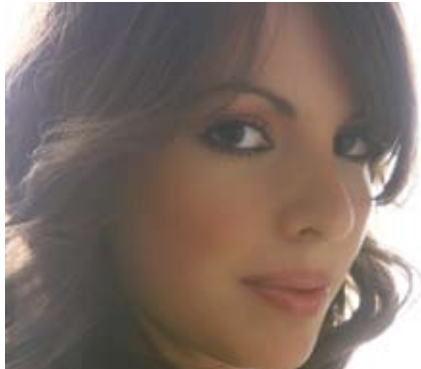


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The student 'news'paper of
Imperial College London

Guardian Student Newspaper of the Year
2006, 2008

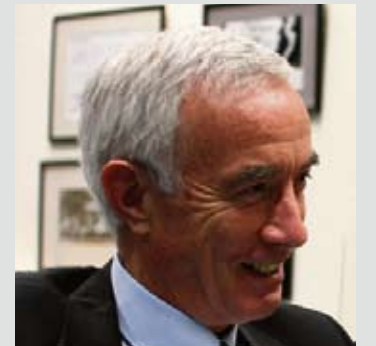
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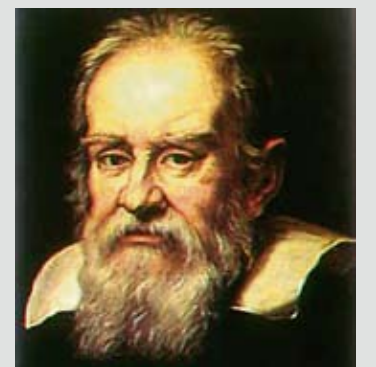
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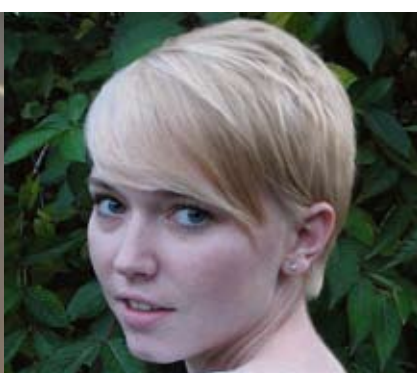
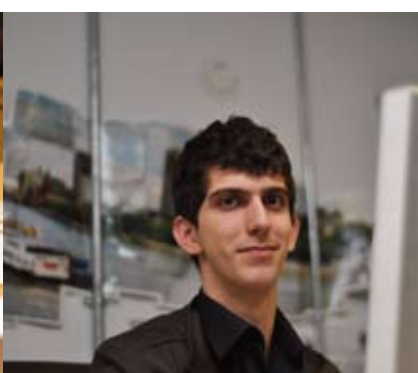
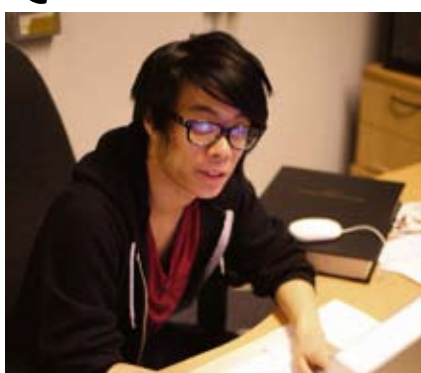
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Who will win, only you can decide



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themselves in our
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News

News Editors – **Kadhim Shubber and Dan Wan**

news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Rector seeks to increase home student's fees

**Kirsty Patterson
& Kadhim Shubber**

In a Question and Answer Session with Imperial's Rector Sir Roy Anderson, staff were told to expect to see an increase in tuition fees to double or even triple the current rate. In answer to a question from the floor the Rector described future tuition fees as being in the region of £6,000-£9,000 with Universities taking advantage of the true market, charging different amounts for different courses. He said home and EU students were a financial burden on universities, pointing out that "we lose money on these [home and EU students] and the comparison between the overseas fee and the home fee is far too wide". Overseas students currently pay £15,500 whilst home students pay £3,225.

The Rector defended the increase saying that they would have to be accompanied by an increase in the number of scholarships given to "students who come from less wealthy backgrounds". He said that Imperial would have to "find ways of supporting" less well-off students by generating a "significant body of fellowships and scholarships" like American universities.

The Rector had previously told *felix* that he expected Tuition Fees to rise but did not want to see them in excess of £10,000. Today's announcement remains in line with these figures but could see them at the top end of the £10,000 mark.

A University College Union (UCU) poll in 2008 showed that 55% of British adults wanted a university system that was completely free but the Rector's comments come at a time of financial uncertainty for Imperial as it has just lost out on £15m of state research funding as reported on the opposite page.



Imperial Rector, Sir Roy Anderson believes tuition fees should be raised to between £6,000 and £9,000

- ◆ **£3,225:** current cost of tuition fees for home students
- ◆ **£6,000-£9,000:** possible fees for home students after increase

Imperial's previous Rector, who was one of the biggest advocates of £15,000 tuition fees at their conception, backed down on the issue in 2006 telling students attending a Question and Answer Session in the Union Dining Hall in Beit Quad that he would not want to see tuition fees in excess of £5,000.

The Question and Answer session with Sir Roy took place in the Great

Hall with overflow space in the Pip-pard Lecture Theatre. The event was streamed live online by College Communications with a Podcast available sometime tomorrow morning. Imperial student news website Live! has been assured that the questions and answers won't be edited from the Podcast. A video of the event can be found at <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/rector/yourquestions>

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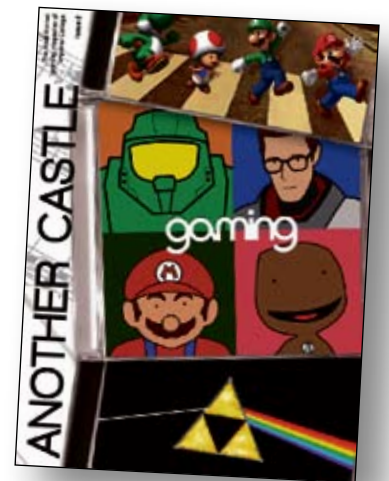
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LOLEATZ



OF THE WEEK

Imperial receives funding cut

Dina Ismail
News Correspondent

Imperial College is facing substantial cuts this year after losing out in the allocation of £1.6bn of state research funding in favour of lower ranking universities. It is one of many members of the Russell Group of leading universities to be allocated below-inflation increases in the coming year's grant for research and teaching.

The financial allocations reflect in part the results of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), which measured the quality of academic research at all universities. These quality profiles were used by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to allocate its £8bn budget for 2009-10. Although the budget has gone up by 4% since last year Imperial will not be seeing the benefits of this increase as more money has been redirected to former polytechnics and smaller universities that have shown strong performance in research fields. A winner in this grant redistribution is Wolverhampton University, where research funding will rise from £138,000 a year to £2.4m. Among its world-leading research identified by the RAE were linguistics and library management.

Imperial has not been the worst affected by the cuts as the proportion of research funding protected for science stands at just under £1bn. Nevertheless it will still be hard hit, as poten-

tially losing out on £15m of funding may have knock on effects on current research being carried out and may translate into job cuts in certain departments. Imperial's Rector Sir Roy Anderson said: "At a time when the UK is looking to its science, technology and medicine powerhouses for ideas and innovations to help lead the economic recovery, it can't have been intended that we could be reducing the share of research funds to institutions which have demonstrated sustained excellence across successive research assessments."

"It is surprising that Imperial College London, ranked top of all UK institutions for its proportion of research, judged world-leading or internationally excellent, should suffer a real decline in its allocation of research funding."

Critics have warned that this year's arrangement will spread cash too thinly and starve the best universities of resources needed to remain internationally competitive and attract pioneers in their field. The think tank Policy Exchange has criticised how funds have been allocated calling it a "squeamish-

ness about supporting an academic elite." Further criticism has been voiced as in addition to the significant funding increases, a further £400m will be spent on former polytechnics to help recruit and retain students from disadvantaged backgrounds. This is despite a report last month, which said the number of deprived teenagers going to university has hardly increased between 2001 and 2007 despite £400m already having been spent. The cash for such a scheme has been allocated at a time when the country's best universities are contending with financial setbacks to their research departments.

Conservative Shadow Secretary David Willetts attacked the government's funding strategy saying, "The cut in funding for some of our leading institutions is a mess of ministers' own making...it is a great pity that our world-class institutions like Imperial and the LSE have lost out, especially when we need them so badly at tough times like this."

The disagreement over slashing of government funding for elite institutions and its redistribution to the less highly regarded former polytechnics underlines the 'class war' between universities. Supporters say the academic caliber of former polytechnics has long been underrated and reform of an elitist system is long overdue. The effect, if any, of spreading funding to more universities, rather than backing the best institutions will no doubt become quickly apparent.

- **£15m in lost funding**
- **£2m gain for Wolverhampton**



Shadow Secretary David Willetts has called the cut "a mess"

Bloody violence at student favourite House of Coffees

Tom Roberts
& **Kadhim Shubber**

Popular Imperial College student haunt, House of Coffees (also known as Caffè Forum), on Gloucester Road was the scene of a bloody altercation on Tuesday night which resulted in the arrests of two men and left another man requiring medical attention for a head injury.

At approximately 6:20pm, an argument erupted in the street between two men, thought to be of Eastern European descent, and a Lebanese man who was with a Pakistani friend.

The argument moved indoors when the Lebanese man was followed into the coffee house and challenged by one of the Eastern European men.

The exchange became more and more heated, with spitting and swearing, despite the efforts of staff to calm the situation. The Eastern European men continued acting aggressively and the Asian men both picked up chairs in

a bid to defend themselves, according to witnesses.

The severity of the fracas escalated violently when the Lebanese man hit one of the Europeans over the head with a chair. One young customer on the periphery of the incident suffered a minor injury to her head when the raised chair smashed into an overhanging chandelier causing shards of glass to rain down.

Despite a prolonged period immobile on the floor and a very bloody wound to his forehead, the injured man refused to wait for the ambulance to arrive.

Both European men soon left the café only to be caught by the emergency services less than 30 minutes later. One of the pair was arrested in the street, whilst the injured man was stopped near Tesco before being taken to hospital.

Meanwhile, both Asian men remained at the scene. Shortly after the police arrived the Lebanese man re-

sponsible for causing the injury was arrested on grounds of assault. Police cordoned off the coffee house before taking statements from witnesses.

The cause of the quarrel was unclear, although it's thought that the two European men were both drunk, walking along Gloucester Road when they encountered the Asian men outside of the café, before following them inside.

House of Coffees is a favourite local café amongst Imperial College students, renowned for its student-friendly prices and late opening times. The fight flared up, out of the blue and came as a shock to everyone in the café, especially having happened so early during the evening.

Currently it's unknown whether either of the men arrested have been charged, or how serious the Eastern European man's head injury turned out to be. For the owners of House of Coffee, however, hopefully this was a freak occurrence and it's business as usual from now on.

Imperial minds the gap with Transport Research Centre



Dan Wan
News Editor

Imperial College will jointly head up a national research centre for UK Transport. Alongside the University of Leeds and University College London, the UK Transport Research Centre (UKTR) will utilise the College's Centre of Transport Studies; a section of the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

The £7.75 million research project was unveiled as Lord Andrew Adonis, Minister of State for Transport, visited Imperial for a seminar on biofuel technology by Imperial's Energy Futures Lab and Porter Institute.

"We are committed to delivering a first class sustainable transport system in this country – but to do this we need a first class evidence base. The research coming out of this Centre will be instrumental in ensuring Britain is at the forefront of new sustainable transport developments," he stated.

Director of the CTS, Professor John Polak stressed the importance of nationwide collaboration to push forward the UK's transport systems.

"The UKTRC will formalise the already strong relationship we have with our colleagues at Leeds and UCL, and more widely throughout the transport research community. It will also provide new funds, an administrative

infrastructure, and an academic focal point for transport research in this country. Imperial is set to benefit by being at the very hub of all this activity," he said.

It is not just the three aforementioned university research centres that are involved, however. One of the first projects to get underway involves Imperial's CTS team working with the London School of Economics. They are to start studying projected consequences for London's major transport projects, including the 2017 Essex to Maidenhead Crossrail plans.

The UKTRC will be funded by a combination of the Department for Transport, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and the Scottish Government. What this means for Imperial is that new employment opportunities are soon to arrive specialising transport studies. The creation of a new administrative workforce is to be installed, as well academic positions PhD and post doctorate to be available.

Sir Roy Anderson, Rector at Imperial, was naturally keen to have Imperial contributing to national research on such a large scale.

"It was a pleasure to welcome Lord Adonis to Imperial for a visit which underlines the importance of science and technology in research intensive universities to maintaining the UK's competitive edge."



From left: Staff at House of Coffee mopping up blood on the floor, the Pakistani man (left) and the Lebanese man speaking to police after the incident and the scene outside the cafe after police cordoned it off

The world beyond college walls



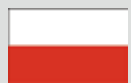
Sudan

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir.

It has accused the leader of committing crimes against humanity and war crimes in war-torn Darfur, where more than 300,000 people have lost their lives over the past 6 years. The arrest warrant follows on from the indictment – a formal accusation of committing a crime – of Bashir in July 2008 which caused a stir as it was the first time a sitting heading of state had been indicted.

In its arrest warrant the ICC refrained from pressing charges of genocide due to insufficient evidence, but said that it would not hesitate to do so should more evidence emerge. All 108 governments who have ratified the ICC statutes are now obliged to try and bring the defiant Mr Bashir to justice.

Whether this arrest warrant is a triumph for justice or will bring further violence to Sudan remains uncertain. Earlier this week however, UN peacekeepers in Darfur were ambushed, and four were seriously injured by local militia.



Poland

President Lech Kaczynski has warned the US Obama administration of not fulfilling its missile shield obligations to Poland outlined in a bilateral agreement signed last summer.

In a television interview Kaczynski said, "A deal was signed, and I think regardless of which administration is in power in the US, agreements have to be implemented." The comments come amid recent reports that Obama has offered to suspend plans for a US missile defence shield in Eastern Europe, in order to improve relations with Russia.

The whole missile-defence system consisted of 10 missile interceptor bases in Poland and a radar station in the Czech Republic, and was designed to counter threats from "rouge states," becoming fully operational by 2012. In return the US would help upgrade Poland and the Czech Republic's armed forces.

The proposed system had received support from NATO, which Poland is a member of, and Poland sees the system as extremely important for its security. But other ex-Soviet states are not so supportive of the idea and there are fears the plan has already stoked up an arms race and contributed to a new cold war.



China

Chinese authorities tightened security and restricted all tourism in Tibet, as the Dalai Lama lashed out at his oppressors, ahead of the 50th anniversary of the Chinese crackdown on Tibet.

This time of the year always has the police in eastern city of Lhasa feeling edgy, but this year is particularly important. It is 50 years since the Chinese crushed the Tibetan rebellion, forcing the Dalai Lama into exile; 20 years since protests which led to the imposition of martial law; and one year since the deadly protests which brought about a backlash by security forces in the run up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

For all the talk on the Tibetan side, and all the threats from Beijing, the 10th of March, the day of the 50th anniversary, went by without much incident. But supporters of the Tibetan cause are getting increasingly frustrated at the lack of concessions from China, and the so far ineffective tactics of the Dalai Lama.



Edited by Hassan Joudi & Raphael Houdmont

Engineering libraries to be shut down by August



Kadhim Shubber
Deputy Editor

The four remaining Engineering Departmental Libraries are to be closed from the 1st of August this year in plans to concentrate services in the Central Library.

In an email to the Union, Deborah Shorley (Director of Library Services) said that "The role of Engineering Departments Libraries has diminished and they are no longer well used" due to the increasing use of electronic resources and the "improved facilities for students in the Central Library".

The closures come at a time of increasing budget cuts around campus including a 5% reduction in the Union's annual subvention (the money given to Imperial College Union by the College). In this environment, "maintaining a [library] service in each of them [Engineering Departments] does not represent a good use of College resources".

Job losses as a result of these changes are being minimised with efforts being made to redeploy library staff else-

where in the College. However the only jobs being guaranteed are Engineering Liaison Librarians who will see no change to their responsibilities.

City and Guilds College Union (CGCU) President Mark Mearing-Smith was confident that the changes wouldn't impact students negatively saying "This is a change that could be done smoothly and efficiently with a benefit to students and my successor will be working over the summer to ensure that this is the case". Deputy President Education and Welfare (DPEW) Hannah Theodorou was similarly calm about the closures saying "While it is a disappointment to see the libraries close, I can understand the reasons behind the decision and I believe that the library will work closely with the Faculty to ensure the Departments affected are able to continue providing the all the required resources through the College's central library".

Concerns were raised by both relating to the continued use of the libraries as useful study spaces. In addition the CGCU President was keen to stress that the collections and books in the

Departmental Libraries must remain accessible saying "We need to make sure that the books and collections housed in the Departmental Libraries aren't moved into storage and continue to be available to students in the Central Library".

However the College has made no guarantee that all the books and collections will be moved to the Central Library saying only that "Decisions about what should happen to Department Library collections will be made jointly by the Library and the Department, taking into account the security of the collections and long term access".

There is opposition to the planned closures. A petition has been started by Senior Lecturer Dr J R Standing from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. In an email to the Civil Engineering (CivEng) Department he says "Many of us are really enraged by the idea - especially as it seems there was no consultation about it".

The petition has already been signed by the Head of CivEng Department and will be available to sign in the CivEng library until 2pm this afternoon.

Another day, another accolade for Imperial College

Dan Wan
News Editor

Imperial College has officially become the first Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC) in the UK this week. An AHSC is a formally recognized partnership between a university and healthcare provider.

This acknowledgement comes only 18 months after Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust and St. Mary's NHS Trust merged under the Imperial College name in October 2007.

After six months of close scrutiny by the Department of Health, Imperial College London Faculty of Medicine and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust are awarded the first British AHSC designation.

Professor Stephen Smith is both Chief Executive of Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and Principal of the Faculty of Medicine at Imperial College London. He feels the joint governance over Faculty of Medicine and the Healthcare NHS Trust has

had immediate impact on now "world class" biomedical research, education and patient care.

"We have passionately believed in this approach for a long time and today's announcement confirms our vision for the AHSC which is already bringing great benefit to patients.

"During our first 18 months as an AHSC, we have achieved the lowest standardised mortality rates in the country of any multispecialty NHS Trust, developed and introduced a new test that can diagnose TB more accurately than ever before and pioneered the use of robotic technology to treat complex aneurysms, previously considered too high risk to operate on. The benefits for patients could not be clearer."

We are delighted to be recognised as an AHSC. This approach is recognised internationally as delivering better healthcare outcomes and it is excellent news for local people and the UK as a whole that it has been adopted here." Lord Tugendhat, Chairman of Impe-

rial College Healthcare NHS Trust said of the newly formed AHSC. Similar AHSC models bringing education and healthcare provision under one source of control have proven to be highly effective in countries including the USA, Canada and Singapore.

Sir Roy Anderson summed up the AHSC as a great step for Imperial College's ever-developing academic reputation and medical provision: "I'm delighted that our AHSC partnership has been formally recognised by our international peers for the world-class quality of its research, education and patient care. Winning formal AHSC status is testament to the leadership and vision of our principal and chief executive, Professor Stephen Smith, and the determination and passion of so many people across the AHSC who have worked hard to turn this vision into a reality. We can be proud of our successes achieved in the first 18 months, and look forward to making many more advances in healthcare that will directly benefit our patients."



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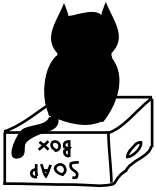
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Will the social life at Imperial die out?

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

So Sir Roy Anderson says that he wants UK students to pay two or three times the current rate for their education. Personally, I don't see the problem with that as there are now thousands of students leaving universities with degrees that aren't worth the paper they're written on and are struggling to find jobs. Many of them simply took the university route because it meant not working for another three to four years and now that decision has come back to bite them. Maybe the increase in tuition fees will make only those who are serious about their degree do them in the first place.

In my time, I have already seen an increase in tuition fees and have seen people argue the points for and against having them increased in the first place. I must admit though, that it was Mustapher Botchway, the sports editor, who pointed this out to me, but with the increase in tuition fees there has also been a shift in social behaviour. Let's face it, compared to the other universities in London, we are the ones who are seen as the geeks.

When he told me of his little hypothesis, I had a good look back at my four and a bit years here at Imperial and to my surprise, he was right. In our first year we were always busy doing something, either going out to clubs or just down to the pub for a few quiet drinks, we were always doing something. One night that was a compulsory one for

us, was a Wednesday night in the Union with the rest of the sports teams. Back then, if you didn't come out on a Wednesday, it was frowned upon and as a result Wednesday nights were always busy, even dB's, at 7pm. Since then, there has been a steady decline in the number of people attending, now whereas some might blame the quality of the nights put on, Mustapher blames the rise in tuition fees.

The logic behind it is a simple one; because students now have to pay up to £12,000 for a degree compared to £4,000 when I started, they constantly feel that they need to get their money's worth and not waste it away in the bars and clubs of London. Students are feeling that if they are going to spend £12,000 on an education, they can't afford to waste their time and end up with a 2:2 that won't really get them past the online application stage. I have seen this mentality first hand, as living in halls has exposed the mentality of our first year students, and the conclusion is a simple one; they are scared of getting a bad grade and as a result, they constantly seem to be working and as a result, they are less tempted to venture into the great nightlife that London has to offer. Relax everyone, it's your first year, this is meant to be the one that you enjoy and have a good time!!

