

# felix

The student 'news'paper of  
Imperial College London

Guardian Student Newspaper of the Year  
2006, 2008

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# The results are in!

Record breaking number of students vote in this year's elections. See page 3 for full details

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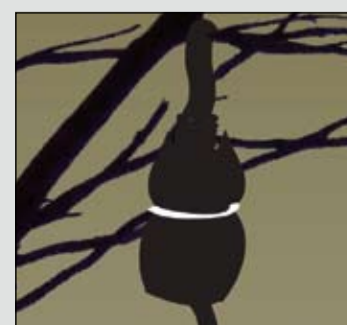
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# Evelyn Gardens stuck in the dark ages after explosion

**Jovan Nedić**  
Editor in Chief

A number of students living in Evelyn Gardens were left without any water, electricity or heating on Monday night after an electrical cable cracked under the pavement outside Holbein Hall.

At roughly 01:30 the crack caused two fuses and one circuit breaker to trip in the sub-station that serves the Evelyn Garden area, which caused the sudden loss of power in all rooms situated in Willis Jackson, Holbein, Southwell and Fisher, however the emergency lights came on immediately afterward.

Philip Notely, Village Manager for the Evelyn Gardens areas, told *felix* that "The power failure resulted in all lights, electrical sockets, telephone, internet and water circulation pumps and heating to fail. The emergency lighting automatically came on in corridors and staircases. At 10.00am on Monday 16th EDF reinstated the power to the buildings."

Many students were oblivious about the whole incident as they were asleep, with the majority realising the lack of power and water in the morning. One of the residents in Southwell Halls told *felix* that "I was very confused when I got up in the morning and tried to turn the light on. I then went to the kitchen to get a drink of water where there was a sign on the door saying that everything wasn't working."

In order to repair the damage that the incident caused, EDF had to disconnect power to Southwell and Holbein Halls from 13:00 on Monday, but power was finally reinstated to all affected areas by 22:00.

The Estates department, realising that these premises might have been without any power, came up with a back-up solution. "In the early evening Estates provided a generator as back



The pavement just outside Holbein Hall where the incident occurred

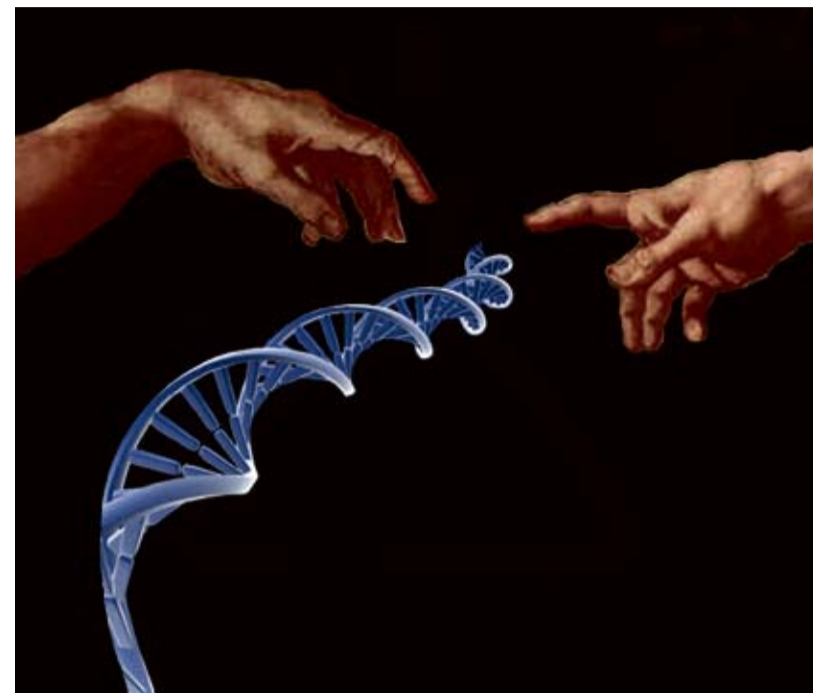
up in case EDF could not reinstate the power on Monday evening," said Mr Notely.

He then went on to say that: "During this time students affected were directed to Common Rooms within the halls that had power. When students returned from College between 17:00 and 18:00 the Wardens briefed them on the situation. Students were given food vouchers which they could use in the library. Bottled water was available for students."

"Hall staff and Wardens worked closely with Facilities Management dealing with students queries and ensuring that they were kept updated at all times. Notices were fixed around all Halls advising students of the current situation."

As a result of all the work carried out to rectify the problem, the pavement area outside Holbein Hall had to be removed, however since then EDF have returned and everything is back to normal.

# Win £2000 to develop your science-inspired design



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# Record turn-out at Sabbatical elections

## Staggering 25% turn out to vote for highly contested elections

**Jovan Nedić**  
Editor in Chief

The results of this year's Sabbatical elections were announced on Wednesday amidst a packed crowd in da Vinci's, where around 3,500 students voted to determine who would be running the Union next year. Initially the results were meant to be announced on Thursday night, but Returning Officer Christian Carter decided to move the date forward after all candidates agreed to have it earlier.

Mr Carter decided to release the results in reverse order, according to the number of votes casted. Starting with the Student Trustees, Mark Mearing-Smith was elected in the first round. Mr Mearing-Smith is joined by Esther Khan who won in the 5th round, Amaury Fastenakel who won in the 3rd round and Shah Rahman who won in the 6th round.

Next up were the results for Deputy President (Welfare) where John James proved that second time's a charm, as he beat Caroline Clark by 312 votes and Michael Powell who came in third with 501 votes. Clearly Mr James' energetic speeches worked where he promised to fight the increase in accommodation costs next year. A total of 1,957 people voted, only 188 more than last year.

