Using the large E Ink screen when the page is loaded, it uses no battery. Practically the same as a book right? The difference is this time you have access to thousands of books in one device. It can also read the books out to you! Who knows, all I'm saying is that I enjoyed reading a book, and I may make things easier for me and buy an audio book.

In other news, have you seen all the texts we got in from the rugby team. LOLZ. Chill the fuck out bros. Horoscopes are there to be nasty, sure this time they were nasty to you, but I am sure whoever wrote them thought it was an appropriate thing to do at the time.

twitter.com/D00SKI

New Guy or Old Girl? Please pick New Guy

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



- Who has better hair? Guy
- Who has better breasts? Girl
- Who has a more manly beard? Girl
- Who has more snow in their picture? Guy
- Who is more awesome? Guy
- Who would Kadhimi sex up more? Girl
- Who is younger? Guy
- Who loves the huff more? Girl
- Who currently writes for *felix*? Guy
- Guy wins!!! WOOOOOOOOOOO



Mohummy

Age: 2014 years

Weight: 26 lbs

Height: 6ft 6"

Combat Skill: 5

Intelligence: 2

Agility: 2

Top Trumps

Cut them out!

Highest score wins

Collect them all!

Watch this space for additional cards

twitter

VS

twitter.com/D00SKI

twitter.com/kadhimshubher

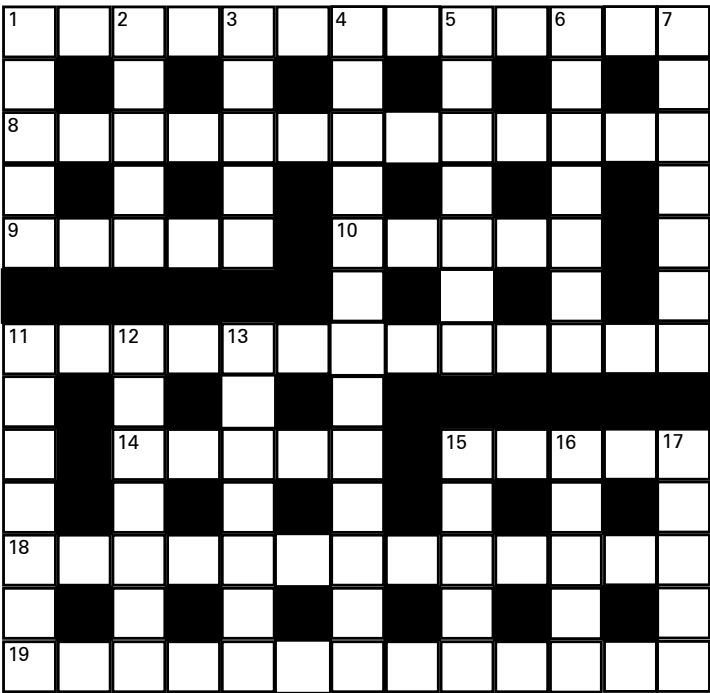
38

19

FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER TO WIN 120GB EXTERNAL HDD

FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER TO WIN ABSOLUTELY NOTHING

A Quickie (Crossword) 1,427



Solution 1,426



Last week's winners were **Shotgun**. Bizarrely, no one else entered the quick crossword solution. Are we making them too hard for you guys out there or are you all just getting a little bit lazy?

Anyway, here's another one for you to have a go at, let's hope we got more answers in this week.

Oh and the horoscopes are pretty funny this week.

kthnxbye

- ACROSS
- 1 Academy award-winning child star (7,6)

8 Unable to contact others (13)

9 Supposedly pure race (5)

10 Cunning (5)

11 Hypocritically pious (13)

14 Fathered (5)

15 Walks anxiously (5)

18 Ignore (4,1,5,3)

19 Beatles song (6,7))
- DOWN
- 1 Destructive deity (5)

2 With a desire to scratch (5)

3 Citrus fruit (5)

4 The tensile strength of a material (6,7)

5 Leaving out of sounds (7)

6 False medication (7)

7 Word formed from a person's name (7)

11 Period of time; extension (7)

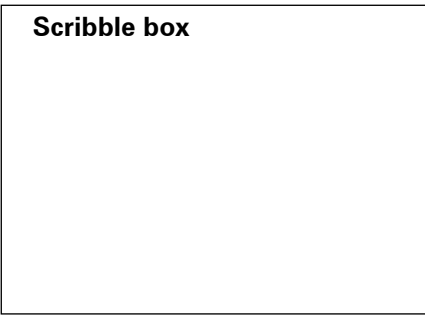
12 Bodily cavity (7)

13 Balcony (7)

15 Type of pasta (5)

16 Top of a hill (5)

17 Deform under resistive forces (5)



FUCWIT League Table	
Teams:	
Möchten sie mein Manschaft?	262 Points
Team Shotgun	261 Points
Scii Comm	25 Points
Team Rubbish	17 Points
Individuals:	
Giramundo	75 Points
Hringur Gretarsson	45 Points
Jonathan Phillips	18 Points
Ben Hanson	15 Points

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

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


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

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

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


H to the O to the RO sizzle copes – old skool style

This week *felix* was so short staffed that it had to recruit some of last year's writers. Say hi to Matty Hobag!