With our already appalling reputation for social life at Imperial, my question is will an increase in tuition fees see the social life at Imperial die out?

Luke Dhanoa: In defense of "liberal western values"

Last week there was an opinion expressed by Abdul Hanan expressed that the government was employing "tyrannical tactics" "aimed at blurring and eventually wiping out Islamic identity, values and thought." And it sounded awful that our evil oppressive society was pushing a minority around. But after doing some research it's obvious that there are some pretty big points that need looking at.

Essentially what's happened is that some people in Whitehall have put together a draft proposal to ban certain behaviour being promoted in government funded Muslim institutions, so if your Mosque takes government funds you're not allowed to do certain things. And from the backlash on the internet it seems that there are four big "Muslim" opinions that the state has "no right" to ask for changes in. And as usual both sides are being absurd.

The first Big Thing is that the government finds it wrong for Muslims to call for a Caliphate (a big worldwide state where everyone is Muslim and governed by Shariah law) and the idea is that if Muslims don't want a Caliphate then they won't turn to armed struggle. This is patently gibberish. Muslims should have the same freedom to express a utopian view as everyone else – so long as they respect everyone else's right to do so. Muslims should have as much right to call for a Caliphate as I have to call for a world in which Islam is no longer practiced; everyone is a humanist and the writings of religion sit on par with fairy

tales. Free speech flows both ways, if individuals accept that, then there is no reason they should not be allowed to say what they want.

The belief in jihad, or armed resistance, is also an issue and the government paper points out that government funded institutions shouldn't call for the armed destruction of its political allies. Of course the government has taken this too far and said that calling for armed resistance by Palestinians against the Israeli military is unacceptable behaviour from a government funded body. This is insane. Muslims in Palestine have just as much right to armed defence as the Jews across the border do. If someone fires rockets at Israel then Israel has every right to fight back. If Israel randomly attacks Palestine, then the Palestinians have every right to fight back. Everyone who has ever grown up in a playground understands this.

The third big issue is the call from some Muslims for Shariah law. And here the government is right. There is no reason that belief in a certain religion should grant you different legal rights. There is absolutely no case for having two parallel legal systems within an equal society. We are all equal individuals of the same nation and we should all be governed by the same set of laws, and if we want to change those laws, our democratic system provides us with a means to do so. Having two legal systems only accomplishes the creation of second class citizens.

Finally the government proposal would mean that state funded Muslim

institutions could no longer declare homosexuality to be a sin and call for it to be banned. And while it feels very draconian, it's the right thing to do. In exactly the same way that believing in God from a certain perspective doesn't suddenly give you different legal rights, being religious doesn't magically give you the privilege of robbing other people of their civil rights. If religious (the paper would have to apply to all religions) groups want to call for the banning of homosexuality while being publically funded then I should be allowed to get public funding to aid me in calling for the banning of religion. That's fair. Until I can get my funding, other people shouldn't get theirs. There is nothing wrong with being gay. Homosexuality occurs widely in nature. Homosexuals and heterosexuals should have equal same rights in our society. And if you don't like the idea of equal rights, then I'm afraid you're a member of the wrong society.

And before I duck away from the inevitable tide of angry that's coming my way, I just want to say: growing up I (a Sikh) had to sing Christian hymns at school. It did me, nor my religion any harm.

And if kids really don't want to sing, they can just keep their mouths closed. Singing Christian hymns makes a person no more a Christian than eating halal food makes someone Muslim. Shahadah (love of Allah), Prayer, Zakat (charity), Sawm (fasting) and the Hajj (pilgrimage) make someone a follower of the Prophet, not refusal to accept others way of life.

Tim Harford-Cross can solve Imperial's poor student satisfaction rating



"If we fancy improving our satisfaction maybe we should get off our arses"



Imperial College is notorious for being full of grumpy, depressed and downright fucked off students - so much so that they ban going up Queen's Tower (except in RAG week) so you don't throw yourself off! Our student satisfaction rating in The Times Good University Guide 1 2009 is 38th out of 113, even though we're 3rd best overall. According to Unistats2 2008, the Aero department rank themselves a self-deprecating 22nd out of 26. (Possibly understandable if you associate with Chris O!). So why the long face? It might be just 'grass is greener' syndrome, but is there more a deep rooted hatred that is spawned by being a cog in the Imperial machine?

Let's have a look at the Times League Tables first. Oddly, Imperial spending 11% more on us than the next best

University doesn't mean a jot. Maybe if more was spent on departmental funding and less on ludicrously slow revolving doors, oversized pictures of the Rector's brain and blue tiled buildings maybe we wouldn't be a big bunch of whingers, probably not though.

We award a relatively low amount of 'good' honours (26/113), although we do have the best graduate prospects. This should fill us with a wondrous feeling of self satisfaction that after all the pain comes a pot of gold. But then again, who likes the Sergeant Major who makes you run harder, faster, for longer than anyone is the whole bloody army only at the very end to say, no, you're still a mangy maggot who is worthless.

Definitely some things to think about there but let's see another company's statistics, Push.co.uk3 give some of

the more social based statistics for universities.

Maybe the impetuosity of our youthful college (in terms of mature students we are 137/138) striving to change the world for the better combined with the sudden knock-back of hard work destroys our hopes and dreams. This is encapsulated by the institution that dashed the boats that are our minds which believed that I, Imperial student would excel and become the next De La Beche/Brunel/Darwin or Pasteur (delete where applicable) against the rocks of the reality that 8000 people cannot all be great.

I'm sure the extreme right wing society would argue that it's the 39% of international students stealing our satisfaction with their Queensgate residences and they being used to the humidity level in the library leading to

them always doing better in exams is the root of the dissatisfaction.

And with even less doubt I think that the extreme left wing society would counter by saying it is the unnaturally low level of state school students (6th lowest) and treatment of the ethnic societies (cue the Islamic society being exiled to Queen's Lawn) strikes a feeling of an elitist police state, driven by the capitalised institutions who break our morale and force the good hard working people of this college into a uniform number-crunching efficient machine, that live in a pseudo-free society, where life is not chosen but directed by an authoritarian leader who's whims and personal preferences are law only superseded by decisions that lead to greater profit, defeat the natural sense of satisfaction one gets from achievement.

But if we remove the extremists, the pessimists, the optimists, the young, the old, the capitalists, the socialists and all heirs to the throne, we should end up with a beautifully average person who is happily content yet for some reason their immensely pissed off. Can we blame college though? I think not; we chose to come here. We knew that Roehampton(24:76) had a male: female ratio destroying our pitiful 64:36 and Leeds Met average rent was less than half ours (£52 rather than £111).

So if we fancy improving our satisfaction maybe we should get off our arses and enjoy the surfeit of theatres, cinemas, bars, restaurants and celebrities that only Central London has to offer and our political, international, sports, social and departmental clubs that have some of the best facilities in the land.

The debate on drugs continues

Where do we draw the line?



Two weeks ago Edward Townes made a very resonant point; that the state should not be allowed to interfere with the free will of an individual, particularly if their interference is the criminalisation of a victimless 'crime'. This is, essentially, a definition of freedom.

However, one has to consider exactly what one's free will is, particularly while suffering from a drug dependency. Obviously, it is usually very much one's own desire whether or not to smoke cannabis and as such the laws (and more importantly the enforcement) concerning this drug are reasonably light. My opinion would see this, or even full legalisation, extended to drugs that can be broadly characterised by very low heavy dependency rates, even if they are Class A (take ecstasy as an example). Legalisation campaigners often invoke the figure of 1.5mil US drugs arrest per year – DoJ figures show that this re-classification would reduce that by at least 900 000. And notably these are the drugs (with the exception of cocaine) that are usually associated with 'inert' users – those who would not otherwise be criminalised.

I do find it a lot harder to argue that

someone with a methamphetamine, cocaine or heroin dependency is truly making a voluntary decision every time they take the drug. If they were then why is it infamously hard to quit?

Of course the same argument could be applied to alcoholism, however this fails to account for the comparatively massive exposure to alcohol that it takes to become addicted, or appreciate the nihilist fallacy of the argument that our society has tolerated one ill for so long, we may as well legalise anything similar.

My cousin (who attended a prominent public school) ODeD on heroin. He was found lying unconscious on his side, in a pool of his own vomit and with the needle still in his arm, by his mother. Once taken to hospital, his parents were told that he was expected to die.

He is now out of his coma, but 12 months later he still cannot come to terms with what he has done and convinces himself that he was in a car crash. At 28 he is now entirely dependent on his parents and his doctors expect this to be the case for the 'next couple of years'. Fortunately his parents are in a position to support him both financially and emotionally, however I am sure that there are many with simi-

lar stories, but without this luxury.

Following Edward's argument I do not see how his ideas would have prevented this. Apparently my cousin didn't take bad stuff, he just took too much – a problem that will recur whatever instructions come on the label and unless you intend to oversee the taking of all drugs legally sold. This is not particularly feasible with drugs like meth or coke, or with the atmosphere under which most people use them. So oversight not only threatens the 'freedom' argument, but it will again generate a black market; one which licensed companies are going to be under immense pressure not to supply (wittingly or otherwise), thus bypassing the regulation of quality.

So not only is it almost certain that pushers and their supply networks will remain in this country (albeit on a reduced scale), but I doubt that the cartels and many parties interested in the global supply of narcotics will give up because some of the rich world legalises. Ironically, the more successful legalisation is in the West, the less of an interest to western governments the global narcotics networks will be, in short cutting support from the greatest suppliers of funding, equipment and training to combat narcotics.

In search of new revenue sources the cartels would undoubtedly focus on sales in poorer states, those less well equipped to combat either the power of the cartels (as Edward points out, both political and paramilitary) but also the social and rehabilitation costs of a growing drugs market. While many poor nations already have severe problems of this kind, I maintain that the cartels will increase their focus on these and other nations – ultimately wherever they think they will be most successful.

The reply to this is that the west should maintain funding levels and increase co-operation with these states as the problem spreads – but aside from the truly unmanageable logistics and diplomacy of any such operation, it seems that it would violate one of the key motivators for legalisation, in that any effective policy would at some point violate sovereignty of some if not many of the states at which aid was targeted.

The 'war on drugs' is bloody, but it is a war. The Economist this week quotes the blood-spill this year in Mexico as a reason to legalise, but a matter of months ago the same magazine was explaining that President Calderon is engaging in a 'push' to finally cripple

the Mexican cartels. It would be naive to think that this would not be bloody, or that there would be risk to the state itself as reflected in the opinions of many think tanks. However, western legalisation or not, the destruction of the cartels will still have to be undertaken.

In short, while I recognise that there are serious arguments for the legalisation of narcotics, the nature of the supply network would require any action to be global in scale and this itself brings about a maze of enforcement issues. Full legalisation would perhaps have been an argument before the problem became so global ('opium wars' bring perspective as to how far back we would have to look), but it does little to address a paramilitary supply network already in place.

The sad truth is that while I do not see many of the evils associated with it successfully being combated in the next couple of decades, at the moment much of the sales market is focussed in the countries who seem most able to deal with such an international and resource draining crime.

The author is anonymous due to sensitive content in the article

Gilead Amit discusses Vikings, violins and violation



"Would it have killed you to at least give my 923 words last week a once-over, or even a skim? Oy!"



One of the unparalleled pleasures of adulthood, which almost makes the whole tiresome business of growing up worthwhile, is the conquering of language. For those of you reading this, adults and precocious toddlers alike, my words cannot withhold their secrets. Your steely eyes can force even the most labyrinthine of my sentences to give up their hidden treasures, in the same way as marauding Vikings were wont to do to Anglo-Saxon monasteries.

If there is something we want to say, we have all 26 letters and 15 formal punctuation marks of the common QWERTY keyboard with which to say it. We can use the full panoply of verb tenses, cases of the infinitive, subjective and conjunctivitis, use the full palette of iambs, trochees, terabachs and anapaests, all the while indulging in as many variations of rhyme patterns as our hearts desire.

We can all communicate whenever and wherever we want to, at whichever level we choose. The horrific image of losing the ability to interact with the outside world is now for the most part

relegated to the world of nightmares, along with neverending staircases, deformed arachnids and, in my case, large bears replacing the regular buses driving down Baker Street.

This is, of course, true for those of us who are fluent in a particular language. While my English may well be good enough for me to occasionally understand the things I write myself, the weaknesses of my other tongues are a source of constant frustration. My grandparents and older sisters have long grown accustomed to my peculiar fondness for the wrong adjectival endings and complete ignorance of grade school conjugation. My nieces, however, in the golden-hearted innocence of childhood, are less tolerant. My eldest niece has just turned 12 and so has been able to speak more coherently than I for most of the past decade.

To give her credit, when she realized my imperfections she recovered from the blow fairly well. Though her mother has doubtless taken her aside and gently explained why Uncle Gilead talks like he was dropped on his head as a baby, my niece's disbelief still occa-

sionally bubbles to the surface. Forming sentences that contain the requisite subject:object ratio is difficult enough without watching a 12-year old roll her eyes as she attempts to hide the smile on her face. Nor is the sidelong pitying glance much of a morale-booster. My one consolation with this branch of the family is that I completely crushed her 3-year old brother at a game of Scrabble the last time we played.

It is this sort of inferiority that always strikes me whenever I am confronted with a musical instrument or a sheet of paper with staves on. It is irritating and humiliating for an adult to find himself unable to communicate in one medium with the fluency he is accustomed to in another. This, by the way, serves as the lead-in for those of you who had better things to do last week than pick up a copy of *felix* and give my 923 words the once-over. It would have killed you to at least skim it? Oy!

When faced with the shining ivories of a keyboard, for instance, I can come close to understanding the rapine thoughts of those Vikings of paragraph 1. 'Olaf see something beautiful. Olaf

not able to have it. Only way for Olaf to truly own is to destroy.' Hence why every short-lived keyboard session of mine has always ended with violent ten-fingered thundering – the last attempt of a desperate man to produce something beautiful from an object he is too uncivilized to truly possess.

By far the most beautiful and inaccessible instrument for me, however, has always been the violin. I don't know whether it is my Jewish cultural heritage or an unusual (perhaps even a usual?) preference, but the sounds of the violin resonate more powerfully within me than those of any other instrument. If I hear the sound of a fiddle, whether it be of a young child practicing at home as I walk down the street or a busker at my local tube stop, I will automatically stop to listen.

This is why, gentle readers, to cut through this most turgid of suspenses and let the strangled cat out of the bag, I have decided to take up the violin. It may be foolhardy to announce this in public, as my stamina could give up soon and leave me with slowly cooking egg on my sizzling red face, but I believe I can do it.

I'm glad that I at least have this modicum of self-confidence or I would never even have had the courage to rent an instrument or contact a teacher. Even now, walking around college with the distinctively-shaped blue case I feel like I am somehow cheating. As though I don't belong in the world of music and should stop faking my membership. If a real musician were to come over to me and shake his head in disappointment, I would not think twice before handing over my violin and running behind the building to cry.

My short journeys from the locker where I store my instrument to the crowded music rooms are made by passing through as many shadows as possible and by employing the most deserted routes I know.

If you should knock on the door of one of the aforementioned music rooms and hear the yelp of a dying animal, the odds are 50-50 that it will be me, and not my violin. And if you should walk in, you will find me cowering behind the chair in the hope you won't register a complaint about how someone like me got inside.

Kadhim Shubber desperately needs a reply. Now!



"Turns out that there's a reason why people don't write letters. My epistolary crusade has ended in heartbreak"



A close friend of mine is afflicted with a disease; he caught it in South-East Asia. It's not life-threatening but I'm quite concerned that it might destroy his bank account. It's an affliction shared by Travel Editor Dylan Lowe and no doubt a great deal of students at Imperial. It is in fact fairly common: this disease is the need to throw oneself out of the aeroplane of comfortable living and out into the great blue unknown of the world (usually landing safely with the help of a parental parachute).

I confess that I too suffer from this disease (thankfully I didn't need to piss into a cup at the Union to find out) but it isn't the thrill of experiencing a new food or seeing a new sunset that draws me. Glaciers are less impressive than the gems that humanity tosses up and temples and shrines offer less spiritual comfort than the joy of instantly connecting with a person that has no knowledge of what you did in the last hour – never mind the 19 years of social baggage that burdens you.

So I travel to meet people. I imagine that I would still meet new people at home if instead of pioneering flight (and by a tenuous link sparking a debate in the *felix* Comment section about Ryanair) the Wright Brothers had decided to direct their efforts towards the electric toothbrush but there's a distinct and important difference.

There's an understanding between two people who meet while travelling that their time together will be brief. It's not a horror that is considered directly and explicitly addressed but subconsciously because each passing moment ticks down the clock, each moment also becomes precious. You mentally rush towards each other; exposing your secrets in a completely unreasonable spring clean of your emotions, learning more about each other than you even knew about yourself and no matter how exciting or exhilarating the activities on offer, you know guiltily that you'd be just as satisfied to see no more than the four walls of the inside of a bar with your new friend.

Inevitably the dreaded day of departure arrives and the question hangs over the platitudes of the goodbyes: Will we really make an effort to stay in touch? Our everyday lives can easily hijack any idealistic efforts to maintain that special intense holiday bond when it loses its intensity (not to mention its 'holidayness') and becomes no more special than a few sentences typed mindlessly into facebook. Indeed, is the short lifespan of the friendship what makes it so sweet?

In an attempt to deny the previous accusation I have tried to maintain a meaningful contact with a Texas girl that I met during my trip to Washington for Obama's Inauguration. I have taken inspiration from the Amish and rejected modern instant communication. Why give any thought to a facebook message or email when you can correct, delete and review and if necessary send more messages instantly at no cost? The words and sentences are cheapened by their ease.

So I have shunned the instant gravitation of facebook and instead opted for the slow, thoughtful restraint of the letter; leave the alcopops at the door, I'll wait for the mulled wine to finish simmering because, the handwritten letter I declare will preserve short-lived flash in the pan friendships. That you know nothing of your letter's progress and less so of the letter winging its way to you increases the anticipation and the importance of the correspondence, while on holiday the shortness of time added value, now the slow passing of days without mail gives the connection importance. If nothing else, the great length of time that it takes to receive and write a letter, will give me longer before I run out of things to say.

Turns out that there's a reason why people don't write letters anymore. My idealistic epistolary crusade has ended in heartbreak. At first, all seemed well. I didn't use your average everyday lined paper, I sought out some special letter writing paper. I positively skipped to the post office at Gloucester Road and with a beaming smile I carefully placed it into the red box. And I waited... and I waited... for four weeks... And then hurrah! There in the mail to my apart-

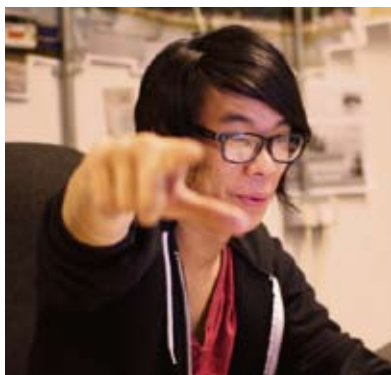
ment building, a hand-written letter from San Antonio, Texas. A victory over facebook, email and the best efforts of modern technology to keep us instantly connected. And with the glory of my success behind me, I wrote a reply (I even used an ink pen, no, no a biro would not do!).

It's true that pride comes before a fall – I have not yet received a reply. Each morning I dare a glance at the mailbox but each morning I am sorely disappointed. I've considered throwing my hands up and surrendering with a grovelling instant message inquiring "did you get my letter?" but I still convince myself that if I wait one more day, I'll find some literary gold lying on my doorstep.

I don't like to say it, but it might be more likely that only one of us was keen to keep in touch. Perhaps memory is enough for my fellow traveller and just perhaps some people have better things to do than write to randomers from London.

All I want to know is, is it too desperate to send another letter?

Dan Wan gets held up by a convincing tramp



"This man could have convinced Darwin to set fire to the *Origin of Species* and eat the charred remains for dinner."



As ever, my daily packet of energy gained from my daily Library Café baked potato was in danger of running out this one Friday afternoon. This packet of energy, not entirely supported by a mediocre four hours of sleep the night before, would hopefully be enough to sustain the thankfully repetitive forward movements of my legs back home. It had been one of those weeks where my time was divided between labs, lab reports, dissertations, and extremely slight slivers of sleep.

Not in the mood for niceties or any sort of visual emotion, I was nothing more than skin sack full of lazily-functioning organs as I walked through the masses of white-collared workers.

Then, amongst the suits, a homeless man stopped me in my tracks and asked those ever-awkward words: "Big Issue, mate?" I was thrust into a split-second moral dilemma; I should actually buy it to help the guy out that

tiny bit. However, you naturally question what's actually beyond the front cover adorning Katy Perry. Is it going to be of any interest to you, or are you just wasting money you, quite frankly, need. But is it actually wasting money if it's contributing to a good deed? Mental panic ensues, and you hesitate slightly as more of these questions soar through your mind. Normally this hesitation just makes the entire situation even more awkward when you finally summon the words "no thanks" from your porridge of a brain.