Next up was the other newly formed position of Deputy President (Education) where Jonathan Silver came out victorious in the second round against Alex Grisman with Matthew Kaufeler falling in the first round along with RON. A massive 2,046 people voted, which was 277 more than the year before where it was a combined position for education and welfare.

The Knit-Soc queen and Social Clubs Committee chair, Jennifer Wilson, was named the new Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) after she managed to stave-off the Athletics Club Committee candidate Colette Gregory, winning in the first round by 1,214 votes to 846.



Returning Officer, Christian Carter, announcing the results

In the race for Deputy President (Finance & Services) the Royal School of Mines boy Danny Hill was up against Recreational Clubs Committee chair Peter Mabbott. At the final count, Danny Hill had 1,148 votes compared to Peter Mabbott's 850, meaning that Danny Hill will be taking control of the Union's budget next year.

Surprisingly, the position of Union President didn't attract the highest voting attendance, which has normally been the case in the past. This could be due to the fact that there was only one candidate running for the position, however, the RON candidate managed to put up a good fight. In the end, Ashley Brown was named the new Imperial College union President, winning the race with a 1,572 votes compared to 763 votes for RON.

In a rather surprising turn, it was indeed the position for Felix Editor that attracted the highest turn-out at 2,646 votes, which roughly equates to 25% of the electoral body at Imperial. In the first round, Zoë Dobell and RON were

eliminated leaving this year's Deputy Editor and News Editor to fight it out to the bitter end. As has been the pattern over the past few years, the position for Felix Editor was a fiercely fought one, with only 65 votes in it. This very slim victory margin ended up favouring Dan Wan, who will be the new editor as Felix enters its 60th year.

The close margin for Felix Editor has been a familiar sight in recent years, with this year's editor, Jovan Nedić, winning by only 78 votes against Greg Mead last year. Tom Roberts, who was recently named Guardian Media Student Journalist of the Year, only won his election against Emily Lines by 49 votes back in 2007.

This record-breaking turnout for Sabbatical elections shows how seriously the candidates have been taking the elections, which can only be a positive outcome for student democracy. felix would like to take this opportunity to congratulate everyone that won and wishes them the best of luck. Trust me, you're going to need it.

# Imperial College takes a step towards selling diplomas to companies

**Luke Dhanoa**  
Business Editor

Currently there are several Glaxo-SmithKline employees in an internal course that teaches them the fundamentals of lab chemistry. This course has been running for years and is based around teaching employees from non-lab-specific backgrounds how to work in a chemistry pharmaceutical company. For the most part these employees have doctorates and multiple degrees and are on what is essentially a chemistry conversion course run by GSK. This course has been run routinely all over the world, in a standardized form and has proved to be quite successful for GSK, who decided to try and turn it into a more substantial qualification.

GSK, via the Royal Society of Chemistry, then asked Imperial College to accredit the course by acting as an external examiner and then putting the Imperial College brand on the course. But as the Chemistry department examined the content of the course they came to the opinion that what GSK were teaching their staff was extremely close to being a masters degree and decided that after some minor changes they could issue the GSK employees with Imperial College masters' diplomas – in return for cash.

On Wednesday 17th Professor Tom Welton presented an application to the Graduate School of Engineering and Physical Sciences Quality Committee to create a new programme called "Professional Development (GSK Pharmaceutical Process Chemistry)" which would essentially make Imperial College act as a moderating body for the internal GSK programme, provided the course met certain conditions. The intention of this paper, as explained by the head of the chemistry department, was to pave the way for the creation of a new programme whereby GSK employees would be able to earn an Imperial College Masters degree for a course that would be taught, designed and examined by GSK but modified and

moderated by the College to ensure quality standards are met. Should this programme prove successful, the next step would be to sell the new masters package to other pharmaceutical companies, specifically Merck and Procter and Gamble.

If the College decides to go ahead and allow the new masters course to be made, it would be the first university to have sold a course and degree, as a product, to a company.

After the talks on Wednesday the committee is currently drawing up conditions that the GSK course and employees must meet for Imperial to accredit and moderate the internal course; in principle the committee is happy to proceed provided that the people who take the course have 2.1 degrees (most, in fact, have significantly better qualifications), that they are taught to Imperial standard (by GSK staff), that the course is of a high enough quality (determined by the Chemistry Department and externally moderated) and that the participants are examined properly (the specifics have yet to be confirmed).

When the student representative raised points about ensuring that the value of students' degrees were not harmed by the sale of degrees to private interests the committee agreed that this could be the beginning of a slippery slope and that the participating firms would have to be carefully selected. As one committee member put it "we wouldn't do this with Woolworths"

For students, this could prove to be either good or bad news. If Imperial were to start outsourcing its degree teaching it could forge an extremely strong strategic position within the private sector as an industry standard, but if mismanaged it could massively devalue degrees, only time can tell. But this reporter would like to recommend that if, years from now, we need to pick a definitive date that Imperial started "selling out" it should be the 17th March 2009.

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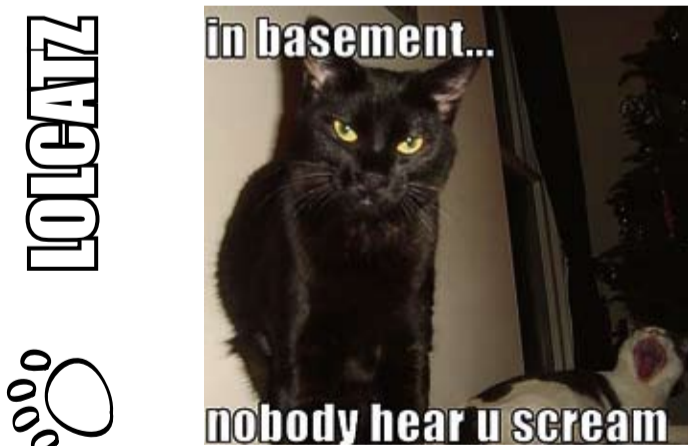
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OFF THE WEEK