Aquarius

Guess who's back, back again? Aids is back, wash a friend. In all seriousness, if you have AIDS do not wash a friend as you might give them Skin AIDS. The easiest way to spot Skin AIDS is if the sufferer has the sudden impulse to shove cotton wool into the rectum to prevent them 'giving birth to an ass demon'.




Pisces

You know what? You've got the feeling that this week is going to be better than last week. Well you're wrong. Very wrong. Really, really, really wrong. Wronger than wronger than wrong. Wrong wrong wrong wrong wrong wrong wrong wrong. WRONGINGTON, capital of WRONG. You die of nappy-rash.




Aries

What the fuck is wrong with you? Why would you do that to your own grandmother? She's been THROUGH TWO WORLD WARS only for you to explain teabagging to her. You always knew she had a dodgy heart and a fear of testicles. I hope you burn in a cesspit in hell. Otherwise, your week will smell of primroses and elderflower.




Taurus

This week you reinvent the light bulb but make it from a goat's stomach and a bluebottle fly's wings. Your pendant for inventing things from animal parts is beginning to ostracize your flatmates. But they are perhaps more annoyed that your flat now smells like a farmer's armpit in Summer Shit Season.



Gemini

This guy had three daughters who all worked as credit controllers at Experian. The father, after being turned down for one too many credit cards tried to pull weight with his daughters to get a Mastercard. They failed to comply so he smashed in their kneecaps with a lumphammer. Now that's a credit crunch.



Cancer

AHHHH GO FUCK YOURSELF. I was trying to have a joke and a laugh about the current economic crisis and you just take my shitty joke and have a go at me. I wish you would just for once think about what you are doing to my self-esteem and how you make me cry and hurt me inside until I KEEP BLEEDING, I KEEP, KEEP BLEEDING.



Leo

Later today you will [redacted] your friend [redacted] in the eyeball. At first you'll feel [redacted] about it, then later you'll come to realise that irreversible eye damage is no subject matter for a horoscope. You'll laugh about this in the future and re-enact the day [redacted] cornea got split wide open. [redacted] guide-dog then pisses on your leg.



Virgo

If you want to know what the censored words are above then please ring 0800767544. Calls cost £3 an hour with an additional £20 answer disclosure fee, terms and conditions apply. Please ask the billpayer for permission before ringing or I will come find you, rip out your windpipe and use it as a flute when I next play with the London Philharmonic Orchestra.



Libra

"When there's something straaaaange in your neighbourhoood. Who you gonna avoid? WEIRD HOMELESS GUY!" I tell you, if I heard this song at school I wouldn't have a tattoo on my chest of a naked nun eating a kebab. Mind you, that was one fun night, I just wish that I never drank that white spirit whilst on fire.



Scorpio

If toilets could talk they'd tell you stop having steaks three times a day. You keep convincing yourself that it is your 'thing. "Hey! I'm the steak guy!" is how you'll introduce yourself whilst your sweat smells of lard and your heart is reading Kurt Cobain's diaries to get some tips. Actually, that's fucking ridiculous, as if hearts could read books. THEY HAVE NO FINGERS.



Sagittarius

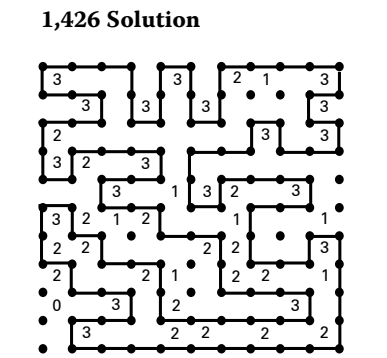
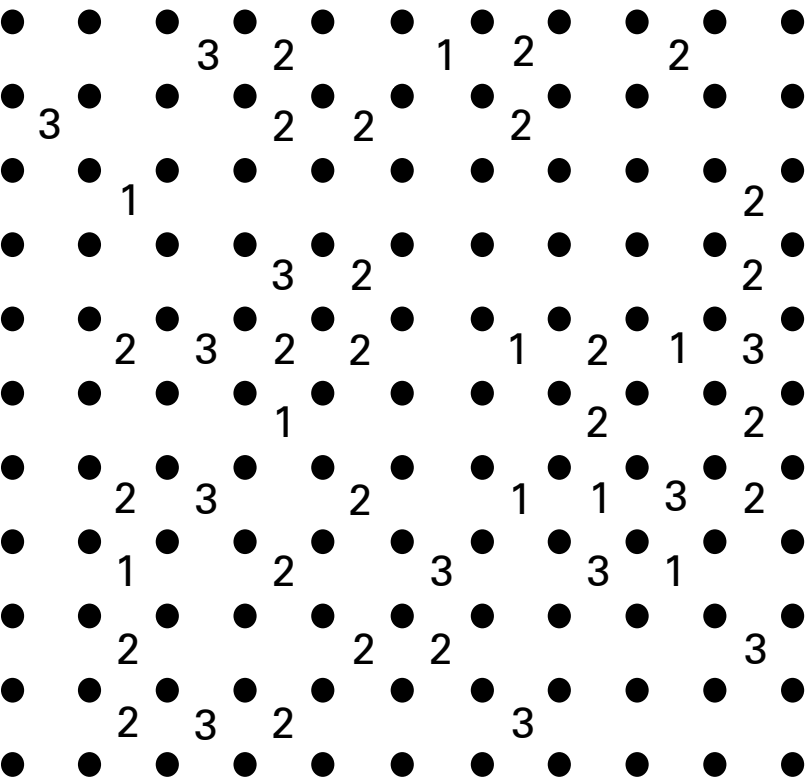
Anyway, yeah, stop eating those steaks or I'll come round to your house and attach car batteries to all your doorknobs. And then whilst you are passed out, I will come round and put make-up on you and force you to fornicate with a baby-seal in lingerie, film it and send it to your parents as their next anniversary present.



