

felix

The student 'news'paper of
Imperial College London

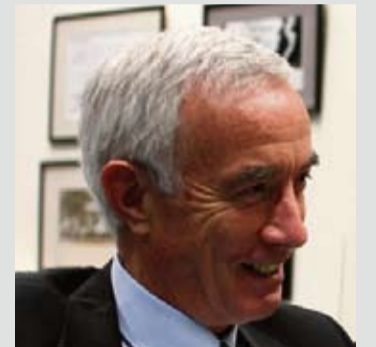
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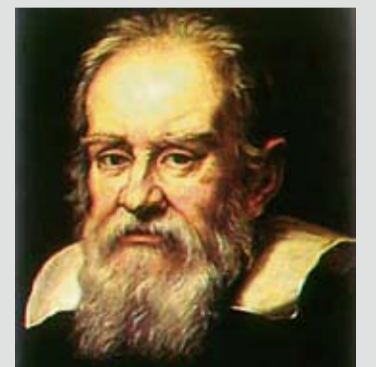
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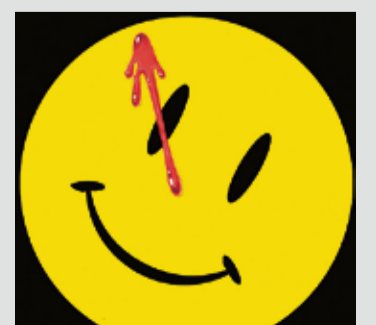


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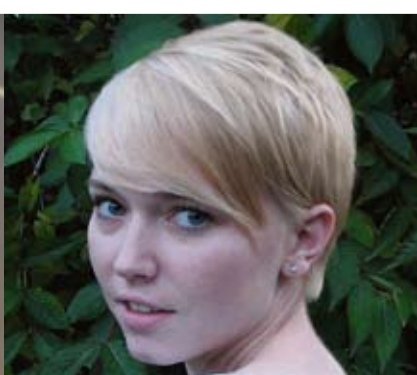
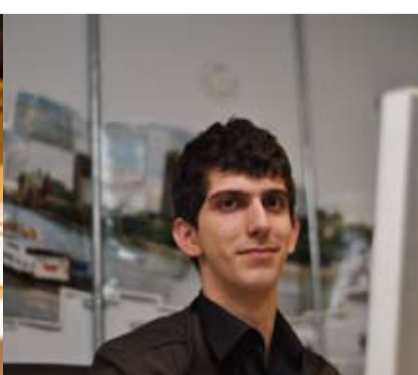
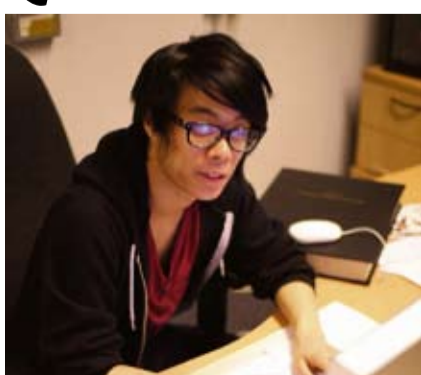


Who will win, only you can decide

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Voting opens
today, see what
all the candidates
have to say for
themselves in our
elections pull-out
special



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.



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

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.

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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Strictly Indie Gaming: AC previews the Independent Games Festival 2009 line-up with a sparkling twist.
And much, much more...

Can't find the issue on campus? Download the pdf online

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.



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

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

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 UKTR 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

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OF THE WEEK

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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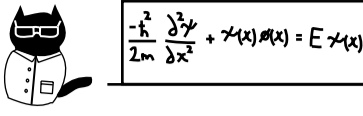
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Bloodhound landspeed record project

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.



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, Investors), 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.

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.



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 ECO₂HOUSE 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.

ECO₂HOUSE'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 ECO₂HOUSE.

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.'

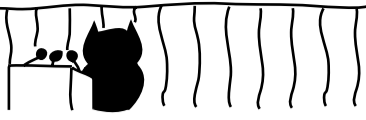
Tim Yeo stressed that the environment will become top priority again, as the business community continues to see the opportunities and threats of climate change. 'Politicians need to be in denial about global warming until 2006, but business was miles ahead, assessing the economic benefits of going green.' 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

politics.felix@imperial.ac.uk

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 dont 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 Taleban".

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.

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.