## Sabbatical Elections Results

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>President</b><br>Ashley Brown - 1572 ELECTED<br>Ron Burgundy (RON) - 763  | <b>Felix Editor</b><br>Zoë Dobell - 579<br>Kadhim Shubber - 1136<br>Dan Wan - 1201 ELECTED<br>Channel 4 News Team (RON) - 125   |
| <b>Deputy President (Finance &amp; Services)</b><br>Danny Hill - 1148 ELECTED<br>Peter Mabbott - 850<br>Veronica Corningstone (RON) - 215      | <b>Student Trustees</b><br>Ozan Asim - 118<br>Mahmoud Ewas - 187.6<br>Amaury Fastenakels - 377.84 ELECTED<br>Nicholas Heung - 96.32<br>Esther Kang - 336.08 ELECTED<br>Mark Mearing-Smith - 475 ELECTED<br>Shah Rahman - 299.8 ELECTED<br>Sami Soud El Mammeri - 77.6<br>RON - 234.08   |
| <b>Deputy President (Clubs &amp; Societies)</b><br>Colette Gregory - 846<br>Jennifer Wilson - 1214 ELECTED<br>Champ Kind (RON) - 194           | <b>Sabbatical Team</b><br><b>President - Ashley Brown</b><br><b>Deputy President (Finance &amp; Services) - Danny Hill</b><br><b>Deputy President (Clubs &amp; Societies) - Jennifer Wilson</b><br><b>Deputy President (Education) - Jonathan Silver</b><br><b>Deputy President (Welfare) - John James</b><br><b>Felix Editor - Dan Wan</b> |
| <b>Deputy President (Education)</b><br>Alex Grisman - 848<br>Matt Kaufeler - 334<br>Jonathan Silver - 908 ELECTED<br>Brick Tamland (RON) - 197 | <b>Deputy President (Welfare)</b><br>Caroline Clark - 626<br>John James - 938 ELECTED<br>Mike Powell - 540<br>Brian Fantana (RON) - 266   |

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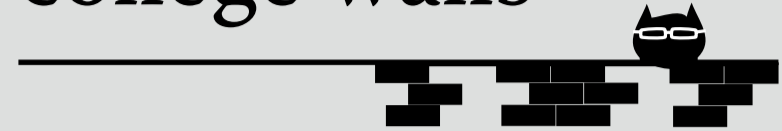
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## The world beyond college walls



### Britain

**The British government is set to seize control of the Turks and Caicos Islands after a damning report into allegations of corruption.**

An investigation into the administration of the Turks and Caicos Islands found a "high probability of systemic corruption or serious dishonesty," especially around the islands' Premier Micheal Misick, who is a British-trained lawyer. Consequently the Foreign Office is expected to propose before the UK Parliament, a plan to suspend the islands' constitution, transferring all power from the elected assembly and cabinet to the governor Gordon Wetherell. But Mr Misick has hit back, calling the UK's "draconian" plans to oust him "modern day colonialism."

The two Caribbean islands, which attract visitors both as a tourist destination and offshore financial hub, are one of 14 British Overseas Territories meaning they are autonomous parts of the United Kingdom.



### Pakistan

**Pakistan's government has given in to opposition demands and announced the reinstatement of sacked top judge Iftikhar Chaudhry as well as ten others.**

The Pakistan People's Party led by President Zardari, faced a major political crisis over the issue. But the decision has defused tensions, and led to the main opposition party Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz to call off a major rally in the capital Islamabad. When ex-President Pervez Musharraf resigned in August 2008 the two parties worked together, but since then their relationship has deteriorated.

However the Taleban's militant activity on the border with Afghanistan, including a suicide bomb which killed 12 Pakistanis at a bus station on Monday 16th March, continue to destabilise regional politics.



### Russia

**Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has announced plans to rearm his nation.**

In response to the perceived threats from the eastward expansion of NATO and from international terrorism Russia plans to modernize its armed forces, according to the President, who was speaking to military leaders in Moscow. Mr Medvedev admitted that the war in Georgia last August had exposed shortcomings in the military, including its lack of modern equipment, but insisted Russia had the financial muscle to carry out the renovation.

The announcement comes just two weeks after Moscow and Washington seemingly pledged to reset relations. Meanwhile, the Czech Republic has withdrawn from parliament treaties committing the country to the United States' missile defence shield. The Czech Prime Minister said this was only a temporary measure, and the ratification process could be revived at any time. Nevertheless, this is sure to put a smile on faces back in the Kremlin.



### Madagascar

**Over the past week, a coup has unfolded in the island nation of Madagascar.**

During February there was a massacre of over a hundred people when tensions flared between supporters of the opposition party, led by Andry Rajoelina, and those loyal to the democratically elected President Ravalomanana. Things have developed considerably since then. Indeed, Rajoelina, a 34-year-old former DJ, has used his supporters and mutineers from the army to invade the presidential palace, and declare himself as the new President.

The citizens of Madagascar are relieved the power struggle has ended without further bloodshed, but pro-democracy observers have condemned Mr. Rajoelina's resort to the use of force to evict the current government, instead of waiting until the next elections in two years time. He has promised elections within two years, but needs time to 'rewrite the constitution'.



Edited by Hassan Joudi & Raphael Houdmont

## Library Cafe to extend opening hours during the upcoming revision period

Jovan Nedić  
Editor in Chief

Imperial College Commercial Services department are to extend the opening hours of the library cafe during the revision period. This is the first time that the new, fully refurbished library will be open during the exam period since it opened last summer.

Thousands of students descend upon the library in the months building up to their exams in the summer term, with a large number of students often moving into the various floors.

At the moment, the library is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, apart from a small period between 21:00 on Friday and 10:00 on Saturday when there is a thorough clean of the library.