Capricorn

I'm sorry, I think we got off on the wrong foot. I guess it all started from me going on about AIDS. What I know you would really like me to do is sidle up next to you at night and just lick the back of your neck incessantly. Who knows? Maybe that's why I hate you and your ridiculous orange coloured tracksuit bottoms. I hope you and Jade Goody are happy together. Pint?

Slitherlink 1,427



Well done to **Joy's Mum** who entered this week. Didn't win, but that's not what counts. **Shotgun** did win, so I danced round the office and then cock strangled them.

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.

This week's texts Rugby Rants:



07726 799 424

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

"To the wanker at Imperial, comment on our hooker when you have the balls to come play with us. x"

"Froggy, ignore last week's horrible comment. I still love you and you can kick me anytime!"

"Whoever sent that text in about the ic hooker, you're a knob. Go fuck yourself you pussy. Like to see you do his job you talentless twat. We still love you froggy! x"

"To whoever sent in about the ic hooker. I sure u wrote that stupid txt in anger after findin our yr mums a whore." (Speak English)

"To anti hooker texter, you better hope no one knows you sent that. We will find you." (Clever lads, real clever)

"Your a pussy. You went to a school full of knobs and you are a knob yourself [you're] only talking now from the side lines."

Wordoku 1,427

B	K			O	N		P	
				S				T
S	P	L						
P					L	I	T	
	T			I			N	
	O	I	B					K
						T	L	P
O				L				
	L		K	P			B	S



1,426 Solution

D	P	M	C	R	E	S	A	I
E	I	S	A	D	M	P	C	R
R	A	C	P	I	S	M	D	E
P	E	R	I	M	A	D	S	C
S	M	D	E	C	R	I	P	A
A	C	I	D	S	P	E	R	M
I	S	P	M	A	C	R	E	D
C	D	E	R	P	I	A	M	S
M	R	A	S	E	D	C	I	D

Shotgun have crushed the tiny gap at the top of FUCWIT. Well done to you. No really I am glad that you are doing this and not listing to your lecture. I think this can only improve your degree prospects. ACIDSPERM.

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.

Going Underground

You are all fucking idiots. The first *slightly* tricky one I put in any you are all looking for a big paddle. For those of you who do care the correct answer was the oh-so-obscure HACKNEY CENTRAL. Do it this week or risk defenestration from Beit.

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

B	A	N	K
2	1	14	11

= 28

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

So which London tube station sums to 162?

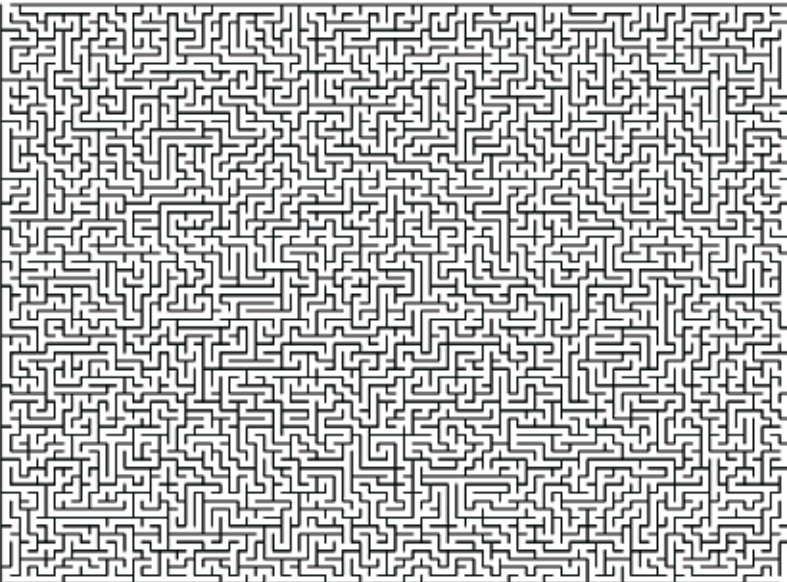
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