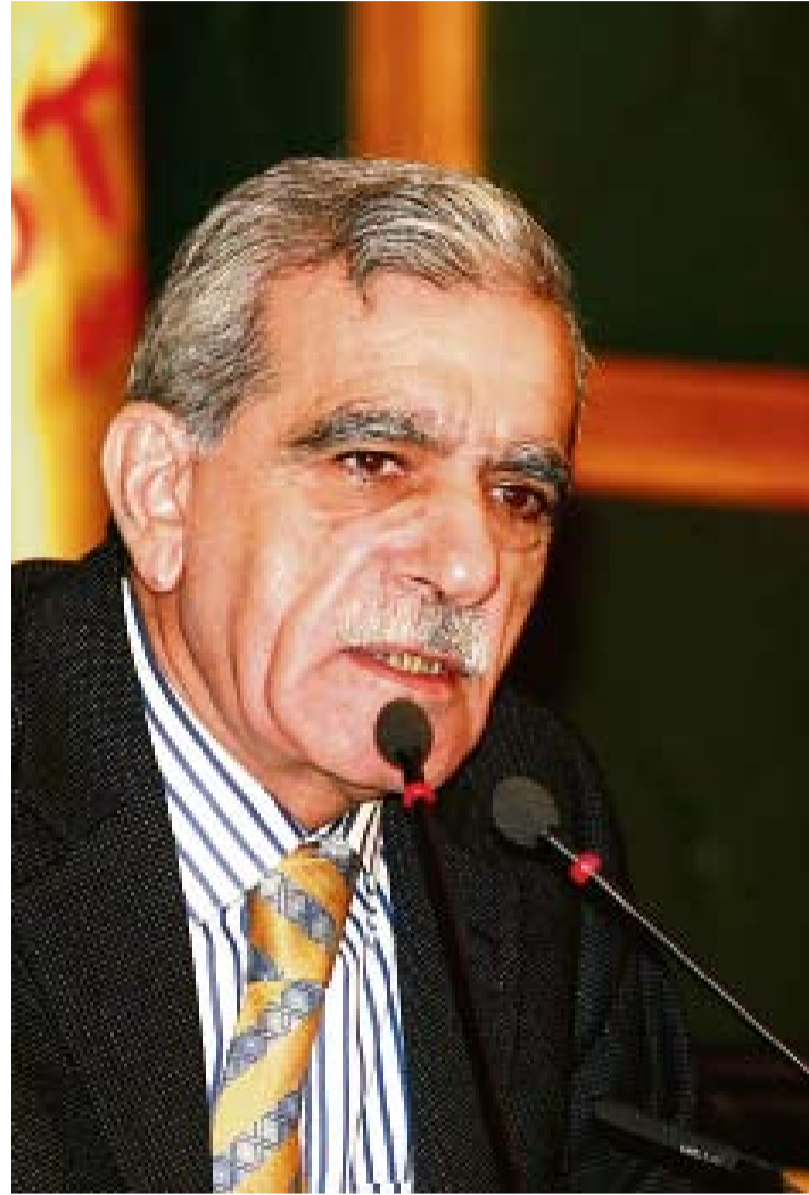
Mr. Ahmet Turk is a prominent political member of the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Party (DTP), which was elected to Parliament by the minimum-required 20 seats in the national elections of July 2007. By standing as individual candidates, the DTP-members were able to join forces afterwards and thus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

With thirty-five to forty million 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 practices.

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.

Go Plato.

Oh and don't forget the orgies.



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 Mizrachi 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 nationalist 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

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 as in 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 Cheung or Tony Leungs, and that every single moment failed to resemble a breath-takingly stylised paean to whimsy and heartbreak. Hoping for a retrofantastic 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 suitable awestruck. The experience was

IC Boat Club

gives us a flash!

If you or your club/society
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Music

Music Editors – Peter Sinclair, Alex Ashford & James Houghton

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk



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 - Meritweather Post Pavilion, 4) Bon Iver - For Emma, Forever Ago, 5) Portishead - Third, 6) Sigur Ros - It has 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) Madwilliam - Madwilliam, 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

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 Adrien 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.