Service hours in the Library Cafe, which is located on the ground floor, are from 08:00 until 23:00 Monday to Friday and at the weekend it closes at 18:00. The space is available throughout the library's 24 hour opening period with a vending facility. Since there will undoubtedly be a high number of students in the library over the next few weeks, Commercial Service are considering pushing back the closing time at weekends from 18:00 to 23:00 to match the times during the rest of the week. During the revision period, the Library Cafe will also become a self clearing area in order to minimise the amount of litter accumulated.

The Library will also be open during the College Easter holidays but will be closed during the Easter Bank Holiday

weekend.

The cafe now has a new exciting menu of hot and cold snacks, including Hot Wrapid Wraps, soups, salads and sandwiches, as well as a range of muffins with a barista coffee.

The combination of caffeine and food is considered, by some students, to be a vital ingredient to surviving the strenuous revision period, with one student telling *felix* that "It's a no-brainer for them. The benefits of having the cafe open for longer would be huge!"

Steven Salter, from the College Catering Department, told *felix* that "We are looking forward to welcoming Imperial Students over the Spring Break, and hope our later closing time of 23:00 at the weekend will make the revision period a less stressful one."



The newly refurbished Library Cafe will be open for longer during the Easter holidays

## And finally: Medical student loses out on ITV show

Dina Ismail  
News Correspondent

Imperial College medical student, Sumera Shahaney, lost out on £75,000 when she appeared as a contestant on ITV game show 'The Colour of Money' over the weekend. The show, which is hosted by Chris Tarrant, has been billed as "the most stressful game on television" in which contestants can either win a life changing sum of money, or nothing at all.

Incase you have never watched the show before, its format is effectively a blend of Deal Or No Deal and bomb defusal involving cash machines. Players pick a machine (each differentiated by a different "colour", hence the title) and stand staring at the screen while a cash figure steadily rises. The trick is to shout "stop!" before the machine hits its total and "locks you out". Since how much cash the machine contains is unknown, this means balancing greed

against nerve. Contestants must hold out for as long as possible to withdraw the greatest amount of money. To increase the tension, and indeed confusion, each contestant has to do this 10 times, without getting locked down, to reach a set target.

The IC medic unfortunately did not manage to take home any cash which she had told Mr Tarrant would fund her medical studies and pay for her wedding. However, Sumera hadn't actually been proposed to by her boyfriend of seven years, who was also in the audience on the day: "I think it came as a bit of a surprise to my boyfriend, but thankfully, we had spoken about marriage before!"

Although Sumera returned home empty handed, she said she was delighted with the experience nevertheless. "I had a great time and I met some lovely people on the show - Chris Tarrant was adorable. It just wasn't meant to be."



The host Chris Tarrant

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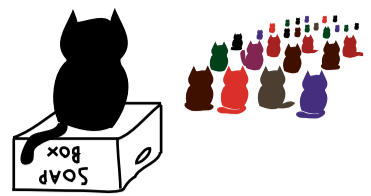
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Let us know your views: [comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

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

# The Rogue is less than happy with you ladies



“Culpability lies with the desperate chaps whose lapdog attention first encouraged your bloated egos”

Is anyone else somewhat abhorred by the egotistical behaviour of Imperial's womenfolk? Rather than casting this article aside, concluding it to be yet another sexual frustration induced harangue, consider my inference; simply not possessing a train wreck for a visage or the body of an overweight pre-teen does not justify conducting yourself in a manner of nauseating disdain. This is not some inflated oversimplified gender assessment; instead a commentary stimulated by the increasingly regular superciliousness one witnesses every day.

The quintessence of Imperial, excellence in science etc, seems to have been substituted inadvertently for some form of depressing competition for the notice of the better looking females studying here, who behave with a deplorable sense of self-importance. This is particularly true for those girls

who are unacquainted with being perceived in this manner, who were perhaps bullied in high school and utterly overshadowed by prettier, more confident girls. Now finding themselves in an establishment packed with the formerly tormented; they can flaunt their new authority to an infuriating degree:

Practical experiment: Assume you are the epitome of mediocrity. Saunter down the walkway and subtly catch the eye of the next obviously female student. One of two outcomes;  
**1. She will walk straight past, nose in the air. This category of girl has been at Imperial far too long, and the unremitting attention has rendered her with a delusional quantity of self-worth.**

**2. She will glance at you for just a little too long, and then embarrassedly accelerate away. Slightly less conceited than our subject in result 1, but as a result self-disapprov-**



ing and annoyed that she isn't more of a bitch.

Despite the fun you can have with wild generalisations, clearly this net of criticism cannot be laid on every girl. And predictably, the root of culpability lies with the desperate chaps whose lapdog attention first encouraged these bloated egos.

Which reminds me; last week I observed a fairly appalling attempt to pick up a girl, even by the standards we are accustomed to at the Union. Perching atop the large subwoofer in dB's, with my partner in sneering voyeurism, we observed a collection of foolish miscreants making recurring and uncoordinated attempts to dance with this moderately attractive/inebriated young woman, who appeared overwhelmingly aware of her contextual power. At last all but one remained, evidently the most hopeless of the lot. As another person knocked into the

girl in question, our wretched remaining fool caught her and with a look of nauseatingly insincere concern on his uncivilized face, inquired 'Are you alright?', before proceeding to shove the other unaware individual with pointy-less aggression. You could almost hear his mind computing; 'Perhaps I'll try a different tact and go for the friend role, insinuating others to be the perverts. If I appear comparatively less disgusting, she may accidentally sleep with me!'. Extraordinarily, this clever methodology was unsuccessful.