The Big Issue seller pounced on my hesitation instead and went onto question why I wasn't willing to buy The Big Issue. He worked the sympathy vote with his personal sob story, and he did well to pull on the strings of my heart that was otherwise barely beating itself at this stage of my tiresome day.

With instant unconsciousness seeming ever-appealing I was still not entirely comfortable with this unusual and abrasive method of selling me a copy

of the Big Issue. However, there was something that compelled me about this man worryingly dressed in a coat and hat not too dissimilar to mine. He seemed incredibly intelligent, and had the ability to reply to my tired slurring instantly and even convincingly.

This man could have convinced Darwin that evolution was wrong. I mean, he could have probably gone onto to convince Darwin to set alight to the *Origin of Species* and eat the charred remains for dinner.

So, there I stood, in the middle of Fulham Broadway, talking to this tramp. Although, it was more so him talking to me. As his sharp voice continued to precisely pierce every passing ear within a two metre radius, he began to talk about his life at university. "I went to Imperial College, just up the road. Used to live in South Kensington I did," he mentioned proudly, "but now I lived here in Fulham ever since." I perked up. This oddly echoed the last year and a half of my own life.

This man had a degree from Impe-

rial. Though an obvious but naively conclusive question, it would be foolish to reason how he could have possibly ended up living on the streets of Fulham when he had a degree from a 'world-class institution'.

The more he spoke of Imperial, the more I gauged of his experience. It became more and more of hindsight to my own experiences here at Imperial. He said this place gave him some of the most "focused" years of his life. He dedicated his time to his degree, and nothing much else. Through this, Imperial set him up for a life of comfort and relative wealth. After he graduated with 2nd class honours, he had a job in the City, and looked to have the rest of his career on track. However, the recession in 1980 hit him hard. He was subject to the ruthless "first in, first out" policy at the company he worked for.

As much as a degree can do for you, and especially one from a university such as Imperial College, this

man showed me there is definitely a lot more to life. No matter how many cushions we have to sit on, there is always the uncomfortable stark surface we are using the cushions to avoid. He only had one cushion, his degree.

It is unlikely anyone has the sole focus as their degree in their life. It made me realise that when I made the excuse "I'm too busy with coursework to talk", I probably wasn't. This week, my priorities shifted. My degree is still number one, but it is parallel with everything else. Your mother and every 'career advisor' you've ever spoken to has probably told you to find that healthy balance between work and play, but at such a work-intensive university, it is so easy to lose it. Most of the time though, the balance comes naturally. The times when it doesn't are the times I'll think back to The Big Issue seller's story and reassess.

All work and no play makes Dan an incredibly tired, and apparently tramp-harassed, boy.....and repeat.

Amin Elmubarak examines women's rights



"There are still fewer women than men who hold the top jobs in many sectors"



The passion and crafty innovation brought on by the new wave of elections at Imperial have flung my mind to other important political issues of the past: apartheid, gay rights, and women's rights. It's this last issue that I have found myself dwelling over for a rather long time as I am wondering if women's rights have progressed in very much since the suffragettes and the mid-nineteenth century.

For many years the ability to vote was restricted to wealthy property owners within Britain, therefore specifically excluding women, as property law and marriage law gave males ownership rights at marriage or inheritance until the 19th century. As difficult as it may be for some to believe, by the 7th century reforms under Islam gave women rights in inheritance, marriage and divorce – the likes of which are yet to be

seen in some cultures and were yet to be seen in the civilized west for many centuries.

Now, the laws and legislations of the west seem to have overtaken the early attempts of Islamic reform. Though there are many laws and bills that "insure" equality in terms of employment, pay and treatment in the work force; women are still paid, on average, less than men and there are fewer women than men who hold the top jobs in any sector.

SO? Why could this still be an issue after all of these campaigns and laws? It could be that by the time women get the point where a "top-level" job is within their grasp, they decide to have children or the new job could mean less time spent with the children that they already managed to have.

But the real question is why do we always end up coming back to jobs,

flexible hours and childcare every time we talk about women's rights; when originally the issue was equal rights of voting and weight within the law ie. Giving evidence.

These days it seems that there is a new wave of women who opt to settle down, have children and take care of them in a manner that is closer to what their predecessors worked so hard in order for them not to. And this wave is seen by the more career-minded as sell-outs or backward, akin to how "Gangstas" see those of colour who chose to wear chinos and a shirt as sell-outs.

In my opinion those persecutors have become what they have been trying so hard to fight. The point of all human rights movements was not to carve a way out for "their people to live" but to provide an alternative option; to give them the right to choose how they wish to live their life – be it a careers

climbing the corporate ladder, flying through chambers or looking after 3 little children and an even more difficult to please adult one too.

The second point and somewhat more pertinent is the idea of value. The value something is given depends very heavily on the criteria you chose to value it by; a diamond would fail in its evaluation if you used the criteria for grading football striker to grade it. Likewise, the problem we have is that we use money as our national and international grading system. To chose what job we take, what thing to buy (it fits in those examples!) but also who to value? Who brings more to a relationship? Who to marry?

For men and women to have equal rights and equal value, the DO NOT need to be able to do the same jobs or wear the same clothes or even – dare I say- get paid the same!

Let us start by not calling a girl who

might have slept with a few guys on fresher's week a slag or a slut and then in the same breath call a guy who did the same a stud!

Let us start by valuing a woman for the content of her character and her views on issues as oppose to how short she can wear a skirt.

Let us start by allowing our women to have the freedom to choose leaving her job to look after her children and return when she's ready without being judged.

Man and woman's existence depends on one another. Their value is not in their ability to do the same thing but in their ability to do for one what the other cannot do for them. When I hammer a nail on to a wall, my left hand holds the nail in place whilst my right hammers it into place.

They may both do different jobs but they are equally as important in carrying out the task.

Meat eaters! Kawai Wong is with you



"It is of critical importance to realise the many problems that food raise and cure"



Bam. Cow farts. Bam. Global warming. Bam. Acid Rain. Bam bam bam bam. "You meat eaters", a few feeble sentences attempted to punch us out in last week's felix. The arguments played like a skipped record, "Meat eaters destroy planet earth."

Fresh from Tesco: Avocado from Israel. Baby corn from India. String beans from Kenya. Honeydew from Brazil. Galia from Houndras. Kiwi fruit from Italy. They all have aeroplane labels on their packaging. For those who are sensitive enough to smell cow farts: do you have eyes? Can you see the labels?

If food miles were taken into consideration, the eco warriors would be gorging on a lot of British winter veg. Carrots, potatoes, mushrooms and onions. If a person could fart like a cow, global warming would no longer be an issue with this diet. One could show up at British Gas and offer their gas as a green alternative.

Some fruit and veg are available on the supermarkets shelves all year round. These pears, apples and grapes have been stored in refrigerated vaults for years since the day they got picked in a distant farmland. What is a fridge plugged into? The mains. What coolants do fridges use? Ammonia and propane. Where do you think the off-

season tomatoes and cucumbers come from? Air conditioned and carbonated green houses.

Unless one is a vegan and a nun, there will be chocolates, cheese, milk, wine, spirits and ice cream on the menu. Cheese is one of the most energy inefficient foods due to the energy that go into processing and refrigerating it. A bar of Cadbury chocolate has one and a half glass of milk in it. I believe the milk comes from cows, a type of animal that farts.

Dropping facts and guilt bombs is easy. A recent study revealed that a 330ml can of coke embodies 39g less carbon dioxide than a 250ml innocent smoothie, which has a carbon footprint of 209g. How ironic that the innocent smoothie has always been perceived as the green drink?

Flushing your toilet uses an equivalent of 1200 bottled water per month. And don't forget that one sixth of the world's population do not have access to clean water. Your Ipad uses brominated glass amongst many other toxic chemicals. Upon disposal, the Ipad will certainly mark a skull on the ground.

Is it likely that you will stop drinking coke? Is it likely that you will stop flushing the toilet? Is it likely that you will never, ever buy an Ipad or a computer? How much freedom are you

willing to sacrifice for the numerous green agendas out there? The truth is that the green arguments are often so grey that you can't distinguish the black and the white. And there often two sides to it. If you fact and number crunch all the lifestyle guidelines they throw at you, you may as well go back to live in the 1800s. It is therefore important to weigh up what you hear with common sense.

So is the 200g of meat I am not eating tonight going to save enough water and preserve enough land to make the world a better place straight away? But if everybody in the UK stopped eating meat for three months, this would surely sabotage the livelihoods of the meat farmers and their families. And this will happen almost right away. Furthermore, how many cows do I have to stop eating before the environmental changes take effect? 5? 10? 1000?

Considering the ostensible carbon footprint of foodstuff is an elementary entry to eco-issues. Nutritional value per carbon footprint is the measure forward. For the same weight of beef being carried the same distance as baby corns, the beef cargo contains significantly higher calorific value and more essential nutrients. This implies that for the same amount of carbon footprint, the meat can satisfy more

hungry stomachs. Yes, rearing animals uses more land. But remember your GCSE geography lessons about crop rotation? Different crops that have dissimilar nutrient demands are planted in sequential seasons for improvement of soil structure and fertility. Letting the animals roam around pooping can rejuvenate the fertility of the field too.

It is undoubtedly shallow to restrict our vision to global warming and global warming only. It is of critical importance to realise the many problems that food raise and cure. Yes, the string beans have travelled 4000 miles from Kenya. But these are grown by farmers whose families' livelihoods are dependent upon. If consumers were encouraged to look at carbon footprints only, these beans would have no buyer whatsoever.

No job for the farmer means no food. Not, no plasma TV or no summer holiday in Spain. Their children will end up on the front cover of National Geographic so that us kids in the rich world can lament the plight of these poor African children in pure hypocrisy.

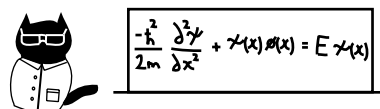
As a fully conscientious eater, many other attributes of a food product should go into consideration. Helping of the poor farmers, careful farming methods that nurture the soil, welfare of the animals, ethics of the company are all but

to name a few. Innocent, for example, donates 10% of profits to charity.

The first and foremost decision when it comes to following a green agenda is - how is this lifestyle change going to affect the living conditions of the others? This is a bit controversial - but I believe that any agenda that compromises human rights is a rubbish agenda wrapped in glossy paper. Some people wish that artificial fertilisers never existed because they lead to algae boom. Quite easy for an all-things-organic mum who drives a BMW 5 series to say. It also goes back to the careful farming method I mentioned before.

While the future of the environment is in our hands now, we should not be flooded with guilt every time we enjoy the fruits of the technological advancement that our ancestor toiled to bring forward. Stinking your toilet out because there are people who do not have access to clean water is a ridiculous. Directly investing in scientific research is the efficient way to eradicate our global warming problem. In-in-in-in-indirectly curbing your steak cravings is not.

Protein will always be stocked in my fridge. No amount of cow farts, sheep poos or bull diarrhoea will be able to green wash me away from living in moderation.



Science

Science Editor – Mićo Tatalović & Daniel Burrows

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Bloodhound landspeed record project

Jessica Bland reports from the first 'Big Bang Fair' asking if the Bloodhound Project is enough to make you wish you were an engineer?

As the lights dim, I stretch out my legs onto the empty chair in front of me and start to relax. It's been a long couple of days ferrying children round 'The Young Scientists and Engineers Fair', and the lecture sessions provide welcome relief.

But my half-sleep is soon interrupted when the teacher three rows in front hisses at a pupil, telling them to get their feet off the chair. That tone of voice still scares me. So much so that my legs also move back to the floor and I try to pay attention.

The lecture is about the Bloodhound super Sonic Car. It is packed with breathtaking facts about the power of the vehicle they are building and even more breathtaking footage of the Thrust cars that have kept the landspeed record in Britain.

Richard Noble, who headed Thrust and now heads Bloodhound, enthusiastically takes the audience of a hundred teenagers through the history of landspeed record attempts and the hopes they have for this one.

Along with the school parties, I am enthralled by Noble. The teenager in me is wowed by talk of 100,000 horsepower from the combination of a twin jet engine and a rocket mounted on the rear of the car.

Bloodhound will travel at over 1,000 miles per hour – 1.4 times the speed of sound. And all the engineering, and all



Bloodhound is to break the current land speed limit and reach speed of up to 1,000 mph. Will this be enough to encourage and inspire a new generation of scientists and engineers?

the engineers, are British.

The project aims at inspiring a new generation of engineers in this country. Previous generations had Concorde, the Vulcan and the Lightning but current engineering successes are mainly kept private. The list of defence technologies produced by the MOD are, understandably, secret. Even Formula One teams are cagey about going public with their developments – it makes

it easier for their competitors to copy.

The landspeed record is different. Promoting the technology it uses does not affect national security, nor does it affect competition like in motorsport. So the government have created an education programme around the car. Schools can visit the build site. Teachers are offered curriculum materials developed around the Bloodhound programme and the website enables

pupils to keep up-to-date with its progress. There are also numerous events and activities like this lecture.

Bloodhound had the attention of everyone in the room, but is this enough to inspire a new generation of engineers?

Undoubtedly the career choices of some scientists and engineers are influenced by this kind of iconic project. Indeed Paul Drayson, the Minister of

State for Science and Innovation, says his own son, inspired by the Thrust programme, changed from a media to an engineering degree.

But this kind of inspiration is not enough by itself. Other things need to change. For example, the wages of a graduate engineer or scientist are not comparable to those of finance graduates.

The prestige is not comparable to art, journalism or even the Civil Service. Unfortunately, at the moment, engineering and science cannot promise in pay and status what other careers can.

A new initiative backed by the Prince of Wales hopes to help rectify this: offering PhDs £20,000 a year. And the increasing interest in climate science and particle colliders means that science is slowly shedding some of its dull reputation. These changes, though, are incremental.

Bloodhound is an inspiring project – it even inspired me after too many hours in the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster where the fair took place last week. But it didn't make me want to become an engineer.

I am still glad I left experimental sciences after my undergraduate degree. No matter how exciting it can be, it takes a stronger person than me to work in a lab all day for less money and sometimes less respect than your peers.

Climbing the ladder by saving the world?

Marita Cheng & Niccolo Corsini

You got into university – check. You're either studying something you're completely passionate about, something you did very well at high school (before the novelty died) and you have no idea why you're here but the folks back home have great expectations, or you're somewhere in between – check.

However far along in your studies you are, albeit Bachelors, Masters or PhD, the big questions always looms: what am I going to do with my life next?

– Post-graduate studies/ post-doctorate studies/ post-post studies... All fairly self-explanatory. All getting you closer to a life of research, allowing you to research something at the apex of your field; potentially world-changing in itself, the holy grail of which is to be awarded a Nobel Prize, sometime down the line.

– Finish up whatever study you're doing and go into industry. Bad times now, so only the best and brightest will get the coveted ball-breaking finance jobs.

The rest will have to look within their respective degree-related industries to find a job that inspires, or go into teaching (a steady job educating the young minds of the future – very respectable).

– Start up your own company, be your own boss, someone not working under anyone else's orders – just you

and the endless stretch of horizon that screams POTENTIAL. Apply the best of everything that you've ever known about yourself and create something in its reflection.

Starting your own company might sound scary to you but the short of it is, there's never a better time to start-up than now and that's especially true whilst you're at university. Why?

1. Competitions – you can earn money just by having an idea. Imperial Entrepreneurs has just launched Ideas Empowered, a business idea competition.

The competition has two rounds, with a 1500-word executive summary submission on 30th of March; the top teams go to the finals on the 1st of May and pitch their ideas to panel of judges/investors. Winners will receive a £3000 cash-prize as well as in-kind services and benefits such as 6 months of mentoring by Connect London, profiles/ads on Cmypitch.com and introductions to investors.

Teams also get the chance to be mentored by professional entrepreneurs throughout the competition and learn essential business skills at our workshops.

2. A haven of co-founders. Look around you. You go to uni with some of the brightest, technical minds in the country. Somewhere you'll find someone who's into creating stuff, up for a challenge, or willing to give it all a go.

3. The UK has some of the most start-up friendly places on Earth. London is one in particular – if not the financial

capital of the world, the Government is very supportive of small enterprises whether logistically or by means of tax deductions. The tech scene is booming also despite the recession.

4. Access to tools and facilities. The library, research databases, computer labs, university lecturers and Imperial Innovations are all resources on campus that can add value to your entrepreneurial endeavours.

5. Few major obligations. No mortgage to pay and no family to feed. Most of us are living off student-loans and part-time jobs. This gives you time to grow your venture in between classes and friends.

6. An unbelievable learning experience. Entrepreneurs average 3.8 failures before final success. Even though you may not succeed the first time, as long as you give it your all and do your best, you'll learn a hell of a lot out of the experience.

7. There's still time. If you start up now and you fail, there's still time for you to go into post-grad studies, into industry, or give it another round...

If these reasons convince you that starting up a sci-tech company might be a good thing for you, maybe check out Imperial Innovations or join Imperial Entrepreneurs to learn more.

Our next event on 16th March at 6:20pm, in Blackett Lect1, Prince Consort Road will detail everything you need to know about the upcoming competition and other opportunities to discover how you can make your wild ideas about how to improve our



Can science help you make your first million? Could new start-ups design commercially available solar-powered cars, for example?

lives into reality.

Present will be Sachin Duggal (Nivio) and Oliver Woolley (BBAA, Envestors), both Imperial alumni who once took the leap from Science to Business and are now very successful

entrepreneurs. The talk is followed by drinks /networking and it's all free!!

For more information see www.imperialentrepreneurs.com

Big Bang Fair: Inspiring future scientists

Mico Tatalovic
Science Editor

The biggest ever UK celebration of young people's achievement in science and engineering ended with prizes being awarded to students aged 11-19 at the QEII Centre, London, last week. 'The Big Bang', the first UK Young Scientists and Engineers Fair, was the venue for the biggest-ever finals of competitions in science, technology, engineering and mathematics to inspire even greater numbers of young people to study related subjects.

Among the many projects that competed for several valuable prizes, were the following:

- Exams Stink: a scented wrist band worn when studying and then in an exam to aid recall of information; it resulted in a 10% improvement in exam performance.

- A martial arts dummy especially designed to suit many different martial art styles.

- A computer screen for people who suffer from colour-blindness.

- A low-cost, solar-powered water heating system for households in the developing world.

All the students I spoke to were enthusiastic about their projects and would love to see their projects commercially available to other people as

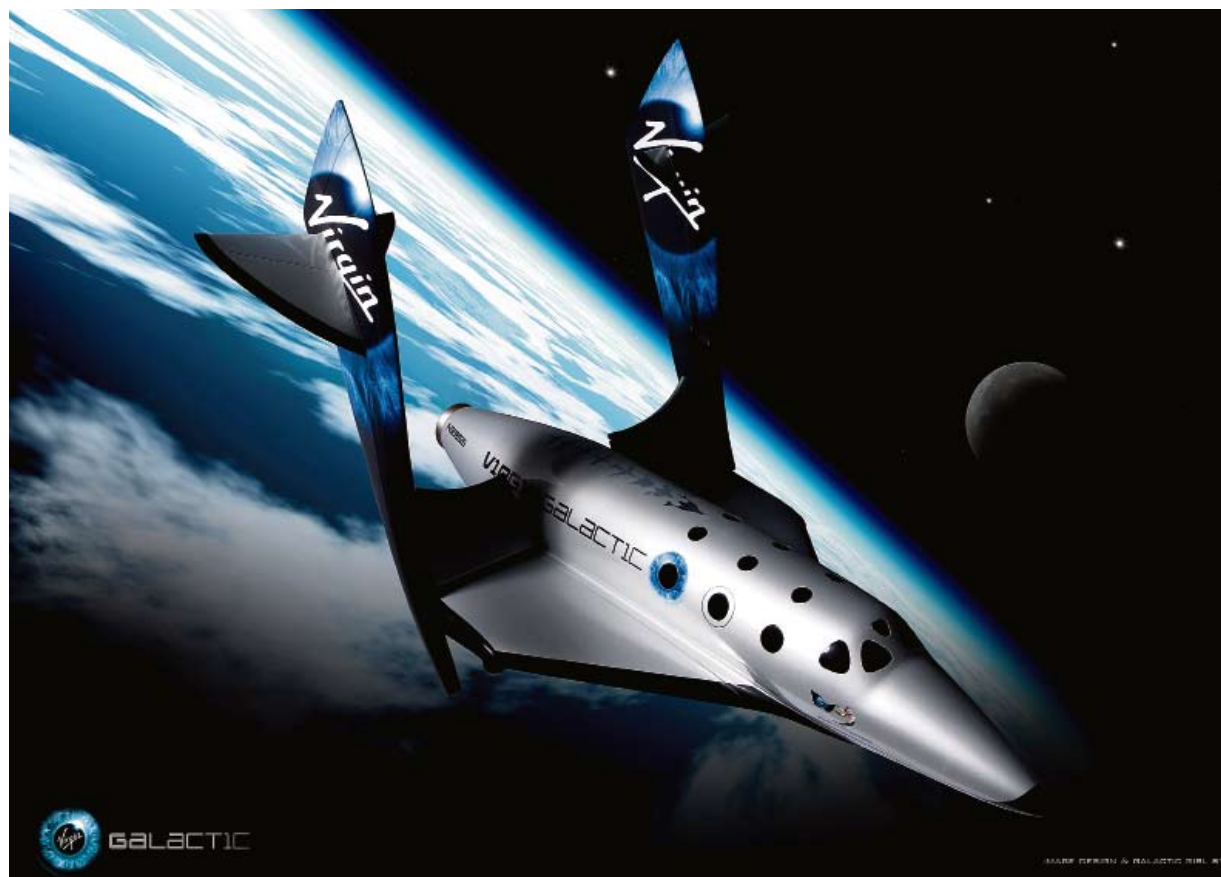
well. When asked if they thought they would win any awards, students were mostly shy but hopeful.