= 162

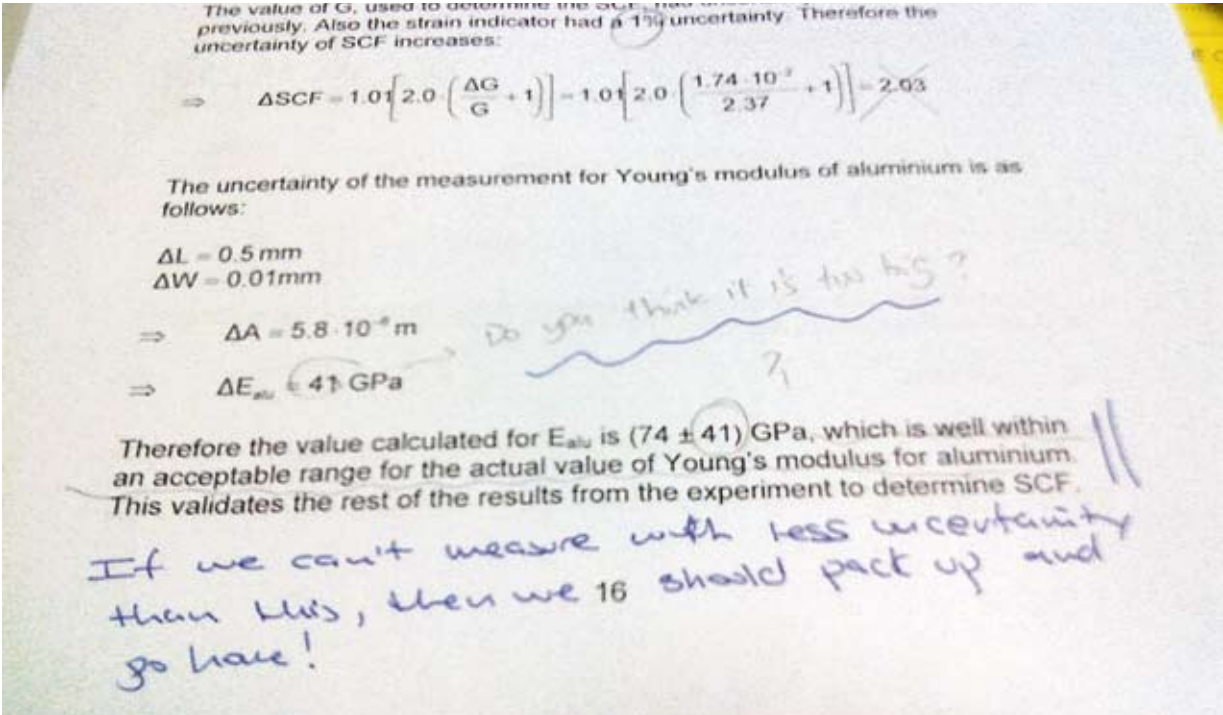
Mentalist Maze...

Maze generator fucked up this week, but I found you one anyways. Because I am awesome. Last week's winners were **Shotgun**, (insert abuse

here). Little known fact, mazes were originally invented by the Romans with a hot chick in the middle- first to find her, nails her. Bish bash bosh!



Seriously... WTF?!? corner!!1!



Mech Eng strike again, you decided which bit's funnier; the response or the answer given by the student

IC swimmers go to Sheffield

Continued from back page

in her last ever BUCS nationals, putting in more stirring swims in the 200 and 400 freestyle as well as 200 backstroke. This was matched if not surpassed by the sheer heroics shown by Kent Zhang in finishing the 400 IM, which most certainly broke him for the rest of the competition. Special mention however must go to Claire Taylor for reaching the final of the 50m free-style in a time of 28.85 giving Imperial their only national finalist of the weekend. The weekend was rounded off

nicely with good performances from both medley relay teams finishing 27th and 31st. Fortunately IC swimming coach Sergio Catania neither missed his train nor fell between the train and platform on this occasion, he did however resort to offering money to swimmers to compete in events, cheers for the meal Sergio! Next weekend the team head back up to Sheffield to swim in the national team event, hoping for promotion in to their premier league, with a young and very promising squad on their hands, it looks to be a successful visit for the team.



At least there was some romance over the weekend

Coed-y-Brenin cycle trip

Continued from back page

the village to have our dinner, since the local one didn't seem too keen on foreign folk like ourselves. At the pub we ambitiously decided to ride the Bull trail (all 20 km of it) the next day, before breakfast! This was the only way we would have enough time left over to ride the CliMachX trail before returning to London. After a couple of beers we headed back for a more peaceful night's sleep.