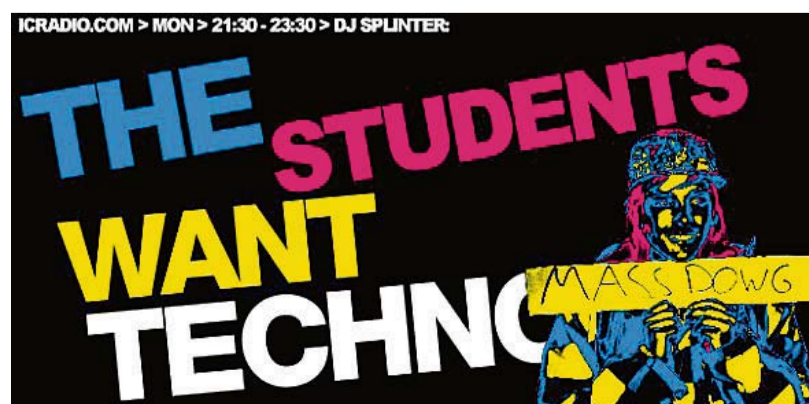
The other Sons of the night (those of Noel and Adrian) stood ten strong with an assortment of instruments (flute, horn, double bass, violin, cello to name a few, as well as some synchronised whistling to go with) which reminded me of a sort of hillbilly-von-Trapp-family band, in the best possible way. 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

<p>Monday 12:00 – 14:00 IKOBETRADIO 17:00 – 18:00 Capital Cuts 18:30 – 20:00 Pick 'n' Mix 20:00 – 21:30 Peer Pressure 21:30 – 23:30 The Students Want Techno</p>	<p>16:00 – 18:00 The Flagship Show 18:00 – 19:00 1 for the Heads 19:00 – 20:00 Off Beat 20:00 – 21:00 DJ Chainz Ice Cream Hour 21:00 – 23:00 Pirate IC Radio</p>	<p>14:00 – 15:00 Free Music 16:00 – 17:00 Science Jam 17:00 – 18:00 Peter & James 18:00 – 19:00 SoundBeam 19:00 – 20:00 The DC Sessions 20:00 – 00:00 Music Tech Sessions</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Saturday 11:00 – 13:00 VPT 15:00 – 17:00 Yes We Can 17:00 – 18:00 Hypercommunication</p>
<p>Wednesday 13:00 – 14:00 Eye on Science 14:00 – 15:00 The Indie Show</p>	<p>Friday 13:00 – 14:00 Friday Lunchtime Fantastic</p>	<p>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</p>



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Film

Film Editors – Zuzanna Blaszcak and Jonathan Dakin

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

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 dotting 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.

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Film

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 Blaszcak
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 an artistic soul, falls in love 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

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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.)

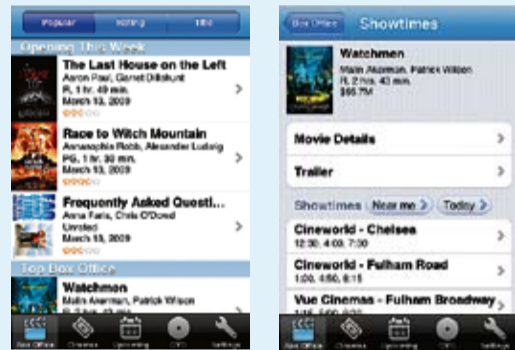


Flixster £ Free

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 step 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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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 milliners 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 £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. Stephen 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 L.A. The



Stephen Jones collaborating with John Galiano.

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-



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



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



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 collapsible!

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.

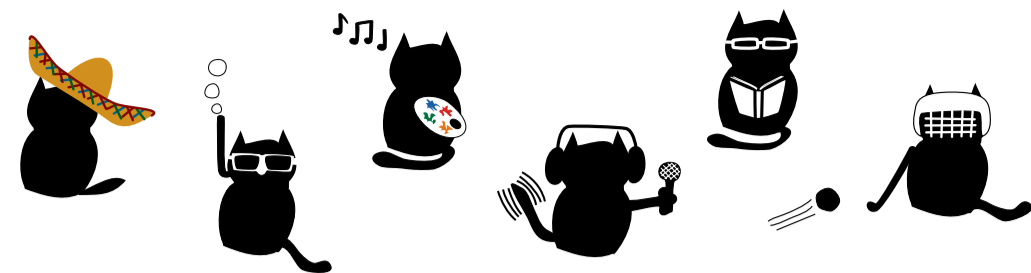
Tickets available from www.icfashionshow.co.uk
now
VIP- £25
Non-student seated – £18
Student seated – £15
Standing – £10
After party – £5 or £7 on the door
For more info email RAG.fashionshow@ic.ac.uk

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, Sherfield
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)

All submissions should be sent to: whatson.felix@ic.ac.uk

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

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.