Science and Innovation Minister, Lord Drayson said: "This competition has highlighted the reality of science today, it's exciting, fascinating and shapes all our lives. Young scientists today will shape our future tomorrow – which is why competitions like this are so important to celebrate young British talent."

Sir Anthony Cleaver, Chairman of the Engineering and Technology Board (ETB) and Co-patron of 'The Big Bang', said: "The UK economy needs a strong science and engineering sector if it is to break through the current economic difficulties and provide a strong basis for growth. Seeing 200 incredible projects from across science and engineering gave all who attended 'The Big Bang' great heart that we witnessed a defining moment, igniting interest in science and engineering for students and starting something that will continue to grow – which is why we named it 'The Big Bang'."

As well as exhibiting their projects, students also had the opportunity to watch interactive exhibits and talk to people from various companies and scientific institutions.

Plans are already underway for next year's competition in Manchester.



Alongside the Bloodhound, Virgin Galactic was another big hit with the school kids at the first annual 'Big Bang Fair' last week.

EcoBuild: Future of sustainable development

Olivia Sharp
Science Reporter

Last week, ecogirl packed her lunch and went off to Ecobuild at Earl's Court, the world's biggest event dedicated to sustainable building. After checking out the zero-carbon house and watching three very important political types discuss the politics of sustainability, I threw some questions at Kevin McCloud, that posh guy off Grand Designs.

The zero carbon house

Ecobuild wasn't short on spectacle – one of the main attractions was a full size, zero-emission house, inside the exhibition centre. The cannily named ECO₂H₂OUSE invited people to go and have a nose around and check out its many emission reducing features.

The house retains heat far more efficiently than the average house, using innovative technology instead of traditional insulation.

The walls contain 'phase change material', much like the gel inside winter hand warmers. This can store large amounts of energy when it melts and solidifies, which means excess energy from the house's rooftop solar panels and wind turbine can be collected for insulation or heating water.

Lighting is provided by LED spot and strip lights, which use a minute 15% of the energy of incandescent bulbs, and 50% of that used by fluorescent tube lights.

ECO₂H₂OUSE's designers at ECO₂H₂O (pronounced eco) want to "cut out the greenwash, and make real progress in moving sustainability forward". The company are growing in success and have high hopes for ECO₂H₂OUSE.

Meeting Kevin McCloud

Celebrity architect Kevin McCloud led a discussion at Ecobuild on the future of sustainable development. Lucky for me, I stole a few words with the God of Grand Designs by stalking him around Earl's Court until he got scared and begged me to leave him alone.



So Kevin, what has been the best thing you've taken away from this year's Ecobuild?

I've got a lot of great new contacts. The rainwater products here are really interesting and there's definitely a future for those. Things are really happening in the business side [of sustainable development], that's really why I'm here.

What is the future for sustainable development?

Well, government targets seem to be as far into the future as 2050. We need to be getting into action now, be well on our way by 2020, and have achieved them by 2030. Sustainability and climate change should be the main priority for our government.



ZEDfactory are another company pioneering sustainable housing design. We might all be living in these hobbit-esque RuralZED houses in the future.

The Politics of Climate Change

The arena hosted talks from various important people involved in sustainability and the environment. 'The Politics of Climate Change' was an assuring discussion between three political figures: Michael Heseltine, former Deputy PM; Tim Yeo, MP and former Minister for the Environment; and Michael Meacher, MP and former Minister of State for the Environment.

All three men stressed the importance of the economics for tackling climate change, but were optimistic that targets could be achieved.

Heseltine struck a cautionary tone at the start: in our current economic

situation, climate change has moved down the list of priorities: 'Anything that puts up prices is politically difficult – increasing taxes on petrol would be very effective in cutting emissions, but a very unpopular decision by any government.'

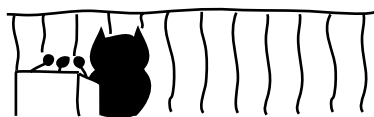
Tim Yeo stressed that the environment will become top priority again, as the business community continues to see the opportunities and threats of climate change. 'Politicians were in denial about global warming until 2006, but business was miles ahead, assessing the economic benefits of going green.' He also noted that the UK is behind Europe in terms of building standards, so in the next few years will go to efforts to improve.

The role of developing countries in global warming was discussed, with

agreement that countries such as India and China are helping more than appreciated. Meacher believes these countries are 'victims of the eco-crisis', and cannot be expected to follow Europe unless we are willing to lead. Michael Yeo noted that China has tighter vehicle emissions than the US.

Overall, there was agreement that not enough is being done to meet government targets regarding emissions reductions. They all agreed that political parties should worry less about popularity and more about taking action on cutting emissions.

Best freebies from Ecobuild conference: an ash sapling and a 2GB USB stick made from recycled plastic.



Politics

Politics Editors – James Goldsack & Katya-yani Vyas

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It's all so confusing...

Katya-yani Vyas
Politics Editor



So, elections are once again upon us. Poster bearing candidates stalking the walkway, flyer wielding campaigners ambushing you during lunchtime in the JCR. lollipops and flying saucers offered up as payment for our votes. Like such bribery would work! Ok, fine, sometimes it does, people seem to be particularly fond of lollipops...

Union politics is a difficult subject to understand, luckily for you there is a 12 page special in this issue to explain the inner workings of the Union. Marvellous!

Right, so that is that. I will go no further than to wish all the candidates good luck and to discourage any slanderous or inappropriate comments.

I suppose it is very easy at a time like this to get so caught up in our University bubble that we forget about the outside world. With this in mind, I asked some fellow students for some quotations and compiled them here. The question I asked was; "What is an important political issue at the moment?" Here are a selection;

"The most important issue in politics today is whether or not the US will remain the worlds only superpower."

"The protests against British troops are absolutely disgusting, it is not the fault of the troops but the government"

"I don't know much about politics but I think that..." It took ages to get even that out of one student.

"Are we really going to come out of

the recession by 2010?"

"Reduction of emissions is very important"

All are interesting issues, even the third which highlights a general lack of interest for politics amongst students.

I am going to focus on the recent protest in Luton against British troops returning from Iraq. Protesters were heard to shout at the marching soldiers "Terrorists" and "Anglian Soldiers Go to Hell". In addition, some were holding up placards with the words "Butchers of Basra" written in distinct red letters.

To say that this is distasteful would be a woeful understatement. The army is there to obey the commands of the government without question. For a group of anti-war protesters to behave in such a disrespectful manner towards people who have devoted their lives to their country is absolutely awful.

Ironically, the protesters then had to be protected by another division of the civil service, the police, as supporters of the soldiers turned on them, shouting, "scum" and "No surrender to the Taliban".

Gordon Brown expressed his disappointment saying "The whole country is proud of our brave servicemen and women" and that it was "disappointing that a tiny minority tried, but ultimately failed, to disrupt the event."

I am retreating to the haven of union politics for the evening, the outside world is beyond my understanding sometimes.

Bring on the orgies

James Goldsack
Politics Editor



Voting is open to one hell of a lot of abuse. Some experts even believe that the democratic method we use is in fact seriously out-of-date and flawed, largely leading to not what is intended; the favourite, even least-disliked candidate being found the victor. Instead, the result can only be described as a shambles.

Realistically, people vote for many distinct reasons. Some vote for selfish and individualistic reasons, others for noble reasons like for the greater good. While we believe that it actually works, another factor is heavily involved.

Not in the act of voting but before.

For a long time dubious tactics not only have been used to get people to remember political candidates, also frequently to subliminally make voters eventually decide to vote for them.

Lately, this technique has been used in the US elections. Made famous by X-rated frames added into film reels, everyone should know how this was

done from "Fight Club". Watch it.

Indeed, subliminal messaging was typically made illegal some years ago or at least it should have been.

Reports have been made of findings into how much these subliminal messages really affect people's perception and actions. It has been shown to work wonders and it is a very dangerous, or brilliant, use of technology.

Maybe some of this years Union candidates should use it.

Many people do not know anything about the workings of the Union so how can we be expected to make an informed decision? How are we supposed to know what an honorary treasury secretary ACTUALLY does?

This is one final problem with public voting.

Perhaps we should go back to Plato's idea of a benevolent ruling elite to run everything for us, a group of people who actually KNOW what to do.

Go Plato.

Oh and don't forget the orgies.

No Kurdish allowed

Raz Jabary

On Tuesday 24th February, a speech given by prominent Kurdish politician Ahmet Turk was abruptly censored on Turkish state television when Mr. Turk started speaking in Kurdish.

In Turkey, with a substantial ethnic Kurdish population, it has long been forbidden to speak Kurdish in public. Mr. Ahmet Turk might face prosecution for disobeying the law for it is illegal for Kurdish to be spoken in the Turkish Parliament building.

"We have no objection to Turkish being the official language, yet we want our demands for the lifting of the ban on the Kurdish language to be understood as a humanitarian demand," Ahmet Turk said. Mr. Turk replied to criticism for his Kurdish talk by pointing out that Turkish PM Recep Teyyip Erdogan had spoken a few Kurdish words on the newly launched Kurdish television channel TRT-6, which is restricted to only broadcasting issues related to culture, music and other non-political matters. "If the PM can do it, then why can't I?", Ahmet asked rhetorically.

In Turkey the use of the Kurdish language is still a very sensitive matter. Until as recent as 1991 the fifteen to twenty million Kurds in Turkey were not recognized as a distinct ethnic group from the Turks, but were rather referred to as 'mountain Turks' for they usually live on higher plateaus in parts of Turkey. In that year, when a Kurdish political party entered the Turkish Parliament for the first time in history, an upheaval broke out around the Kurdish speech given by female politician Leyla Zana, who was later imprisoned for it. Zana went on to be nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Even now, Kurdish is illegal to be spoken in many public spaces (amongst which the Turkish Parliament) and is not allowed to be taught to primary school children in Kurdistan.

CNN spoke of 'irony' on the incident, writing on their website that 'it is in contradiction with the recent launch of the Kurdish TV-channel'. The incident has therefore sparked mistrust among many Kurds who see TRT-6 as a pure tactic of propaganda from the ruling AKP party, trying to win over Kurdish voters for the upcoming provincial elections in March.

Mr. Ahmet Turk is a prominent political member of the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Party (DTP), which was elected to Parliament by the minimum-required 20 seats in the national elections of July 2007. By standing as individual candidates, the DTP-members were able to join forces afterwards and thus avoid the obstruction posed by the 10% Turkish threshold required for a party to gain seats in Parliament, which is the highest in Europe.

With thirty-five to forty millions souls, the Kurds are the largest ethnic group in the world without their own state. In the four countries in which the Kurds live – Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey – it is in the latter two that they have not only long been under oppression from the ruling forces in those countries, but furthermore have also specifically endured the subjugation of their cultural norms and linguistic practises.

In today's Iraq, Kurdistan is an official semi-independent federal region, often referred to as the Kurdistan Region, with its own government, constitution, security forces and presidency.



Ahmet Turk was censored for speaking Kurdish on Turkish television

Kurdish being closely related to Persian, the Kurds enjoy formal recognition by the Iranian government, with a province in the country officially named 'Kurdistan', literally meaning 'the land of the Kurds' and formally definable as the geographic, ethnic and historic land inhabited mostly by the Kurds. Recently, the Iranian foreign minister Mr. Mottaki furthermore opened a consulate in Arbil, the capital city of the Kurdistan Region, with the hope of leading to the strengthening of ties between the two. His German counterpart Mr. Steinmeier only recently followed in his footsteps.

During a traditional World Economic Forum session in Davos, Switzerland, on 29th January 2009, the Turkish PM heavily criticised the former Israeli president Peres for the recent offensive in Gaza, saying to him amongst others 'you know how to kill very well' and 'you kill children on the beaches'. In response, Israeli Maj. Gen. Avi Mizrahi pointed out that 'Erdogan should look in the mirror first of all, referring to the oppression of the Kurds in Kurdistan and the Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus.

Early last year, Erdogan made a similar ironic statement on a visit to Germany, home to a substantial Turkish immigration population. Speaking to a Turkish crowd in Ludwigshafen, he urged the German Turks not to assimilate into the society in which they live, but rather to maintain their own habits and cultures, a fact which has been true in the opposite for most Kurds in Turkey. Unlike this latter group, Turkish populations in Western countries

are free to set up lobbying movements, free to establish parties promoting their heritage, culture and language without the fear of it being forcefully shut down or even face political persecution as a result of the countries' legislative authorities.

One of the main issues on the negotiating table between the EU and Turkey for the latter to gain membership of the organisation has been the Kurdish issue. The remnants of Kemalism – the nationalist ideology imposed by the first president of modern Turkey, Kemal Mustafa Ataturk – are still ever present in Turkish society. The ultra-nationalist MHP-party continues to advocate the creation of a united 'Turan', based on the unity of all Turkic peoples. One of the most significant remnants of Kemalism can be found in the Turkish constitution, which writes that it is considered a violation of rights if somebody would offend the Turkish nation state or its creator.

As a result, censorship in Turkey has been placed repeatedly on globally accessible websites like Youtube, where users are able to exert this criticism without fearing prosecution under the Turkish law.

Although nationalistic Turkish public opinion would fiercely resent any concessions to the Kurds in the time of and on behalf of the Erdogan administration, leading political experts claim that the current Prime Minister should publicly recognize the political, economic and cultural suffering that the Kurdish people in Turkey were made to go through in past government eras as a gesture of reconciliation.



Culture & The Arts

Arts Editors – Caz Knight, David Paw and Emily Wilson

Budding culture culture? Write for us.
arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Fistfights in the *felix* office?

Emily Wilson
Arts Editor

So here we are, another week, another editorial. Time to witter on about me and my daily life and trick you into thinking it's relevant to culture and the arts.

This week I went to the Barbican centre which, it turns out, is some kind of glorious Mecca for the arts all under one central London roof. I'd only ever been once before, at night, for a gig (of sorts – long story) so did not get to fully appreciate its sheer brilliance. It has art in the conventional painting sense, theatre, dance, music and cinema all housed under some top notch architecture. They have lots of free events too; when I was there it was "Do Something Different" weekend, and there were kidlets as far as the eye could see, doing crafts and dressing up in wigs. I think, on the whole, I quite like to move in and take up permanent residence. They have big blocks of flats all around so this would be a feasible goal, were it not for the price of living in a trendy location of central London, coupled with my career prospects or lack thereof. Damn.

Something I've been thinking about this week is how we define ourselves here in the "Culture and The Arts" section. To my knowledge there have been no debates/disagreements/all-out brawls over whether an article or topic should be covered in the arts section or elsewhere in *felix* (let's disregard the

fact that probably nobody would care). I can think of many scenarios where an article could legitimately be claimed by either us or film, nightlife, clubs/societies, music... For example, if I go to an evening event at the V&A and I write about it, is that arts or is that nightlife? If I see an orchestra perform, is that arts or music? If I see an exhibition at the Science Museum, is that arts or science? Suggestions for something the arts and sports sections could fight over on a postcard please.

The trigger that got my mind whirling on this little debate was American Psycho. I read the book and the other night I watched the film. For the record, the book was incredibly brilliant and disgustingly violent, while the film was moderately good, surprisingly unviolent, but not a bad representation of the book (resisting urge to ramble on...). Hypothetically speaking, if I were to write an article comparing and contrasting the book and the film (which I could do, quite easily, but it would descend into rant and gorily graphic descriptions), where in *Felix* should it be printed? And who should decide?

Anyhoo. I hope you enjoy this week's arts section. I had fun writing for it. If you want to have fun writing for it, why don't you email us? arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk is where to find us. Bonus points to anybody who initiates a fistfight in *felix*.



The sweetest escape of them all

Alex Marsden considers escape of travel through art - is the endeavour of travel sweeter through the medium of art or through personal experience? And can one complement the other?

Travel literature and writing can be a tricky topic. More broadly, anything pertaining to "travel" is regarded by most as a predominantly positive endeavour. I have lost count of the number of friends and acquaintances who harbour clandestine desires to embark on alternate or dream careers as presenters of travel programmes, and I have allowed myself to wallow in the thought of being paid to embark on the kinds of indulgences most of us save and plan and look forward to for a paltry three weeks of the year.

Paul Theroux was famously scathing of the genre of travel writing when he branded it self-indulgent, predictable and dull. Though apparently true when one dedicates oneself to a world capable of producing the same circumstances each and every time regardless of location, this will be of little consequence for the majority of us for whom the opportunity to see the world is a rare and precious one to be seized.

Writing exclusively on the process

and experience of travel is one way to approach the topic, but equally enticing are the authors allow us to travel through their characters' situations and settings.

This is more than reading the interesting sections of *Lonely Planet - Tibet* whilst licking one's lips at the idea of discovering a hidden Shangri-La hidden deep within the Himalayas. By trusting the writers' experience and knowledge, we can walk the same streets as their characters and meet the same people and live the same lives. I have enjoyed reading about a Dublin past through Joyce, immersed myself in the Istanbul of Orhan Pamuk's stories and found new appreciation for the crackpots in our very own city thanks to Zadie Smith. Watching anything by Woody Allen or Edward Burns makes me want to spend more time on the sidewalks of the Five Boroughs.

But does this actually work? Literature and art as an enhancer or complement to the experience of travel?

I have read books before and during trips, but mostly before. The anticipa-

tion is one of the best parts of the experience of this curiosity we know as

"The anticipation of adventure can be most enticing"

"travel" but when on the road, so to speak, one is usually too busy socialising, sleeping, living and experiencing to bother with Hajime's extended consideration of how his parents met or the extended meditation of existence with regard to the protagonist's hometown.

So taking in such art during travel is a bad time. After travel can be non-existent - one's expectations are either usually fulfilled, leaving no desire to indulge in further fantasies, or are too steeped in disappointment to the point that it is too painful or frustrating to read about something you felt didn't

exist or you missed out on.

I read Wei Hui's epic statement of one woman's emancipation in *Shanghai Baby* as a precursor to a much-anticipated stay in Shanghai. Though admirable, her descriptions of the city were overwhelmed by the sheer amount of to-ing and fro-ing and romantic plots and subplots. Nothing she wrote could possibly have done justice to the sheer, head-spinning vibrancy and vitality of a city destined for greatness, both simultaneously delirious and apoplectic at its newfound level of decadence and charisma. This is what you get for judging and paying for a book by its cover.

Similarly, anyone who watched anything by Wong Kar-Wai prior to a trip to Singapore or Hong Kong was bound to be disappointed that the streets were not littered with Maggie Cheungs or Tony Leungs, and that every single moment failed to resemble a breathtakingly stylised paean to whimsy and heartbreak. Hoping for a retrofantastical place as such was asking to be let down, and similarly expecting Machu Picchu, Angkor or anywhere with simi-

larly epic promises to live up to them can be like knocking on the door of disappointment. Reading *Lost Horizon* and making the trip to Shangri-La (it exists, but as an artificial cash cow for tourism) are two wholly different things and hoping for the reality to resemble the fantasy is like pretending Santa Claus exists.

For a trip through Mongolia, I revisited a memorable segment of Murakami's *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* telling the account of a failed reconnaissance mission by some Japanese troops stranded in Mongolia during the Second World War. The novel left an impression of a vastness, desolation and desperate harshness coupled to desperate and horrific circumstances that left me equal parts repelled and gravitating towards the region. The reality was different, but no less epic. Waking up in a landscape only describable as utterly alien and racing towards the horizon in a train seemingly suspended on a flat ocean of land, the earth flat in all directions to the horizon, left me suitably awestruck. The experience was

not as intense or magnified as I would imagine being stranded behind enemy territory without supplies would be, but it felt as good as reality had ever been.

However, literature or cinema as a complement in this context is usually only applicable when one plans one's destination with some serious intent. Stumbling upon a destination and using the arts to feed one's imagination is a different matter. Reading about Mayan civilisation after you unwittingly discovered there was more to Yucatan than Spring Break and Coors Lite is a perfectly common experience, I am sure. For me, as with many others, I am certain, family trips are prime time for unsuspectingly stumbling on an interesting destination.

I had read about Oregon in National Geographic before and watched Rob Reiner's *Stand By Me*, but neither of these were sufficient preparation for the sheer beauty of North America's

Pacific Northwest. Jacob Aaron Estes oft-overlooked *Mean Creek* (featuring a pre-*Wackness* Josh Peck) probably does the best job of encapsulating the small-town naivety amidst a summer backdrop of eye-wateringly lush forests, sunlicked creeks and breathtaking Cascade volcanoes watching the season pass.

So sometimes the anticipation of an adventure is the most enticing escape of them all, and books, images, photography, music - whatever you wish to incorporate into your definition of "art" - can make the experience all the sweeter. Sometimes it's sweeter when you stumble upon it, and art can feed those memories until one returns there again. Expectation has the potential to result in epic anticlimax. And for some the escape of travelling through the arts is enough, and for those without the resources or the constitution to make trips, modest or epic, this is the sweetest escape of them all.