On Sunday my room was packed up and ready to go on time, only for us to find that Henry, Roger and Doug were still sound asleep. After some hasty packing we headed off on the Bull (Welsh: Tarw, I think) trail, which goes up the other side of the valley. I think we were all surprised that we made it round at a reasonable speed without having much to eat beforehand. We grabbed a cheeky sandwich and cheese at the top of the hill as we watched the sun coming up (fine, it was already up, but you get the idea). At the end of the trail we enjoyed some great rocky single-track descents. As we rolled back down to the car park there was quite a smug feeling watching the weekend warriors coming up the other way, knowing that we had already ridden the entire loop.

After a well-deserved breakfast we drove over to the CliMachX trail, which features the longest descent in Wales. As you can imagine, this does involve going up a massive fireroad climb before you can come down again. There is some sick single-track with some epic views at the top of the hill, which Dave T was enjoying a bit too much before he launched himself head first into a stream going round a blind corner.

A little shaken, but with no serious injuries he got back in the saddle. In the meantime Roger had zoomed off ahead with mysterious new found en-

ergy (I guess he is a chemist after all). At last we got to the final descent, which I can tell you is very long. The first section includes some nasty wet off-camber slabs and some sketchy short climbs. In the middle section the trail cuts across the side of the mountain, with a few jumps thrown in before it plunges back into the forest again for the last, and best, part. You almost think you're in the Alps when you see the huge rocks and switchbacks, not to mention the cheeky North Shore berm. Once we had all made it down in one piece, Roger kindly offered to take



us up in the van so we could ride the final descent again.

In the end, we beat the van on the way down by a couple of minutes. Dave M managed to get a pinch flat on the last corner, bagging himself the 'First and Last Puncture of the Trip' award. While he was faffing about, Henry found a nice slate wall which we sessioned until we had to go.

On the long way back Dave T's music choices provided another round of arguing, and we had the now traditional Burger King dinner. In the end, a great trip was had by all.



These boys clearly listened to us last time, as can be seen with the Imperial student casually reading *felix* on the slate rocks

 <h1>Fixtures & Results</h1>			in association with <i>Sports Partnership</i>			 		
Saturday 28th February								
Football								
Men's 1st ULU	3		Women's 1st	1		Men's 1s ULU	4	
UCL Men's 1st ULU	5		Kings Medicals Women's 1st	5		St George's Medical School 1s ULU	2	
Men's 2nd ULU	1		Lacrosse			Netball		
LSE Men's 3rd ULU	0		<i>ULU Cup</i>			Women's 1st	25	
			Mixed 1s ULU	7		King's Medicals 1st	35	
			Kings Mixed 1s ULU	6				
Men's 3rd ULU	0		Rugby			Women's 2nd	WALKOVER	
Imperial Medicals 1st ULU	1		Women's 1st	CANCELLED		Queen Mary 2nd	TO IMPERIAL	
			LSE Women's 1st	CANCELLED				
Men's 4th ULU	POSTPONED		<i>Gutteridge (ULU) Cup</i>			Women's 3rd	12	
Queen Mary Men's 3rd ULU	POSTPONED		Men's 1st	15		St George's Medical School 3rd	34	
			King's College Men's 1st	26				
Men's 5th ULU	5		<i>ULU Cup</i>			Rugby		
LSE Men's 5th ULU	2		Men's 2nd	WALKOVER TO		Men's 2nd	17	
			Men's 3rd	2ND TEAM		LSE 1st	15	
Men's 6th ULU	1		Monday 2nd March			Men's 3rd	43	
Queen Mary Men's 4th ULU	5		Netball			University of Chichester 2nd	0	
			Women's 1s ULU	N/A				
			RUMS 1s ULU	N/A				
Men's 7th ULU	1		Women's 2s ULU	N/A		Men's 4th	WALKOVER	
St Barts Men's 3rd ULU	2		Uni of the Arts London 1s ULU	N/A		University of Hertfordshire 2nd	TO IMPERIAL	
Sunday 1st March								
Badminton								
Mixed 1s ULU	5		Wednesday 4th March			Squash		
UCL Mixed 1s ULU	4		Badminton			Men's 2nd	3	
			University of Hertfordshire 2nd	6		King's College 2nd	2	
Football								
Men's 2nd	1		Basketball			Table Tennis		
UCL Men's 2nd	0		Men's 1st	N/A		<i>BUCS Cup</i>		
			St George's Medical School 1st	N/A		Men's 1st	9	
						Imperial College 2nd	8	
Hockey								
<i>ULU Cup</i>						Tennis		
Men's 2s	1					<i>BUCS Cup</i>		
King's Medicals	1					Men's 2nd	0	
						London Metropolitan University 3rd	10	

Kendo club train with the great Chiba-sensei

Elizabeth Luthman

At the end of the winter term, the Imperial College Kendo Club had the very great pleasure and enormous privilege of hosting a training session like no other.