This story has no relevance to the original premise save to illustrate a perennial problem in the way men and women react to one another; which unfortunately is degenerated a shocking amount in this godforsaken establishment. In other words, the general stereotypes of desperate adolescent males and vaguely appealing, power tripping females is exaggerated beyond

belief – and spectating certain scenes of guy-girl interactions at Imperial is like watching a tragic comedy, except no one has learnt their lines, and the makeup artists are mentally defective. The upshot is the inevitable nine times out of ten; the girl subconsciously congratulates herself on the hollow fact that someone wanted to copulate with her, while the abortive imbecile resigns himself to a drinking game with his fellow disgruntled chums. My deduction is that students like our hopeless case in dB's only serve to make this divide between men and women at Imperial shoddier, by putting their immediate superficial desires before the potential of a meaningful platonic relationship. And as a result those females who aren't follically challenged and have somewhat symmetrical faces can justify the air of superiority they carry with them. Bleak, but candid. Until next time.

# Dan Wan discovers real friendships in victory



“As we walk off into the sunset, and the credits start rolling, it is Kadhim to whom I owe most.”

It is ironic being speechless and going on to write 800 words for a Comment piece this week. However, I feel I need to write this Comment piece. Not because I won the election for Felix Editor, but because I owe this to so many people at Imperial.

Over the last two weeks of soul-destroying campaigning for this position, I have learnt to appreciate the people around me and more so than I have ever in my life.

I'm not going to start listing names, even though I feel like I should do, but there is one person to whom I am entirely grateful through all of this. As we walk off into the sunset of these elections, and the credits start rolling, it is Kadhim who I owe most to. Despite the rivalry harboured through our contesting campaigns over the last two weeks, it has always been through competition I am proud to have battled. Kadhim, who had a mere 65 votes less than me, would be an Editor Felix

would be proud to have at its helm.

Kadhim ran his campaign with the utmost integrity, and I can only thank him for that. In the ever-occurring 'heat of the moment' situations, we could have very easily fallen out as friends during the last two weeks. It would have been the last thing I would have wanted, and scuppering my friendship with him would truly not have been worth the editorial role in Felix.

A new rule was announced this year that allowed us to 'negative campaign' against each other. It didn't need to be spoken of that I trusted him not to attack me within his campaign, and vice versa. Anyway, his campaign was strong enough alone without the need to negatively campaign against me. As the last day of voting ticked over its midnight deadline, I only felt a sense of massive relief that I didn't have to compete against Kadhim's seemingly omnipresent campaign ever again. Throughout the two weeks, my perspective of him never wavered.



Though rivals, it was never bitter. We spoke regularly about our campaigns, both laughing as we explored the joys and stresses that walking around College with your own face on your chest came with.

Becoming next year's Felix Editor however, is not only my own reward. It is also for everyone that helped me during the campaign fortnight. Not winning the elections would have been a massive shame to not only myself, but especially to those who put so much effort into my cause. I am just glad they now get to celebrate their own success, and not just mine.

My friends proved themselves to be the best friends I have ever known, and though I may be caught up in the emotion of winning the election, I truly mean it. I have reasoned with myself in the event that I didn't win and I came to the following conclusion. I realised that my friends helping me with my campaign; the ones wearing my T-shirts, the ones giving up their spare time to hand out flyers and sugary

bribes, and the ones supporting me at hustings, really pulled out all the stops for me. There were times started to question why I was actually running for the position and times when I felt I was one step behind other campaigns, but they created a haven away from elections and College, where I could relax and reassess. At times, their honesty seemed harsh, but I always knew it was for my best interests. I'm glad one of them had the balls to tell me, albeit quite tactfully, that my pre-lecture announcements were, compared to Kadhim's like watching a calves enter an abattoir.

To the people that approached me with such enthusiasm about the election race highlighted a bigger issue that is only a benefit to Felix. The fact that Kadhim, Zoe and I managed to rack up a record total of 2,900 votes for the Felix Editor election alone, is testament to the excitement of the race. The important thing is that we managed to get so many more people interested in

Felix and its outcome. That can only benefit Felix and College life.

Beyond people I know, I was honestly overwhelmed by people's willingness to listen to me as I interrupted their quiet pint at the Union to shove a leaflet and sweet in their face. This Comment piece seems the only way of reaching out to everyone that spoke to me, whether I knew you or not. I have met so many people along the last two weeks that I am grateful for their time. Though I initially hated talking to strangers, I came to enjoy the experience. Campaigning gave me a great reason to approach anyone and everyone.

I hope, as Felix Editor throughout next year, I will be able to speak and listen to your opinions and ideas for Felix just as much I did during the last two weeks. I hope you will be just as receptive too, because as cliché as it may sound, I want to bring the newspaper back to you, as the readers, the writers and the editors.



## Business

Business Editor – Luke Dhanoa

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# What goes down must come up?

Sina Ataherian

The global recession - or in the case of China, slightly slower growth - has been about the biggest thing to happen recently. It has affected us financially; many students now pay less interest on their loans. It has prompted changes in career directions. It has even renewed the raison d'être of 24 hour news channels. Its level of coverage has been like a new Iraq, but relevant to home audiences. According to Rob Arnott, former editor of Financial Analysts Journal, in real terms the fall has only been exceeded by the Railway bubble bursting in the 1850s and the great depression.

Now that the sub-prime problem has been successfully post-predicted by network news analysts and some lessons have perhaps been at least temporarily learned, should we see opportunity in our current woes? Downturns are remarkably consistent in immediately following great booms and then slowly recovering over a few years, albeit not to previous peaks. The sentiment that equities should have been punished, but not so much, is now widespread. As is the feeling that many stock prices, particularly financials, are now 'cheap'. The odds seem to be leaning towards buying stocks in many of the worst hit sectors.

With most stock markets now worth around half their peak values it is tempting to think valuations should revert to their mean. Relatively well managed banks such as HSBC and Deutsche seem unfairly damned to collective punishment of the sector. Concern has largely gone back to returns on capital rather than return of capital.

Value investors must be watching this space very closely. Book values now dwarf the market capitalisation of all major banks and financial institutions. Some speculators are even beginning to see general avoidance of financials as irrational herding behaviour just like that leading up to most big booms and subsequently inevitable busts.