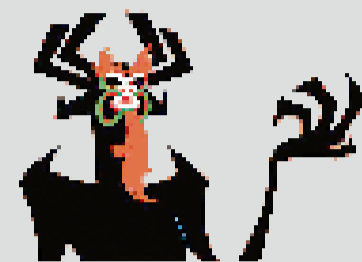
All proceeds will go to the children's charities the Newman Trust and LimaKids.

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

Sunday

Coffee Break

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Next years house

Ravi Pall
Coffee Break Editor

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 approximately £170 a week per person including expenses such as a phone, gas and electricity. And of course SKY+!!! You can get a pretty decent all in one package from them which includes SKY, Broadband and phone. SWEEEEEEEEEEEEET!

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 your food and cutlery.

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

twitter.com/D00SKI

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VS

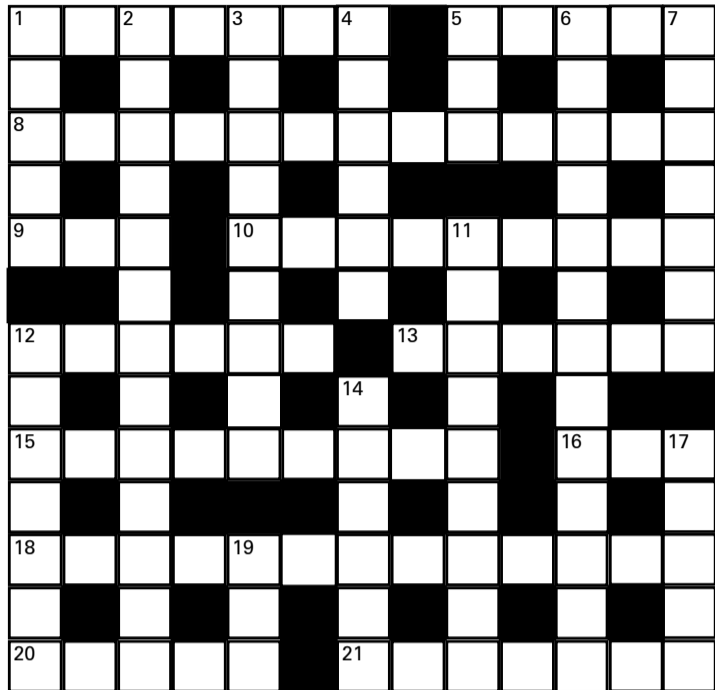
39

22

FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER TO WIN 120GB EXTERNAL HDD

FOLLOW ME ON TWITTER TO WIN ABSOLUTELY NOTHING

A Quickie (Crossword) 1,428



- 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)

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!

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.

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.

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

Gemini
This week you go out and buy some ridiculous clothing in the hope that you will be accepted by your 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.

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 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.

Cancer
Rape, arse hole splitting, bruises, blood, gnome stuck in your eye, rose jammed down your japs eye, cum all over your 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'. Ohhhhh

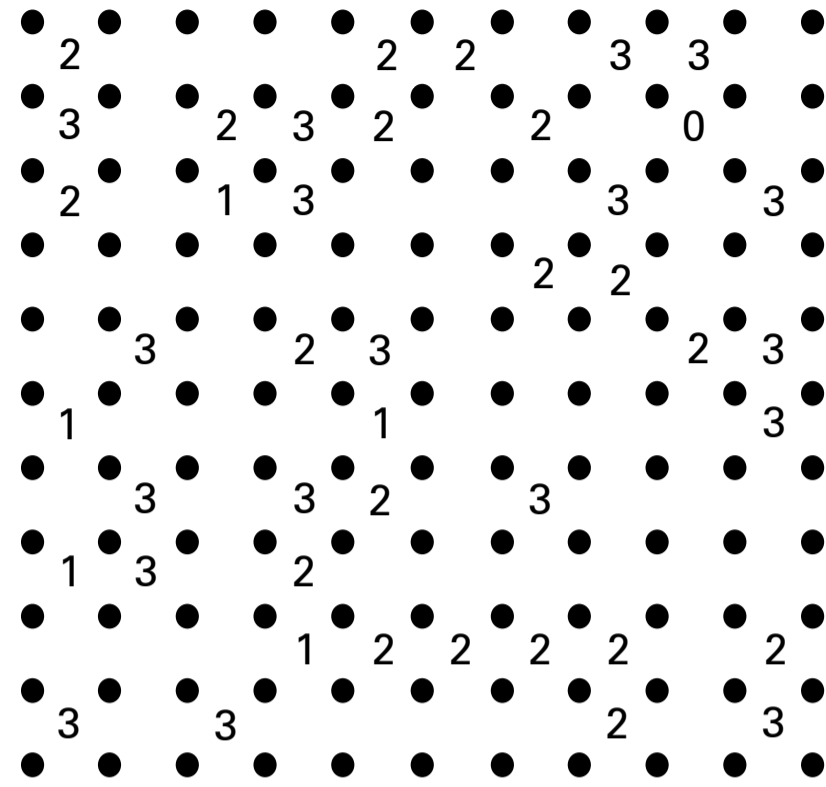
Libra
A couple of week ago I introduced you to the word 'chunt'. I was a creation of mine which cropped up in conversation. Lets just say that if you are Chinese and a cunt you could possibly be a chunt. If you are a cunt, but not Chinese, then no, you cannot be a chunt. If you need further explanation 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.