Chiba-sensei is a man you are lucky to meet in Japan, let alone outside of it. Three-times winner of the All Japan Kendo Championship and previously the chief instructor of the Tokyo Met-

ropolitan Police Dojo, he is considered by many to be the strongest man in Kendo.

Attendance of the seminar lead by Chiba-sensei was impressive: in addition to its own members, ICKC played host to members of the British National Squad and visitors from several other London dojos including two brothers of 9 and 11 who outshone all the other kendoka of two or three times their age.

Two hours of practice and commentary (ably translated by our own Emiko Yosikawa) was followed by jigeiko with Chiba-sensei, Matsumoto-sensei (British National Coach) and Salmon-sensei (Chairman of the British Kendo Association).

All in all, the evening was a great success, allowing us the opportunity see live kendo of an exceptionally high standard and to hopefully give a good impression of British kendo.



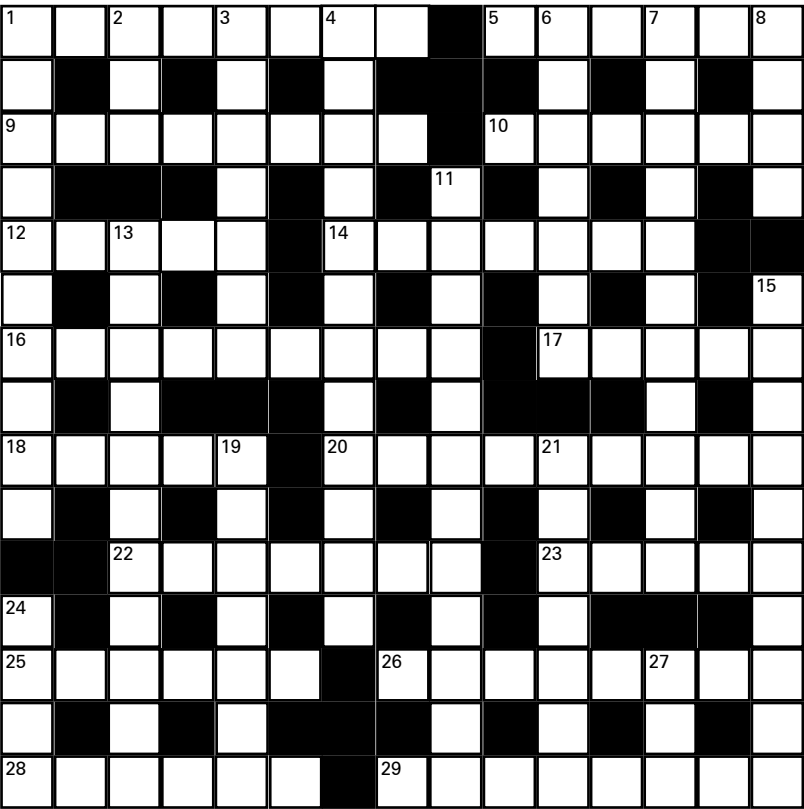
Chiba-sensei showing the Imperial College Kendo Club how the best in the world does it