Last week Goldman Sachs estimated the fair value of the American equity market at 47% above current prices. It reckoned the equilibrium level, which assumes long-term return to a normal appetite for risk, was 72% above the current value. Many traders have been predicting for some time that the worst is over and that the market is waiting for a trigger for recovery. The Dow approaching 6500, a level below which many thought it would not sink, was widely predicted as one such potential trigger.

This happened around March 9th and the chart for the last few months can now be seen literally kicking back. The opportunity to buy low and hopefully sell high in maybe as little as a year is now irresistible to many. Whilst they may well be right, they must remember that the growth between 2003 and 2007 resulted from the coincidence of a unique combination of factors. Technological factors, rapid growth in the widening club of emerging markets and unsustainable lending and borrowing, predominantly in Anglo-Saxon economies, amongst other causes of growth, collided together. These are unlikely to simultaneously reoccur in the near future.

Nonetheless before all this, the growth of equity markets seemed a long term trend. Even the worst of the

many global financial incidents of recent decades represented road bumps in the road to higher prices. Even prior to the boom before this latest bust, the Dow seemed stable at around 10000 despite relatively recent recovery from the .com boom. But could something about this one be unique?

Niall Ferguson, the financial version of Simon Schama, views this as an evolutionary process. History, he argues, is rife with examples of weaker financial systems and companies giving way to the strong. This process may even be hastened by Brown and Mandelson campaigning for tougher global regulation.

The industry may be on the life support of government bailout, as many of us are frequently reminded by disgruntled engineering lecturers, but it cannot stay that way for ever. The stronger firms and better practices have emerged dominant. Some, notably HSBC, are even cautiously talking of the potential possibility of maybe expanding perhaps, taking advantage of the low share prices of their competitors. Warren Buffet, the most successful value investor of all time, is noted for preferring "an outstanding company at a sensible price" rather than weak ones at rock-bottom.

So it may just about be the right time to expect a slow return to long-term growth in equity markets. Stocks may not quite be as low as they can go, but their current values do provide a cushion, at least for those willing to stick around for a few years. It may be time to go long on the companies that have suffered from the recent troubles, but probably not yet those that caused them.

# This week in pictures



In a similar gesture President Obama pledged to do everything he could to block \$165m of bonuses being paid out at AIG



Sir Fred Goodwin, ex CEO of RBS made off with this exorbitant pension last week. MP's vowed to sue him and recover the funds.



US courts press to imprison Bernard Madoff for 150 years after he pleaded guilty to fraud

# The recession just might be the best thing to ever happen to you

Business Editor Luke Dhanoa makes the case to forget about finding a graduate job and start your own firm instead

There are lots of ways that the recession is hurting business, but the calamitous grey clouds hanging ominously over the country do have a silver lining. Right now is probably the best time to be starting up a business and since you (Imperialites) are exactly the sort of people who have the intellectual assets required to do so, this recession could prove to be the best thing that ever happened to you.

If you look through history, the global economy has almost always been pulled out of recessions by innovations and new technologies. The most recent example is how the recession of the late 80's and early 90's was ended by the gains from the development of internet and communication technol-

ogies where the radical innovation and spread of microelectronics was key to global growth. But if you look at the firms that pioneered this new era, they were often rookie firms and start-ups guided by young new innovators - and if history is any judge, we may be about to see the same thing happen again. The current economy has almost perfect conditions for new start ups and the business section of *felix* would be doing you disservice if we didn't do our part to encourage you to go and start up a new firm.

The first thing that a new firm would need is an idea, and since you're a bright, young thing you may have one of your own, but if you don't - don't worry. You're at a university brimming with all kinds of creative people,

find one and latch on to them. Once you have an idea, you're going to need know-how. Luckily for you, in times of recession companies slash Research and Development budgets, and as a result they're hemorrhaging top quality researchers and inventors and if you can get hold of these folks you'll be in great shape. Doubly lucky for you is the fact that a lot of these people will have contacts with your lecturers, so you are positioned within a brilliant place to start building firms.

The next thing you'll need is money, and despite what the mass media will tell you - it's there. Investors that have recently pulled out of hedge funds need to put their cash somewhere and start-ups are often a favourite for rich investors in bear markets. Banks have

already started investing in the property market and REITs (hedge funds for property) are expected to have an exceptional five years. The credit crunch hasn't just destroyed credit - it has forced it to be re-allocated, and start-ups with strong ideas are poised to take those investments.

On top of private funding there are dozens of ways in which the state is set to help you out. The government is currently trying to make the UK more competitive and innovative and there is a strong case for them to support the next Microsoft in the UK. As a business owner you may be eligible for government grants, tax relief and public contracts. Provided you're helping the economy, there is a case for them to help you.

And once you have funding, in the current climate it goes further than it used to. People are cheaper than they used to be. Government backed mortgages are cheaper. Commodities are cheaper. Land is cheaper. Office space is cheaper. Services (except for banking) are cheaper. And what's more you can buy all kinds of assets in auctions from firms that have gone into receivership. There is rarely as good a time as now to be buying with the long term in mind.

And once you've got your idea, your funding and your assets you need to face the market, which although tough, won't be all doom and gloom. For one,

there's a global market like never before to sell your product - and even though it poorer than it used to be a year ago, demand for basic, simple goods has

## The firms that pioneered this new era were often rookie firms guided by young innovators

never been higher. So if you have a cheap method of capturing sunlight and using to turn water into steam, then the world's your oyster. Have you found out a way to make refrigerators run off ambient heat? Then you've got a six billion-person market. Can you make a cheap reusable water filter? Because if you can, you got it made.