For some reason, the arts editor seems to have a foot fetish

Architecture and the art behind it

Emily Wilson sees the great architect, artist and designer Le Corbusier at the Barbican centre

The exhibition space in the Barbican centre is a little unusual - it's big and open and spread out across two levels. Architecturally elegant itself, this is the perfect venue to house the Le Corbusier retrospective. Its quirky design complements the contents beautifully, though doesn't lend itself to a sequential walk round. It takes me a while to find the beginning of the exhibition, which no signs bother to tell me is upstairs.

I know absolutely nothing about Le Corbusier (1887 - 1965) when I arrive. For example, I don't realise that 'Le Corbusier' is a moniker for Charles-Edouard Jeanneret. Whatever his name was, he started out as a watchmaker who developed an interest in art and design. Early on, he followed the ideas of the Arts and Crafts Movement (I know a lot about this - I did my history A-level coursework on it). Think twee William Morris flowery designs on old ladies' shopping bags, but don't

forget the rebellion against the Industrial Revolution and undercurrents of rampant Communism. But then Le Corbusier moved to Paris and got all trendy, hanging out with famous artists like Leger, Picasso, Braque, Picabia and Duchamp. He started his own arty magazine called 'L'Esprit Nouveau' ('New Spirit', to us Englishfolk). Picasso sent in a few token doodles, and these are on display. Le Corbusier is already getting interested in architecture, with plans for utopias and scrawls of how he wanted to solve congestion in Paris by redesigning the whole city.

This second room is a mix of drawings, design, architecture and film, and it's a little confusing. The biography and some of the contextual themes are lost in the chopping and changing between media. It's not very clear how Le Corbusier went from training locally as a watchmaker to designing whole buildings, for example. The narrative is very grand and conceptualised. Another addition to the confusion is that

work by other artists who influenced Le Corbusier is inter-mingled with Le Corbusier's own work, with little distinction. These criticisms are true of most of the exhibition. But I'm getting into the nitty gritty here - the general STUFF is all lovely. This is one of my favourite periods in art and design; the transition from the traditional of the nineteenth century to the explosion of modernism in the twentieth. The sleek, crisp modern style pokes through early on amongst the conventional, making for design that's eye-catching and exciting.

There's a little Mondrian on loan from the Tate which I recognise. You don't expect there to be so many parallels between these different artists and styles, but it makes perfect sense next to the crisp white models of Le Corbusier's architecture. The Cubist influences shine through as flat top roof terraces, square form and simple lines. I absolutely love these houses - I want to live in one very badly.

Suddenly we swing from architecture and interiors to paintings. His paintings are extremely similar to Leger's. But Le Corbusier is a jack-of-all-trades kind of guy, and his paintings aren't as mind-blowingly excellent as some of his painter chums. I think his design and architecture is much better. He was certainly a visionary, with grand schemes for world domination. He wanted to redesign the cities of the world, restructuring urban areas and filling them with his crisp, tidy buildings, solving all the world's problems. He was ambitious, and he does come across as a little smug.

Downstairs, a highlight is a big tapestry/fabric piece on the back wall called "Presence II or Guard Your Wing in my Hand" (1949). It's a bit random. Like his paintings only bigger and more vivid, and involving a bunch of wild animals. There's what looks like a rhino, a yak or bison, a lion and a few gazelle. But in the centre there's a big punching hand in a modern graffiti-like style, and a big pair of boobs.

I say there's a lot of arty paintings and so forth, but the exhibition has plenty for architecture buffs. There are some pieces focusing on different commissions he received from across the world, including locations like Chandigarh in India. There's a lot of material on the Saint-Pierre Church in Firminy.



See, this Le Corbusier chap wasn't just an architect - he also did strange paintings. Is that a boob I see before me?

This was designed by him but not built in his lifetime. Construction started in 1970, stopped in 1978 and then some nice people got around to finishing it off in 2003-6. It's impressive how well the design has endured. The model of it nearly fills a room - it's incredibly tall, with steep sides like a mountain. There are plans of it, but nobody thought to put up a photo of what it looks like now. In fact, there are few such photos in the exhibition. I think I'd like to see the buildings for myself to really make a judgment.

The exhibition wraps up with a whole kitchen. Le Corbusier was keen on designing houses for the masses in the post-war period, in the great tradition of garden cities and new towns. This is another era of design I get excited about - I love how these famous and visionary architects came up with

plans for what is now a load of bleak council flats.

I'm very impressed by the Barbican exhibition space and the way the curators have used it. For example, they take advantage of the split level by hanging images at different heights so they are best viewed from upstairs. Le Corbusier is an interesting subject and the contents are varied and quirky. You don't need a background knowledge of him or the period to appreciate this show. This is a fun one to wander round with friends and hang about in, rather than taking it too seriously. And at £6 for a concession ticket you get a lot for your money.

Le Corbusier: The Art of Architecture
Barbican
Until 24th May 2009



Here is Le Corbusier, in all his bespectacled glory, poking a naked man

Bertolt Brecht and Galileo Galilei

Lily Topham engages in a discussion of the issues behind Bertolt Brecht's *The Life of Galileo*, in anticipation of DramSoc's production of the play next week.

This year is the four hundredth anniversary of the telescope, the international year of astronomy, the two hundredth anniversary of Darwin, the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the publication of *The Origin Of Species*, and also happens to be the year that DramSoc will be performing Bertolt Brecht's *The Life Of Galileo*. Including that final point may look a little incongruous in terms of the epic sweep of history, but it is not a bad time to put on a play about a long-dead man whose controversial theories about the world are now common-knowledge.

Brecht and Galileo were both giants in their respective fields, engendered passionate loathing and admiration, and became legends within their own lifetimes.

It is hard now, in an age of Star Wars, where every child in primary school is told the names of the planets, where we all know that we are on a small planet orbiting an insignificant star in the spiral arm of one galaxy among millions in an infinite universe, to understand how people believed that the Earth was the centre of the cosmos. However, as far as people of Galileo's time were concerned, the sun and the stars all formed part of the heavenly spheres, set in perfect circles, revolving around a stationary Earth. This worldview put forward by Aristotle and Ptolemy (who, ironically, were 'heathens') was an integral part of the doctrine of the Catholic Church.

In order to see the impact of Galileo's teachings, we have to understand the fundamental effects which Galileo's findings had on the way in which people saw themselves and the world. It was not simply a case of what happened in the heavens above people's heads, but how it affected the very purpose and position of people in society and the emergence of the role of experimental proof in science which could be applied to all walks of life.

Galileo did not pluck his ideas out of nowhere. By the early sixteenth century, Nicolaus Copernicus had developed a theory which removed the

earth from the centre of the universe. In his work *On The Revolution of the Celestial Spheres* published in 1543 the Earth became simply another planet.

Considering the potential import of this work, it did not cause nearly as much of a fuss as might be expected. Certainly, it was hardly a bestseller – the first print ran 400 copies, which failed to sell out. In it, Copernicus was merely postulating a theoretical view; including nothing to prove his theories. In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the Catholic Church was developing an early form of fundamentalism – strengthening their theological standpoints and placing a greater emphasis on adherence to the established teachings of the Church.

Born in Pisa, Italy in 1564, Galileo was a respected and well-established lecturer and researcher at the University of Padua. Characterised by a fierce energy and an energetic belief in the power of experimentation, during the early 1600s, Galileo wanted to end the ignorance of Nature's laws of motion.

He was distracted by news of a recent Dutch invention, the 'eyeglass,' which he proceeded to refine and presented to the entire Venetian senate to the great astonishment of all. Even the oldest senators clambered up the highest towers of the city to look through Galileo's remarkable telescope and see ships on the horizon a good two or three hours before the youngest, keenest, unaided eyes. However, it was Galileo's further refinements of this instrument which made it so substantially different from the little curiosity pieces they had previously been. By 1609, he could magnify objects by a factor of twenty; and when he turned his gaze on the moon and the stars it would irrevocably change the way society dealt with science. Galileo saw sights which no-one had seen before; the mountains on the surface of the moon, the Milky Way and the four moons of Jupiter which he dedicated to Florence in his work: *The Starry Messenger*.

Galileo's discoveries were greeted with huge attention and acclaim – within a week of publication, all of the copies of *The Starry Messenger* had

been sold out. There was no way that Galileo's findings would go unnoticed or unexamined by the Church.

In 1616, a panel of the Holy Office of the Inquisition pronounced the idea of an immobile Sun as 'foolish and absurd' and that the official position on Copernican astronomy was 'false and contrary to Holy Scripture'. This was delivered to Galileo by the pre-eminent Jesuit Cardinal Bellarmine – the 'hammer of the heretics' – who had in 1600 prosecuted the priest Giordano Bruno for heresy and burnt him at the stake. Galileo was told that as long as he stuck to a purely hypothetical view of the Copernican system and did not try to tell anyone how to interpret the Bible, he would be safe.

Eight years later, encouraged by the election of Cardinal Barberini, a scientist and friend, as Pope Urban VIII, Galileo wrote his *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems* comparing the Ptolemaic and Copernican systems. This proved one step too far. Although presented as an intellectual argument between imaginary characters, Galileo's opinions could be easily inferred and the name he had given to the character putting forward the Ptolemaic view was the not altogether flattering one of 'Simplicio'. Urban VIII reacted with a fury and a vindictiveness which he was to take to his grave.

Summoned to Rome, before the Office of the Inquisition and 'vehemently suspected of heresy', Galileo renounced his teachings and vowed never to uphold them again. The *Dialogue* was placed on the Index of Prohibited Books in 1664 where it would remain for nearly two hundred years.

Galileo remained under house arrest until his death in 1642. During this time he completed his greatest work *Two New Sciences Pertaining To Mechanics and Local Motion* which was smuggled out of Italy, printed in 1638 in Holland, and established some of the fundamentals of physics. By the time of its completion, Galileo had lost his sight and was never able to see the printed version. Fully aware of the irony, he said to a friend in 1638: 'This universe which I....enlarged a hundred,

ay, a thousandfold....is now for me so diminished and reduced, it has shrunk to the meagre confines of my body.'

Brecht's *The Life Of Galileo* is by no means a factual account of Galileo's life. It focuses on the latter part of his life and plays fast and loose with dates and facts. This is hardly surprising as Brecht did not aim to write costume dramas; the epic theatre movement which he championed aimed to ensure that the audience was always aware it was watching a play and be provoked into rational self-reflection in order to use theatre as a political and social medium. However, in this play and its different manifestations and revisions over the years, there is more than a purely didactic message; there are real characters, with very human flaws and questions that are raised which are relevant today and will continue to be.

The story of the creation of *The Life of Galileo* as a play spans nearly twenty years. Initially written in German in 1938 whilst in exile in Denmark, Brecht seriously revised the play when Charles Laughton approached him in Los Angeles in 1944. During this period the play itself became much shorter and eventually, after years of rewriting and multiple changes in directors, opened at the Coronet Theatre in Los Angeles with Laughton in the title role to a mixed reception. Indeed, it was said that Laughton was so nervous and fidgety that the costume designer was ordered to sew up his trouser pockets to stop him playing with himself in the opening scene.

Brecht continued to revisit and revise the play up till his death in 1956, and since then, translators from Howard Brenton to David Hare have adapted the play further. Throughout Brecht's re-writes of his play, his aim was to show the impact of self-realisation upon a man who meets a test and fails.

This play removes the romanticised image of Galileo declaiming against his critics in the Office of the Holy Inquisition, and repositions him as a simple man, susceptible to normal human pettiness, greed, love of food and comfort, fear of pain and capable of great moral and intellectual failure.

Brecht shows the audience a startling image of men and women alone in the universe. The play asks how we as humans are equipped to cope with the moral decisions which we have to make, what an individual and science's responsibility for knowledge and our actions are and puts forward the passionate argument that one individual can make a difference.

Towards the end of the play, Galileo says: 'I take it the intent of science is to ease human existence'. In this age of great technological advances, great wealth and yet great poverty and suffering, the questions and ideas that this play raises are as relevant today as they were four hundred years ago.

***The Life of Galileo* by Bertolt Brecht, translated by Charles Laughton is being performed by Dramsoc from Wed 18th March – Sat 21st March, 7:30pm.**

All performances are in the Union Concert Hall, Beit, SW7 2BB.

**Tickets are available on the door or in advance:
www.dramsoc.org/tickets.
£5 Students/£7 Non-Students**

Galileo's Timeline

4th C BC
Aristotle writes *On the Heavens*, his chief cosmological treatise.

1543
Nicolaus Copernicus publishes *On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres*

1564
Galileo Galilei born in Pisa on February 15th to Vincenzo Galilei and wife Giulia.

1589
Galileo appointed as Professor of Mathematics at the University of Pisa.

1592
Galileo starts teaching geometry and astronomy at the University of Padua.

1600
Giordano Bruno burns at the stake in Rome for advocating the heliocentric worldview.

1609
Galileo designs his first telescope, which he will later use to discover the four moons of Jupiter.

1632
Galileo's book *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems* is published.

1633
Galileo is found guilty of heresy by the Holy Office of the Inquisition. The *Dialogue* is banned.

1638
Galileo's *Two New Sciences* is published.

1642
Galileo Galilei dies at his villa in Arcetri on January 8th.

1835
Galileo's *Dialogue* dropped from the Vatican's Index of Prohibited Books.

1992
Pope John Paul II publicly endorses Galileo's philosophy.

1995
The spacecraft *Galileo* arrives on Jupiter.

2009
Imperial College DramSoc puts on a production of Brecht's *Life of Galileo*.



One of the many romanticised images of Galileo before the Holy Inquisition by Joseph Robert-Fleury

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Music

Music Editors – Peter Sinclair, Alex Ashford & James Houghton

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More Badly Drawn Albums

Alex Ashford
Music Editor

I haven't written anything this week and Jov says I'm not allowed to do a spider diagram because that's a bit shit. Right now I just want to go have a pint or go home and sleep, so instead of a column, here's more badly drawn albums, drawn even more badly than last time. Answers underneath.



1 Bjork - Volta, 2 M83 - Saturdays=Youth, 3 Animal Collective - Merriwether Post Pavillion, 4 Bon Iver - For Emma, Forever Ago, 5 Portishead - Third, 6 Sigur Ros - It has a weird long foreign title I don't want to write out, 7 Mastodon - Blood Mountain, 8 N-Dubz - Uncle B, 9 Crystal Castles - s/t, 10 The Bug - London Zoo, 11 Madvillain - Madvillain, 12 The Thermals - Fuckin' A

Mumford & Sons and Alessi's Ark

Caz Knight reviews the folky bluegrass delights of Mumford & Sons playing brand new material, with support from Alessi's Ark and Sons of Noel and Adrien at the ICA last wednesday.



Caroline Knight

I have, up until recently, been a follower of dance music and rave culture, preferring to have wild-eyed fun amid frantic light shows as psytrance, hard-house or drum'n'bass ensue. Although I have, since childhood, enjoyed and loved dearly bands in which real instruments are played and words sung (Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd and the Stones to name a few of the more obvious ones), I had never really experienced 'rock' music in a live context. Now, this seems both surprising and a shame, given just how many groups and artists there are out there showcasing their, often exceptional, talent only a tube ride away and on most nights a week.

It is amazing how much beautiful music falls on, 'deaf' ears if chart sales are to go by: with so much talent it is amazing so little of it makes it into the hit parade. The three acts I saw last Wednesday at the ICA would fall into this category.

Mumford and Sons have been one of my most listened-to bands since my boyfriend flicked on their Myspace last October (his friend, Winnie, plays banjo). It seems as if St Paul's School has been a nucleation centre for a number of bands emerging as part of the London folk scene, producing the likes of Noah and the Whale and the lesser known Cherbourg.

The raw, rasping and sexy-voiced singer Marcus also used to drum for singer Laura Marling (who made an appearance on the night, albeit as a spectator) but now leads the Sons with an incredible energy. An energy that is sustained throughout every amazing song, each one possessing a certain magic; be it in melody, lyrics or the good old fashioned thrashing of the banjo with a fitting hoedown to go with – truly stompable stuff. As well as old favourites such as 'Little Lion Man', 'Feel the Tide' and 'White Blank Page', we were treated to new tunes such as the opening 'Sigh No More' and 'The Cave', their performance doing nothing short of making me fall deeper in love with them!

Alessi's Ark and Sons of Noel and Adrian were the glorious supporting acts which matched the Sons for talent and were wholly unique. Alessi was probably the youngest person at the ICA that night (being only 18) and charmed us with her quiet man-

ner and her confusion between Heston Blumenthal and emmental cheese. Not only did her songs send shivers down the spine (with lines like: "I want to walk around in your beautiful head/ And hang photographs from your wicker bed") but her voice set her apart from any other female soloist around at the moment (think Bjork crossed with Dolores O'Riordan of the Cranberries). Alessi's Ark is back in London at the end of the month after a stint in California.

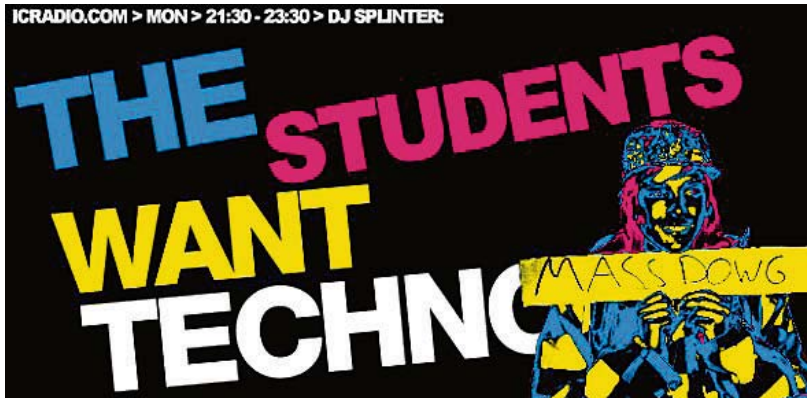
The other Sons of the night (those of Noel and Adrian) stood ten strong with an assortment of instruments (flute, horn, double bass, violin, cello to name a few, as well as some synchronised whistling to go with) which reminded me of a sort of hillbilly-von-Trapp-family band, in the best possible way. As far as I am aware, the band members are not related. Special mention must go to the violin player, the majority of whose violin's strings were freed from their bow on account of his energetic playing!

Certainly, Sons of Noel and Adrian are loved by the headlining Sons and for good reason too.

This is music at its most heartfelt, modest and organic, but gives you something which can't be recreated with synths and basslines through speakers. Give me folk over rave any day.

IC RADIO

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Tuesday 12:00 – 12:45 Capital Science 13:00 – 14:00 Science at One 14:00 – 15:30 Beyond the Hype 17:00 – 18:00 Maggie's Thatch 18:00 – 19:00 It's All About the Music 19:00 – 20:00 Believe the Hype 20:00 – 21:00 White Noise	Thursday 12:00 – 13:00 Belated Hype 13:00 – 14:00 Dead Air Space 16:00 – 17:00 Papercuts 18:00 – 19:00 Nath and Yuvi's Happy Hour 19:00 – 21:00 Instrumental 21:00 – 23:00 The Spectre Show	Saturday 11:00 – 13:00 VPT 15:00 – 17:00 Yes We Can 17:00 – 18:00 Hypercommunication
Wednesday 13:00 – 14:00 Eye on Science 14:00 – 15:00 The Indie Show	Friday 13:00 – 14:00 Friday Lunchtime Fantastic	Sunday 16:00 – 17:00 The Pop Show 17:00 – 19:00 The G and T Show 19:00 – 21:00 The Roushan Alam Show 21:00 – 23:00 The Crack Den



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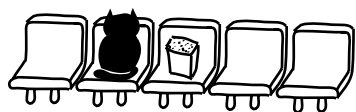
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Film

Film Editors – Zuzanna Blaszcak and Jonathan Dakin

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The film equivalent of Marmite hits the screen

Watchmen finally arrives at the cinemas and comic book lovers are clearly split into 'love it', 'hate it' camps.

Watchmen ★★★★★

Director: Zack Snyder
Writer: David Hayter et al.
Cast: Malin Akerman
 Billy Crudup,
 Jackie Earle Haley

Jonathan Dakin
 Film Editor

By this point in time, you must know about the torrid history of *Watchmen*, as it has been heavily advertised and dissected in the press. Based on a hugely successful comic book series by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons, *Watchmen* as a movie has been in development since the early '90s. Many people have claimed it was unfilmable because of its sweeping narrative and spectacular and iconic imagery, and many fans are still unconvinced that director Snyder will be able to do the graphic novel any justice.

The plot? Well it is hard to explain but it starts with an assassination that makes three former superheroes come out of hiding to investigate what is going on. That is the basic plot, and by saying the rest I think it would spoil it. It is mainly a complex political web which draws the lives of the characters in and out of one another, with the saving of the world aspect a subplot that comes closer to the forefront as the story progresses. I know this is vague, but I think that not knowing the storyline makes the film much more interesting and watchable (take my word for it!).