Sports league

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	%	FI
1 Tennis Men's 1st	10	10	0	0	88	12	76	100	5.00
2 Volleyball Women's 1st	8	8	0	0	17	1	16	100	5.00
3 Squash Men's 1st	12	11	0	1	51	9	42	92	4.25
4 Fencing Women's 1st	10	9	0	1	1317	1067	250	90	4.10
5 Hockey Men's 1st	10	9	0	1	57	13	44	90	4.10
6 Fencing Men's 1st	9	8	0	1	1187	753	434	89	4.00
7 ICSM Badminton Men's 1st	6	5	0	1	28	20	8	83	3.50
8 Lacrosse Women's 1st	11	9	0	2	162	43	119	82	3.36
9 ICSM Netball 3rd	10	8	0	2	357	197	160	80	3.20
10 Table Tennis Men's 1st	14	11	0	3	154	81	73	79	3.07
11 Squash Men's 2nd	9	7	0	2	28	15	13	78	3.00
12 ICSM Netball 2nd	9	7	0	2	314	152	162	78	3.00
13 Badminton Men's 1st	12	8	2	2	61	35	26	67	3.00
14 Netball 2nd	11	8	0	3	364	201	163	73	2.55
15 ICSM Hockey Women's 1st	13	8	1	4	56	28	28	62	2.00
16 Hockey Women's 1st	13	8	1	4	49	29	20	62	2.00
17 Hockey Men's 3rd	10	4	4	2	19	25	-6	40	2.00
18 Basketball Men's 1st	7	4	0	3	496	474	22	57	1.14
19 Squash Men's 3rd	7	4	0	3	14	9	5	57	1.14
20 Basketball Women's 1st	9	5	0	4	417	383	34	56	1.00
21 Badminton Women's 1st	12	6	1	5	57	39	18	50	1.00
22 Hockey Men's 2nd	11	6	0	5	41	35	6	55	0.91
23 ICSM Hockey Women's 2nd	8	3	2	3	23	23	0	38	0.88
24 Hockey Men's 4th	7	3	1	3	15	23	-8	43	0.71
25 Football Men's 2nd	9	4	1	4	20	27	-7	44	0.67
26 Football Men's 1st	9	4	1	4	19	20	-1	44	0.67
27 ICSM Football Men's 1st	9	4	1	4	15	20	-5	44	0.67
28 Squash Women's 1st	12	2	6	4	20	32	-12	17	0.50
29 Tennis Men's 2nd	10	4	1	5	35	56	-21	40	0.20
30 Rugby Union Men's 2nd	13	6	0	7	231	286	-55	46	0.15
31 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 2nd	11	5	0	6	175	161	14	45	0.09
32 Volleyball Men's 1st	9	4	0	5	10	10	0	44	0.00
33 Fencing Men's 2nd	7	3	0	4	830	821	9	43	-0.14
34 Rugby Union Men's 3rd	12	5	0	7	207	229	-22	42	-0.25
35 Badminton Men's 2nd	8	2	2	4	29	35	-6	25	-0.25
36 Tennis Women's 1st	10	4	0	6	44	56	-12	40	-0.40
37 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 3rd	11	4	0	7	130	264	-134	36	-0.73
38 Volleyball Women's 2nd	7	2	0	5	13	16	-3	29	-1.43
39 Hockey Women's 2nd	10	2	1	7	10	44	-34	20	-1.60
40 ICSM Rugby Union Men's 1st	14	3	1	10	243	401	-158	21	-1.64
41 Football Women's 1st	8	2	0	6	10	30	-20	25	-1.75
42 Football Men's 3rd	8	2	0	6	14	26	-12	25	-1.75
43 ICSM Hockey Women's 3rd	7	1	1	5	9	34	-25	14	-1.86
44 ICSM Netball 1st	13	2	1	10	314	497	-183	15	-2.15
45 ICSM Hockey Men's 2nd	10	2	0	8	15	18	-3	20	-2.20
46 ICSM Football Men's 2nd	5	1	0	4	7	16	-9	20	-2.20
47 Rugby Union Men's 1st	14	2	1	11	165	430	-265	14	-2.29
48 Lacrosse Men's 1st	8	1	0	7	40	114	-74	13	-2.88
49 Netball 3rd	9	1	0	8	98	318	-220	11	-3.00
50 ICSM Hockey Men's 1st	9	1	0	8	15	32	-17	11	-3.00
51 Rugby Union Men's 4th	10	1	0	9	95	421	-326	10	-3.10
52 ICSM Badminton Women's 1st	11	0	1	10	11	78	-67	0	-3.45
53 Netball 1st	9	0	0	9	187	341	-154	0	-4.00
54 ICSM Hockey Men's 3rd	5	0	0	5	0	15	-15	0	-4.00
55 Rugby Union Women's 1st	2	0	0	2	15	109	-94	0	-4.00

Crossword No. 1,427

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



ACROSS

- 1 Writer stands before king with unusually narrow cutting implement. (8)
- 5 Bar serves Indian potatoes in the outskirts of Stockton. (6)
- 9 Rock made of a sex hormone? (8)
- 10 Picking regularly from gruff offal, we laugh. (6)
- 12 Big cat is heard in boreal forest. (5)
- 14 Headless, tailless cat with debts is worried. (7)
- 16 Fish with heart of Romaine and two celery heads. I love raw meat. (9)
- 17 We hear you must be kept in reserve – charming! (5)
- 18 Met a Londoner with concealed claw. (5)
- 20 Make up-to-date fashion with stitched-up reins. (9)
- 22 Composer: ‘Long live Latin princess!’ (7)
- 23 Soldier put inside computer – it’s a trick! (5)
- 25 Historical records show Boleyn with some signs of palsy. (6)
- 26 Shout out in Swiss town for

onion. (8)

doesn’t matter. (11)

- 28 How children might amuse themselves: watch a horror film? (3-3)
- 29 Separate committee’s conclusion – peculiar. (8)

- 15 Re-enact scene twice in old age. (10)
- 19 Short book or a longer one on an American city? (7)
- 21 Walk between the two rocky peaks – he might. (7)