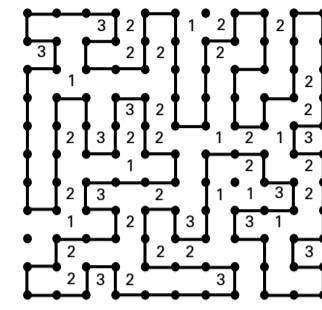
Sagittarius
YOU! Stop reading this and do some shit. Since when were you worthy for reading such a fine paper? Ask the guy next to you to roll it up and repeatedly hit you with it until you face looks like Rihanna's. Too far? Not fucking likely. If you can't do the business with the paper, come get a 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



1,427 Solution



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:

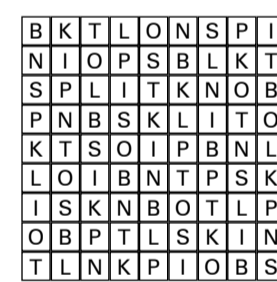
It's quite simple, all numbers are in a cell and must be surrounded with a corresponding number lines. Lines cannot split and there can only be one continuous line. Any cells with no numbers can have any number of lines. Look at the solution above for help.

Wordoku 1,428



Scribble box

1,427 Solution



Möchten sie mein Mannschaft were able to put pen to paper and using all their ability conjure up the word **KNOBSPPLIT**. 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

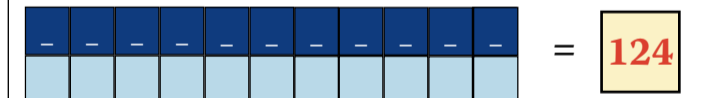
Well, seems my little hissy fit got a few of you delinquents to talk to me. Well done to anyone who found **ST JOHNS WOOD**. Because it was the answer. **Möchten sie mein Mannschaft** found it. Because they love choade. No really they do, what?! you didn't know?

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

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

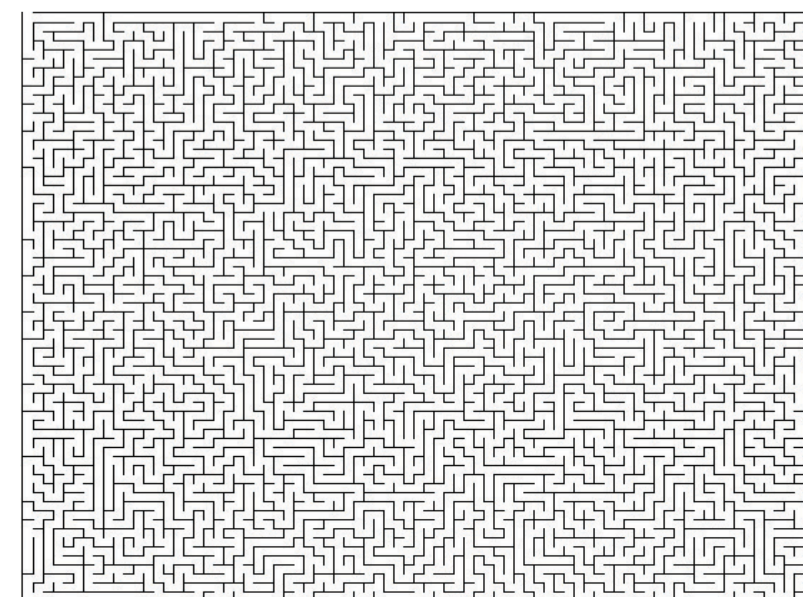
So which London tube station sums to 124?



Mentalist Maze...

With last week's mentalist maze being of epic proportions, I expected it to silent down here. Well nahsornach. 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



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.