As you can tell from the stars above, I liked it. I liked it a lot. But I hadn't read the comic before I had seen the film, so to make sure I wrote as objective review as possible, I went to the cinema with two friends of mine who had both



If superheroes were to have a convention, this is what it would look like.

previously read the original source material, so that they could tell me their views on the film. One of them loved it and the other hated it. I think *Watchmen* is a Marmite-type of film – you either get it or you don't. And I personally don't think many people in the general public will. It is the kind of film that the critics love because it has 'deep' political meanings and is well directed, so I was careful not to jump on their bandwagon. As a superhero film, I'm not sure it works, but as a political action/drama centred around a gang of former superheroes, it is great.

For starters, three things about this film bugged me. The soundtrack made me wince (especially during the sex scene – why was 'Hallelujah' playing in the background?), the plot was at

points incomprehensible (and this is why reading the book before seeing it is a good idea) and the character of Dr. Manhattan (played by Billy Crudup) was dry. But these critiques aside, everything else was brilliant. The direction was great: the film looked dazzling – drawing you in from the very beginning until the end. The images were very iconic and memorable, doing the comic books justice as well as giving the film depth and style. The acting was also very good; Jackie Earle Haley as Rorschach and Jeffery Dean Morgan as The Comedian stole the show with two dominating performances. Patrick Wilson who played the Nightowl was also very good and although Malin Akerman as the second Silk Spectre wasn't as convincing as the

rest, she looked the part and held her own. Saying that, both Billy Crudup (Dr. Manhattan) and Matthew Goode (Ozymandias) were not very good in their roles but mainly because their characters were bland and forgettable, although crucial to the plot.

The special effects are amazing: Rorschach's changing ink-blotted face is a marvel and the fight scenes look very slick and cool. And that is something else I must come on to – the action scenes. After seeing *300*, I had high hopes for the director, and he did not let me down. The action sequences were by far the best parts of the film, and although the Matrix-style slow motion shots were overused and unoriginal, the beat-'um-up gory action was very exciting. The best part of the

film was when a few of the characters break into a prison to help one of their friends, only to be encountered by some very angry and very aggressive inmates.

The gore is not for the faint of heart: you will see some very grisly bits that make you grit your teeth in disgust. One of these moments includes a bone being snapped out of an arm, and another features a meat cleaver and a bald head. Oh dear. After all, this is an 18-rated film; but judging by how some the audience reacted to the naked Dr. Manhattan, whose neon blue penis is on show throughout the entire film, you wouldn't have guessed it.

The overall tone of the film is very dark and unknowingly uncertain, as it takes quite a long time before the final unveiling of why everything has happened is revealed. This helps add an unpredictable quality to the film, but only if you have not read the book.

Although the story is pretty flat and drags on for longer than it should, *Watchmen* is a spectacle to behold, as it pleases the eye as well as the brain, since it gets you thinking about political issues you might not otherwise ponder. It isn't the revelation that people are saying it is, but it does have a very uncharacteristically different feel, with a strongly anti-Hollywood ending. It is refreshing to see such a different movie, something that isn't your usual Hollywood hogwash.

So if you like regular superhero films, like *Spiderman*, you might not like *Watchmen* because it is a lot more edgy, and is definitely not a happy clappy piece of cinema. *Watchmen* is the kind of film that everyone will have an opinion about, from the doting fans to the unaware masses. So go and watch it, and the only thing I can guarantee you is this: you will either love it, or you will hate it.

Seriously, he's not into you!

He's Just Not That Into You ★★★★★

Director: Ken Kwapis
Writer: Abby Kohn et al.
Cast: Jennifer Aniston
 Ginnifer Goodwin

Jonathan Dakin
 Film Editor

Why do people never call back after a date that you thought went so well? Why does the person you are obviously flirting with barely look at you and act like you aren't even there? Why is it so hard just to get someone to notice you, even when you try your hardest to look attractive? The answer for everyone out there who has ever experienced this: they just aren't that into you.

Based on a self-help book of the same name, *He's Just Not That Into You*, takes the idea of why people don't return calls and never speak to you again and places it into the lives of an all-star cast who re-enact our deepest fears about dating and relationships.

For example, take Gigi (Ginnifer

Goodwin), an attractive twenty-something woman who finds that every man she goes on a date with never calls her back, even when she thought they had clicked. Why does no one want to go out with her? Is there something wrong with her? Or is there a problem with all the men that she is attracted to?

The film lays it out straight down the line from the very beginning by telling women that if a man wants to be with you, he will be with you. Men don't play mind games – if they aren't into you, they just won't see you again. So don't tell yourself that they went on a business trip or have a meeting or are on holiday – they just don't want to go out with you. These messages are told comically throughout the film, revealing secrets of both the male and female psyche as the different character's lives weave in and out of one another as the plots progress. One couple decide that if they can't get married, they should break up. Another happily married couple discover that maybe they don't know each other as well as they might think. A beautiful, young woman realises that when you are really attracted to someone, it doesn't matter if they have a wife: you should just go for it.

The acting is very good, with eye candy for both men and women in the form of Scarlett Johansson, Justin Long and many others. Jennifer Aniston shines in a likeable role not too dissimilar from her *Friends* counterpart, and Jennifer Connelly proves her acting merits by tackling the emotional scenes. Bradley Cooper is also good as a badly-behaved husband, and Drew Barrymore makes the most of her cameo. Although the script is sometimes obvious and the plot is fairly predictable, it is hard not to like the film. It provides some genuinely funny moments that are juxtaposed with some touching scenes. For those of you who get really engrossed in these types of films, there is a nail-biting moment in one of the plots when you consider that the couple may not get together, as it could go either way. The ending is good as there are a few happy moments along with sad ones, and the unhappy bits are realistic, therefore making the film as a whole stronger (because I like a bit of harsh reality). Let's just say that it is good to see women who don't sell themselves short by settling for less!

It is a fairly forgettable, run-of-the-mill chick-flick that people will en-



A bit of eye candy for the men, enjoying a pedicure

joy when they watch it, but probably wouldn't be too bothered about seeing again. Even men who are dragged into the cinema by a woman can find something to like about it, even if it is Scarlett Johansson's cracking body. It is good that someone has finally decided to tell women the truth about how

men think, but I doubt many women will listen to it (just keep telling yourselves that because he winked at you, it means you will get married!).

So for everyone out there in need of relationship advice, take heed: if they aren't trying to get you, then they just aren't that into you.

Woody Allen takes a new look at love

Vicky, Cristina, Barcelona
★★★★★

Director: Woody Allen
Writer: Woody Allen
Cast: Javier Bardem
Scarlett Johansson
Rebecca Hall

Zuzanna Blaszczak
Film Editor

The trailer promises a fiery affair, a love triangle, loads of Catalan sun and Latino meat (Javier Bardem, Penelope Cruz). Unfortunately the trailer also overemphasises the tragic slant of the movie which, in actuality, is not as melodramatic and soap-opera-like as you'd be forgiven to conclude from the teasers.

The story is deceptively simple – two young, American women (Hall as Vicky and Johansson as Cristina) arrive in Barcelona to spend the summer with a well-off relative of Vicky. At a routine dinner in an ordinary restaurant late at night, their holiday suddenly gets a twist when they are approached by Juan Antonio Gonzalo, a bohemian, fully Spanish-blooded painter (Bardem) who offers them exactly what Cristina is looking for – a passionate adventure. Naturally things get a bit more complicated as Vicky, who doesn't trust Juan Antonio and is not stirred by his open 'womanising' and mix of macho looks with the exciting stranger. But nothing can

happen as Cristina also has the hots for the artist and Vicky is in fact engaged. That's all very tragic and really not that interesting but throw in Juan's slightly psychopathic ex-wife (Marie Elena), with Penelope Cruz in an Oscar winning performance and the film becomes an explosion of pure, eccentric and slightly crazy energy as the story begins swerving surprisingly from side to side.

In all fairness, it's not just Penelope Cruz that makes the movie; the assembled cast works perfectly together and makes a stretched story very believable.

It's enough to look at Johansson to know Cristina is forever fruitlessly looking for something she wants but never knows what it is, while Hall effortlessly plays the down-to-earth friend taken aback by the sudden realisation that when God wants to punish you, he answers your prayers. And of course Bardem is fantastic as the embodiment of the lustful, yet tender and sensitive, lover.

Even with a talented and well-tuned cast, the film would probably be a rather significant failure if it weren't directed by someone like Woody Allen. This legendary director, who suffered through a period of ample number of misses recently, is one of the few people who could pull this project off. Allen plays with narrative styles, themes, ideas, shots and emotions in a virtuoso offering in step with the amazing soundtrack of Spanish guitar. The movie becomes great fun because



Bardem lives every man's dream with two lovely ladies at his side.

the director is having fun, constantly winking at us and making sure we don't start taking things too seriously (in typical Allen fashion). Beware though as the humour is rather sophisticated and finding pure laugh-out-loud mo-

ments can be tricky. But if you enjoy laughing at bizarrely quirky events that seem unreal yet so commonplace at the same time, you'll find a truck load in *Vicky, Cristina, Barcelona*.

The true genius of the movie is that

coming out of the cinema you realise that somewhere between the comedy and the tragedy, you've been told a tale well worth thinking over as it just might change some of your set views about love.

College Hardship Fund 2009

EU and Overseas students

If you face higher than expected costs or a financial emergency, we may be able to help with a small grant from the College Hardship Fund.

Applications must be submitted by **08 May 2009**

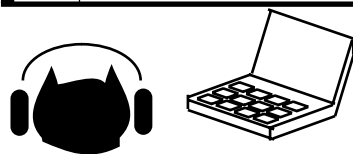
FURTHER INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS:

Web: www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/finance/thecollegehardshipfund

Email: student.funding@imperial.ac.uk

Telephone: 020 7594 8122





Technology

Technology Editor – Richard Lai

technology.felix@imperial.ac.uk



PayPal FTW!

Richard Lai
Technology Editor

A few weeks ago I promised to try out Windows 7 on a netbook (Acer Aspire One), but sadly this never happened. In fact, before I started writing this column I was at the Post Office to return the said netbook back to its eBay seller.

All this fuss started back in early February when I won an eBay auction for the faulty netbook: all the seller said was that the screen didn't turn on, so I assumed it would be an easy fix by upgrading the BIOS (as suggested by my good friend, Google). What actually let me down was that the seller took pretty much forever to send the item to me, coming up with all sorts of excuses: heavy snow for the first week (fair enough), then in the second week he needed to get the shop to extract personal data from the hard disk (should have done that before the auction ended!). In fact it was the fourth week when the seller finally shipped the netbook, but my joy was short-lived: upon booting I discovered that the screen was cracked.

Naturally, I had some suspicion that maybe this was a dark fact that the seller covered up in the auction listing but on the other hand it could have been Royal Mail's fault. Anyhow, I contacted the seller to see if I could get some sort of refund: £70, which is the standard rate for a new screen on eBay, or a full refund if I return the netbook. At this point I must point out that the refund request is reasonable: I'd be happy to claim the compensation from Royal

Mail myself, but the problem is that the applicant must be the holder of the proof of delivery – that was the seller in this case.

The seller's initial responses were disappointing: he claimed that he had contacted Royal Mail but was told that they were "not too sure what they could do". Not good enough. In fact, the seller's claim sounds more like a steaming pile of something that he collected from the park, and by ignoring my e-mails since then made it obvious that he wasn't willing to do anything about this, so I filed a dispute with PayPal.

The process goes like this: you file a dispute in order to get eBay's attention, who will assist you to deal with your counterpart if requested; you escalate the dispute to a claim in order to get PayPal's attention, who will actively contact your counterpart to get an answer. In my case, I heard nothing from the seller a week after the dispute was filed, so I escalated it to a claim.

As the title suggests, PayPal managed to get the seller to speak to them, and eventually decided that I was eligible for a full refund (including postage) upon returning the item via tracked delivery. They won't be whipping the seller for me, but at least I get all my money back. Isn't that great?

Be warned though: had the seller not sent the item to me via tracked delivery, PayPal would not have given a shit about this, so always double-check when buying from or selling on eBay.

Finally, don't forget to pick up the new issue of *Another Castle*!

Pimp up your iPhone

Richard lists a few great iPhone apps that you can't live without



TwitterFon £ Free

If I haven't got you hooked onto Twitter yet, this app will: out of the many Twitter apps I've tried on the iPhone, TwitterFon turned out to be the fastest and most powerful of the lot. All the buttons are at the right place, so you'll be tweeting with a minimum learning curve.

(Also try: Tweetie £1.79

Similar app but supports multiple accounts.)

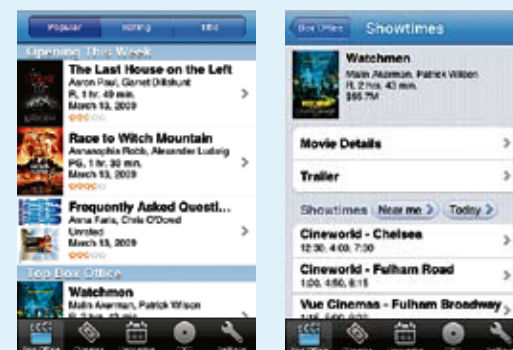


Flixster £ Free

Chem. Eng. bad boy, Tadek (@tadekk on Twitter), kindly pointed out that Cineworld is currently doing a 2-for-1 student offer on studentbeans.com, so go get the voucher and then get this free app to locate your nearest Cineworld cinema anywhere, anytime – well, Mondays to Thursdays only for the offer.

(Also try: VLC Remote £0.59

Watch movies at home instead with this handy app.)



Bloom £2.39

Despite the price, Bloom is an app which, without doubt, will be used more than once after purchase. You can compose relaxing, ambient music by simply tapping anywhere on the screen (thus leaving behind a beautiful radial trail), or you can just let the bot make music for you. Great for the exam season. (Thanks, @VentnorBlog)

(Also try: Koi Pond £0.59

Let the fish clear your stressed mind.)



London Tube Maps £0.59

By Ben Fearnley, Computing undergraduate

Ben talks about the development of this app:

“London Tube Maps was designed from the start as a useful way to find your way around the London Underground network, and it has turned out to be just that! With thousands of users it has become a popular way to view the transport system.

Of course, with success of a small app comes a giant company wanting to milk it for every penny they can sue its creator for. Very early on in the life of the app, Transport for London's artwork designers, “Pulse Creative”, demanded payment to use their maps or else they “would be forced to take legal action”. In the end a settlement was agreed and with the use of their original, high quality maps London Tube Maps is now the perfect way to view the Underground.

The development cycle continues though; the next stop for London Tube Maps is tube statuses (in this shot you can get a sneak preview of what's coming). This addition will make the app an invaluable utility for planning your journey through London.”

(Also try: Tube London City £2.99

Pricey but has route planner and live information.)



Easy-to-navigate linear view with search



A sneak peek of the upcoming status feature



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FRIDAY 13 MARCH
20:00 - 02:00



Friday 20 March
20:00-02:00

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Fashion

Fashion Editor – Dan Wan

fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk

From an old Egyptian mask to enormous bunny ears

Kawai Wong delves into the world of hats at the Victoria and Albert Museum

A groundbreaking fashion show took place in the V&A in 1971. This show has transformed the museum's fashion and textile collection into what we know it as today. Thanks to the curator for this fashion show, Sir Cecil Beaton – a photographer for Vanity Fair and the costume designer for the musical My

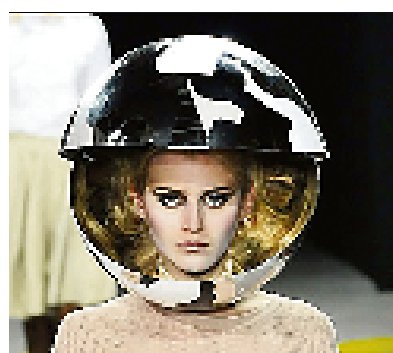
straw hat with floral details which was once worn by Audrey Hepburn are now on show in the exhibition.

As one of the world's most sought after milliner in the world, Jones has designed for Madonna, Kylie Minogue and the Rolling Stone; collaborated with John Galiano for Dior, Rei Kawakubo for Commes de Garçon and many more. A recent collaboration of Jones with Giles Deacon gave birth to the Pacman hat for Giles' SS09 show. The £5,000 hat accompanied Giles' many contemporarily cut dresses and skirts with a layer of translucent PVC.

The royal approved milliner also highlighted the royal head gears in the exhibition. The set includes the simplest head gear of all – Queen Elizabeth II's Hermes headscarf, which still emits a faint hint of perfume. D&G, Paul Smith, and Jean Paul Gaultier all featured headscarves on their catwalks in 2008, proving Agyness Deyn's point that Queen Elizabeth II has always been one of the fashion icons of our time; also the lilac felt and tulle hat that the Queen Mother wore on her 100th birthday. Further down the timeline,

the bonnet that Queen Victoria wore upon her union with Prince Albert is also on the showcase.

Jones considered a constructing the exhibition chronologically, but has decided to follow the life of a hat instead. The exhibition is divided into 4 sections - the stages of hat making: the inspiration, the creation, the salon and the client. The creation section features an installation of a milliner's at-



The £5000 hat Stephen designed for the Spring/Summer 09 Giles catwalk.

Fair Lady – he encouraged the V&A to document a full history of fashion. V&A's fashion collection now boasts over 28,000 pieces ranging from the wedding suit of James II of England up to the modern day masterpieces from designers such as Vivienne Westwood and Christian Lacroix.

V&A compares the legendary 1971 show to its current hat exhibition: Hats - An Anthology by Stephen Jones. Likening the implications underlying Cecil and Stephen's exhibitions for V&A is only one aspect of the designers' seemingly parallel universe. Steven Jones rescued some of Cecil Beaton's work for My Fair Lady which were originally bagged up and ready to be shipped off to a landfill site. After a tip-off from stylist L'Wren Scott, Jones proceeded to acquire the hats from a Warner Brother's archive in LA. The



Stephen Jones collaborating with John Galiano.



From top: The Queen has been donning headscarves since WWII. D&G revamped headscarves in their Autumn/Winter 08 RTW.

elier. The workroom is filled with hats that are in different stages of production. Also on show in the atelier are the genuine "head conformations" of Princess Diana and Jackie Onassis.

Steven Jones travelled around the world for two years in search of the 100 hats to add to the exhibition. The remainder 200 hats come from within the museum and private collectors. The exhibition draws on pieces from the Egyptian from 600 BC all the way up to the two kaleidoscopes like pom-pom head dresses Bjork wore on stage



An installation of a milliner's atelier in the Creation section of the exhibition.

in Hammersmith Apollo in 2008. The frivolous hat was designed by the RCA trained milliner Soren Bach.

"A hat is the cherry on the cake, the dot on the 'i', the exclamation mark, the fashion focus", says Stephen Jones. If visiting the exhibition is not enough to quench your new found enthusiasm about hats, go to the exhibition's curator's lunch time talk at the V&A this Wednesday the 18th March at 1pm.

Hats: An Anthology by Stephen Jones at the V&A, now – 31st May, student tickets £4.



Bjork on stage in Hammersmith Apollo with the dyed fur pom-pom head dress by the Danish hat designer Soren Bach.

Flatpack hats? What next?

Zara Gorman, from the RCA, has created flatpack hats. Kawai Wong enquires

Kawai Wong: What are the inspirations behind these flat pack hats?

Zara: I worked in a commercial environment before I came to study at the RCA. I am aware that large hats are not the easiest objects to be packaged and transported. So I was inspired by the notion of a collapsible hat. I was inspired to create elaborate hats that can be folded up and don't take up extra space.

K: How did you pursue the idea?

Z: I looked at various patents for constructions that have been created in the past. Also how things can be cut out. Then I started to look at techniques such as laser cutting etc.

K: Is this a completely new design?

Z: This has certainly opened up new world of millinery for me. I am interested in things that are not necessarily constructed from traditional blocks. I have placed a patent in the technical area. So I'd like to hope that this is a completely new area of hat design.

K: What is your ethos in terms of designing hats?

Z: I like things that look simple and elegant but also based on functionality.

K: Where are you going from here?

Z: I am open to all sorts of things at the moment. There are many departments at the RCA and there are always techniques that I can try and trial - vacuum forming, clay modelling and laser cutting. I'll also experiment with

different fabrics as well which aren't necessarily used in traditional millinery. And of course I will still develop my flat pack hats.

K: Are you looking forward to starting your own design label?

Z: I am actually quite looking forward to working with other designers. Graduating from RCA doesn't mean the end of a learning process. People can evolve and get good aspirations by collaborating with other people. Stephen Jones works with an amazing array of fashion designers.

Going forward my ambition will be to work for another milliner or possibly a couture house rather than on my own.



Clockwise from top: Hat 1, Hat 2, Hat 3. Elegant, simple and collapsable!

SICK



Transvestites

Boys wearing skinny jeans. Girls wearing dinner jackets. Go hardcore by wearing men's silk pyjamas à la D&G or top up a boyfriend look by wearing leather brogues. A pair of adapted female versions were spotted at Russell&Bromley for £125. Alternatively loiter around charity shops for a cheap fix.



Fashion vs Luxury

"Fashion and luxury are the same", says Grace Coddington, the Welsh Chief Fashion Director for the US Vogue and Anna Wintour's right hand woman. Having said that, she is also astonished by the extravagances of the fashion world. "What? A \$10,000 skirt? You're not paying for that one skirt, you're paying for all the ideas and manufacture that go into it." Quite right.