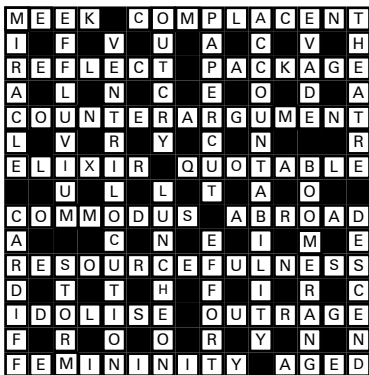
DOWN

- 1 Able to change shape, town supports coin landing on tails, unusually. (10)
- 2 A number lifted trap. (3)
- 3 Vehicle stuck in horrible rain – a state in which nothing is desired. (7)
- 4 One consumed by overweight partner-in-crime, losing the last two items in a done deal. (4,8)
- 6 Piece of plaque ousted – a sort of solution. (7)
- 7 Baffling arrangement of bug factions. (11)
- 8 Overturned team leader achieved nothing in Yorkshire. (4)
- 11 English town with a large tent somewhere in central London. (6,6)
- 13 Clean river sullied with drug. It

Congratulations to last week’s winners **Team What What**. Hope you can repeat your performance

Sam Wong

Solution to crossword 1426





Imperial swimmers reach UK finals

And they're back this weekend for a team tournament

Thomas Whitehead-Clarke

This Valentine's day whilst many were looking starry-eyed into their lovers' eyes, IC's team of elite swimmers were up in Sheffield at the national aquatic centre taking on some of the country's best swimmers.

With national champions and Olympic medallists also taking part, the standard of competition was very high indeed. The team started off well with women's and men's freestyle teams

finishing 21st and 29th respectively, giving the women's team a place in the B-final, finishing ahead of the much fancied Liverpool and Hertfordshire. The good performances kept coming with Andy Hagues finishing 16th and 24th in the 50 and 100m backstroke, as well as Benedict Steiner finishing the 50M fly in 30 seconds dead.

It was no doubt an emotional weekend for Sophie Mitchinson swimming

Continued on page 30



Cyclers crack the CliMach X trial

Kristian Jenner

For once, everything seemed to be going according to plan as we packed up the minibus in front of the Queen's Tower on Friday afternoon. We were all there, and so were our bikes, which was a nice change from the previous trip. We set off around 16:15 on our epic drive to North Wales looking forward to a weekend of riding the sweet trails round Snowdonia National Park.

As we crossed the Welsh border with Tom Jones blasting out of the speakers, the Daves kept themselves entertained by arguing about how to pronounce the Welsh place names, and who could remember the way the best. Oh, and about each other's music tastes. They like arguing.

We rolled into Dolgellau (if that's how you spell it) at an ungodly hour and had to drag the receptionist out of the pub to let us into the hostel. Yes, that's right, we slept in proper beds this time – a welcome luxury. The only other guests that weekend were a group of mates on a stag do, who kindly left us some energy drinks and porn mags in

the kitchen. We met them later that night when they came back from their night out enjoying the wild nightlife that Dolgellau has to offer (there's some great strippers according to the guestbook). They later kept us up by trying to beat the shit out of each other after a prank gone wrong, smashing a big hole in the wall. We didn't see them again.

The next day we drove down to the trail centre at Coed-y-Brenin, home of the first ever specific mountain bike trail in the UK (apparently). As it turned out we were half an hour early for breakfast, and passed the time by faffing about with our bikes. We started the ride fuelled up on bacon sandwiches from the cafe, although we didn't get very far before the first pinch flat. This was the first of around 10 punctures we had in the first couple of hours on Saturday. The best one has to be James, who managed to rip his front tyre clean off the rim while going through a compression. Despite taking down our average speed to around 5 mph, these breaks were a good opportunity to get some photos and for Doug's trousers to

mysteriously disappear.

As the day went on, we had fewer interruptions and we could really enjoy the awesome riding at Coed-y-Brenin. We were riding 'the Beast', 40 km of perfectly bermed, rocky singletrack – the reason we'd come such a long way. This trail really has it all, although it's not for the faint hearted. The smiles on our faces did start to fade a bit spinning our way up the last massive climb, only to be brought back by the awesome descent on the other side. All I remember is working my arse off trying to follow Dave T down on his shiny new bike, only to watch him endoing round one of the corners, wtf??

By the time we got back to the cafe there wasn't enough daylight left to do a whole loop more, so after a short break we went up to do the first 5 km or so of another trail, which turned out to have some sweet berms near the end. On that bombshell we decided to call it a day and headed back to the hostel.

After a nice warm (sitting-down) shower, we headed out to a pub outside

Continued on page 30

Calling all Hurlers

Finian McCann

Imperial College GAA are very pleased to announce that hurling training sessions have started. They're on every Wednesday lunchtime at 2pm in Hyde Park beside the tennis courts. We'll be more than happy to welcome any interested parties along, whether you've played before and are itching to pick up a hurl again, or are just interested in

playing the most awesome sport on the planet. Our aim this season is to promote the game and enter the Universities Seven-a-side Tournament, and hopefully to compete in more competitions next term. There's no need to worry about equipment as we've got a dozen brand-new, freshly-gripped hurls for you all to try out. For any further enquiries, feel free to email me at finian.mccann07@imperial.ac.uk.



Finnian McCann on the left and Stephen Gallagher on the right wielding their hurl