So there you have it - you have an amazing opportunity in your hands right now. With some vision, hard work and luck you could become a captain of industry and your odds have never looked better. And considering that you're having trouble getting a job anyway, what have you got to lose? Nothing.



$$-\frac{1}{2m} \frac{\partial^2 \psi}{\partial x^2} + \psi(x)V(x) = E \psi(x)$$

# Tesla returns to electrify Europe

Mico Tatalovic maps out the arrival of cool electric cars to Europe.

In early 1900s Nikola Tesla revolutionized the way we use electricity and paved the way for the life-style of the 20th century. Now an electric car named after this great physicist is set to change the way we drive in the 21st century. Tesla Roadster is one of the first electric sports cars. It is stylish, fast and has been making headlines all over the world. Most recently, Boris Johnson wrote about the car in his column in the *Telegraph*. He says: "...having driven the Tesla I have something like the same sense of revelation. Of course this is not new technology, but electric cars have evidently reached a point of development where they are now in serious competition with conventional machines." He enjoyed the ride in the first Tesla Roadster in Britain and obviously impressed asked: "But shouldn't we be making similar batteries and cars in this country?"

The car is produced in California by the Tesla Motors company, but the first shipment of 250 cars for the European market is now available from their website. You can also join the waiting list for the 2010 standard European edition. The price is 99,000 euros. Being 100% electric, with top speed of 200km/h and acceleration from 0-100 km/h in just 3.9s, this car is designed to impress. So, now you can save the environment and avoid the congestion charge while driving an enviably cool car. Boris Johnson, London's mayor, recently announced plans to introduce the electric car hire scheme in attempt to make London the "electric capital of Europe". "I think this [electric vehicle technology] is something we should be really leading on."

"I think we should be making London the electric capital of Europe, and that's why we are going to be greatly expanding our support for charging points around London," he told the *Guardian*. The *New York Times* recently reported on another advance for the electric car revolution. Shai Agassi from company called Better Place has got several countries including Israel, Netherlands, Canada and Japan, signed up for the electric-car charging stations scheme. This scheme involves building infrastructure that would allow electric car drivers to exchange their batteries when they get low on energy. Instead of having to charge your battery every time it gets low, you could just drive to the closest station and get them to fit you with a fully charged battery in just a couple of minutes. Payment could be made per battery exchange: pay-as-you-go, or by subscription, so you pay certain amount monthly and you can exchange your batteries as often as you need them. With these charging stations in place, there would be nothing stopping the electric car revolution. The technology is already here, and it is good enough to replace the conventional combustion engine cars. The main problem so far were consumers afraid they would run out of power in their electric cars and be stuck; with new charging stations in place one would not have to worry about this. "The battery is a consumable part of the car, just like gasoline," Mr. Agassi told the *NYT*. "Cars in the 1950s only went about 100 miles on a tank of gas, and that problem was solved by installing an infrastructure of gas stations."

There are also several European-produced electric cars, French Venturi Fetish comes in limited edition and costs 297,000 euros, and still in concept phase are the Hungarian Antro Solo and Venturi Voltage.



The new Tesla Roadster, as seen on Top Gear, you know you love it!



American Tesla Roadster



French Venturi Fetish

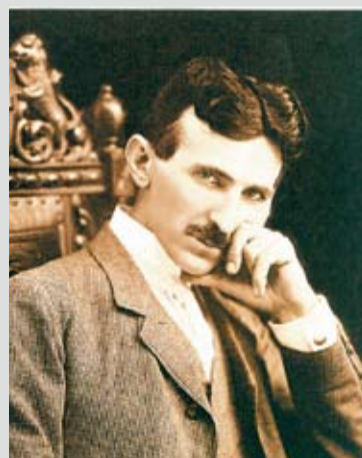


Hungarian Antro Solo



French Venturi Voltage

## Who was Nikola Tesla?



from Goethe's Faust, suddenly had an idea that would change the world. He sketched a diagram on the sand in the park and later copied it to paper. After being ignored by European investors, he travelled to New York with four pennies, a sketch and a recommendation in his pocket. The recommendation was from the director of a power plant in Germany addressed to Thomas Edison saying: "I know two great men. One is yourself, the other is the young man in front of you". However, after doing some work for Edison, who was reluctant to hear about alternating current since he was investing in his ideas of direct current, Tesla was refused his salary and made fun of. This was a beginning of a life-long dislike of Edison, who was previously his role-model, which culminated in Tesla's refusal to share a Nobel prize for physics with him in 1915, according to some. Tesla was a pacifist and a humanist, a man who wanted electricity to be available to everyone for free. His wish to bring this free energy by a renewable source and by wireless transfer led him to invest all he earned into new research and inventions. Sadly, this led to him dying penniless – even though most of the world's economy was powered by his idea for electricity. Yet, before his death he managed

not only to make possible wide scale use and transfer of electricity but he also invented the radio – not Marconi as is widely thought. He also took the first ever X-ray photos, invented neon lighting and designed the first ever remote control. He also had some more bizarre ideas; he attempted to design electric death rays that would lead to cessation of all wars, and came up with a power plant that could reap cosmic energy and transmit electricity through the atmosphere or the soil – so people would get the electricity for free using simple receiving in-ground devices. His investors were (perhaps unsurprisingly) reluctant to fund this research! Tesla's vibrant life and strokes of genius were often exploited by others due to his own high regard and trust of others. Nowadays he is remembered by science and his legacy continues today. Last year marked the 150th anniversary of Tesla's birth in a small Croatian village of Smiljan to a religious Serbian family. Croatia and Serbia both proclaimed 2006 to be the year of Nikola Tesla; postage stamps were dedicated to him and Belgrade airport was even renamed Nikola Tesla Airport – praise indeed for the Serbian genius.