A Sweet Face

Dolce & Gabbana will launch a comprehensive make-up line at Selfridges on 15th March. The ads feature actress Scarlett Johansson and make-up artist Pat McGrath. A bronzing powder costs £27 and a bright red lipstick costs £20. The price range will put the branded cosmetics in league with the more historical make-up lines from Christian Dior and Chanel. The mascara range will feature a signature peppery scent. What? Scent in mascara?

SHIT

ICONS

Helen McDill and Rachael Bishop present the RAG Fashion Show

We are excited to present this year's Imperial College RAG Fashion Show 2009. The show this year is themed around legendary Fashion 'ICONS'. In today's society where image is everything and we aspire to be our role models, we want to showcase some of the world's icons that have moulded fashion throughout the years. We will show James Bond's classically clean-cut suits and Audrey Hepburn's sexy cocktail dresses contrasted with Vivienne Westwood's rock punk designs.

The show is on Tuesday 17th March at Heaven nightclub, one of the biggest and best party venues in the capital, famous worldwide. All profits from the show are going to this year's RAG charity, The Winnicott Foundation. The Winnicott Foundation is a registered charity that aims to help save the lives of premature and critically-ill newborn babies, and give them the best future possible. Founded by doctors and parents in 1985, the charity supports the Winnicott Baby Unit at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington. We are hoping to raise over £5000 from the Fashion Show this year.

Many fantastic companies have donated clothes to us this year ranging from high street favourites Urban Outfitters, Intimissimi, Lyle and Scott to vintage classics Sam Greenberg and Butterfly Girl. From European chic with Jaeger, Area 142 and Les Nereides to avant-garde Le Tour de Force and Ad Hoc. We will also be showcasing the best in new British designers with Hinks Taylor and Project Showroom No. 5 plus many, many more. This year's show is set to be the best clothing line-up yet, immortalising legendary style icons from past and present.

The Fashion Show this year promises to be a whirlwind of beautiful models and clothes. With amazing goodie bags for every guest and free entry to our after-party, this is one evening not to be missed. For those wishing to go VIP these tickets include free Topshop jewellery, front-row seats and a free drink. On the night we also have an array of wonderful prizes to be won in the gift tree and raffle, including a £50 Sophie's Steakhouse voucher, Alice and Astrid underwear and a £250 hair voucher. The after-party will be a night to remember with incredible live DJ acts and drinks deals, taking you through till 3am.

Tickets are now on sale, go to www.icfashionshow.co.uk to purchase yours.

Don't miss out on the chance to see the hottest people at imperial strut their stuff on the catwalk. The Fashion Show this year is set to be iconic in every sense of the word. See you all there!



Tuesday 17th March at Heaven
Doors open 7.30pm for the show at 8pm.
After-party doors open 10.30pm, finishing at 3am.

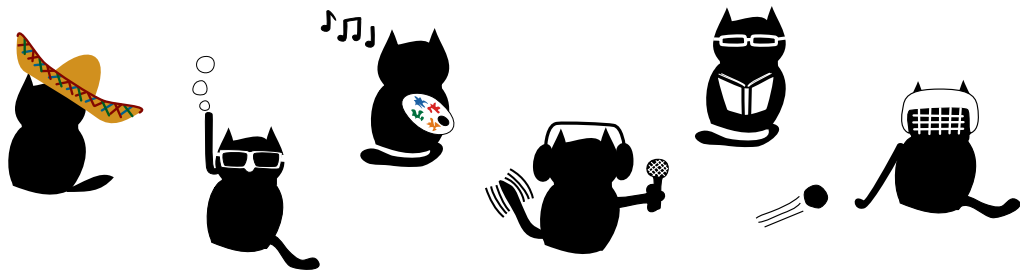
Tickets available from www.icfashionshow.co.uk now
VIP- £25
Non-student seated – £18
Student seated – £15
Standing – £10
After party – £5 or £7 on the door
For more info email RAG.fashionshow@ic.ac.uk

What's on...

Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editors – Lily Topham & Rachel D'oliveiro

whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Monday

Baha'i Awareness Week

Imperial's newly formed Baha'i Society is having its first Baha'i Awareness Week. Come along and find out what it's all about!

'A Broad Introduction to the Baha'i Faith' by Vafa Payman.

Time: 6pm
Place: LT 207, Skempton
Price: Admission Free

e.quinox Presentation

This evening features speakers from the field of Engineering and Development as well as a review of the e.quinox scouting mission to Rwanda. Free refreshments provided.

Time: 6pm
Place: LT 408, Elec Eng
Price: Admission Free

Medsin Wateraid Quiz

Don't miss Medsin's WaterAid Pub Quiz! Teams are a maximum of 6 people, so bring your friends or, form a new team on the night and make new friends! All money raised goes to the international charity WaterAid.

Time: 7pm
Place: Reynolds Bar, Charing Cross Hospital
Price: £3 per person

Tuesday

Baha'i Awareness Week

'Changing Reality: The Baha'i Approach'
Speaker: Dr. Moojan Momen

Time: 6pm
Place: LT 207, Skempton
Price: Admission Free

Sinfonietta Concert

Imperial College Sinfonietta perform Tchaikovsky's 6th Symphony, Delius' "Five Norwegian Songs", featuring student soloist Ed Hughes and Malcolm Arnold's "Four Scottish Dances".

Time: 8pm
Place: Great Hall, Sheffield
Price: £3/£6 (Students/Non-Students)

RAG Fashion Show 2009

Come and see the hottest people at Imperial strut their stuff in aid of The Winnicott Foundation. Buy tickets online at www.icfashionshow.co.uk.

Time: Show – 8pm, Afterparty – 10.30pm
Place: Heaven, WC2N 6NG
Price: £15 Students
£18 Non-Students
£25 VIP
£10 Standing
£5/£7 Afterparty

Wednesday

Baha'i Awareness Week

'Building A Sustainable World Community'
Speaker: Dr. Kishan Manocha

Time: 6pm
Place: LT 207, Skempton
Price: Admission Free

"The Life Of Galileo"

Dramsoc presents its main Spring Show: Brecht's "The Life of Galileo" (trans. Charles Laughton).

Written whilst in exile, "The Life of Galileo" is one of Brecht's best known plays. It examines the conflict between free enquiry and official ideology and contains some of Brecht's most human and complex characters.

Tickets available from www.dramsoc.org/tickets.

Time: 7:30pm
Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit
Price: £5/£7 (Students/Non-Students)

ACC Bar Night

Come to the last ACC Bar Night of term - there will be lots of beer! Contact accvc@ic.ac.uk.

Time: 8pm
Place: dB's, Beit
Price: £3/£7 (No Alcohol/Alcohol)

Thursday

Baha'i Awareness Week

'Can Science And Religion Be Reconciled?'
Speaker: Dr. Roger Kingdon

Time: 6pm
Place: LT 207, Skempton
Price: Admission Free

"The Life Of Galileo"

Dramsoc presents its main Spring Show: Brecht's "The Life of Galileo" (trans. Charles Laughton).

Galileo's proof that the Earth revolves around the Sun changed the way people saw the world forever. One of the greatest scientific breakthroughs, it was also seen as dangerous and potentially heretical.

Written while in exile, "The Life of Galileo" is one of Brecht's best known plays. It examines the conflict between free enquiry and official ideology and contains some of Brecht's most human and complex characters.

Tickets available on the door or in advance from: www.dramsoc.org/tickets.

Time: 7:30pm
Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit
Price: £5/£7 (Students/Non-Students)

Friday

"The Life Of Galileo"

Dramsoc presents its main Spring Show: Brecht's "The Life of Galileo" (trans. Charles Laughton).

Written whilst in exile, "The Life of Galileo" is one of Brecht's best known plays. It examines the conflict between free enquiry and official ideology and contains some of Brecht's most human and complex characters.

Tickets available on the door or in advance from: www.dramsoc.org/tickets.

Time: 7:30pm
Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit
Price: £5/£7 (Students/Non-Students)

Welcome to this week's What's On....!

The deadline for next week's edition is midnight on **Mon 16th 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

Saturday

Sunday

The Life Of Galileo

Written while in exile, "The Life of Galileo" is one of Brecht's best known plays. It examines the conflict between free enquiry and official ideology and contains some of Brecht's most human and complex characters. Tickets available on the door or in advance from: www.dramsoc.org/tickets.

Time: 7:30pm
Place: Union Concert Hall, Beit
Price: £5/£7 (Students/Non-Students)

ICSM Music Soc Choir Concert

Featuring both ICSM Choir and Chamber Choir, directed by Matthew Murphy and Ed Hughes respectively. The Choir will be singing Mozart's Requiem and Famous Opera Choruses (with student soloists) and the Chamber Choir will be performing Pergolesi's "Stabat Mater".

Time: 7.30pm
Place: St Stephen's Church, Gloucester Road
Price: Admission Free/£5 (Students/Non-Students) including a free glass of wine.

IC Chamber Choir Charity Concert

Join IC Chamber Choir at their Spring Term Spectacular! Repertoire includes Durufle's sublime Requiem along with a selection of close harmony favourites. The concert will also feature chamber music from some of Imperial College's finest musicians.

All proceeds will go to the children's charities the Newman Trust and LimaKids.

Time: 7pm
Place: Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road
Price: £4/£6 (Students/Non-Students)



This week me and the friends I will be living with next year finally got together to sort out what the heck we want from our house. It'll most likely be a house as there are five of us living under one roof. Now unless we wanted to share rooms in a confined space such as the immigrants that share small sheds in the back gardens of Slough, a house is a good option. Only problem is, we need to find a 5 bedroom house now. Anywho, point is we got off our arses and had a house meeting. It was a nervous affair, as we have never had a house meeting before, and as this was our first one, we had no clue about what we wanted.

Let me deviate here and tell you a few things. That comment about the people of Slough is true. Trust me, I was brought up there. Also let me tell you now, my house next year with the people I will live with (and I love these guys) will be the most dysfunctional house ever. Everyone in it is a complete waster.

Well after much discussion and long deliberation, we came out with a few good conclusions, important when deciding things for your new house/

flat. The most important one in my book was the fact we are going to get a dog! For real, loads of people say they are going to get a pet of some kind. We have agreed and in fact planned out the way to ascertain our dog.

What may be important to others include; the price your willing to pay, location, local amenities and comforts for the house hold. In our case I think we want a house somewhere in Fulham, near Fulham Broadway, at aproximate-ly £170 a week per person including ex-penses such a phone, gas and electric-ity. And of course SKY+!!! You can get a pretty decent all in one package from them which includes SKY, Broadband and phone. SWEEEEEEEEEEEEEEET!

All in all I am really looking forward to next year, being in halls has been fun, however there is something about your own place where you make your own rules, you have your own personal space. You don't have to worry about tiny fridges, or people stealing you food and cutlery.

I hope that this week I have got you thinking about your living situa-tion next year. So good luck and good hunting.

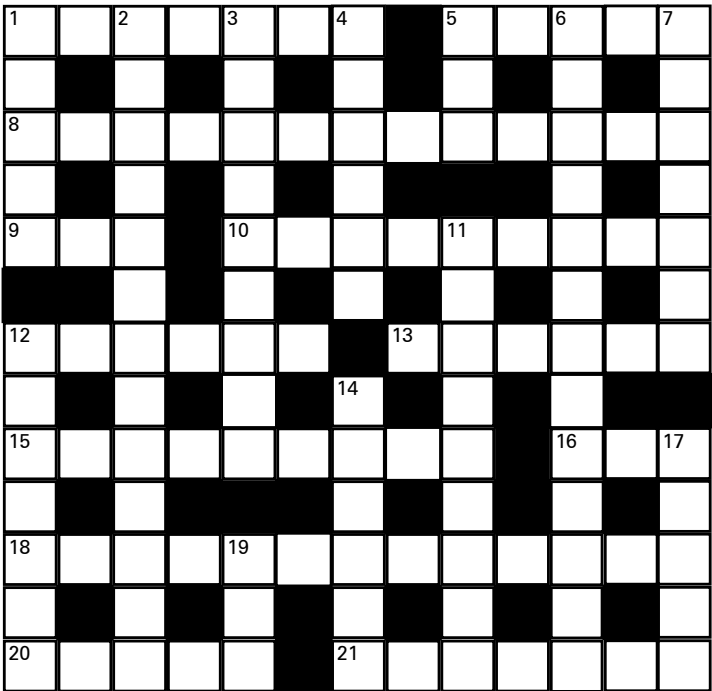
twitter.com/D00SKI

NEW future design of the felix website!!!

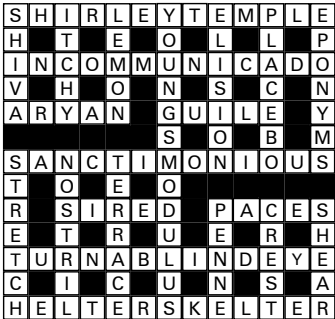
JUST IN CASE YOU DON'T GET IT, THIS IS A JOKE!



A Quickie (Crossword) 1,428



Solution 1,427



It took all the editors intellect to write last week's Quickie, cheers Enoch. But it did mean that it was super easy and gifted **Möchten sie mein Mannschaft** five points in FUCWIT. It's nice to be liked once in a while- makes me all warm inside. So please, for my sake send in solutions.

Also what you think of my kick ass maze? Fucking blew my mind last week- worse than that gram of Heroin I took, and that was crazy!

- ACROSS
- 1 Take possession (7)
 - 5 Salts of group I and II metals (5)
 - 8 Quick to display emotion (13)
 - 9 Nocturnal bird (3)
 - 10 Thin, fragile sheet material (4,5)
 - 12 Abnormal growth (6)
 - 13 Unit of measurement (6)
 - 15 Double entendres (9)
 - 16 Consume a tiny amount of liquid (3)
 - 18 Popular on April 1st (9,4)
 - 20 Artificial fiber (5)
 - 21 Have doubts about (7)
- DOWN
- 1 Wireless (5)
 - 2 Polite, flattering (13)
 - 3 Part of pneumatic tyre (5,4)
 - 4 Lure in (6)
 - 5 Item of underwear (3)
 - 6 No Clue
 - 7 V-shape (7)
 - 11 Rubber-soled shoes (9)
 - 12 No Clue
 - 14 Official decrees (6)
 - 17 Fold (5)
 - 19 Light brown colour (3)

Scribble box

FUCWIT League Table

Teams:	
Möchten sie mein Mannschaft?	282 Points
Team Shotgun	276 Points
Team What What	25 Points
Team Rubbish	17 Points
Individuals:	
Giramundo	83 Points
Hringur Gretarsson	53 Points
Jonathan Phillips	18 Points
Ben Hanson	17 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!

Horoscopes as they should be- By A. Mazing

Ohai guyz. How's it been without me? I am back to deliver you some factual 'sopes. Watch out Rugby



Aquarius

Who the fuck wrote last week's Horoscopes? That man is messed the fuck up. I want to build a time machine

so we can travel back to the Middle Ages. Then I'm going to commit a crime against the King and shift the blame. Thus I can see him get hung, drawn and quartered! Don't see why you're laughing, you're coming with us.



Pisces

Last week was a shit week and it's going to get worse. Unfortunately you did not die of nappy rash as

stated. However all the skin has peeled off your genitals, leaving open sores. Every time you take a slash the burn is worse than putting your knob in the George Foreman. And trust me that's a pretty bad burn. Chunt.



Aries

You are absolutely horrific. It is not legal have sexual intercourse with a 15 year old. I do not care that she

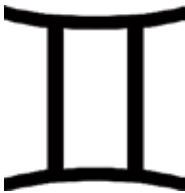
'looked older' or was 'well up for it' you just can't do it. Now you are going to be shipped of to jail where they hate kiddy fiddlers. You'll get worked from behind so hard, you'll be looking for a pint glass to plug the hole. Paedophile.



Taurus

So you have decided to stand for the editor of this fine ass paper. You dicksplat. What do you hope to achieve?

A cheeky shag in the back room does not come guaranteed with the job you know. I hope you fail in such a way that as you walk round campus people laugh and throw faeces at you. Hopefully some will land in your mouth too.



Gemini

This week you go out and buy some ridiculous clothing in the hope that you will be accepted by you peer group. Well,

no, you will never be accepted. I suggest you go back to the monkeys where they worship you as some sort of God. However, back in the real world having a conversation with you is like kicking a cripple, it's just not right.



Cancer

Rape, arse hole splitting, bruises, blood, gnome stuck in your eye, rose jammed down your japs eye, cum all

over you head, parts of your ball sack missing, bits of your vagina dragging along the floor, pregnancy, broken limbs, people laughing, rocks being thrown. Nope nothing good for you is planned this week.



Leo

Oh so Rugby don't like me. Well look at my face... does it look bothered? I shall enlighten you, it doesn't. Go back

to chasing eggs and occasionally touching other balls. I say occasionally, that's forgetting the gay love in the post-match showers. We all know you love it. Feel free to replace 'it' with a range of words e.g. 'frotting'.



Virgo

So you took the Chlamydia test this week in the Union. Next week the results come back. You are expectant that

it'll be negative. Humm nope. I don't think so. You have a whole host of other unconventional diseases such as liking Phil Collins. I only hope the Rugby boys don't find out because they hate Collins, and they'll 'find you.' Ohhhhhh



Libra

A couple of week ago I introduced you to the word 'chunt'. I was a creation of mine which cropped up in conversation.

Lets just say that if you are Chinese and a cunt you could possibly be a chunt. If you are a cunt, but not Chinese, then no, you cannot be a chunt. If you need further explanation then you are a cunt. Whatever ethnic origin.



Scorpio

You are most probably reading this in a lecture. Which is good. Now look to the person to the left of you. Now look to

the person to the right. Now glancing round the lecture theatre and look at 12 other people. Statistics show that one of you will get raped. Tasty. I do hope that it's you and that you get pregnant. That'll be laughable.



Sagittarius

YOU! Stop reading this and do some shit. Since when were you worthy for reading such a fine paper? Ask the guy next to you to

roll it up and repeatedly hit you with it until you face looks like Rihanna's. Too far? Not fucking likely. If you can't do the business with the paper, come get a sledgehammer from me, that'll mess up a face like no other.

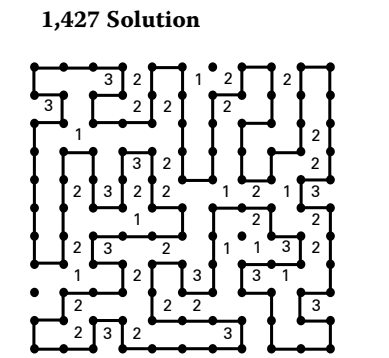
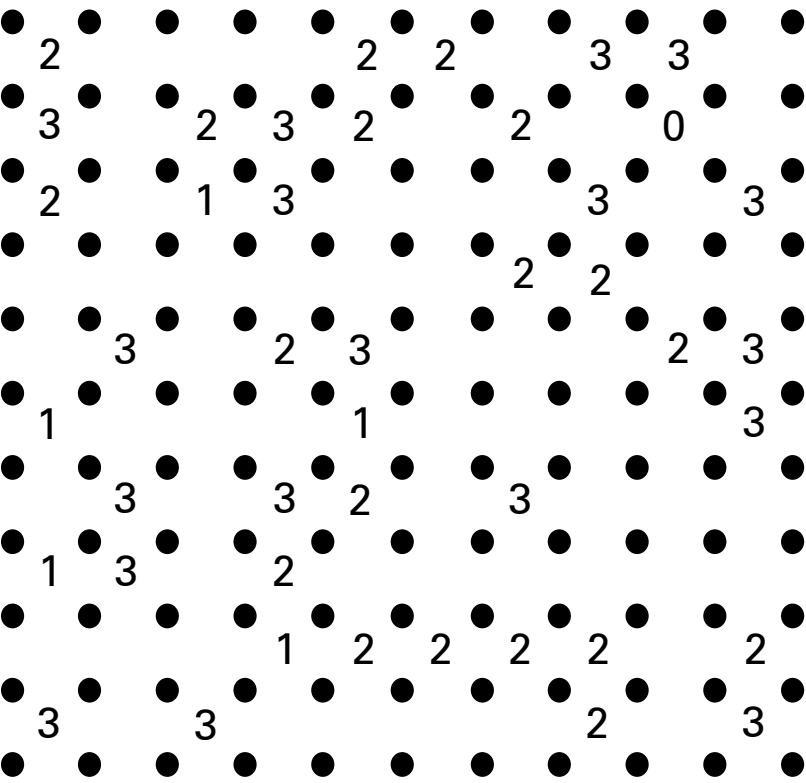


Capricorn

Sabb this Sabb that Sabb the other. Here's an idea. Why don't you all go and fuck yourselves? I think that will be a far better

use of your time, and be far better for my anger. I hate you all and plan on voting for RON. The next person who gives me a sweetie will find it inserted into their rectum. It will require surgical removal. Go jump into the Thames. Pint?

Slitherlink 1,428



I have started to make my own Slitherlinks now, because, well just look at me. I am pretty God damn awesome. Anyhoos, well done to **Möchten sie mein Mannschaft**, yes they won.

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:



07726 799 424

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

"Shit, didn't know the Rugby lot were such a bunch of eggy basterds! Chill the fuck out. Or you might just get more hated than the Football Club. Skeeno"

"To the girl in the front row. KEEP YOUR FUCKING HAND DOWN IN LECTURES."

"If you ever use that plug for you laptop in G.20 again I will smash the laptop, and possibly you. You've been warned."

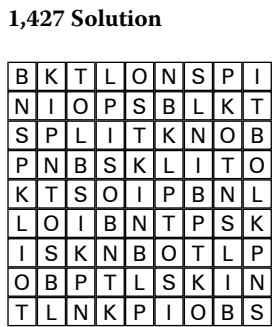
"Tea and cakes at McNulty's, sexxxay. JB"

"Materials have some banging hot freshers. Ohh yerrrr"

"So who else is coming to ACC Annual dinner, only £32.50 at the Hilton Olympia for 3 courses and champagne reception? Bargain I tell thee."

Wordoku 1,428

	M		S		O		
S		D		U	E		
				E		D	S
U		O				A	
D		A			U		M
	E				S		O
R	D			L			
		S		A	M		L
		M		E		S	



Möchten sie mein Mannschaft were able to put pen to paper and using all their ability conjure up the word KNOBSPLIT. Some people think split knobs are a point of humour. Those people we call 'wankers'.

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

Well, seems my little hissy fit got a few of you delinquents to talk to me. Well done to anyone who found ST JOHNS WOOD. Because it was the answer. **Möchten sie mein Mannschaft** found it. Because they love choade. No really they do, what?! you didn't know?

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.

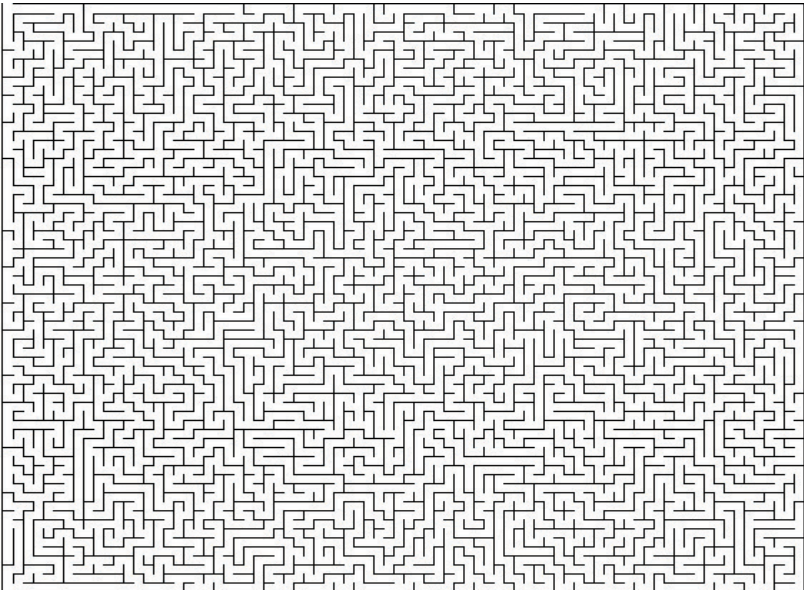
So which London tube station sums to 124?

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

= 124

Mentalist Maze...

With last week's mentalist maze being of epic proportions, I expected it to silent down here. Well nahsomach. A big hand to **Shotgun** who managed to send in a correct solution- even I couldn't solve it during a three hour Mechanical Behaviour lecture! Can I haz another? Yes, yes you can.



Ha ha, epic win!!1! Corner



Glad to see that PhD students are using the newspaper to good use as one of their colleagues goes away on holiday

Sport

IC Hockey unbeaten against the Medicals

Continued from back page

versial second goal, scored by Vicky, was given to Imperial despite some sticks being held dangerously high, a bit of footwork and a bit of baseball being played on the hockey pitch.

Riled up, it was time for the Medicals to get the goal that we deserved. A ball went straight up to Udi Reddy in the D who tipped the ball past the goalkeeper leaving the scoreline at 2-1 to Imperial at halftime.

The Imperial captain, Sarah Clayton, set all the Imperial players straight with an abusive team talk at half time which frankly scared some of the players. Play began again and almost immediately the Medicals had a short corner. After a beautifully worked tick-tock move – a one-two on the top of the D, the ball was strongly pushed inside the post by their beloved final year, Jessie Payne, to bring the score to 2-2.

However ten minutes of hard work from both sides resulted in Imperial's

Vicky scoring another goal, and within a few minutes she managed to score another to settle the game and giving Vicky her second hattrick of the season. The Medicals battled to the very end but the final whistle ended to give a 4-2 score line to Imperial.

The match was sadly tainted by some contentious umpiring decisions throughout which over-shadowed good play on both sides and made the match a far less enjoyable occasion than it should have been.

The match finished with a proud Medics captain due to brilliant play by everyone on the team, and an incredibly enjoyable night to look forward to despite the loss.

Congratulations should go to their most valuable player of the match, Fiona Laird for some great play in mid-field, both defensively and in attack. From the Imperial point of, special mention goes to Vicky for her sterling performance and hattrick which earned her the Man of the Match award.



Imperial Sarah Clayton chasing down the Medicals player

Viking-Bøåt wins novice pennant at the Hammersmith Head

Christina Duffy

Imperial College Boat Club were victorious at Hammersmith Head last weekend winning the Novice Pennant by 0.7 seconds ahead of Emanuel School BC. The Viking bow-three of Benjamin Fahs (Norway), Andreas Prøsch (Norway) and Alistair Larsson (Sweden) summoned the Heavens as they set off through the starting line. Thunder rumbled and a bolt of lightning crashed over Chiswick Bridge. Stern four reacted into an accelerated race pace as shouts of “Thor the Lightning God is angry! Row on! Raagh!!” bellowed from the bows firing the crew down the 4.4 km course. The crew ranked an impressive 40th overall out of 90 entrants with Elite 8+ Henley RC A taking the overall Head win: only 67 seconds ahead of the Nordic Novices.

IC 1 (Sean Delaney, John Beaty, Rory Fallon, Thomas Walshe, Benjamin Fahs, Patrick Hudson, Andreas Prøsch, Alistair Larsson) were coxed by Deepika Reddy in an epic battle of the elements as the clouds opened and rain battered down on the crew after an initially sunny morning. Weeks of grueling feet-out square-blades training under the command of coach Nick Ablitt had the crew well conditioned for drenched rowing. The crew fought through hurricane force winds and powered along overtaking four boats: Exeter University RC (Novice), Kingston/Quintin/TSS (Vet F), Quintin BC (Vet E), London RC (Vet F).

By Barnes Bridge overhead lightening reached unreasonable levels and it was looking likely that the race would have

to be abandoned. Delayed results later fed to the rumours that there would be no winners due to the conditions. But not even sleet could deter the IC crew and they valiantly powered on. Boat Peter Reilly for once held up through the swell with no technical difficulties reported and the 8+ cruised home to victory.

IC B (Sam Reimer, Angelo Tardugno, Chris Kroon, John Nichols, Doru Procopiu, James Falkingham, Valerio Chang, Morris Jones) were coxed by Kate Wylie and finished in 13:03.87, 23rd in the novice category (83rd over-

all). After a shaky start the crew settled into a good rate and was pleased to make it back to Putney after spending two hours in the elements. Both IC A and IC B finished ahead of the top novice boat representing Imperial College School of Medics, who came 86th overall.

Congratulations to all crews especially to the novice men who will receive their pennants later this week. This result bodes well for their next race, the highlight of the Tideway race calendar: the Men's Head of the River Race on March 21st.



The calm before the storm: Strokeman Sean Delaney leads the IC A crew out

<

Imperial Handball Club missed semi-finals “by a whisker”!

Stefan Bauer

The Imperial College Handball Club had to settle for fifth place in the University Handball Championships, despite impressive performances in the group stages and words of praise from the British Handball Association.

On the dawn of Saturday the 28th of February, 9 brave warriors made their way to Nottingham in order to attempt what is believed to be impossible. Disrupt the well established Handball hierarchy in the UK. The 5am wakeup call and the training session from the night before still in our bones, we all managed, to get on the train in time. Arriving slightly ahead of schedule, gave some of us the opportunity to discover the limited wonders of Nottingham and locate the nearest pub.

We started off against combined Glasgow/Strathclyde, who won the Scottish league title in December and have a good reputation. Our aggressive but tiring five-one defence gave Alex Hyun

opportunities to frequently steal the ball and interrupt the opponents built-up. In addition to that, some clinical finishing by Arthur Gauriot and Adam Zwierzinsky helped us claim our first ever victory in a major competition.

After a short break, it was our turn to play title favourites Oxford. We managed to claim the first goal in very tense opening moments and shortly after, Ruben Freytag scored what has to be the goal of the tournament. However, Oxford got back in the game quickly and outran us on the counter attacks to claim a convincing victory.

Warwick University was up next, despite participating in Division 2, they were unable to win a game so far. We were eager to win and quickly raced to a 5:0 lead after only a few minutes thanks to solid performances from Manuel Castro, Ignacio Vazquez and Stefan Bauer in goal, who saved all 4 penalty throws awarded to Warwick in that game. Warwick however, fought back to an 8:8 with only a few seconds to go,

so that only a fine throw from the wing in the last seconds secured us 2 vital points.

In the meantime, Oxford surprisingly dropped points against Glasgow and has been held to a draw by Nottingham, which meant that we could go top of our group if we beat the host team. Under such pressure, we showed our quality and laboured us to a 6:3 lead with Thibault Faninger scoring some fine goals. Nottingham, with a lot of routine and a bit of luck towards the end of the game, held us to a draw in the closing seconds and denied us a place in the semi-finals.

We were scheduled to face the third place of the group B, which despite having defending champions Manchester University in it, turned out to be a lot weaker on average. So it was not a surprise that Imperial College Handball Club claimed a convincing victory over Lincoln despite losing one of our central players Tobias Gierk to an injury from the previous day.

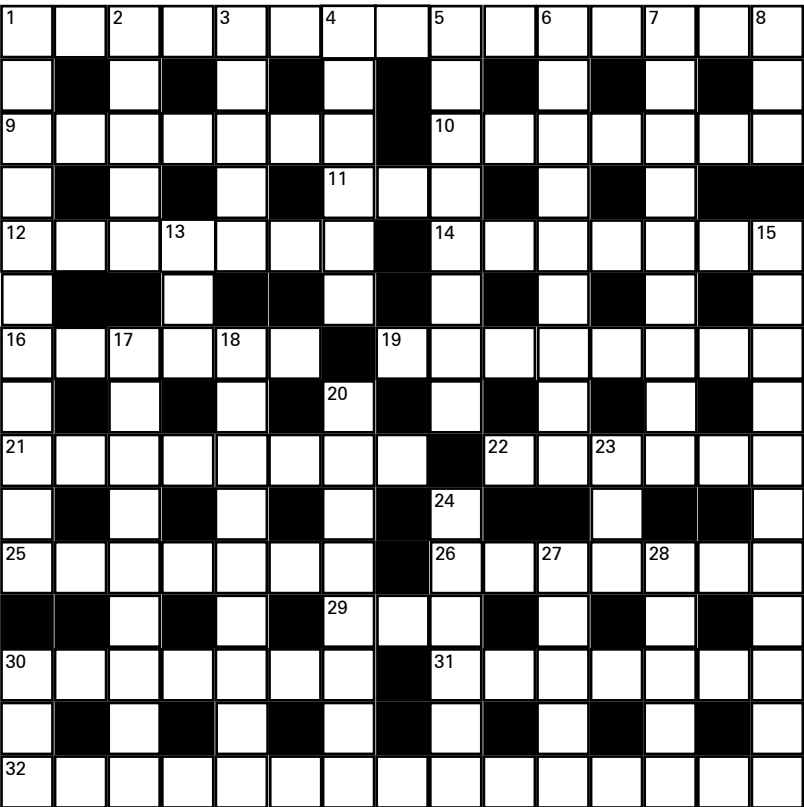


Imperial on the attack at the University Handball Championships

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	Fencing Men's 1st	10	9	0	1	1322	824	498	90	4.10
6	ICSM Badminton Men's 1st	6	5	0	1	28	20	8	83	3.50
7	Lacrosse Women's 1st	11	9	0	2	162	43	119	82	3.36
8	Hockey Men's 1st	11	9	0	2	59	16	43	82	3.36
9	ICSM Netball 3rd	11	9	0	2	409	210	199	82	3.36
10	ICSM Netball 2nd	10	8	0	2	365	195	170	80	3.20
11	Table Tennis Men's 1st	14	11	0	3	154	81	73	79	3.07
12	Squash Men's 2nd	9	7	0	2	28	15	13	78	3.00
13	Badminton Men's 1st	12	8	2	2	61	35	26	67	3.00
14	Netball 2nd	12	9	0	3	404	226	178	75	2.75
15	Hockey Women's 1st	14	9	1	4	51	30	21	64	2.21
16	Basketball Men's 1st	9	6	0	3	658	577	81	67	2.00
17	ICSM Hockey Women's 1st	13	8	1	4	56	28	28	62	2.00
18	Hockey Men's 3rd	10	4	4	2	19	25	-6	40	2.00
19	Hockey Men's 4th	8	4	1	3	19	23	-4	50	1.25
20	Squash Men's 3rd	7	4	0	3	14	9	5	57	1.14
21	Basketball Women's 1st	9	5	0	4	417	383	34	56	1.00
22	Badminton Women's 1st	12	6	1	5	57	39	18	50	1.00
23	Hockey Men's 2nd	11	6	0	5	41	35	6	55	0.91
24	Football Men's 2nd	9	4	1	4	20	27	-7	44	0.67
25	ICSM Football Men's 1st	9	4	1	4	15	20	-5	44	0.67
26	Tennis Men's 2nd	11	5	1	5	42	59	-17	45	0.64
27	Rugby Union Men's 2nd	16	8	0	8	332	322	10	50	0.50
28	Fencing Men's 2nd	8	4	0	4	965	897	68	50	0.50
29	Squash Women's 1st	12	2	6	4	20	32	-12	17	0.50
30	ICSM Hockey Women's 2nd	9	3	2	4	23	31	-8	33	0.33
31	Football Men's 1st	10	4	1	5	20	24	-4	40	0.20
32	Volleyball Men's 1st	9	4	0	5	10	10	0	44	0.00
33	Rugby Union Men's 3rd	12	5	0	7	207	229	-22	42	-0.25
34	Badminton Men's 2nd	8	2	2	4	29	35	-6	25	-0.25
35	Tennis Women's 1st	10	4	0	6	44	56	-12	40	-0.40
36	ICSM Rugby Union Men's 2nd	13	5	0	8	212	210	2	38	-0.54
37	ICSM Rugby Union Men's 3rd	11	4	0	7	130	264	-134	36	-0.73
38	ICSM Rugby Union Men's 1st	15	4	1	10	256	401	-145	27	-1.20
39	Volleyball Women's 2nd	7	2	0	5	13	16	-3	29	-1.43
40	Hockey Women's 2nd	10	2	1	7	10	44	-34	20	-1.60
41	Football Men's 3rd	8	2	0	6	14	26	-12	25	-1.75
42	Football Women's 1st	9	2	0	7	11	32	-21	22	-2.00
43	ICSM Hockey Women's 3rd	8	1	1	6	10	38	-28	13	-2.13
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	ICSM Hockey Men's 1st	9	1	0	8	15	32	-17	11	-3.00
50	Netball 3rd	10	1	0	9	113	351	-238	10	-3.10
51	Rugby Union Men's 4th	13	1	0	12	132	552	-420	8	-3.31
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. 1,428

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

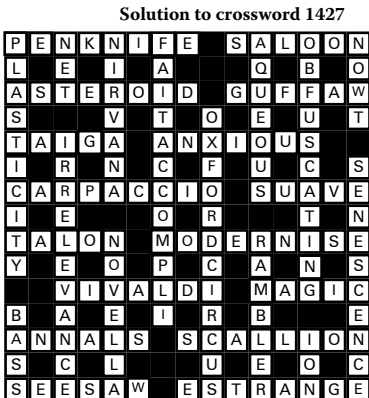


- ACROSS**
- 1 Confused criminal, German one, and a Chelsea player with a heavenly body are together seen very rarely. (4,2,1,4,4)
- 9 Length and duration of videotape. (7)
- 10 Brought together army and party leaders and sat for the cameras. (7)
- 11 Staff cut of Prodi's extremities. (3)
- 12 What might descend when doctor gets muddled up with times. (3,4)
- 14 Argue back, finding kind timid and lazy. (7)
- 16 Celery ends with minced lamb – it makes a clamour. (6)
- 19 Prince hurried to make a phone call relating to a meal. (8)
- 21 India's borders are shrouded in very small, intricate details. (8)
- 22 Brother consumes fish, leaving its head, in Ravel ballet. (6)
- 25 Insect does not finish – one is overwhelmed by torrent, in pain. (7)
- 26 Start to attack ring very loudly. (7)
- 29 Boxer appeared in tabloid regularly. (3)

- 30 Nothing is missing from noise made by one aluminium clock (7)
- 31 Biblical character surrounded by the sound of cows, five making a fiery cocktail. (7)
- 32 Rose crayon could transform into magenta, perhaps. (9,6)
- DOWN**
- 1 The following clue features one animal standing on crossing point, with Frenchman in a deep sleep. (6,5)
- 2 Make murky, cold, and noisy. (5)
- 3 Arab terrorists supported by dodgy intelligence (5).
- 4 Peculiarly staler warnings. (6)
- 5 This flower has advantage on value, almost. (8)
- 6 See panto somehow with king. Its words are made up. (9)
- 7 Mad Eve is boss with unhealthy fixation on something. (9)
- 8 Anode ends broken off – a positive sign. (3)
- 13 Mafia to assault crowd. (3)
- 15 Shout pained exclamation loudly – always a nasty disease. (6,5)
- 17 Like some inherited condition, one coming in a bad way. (9)

- 18 Country loses figurehead, almost worn out inside through gradual weakening. (9)
- 20 God rises to the endless valley above, where the chosen dead reside. (8)
- 23 The French king might come here to attract a female. (3)
- 24 Hit the slopes with politician on the middle of abyss, revealing much. (6)
- 27 Instrument with a chamber and a

Congatulations to **Team What What** who won last week! **Sam Wong**





Imperial ladies win delayed Varsity

Hockey

Imperial Women's 1st XI	4
Medicals Women's 1st XI	2

Jessica Poore &
Lauren Chalmers

Although hockey had a successful varsity day, the ladies 1's had to wait a bit longer.

The initial match, having been postponed due to Imperial having a BUCS cup match, was played on a thundery Sunday afternoon at Harlington. Despite this, the medic crowd were out in force supporting the Medicals to the very end, much to our appreciation.

The Medicals were out for revenge, with one of the more unfortunate players, Sabrina Black, standing on crutches on the sideline as a result of Emma Berisford's abuse from the last match.

The match began with a strong Medical start, however they couldn't finish off the well worked play, especially since the Imperial pace started really slowly as they expected to win. The quick tempo from the Medicals could be due to the fact that this game was also to keep them from being relegated. It was Imperial that managed to break the deadlock with Jill scoring the first goal.

Resilient, the Medicals battled hard and had some chances, but a contro

Continued on page 30



Mojito, Tequila and pointy foils

Jason Lloyd

Foils drawn, under the gaze of the mid-afternoon sun, IC Fencing novices strode confidently into competition against London's finest at the ULU Novice Foil Fencing competition. For some their first competition lay ahead, and for others, the experienced, their second. In the heat of a match none of this matters.

No nerves, no fear. The mind focuses not on the dripping sweat and aching muscles, nor the weary eyes, but on the flood of memories from past training sessions, evaluating the next move, the pre-emptive strike. What followed by the teams, Imperial Tequila and Mojito, was a display of pure determination and skill.

Both teams eased to early victories in the often tricky opening match, defeating both UCL second and third teams, with impressive scores of 45-27 (Tequila) and 45-32 (Mojito). Imperial Mojito continued to put in a strong performance against UCL first, but eventually succumbed to pressure against a very strong UCL team.

Imperial Tequila's second match versus Kings was not so clear cut. An evenly matched and intensely fought

struggle led to a 44-44 deadlock. All eyes watched on intently as the competitors took their positions. In a display of their skill and confidence, Imperial Tequila took victory. Cheering ensued.

Giving firm opposition, both teams lost their third matches against the two strongest sides in the competition, with Tequila losing to UCL1 and Mojito losing to ULU a close 45-37. Mojito put up a strong performance against the Kings team which gave Tequila such trouble, winning 45-38, an excellent result.

The competition closed with what some claim to be the only match of the competition, the Imperial Tequila-Mojito showdown. The outcome of this match was all important for the final standings of the contest, with a medal position at stake.

A closely battled, and needless to say heated match once again came down to one point. The weight of team pride on their already weary shoulders tortured the mind. Imperial Mojito overcame the pressure to win a well deserved final point.

With their victory Mojito took an overall third place in the competition, awarded bronze medal for a fantastic performance on the day. All involved



The Imperial novice team, affectionately known as Mojito and Tequila

gave impressive displays, a sign of a strong future for IC Fencing club.

Celebrations were short lived however, with post competition drinks

at the union. Penalties for the day's events were delivered by a multitude of shots from the infamous epee guard, penalties for a low overall score, high

score, or anything else the team could come up with. The excellent performances of the day soon disappeared from memory.