# The big debate: Flying for science

Felix Whitton  
Science Correspondent

felix was privy to a debate on Wednesday afternoon entitled "Flying for Science". Held at Imperial College's Silwood Park campus in the bucolic Berkshire surroundings, three scientists from different backgrounds discussed the issue of whether using air travel to get to conferences or to perform fieldwork was justifiable or hypocritical, given the significant (and growing) contribution of air travel emissions towards climate change. The IPCC calculate that global emissions from flying make up 3.5% of total greenhouse gases; this is predicted to rise to 15% by 2050.

Arguing the case for and against were Sir Malcolm Green, founder of the British Lung Foundation, and former head of the National Heart and Lung Institute (NHLI), who has lately taken an interest in climate change with an article published in the *BMJ* entitled, "Are international medical conferences an outdated luxury the planet can't afford?"; Professor EJ Milner-Gulland, head of the Imperial College Conservation Science research group and founder of the Saiga Conservation Alliance; and Tim Coulson, Professor of Population Biology at Imperial and winner of the 2007 ZSL Scientific Medal.

To kick off the debate, Professor Green outlined his belief that conferences, particularly large-scale medical conferences (some of which, for example the American Cardiology Society's annual shindig, host up to 45,000 people) are a separate matter to fieldwork. One "small" (in medical terms) conference, of say 15,000 people, emits over 10,000 tonnes of carbon from researchers and doctors flying in from as many as 50 different countries. To put this in context, this is the equivalent of the yearly emissions of 2000 UK citizens, 11,000 Indians, or 110,000 Chadians. As he put it, this is "a significant amount of CO<sub>2</sub>".

He then went on to estimate the total emissions from one year's worth of medical conferences – a rather conservative assumption of 60 in his thought experiment, split evenly between America, Europe and Asia/Australia – at around half a million Indian people-years (i.e. per person yearly emissions); this equates to the CO<sub>2</sub> consumption of well over 100 million hectares of rainforest. So, how many conferences do Pro-

fessors Coulson and Milner-Gulland attend each year, the chair asked? Remarkably few, as it happens; Prof Coulson prefers smaller-scale workshops (large conferences, he said, are a "waste of time"), and Prof Milner-Gulland only flies to one a year (the Society for Conservation Biology Annual Meeting, which is carbon neutral).

Are there any points in favour of large conferences, asked Sir Green? The usual arguments can be dismissed easily; meeting colleagues? only ones from your own country; sightseeing? most conferences are held in "godawful places". So what draws such large numbers of people? Partly vested interests on the part of organisers, conferences centres, host cities, and big pharma (but there is a move towards video-conferences from some companies, for example GlaxoSmithKline).

There is also, according to Sir Green, an unwillingness on the part of scientists to use new technologies – after all, businesses, financial institutions, oil companies, even teenagers have seen the light of virtual get-togethers.

Professor Milner-Gulland was next to argue her case. Playing the devil's advocate she professed to "not care" about her carbon footprint. The train, ferry, bus... whatever alternative form of transport was available simply took too long, and she would rather spend time with her family. To qualify her statement, she said that flying was the least of her "eco sins" – with only six or seven flights a year, she said "I don't fly enough", and thinks the daily drive to work and having a child are far more worthy of environmental damnation. Although we may beg to differ, she does have a point – long-haul flights are a necessary evil if your work relies upon you meeting people face to face in order to train them or gain their trust.

Milner-Gulland also questioned the value of offsetting one's flights – there is too much room for ambiguity, many schemes are open to abuse and untrustworthy, and you can't even be sure of what you are doing is helping. In her opinion, you are better off giving your money to FFI (Flora and Fauna International) or Oxfam.

Finally, Professor Coulson argued that by even having this debate, we were missing the point. Calling for fewer flights is akin to "shuffling deckchairs as the Titanic goes down"; there are far greater problems requiring our focus. The IPCC projections are stark. In the near future vast tracts of agri-



Is flying really bad for the environment and should we even be talking about it when they are bigger questions still to be addressed?

cultural land will be lost, towns and cities will be at risk from rising sea levels, and a significant amount of biodiversity will be at risk of extinction. To cope, he argued, we should move away from petty debates on flying and double-glazing our homes, and instead address broader questions on our "will and capability to re-engineer society".

It has quickly become apparent, he argued, that initial predictions for climate change were too conservative. Time is running out fast, and we need quick approaches such as geo-engineering (for example ocean seeding) and reducing population growth (as a demographer, albeit of animals, Prof Coulson is certainly knowledgeable on this subject). Perhaps most importantly, as a society we "must think in more abstract ways" in order to adapt and survive. If this involves getting brilliant minds together in large numbers, then this is a necessary evil.

The debate was opened to the floor next. Various people pointed out that small-scale individual action often felt like it achieved nothing, which tends to foster apathy, especially in younger generations. On top of this, knowledge itself is not enough; to make a decision not to fly but to travel by train is a luxury (albeit a less convenient one),

and to have the luxury of such a choice one needs resources. Thus, to gain resources requires flying to conferences to hobnob with superiors and (hopefully) get a better job.

Prof Coulson agreed, saying that the "big ideas" and technologies to deal with climate change will only come from discussion between people from different cultures and with different experiences. Sir Green, on the other hand, argued that the responsibility for making a difference lies with our generation, and that not flying costs no money and is something everyone can address (as opposed to planting a forest). He said we in the developed West, by not taking a lead on the matter, are not only responsible but "complacent".

Coulson replied that even stopping all flights tomorrow would only buy us a couple of years; to which Sir Green quoted the Chinese proverb: "A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step". Choosing not to fly is simply the most practical step available to most of us.

Prof Milner-Gulland was asked if it was not possible to incorporate a phase-out of air travel with more local training of people in countries where conservationists, and other scientists, work. Yes, she said, getting local peo-

ple working is a crucial component of her work. However, conservation is an international discipline, and it remains important to have real, as well as virtual, contact with people.

Finally, Sir Green drew an analogy with the campaign against smoking, which began in the 1950s with a few scientists pitting their evidence against the might of the tobacco companies, and ended with an EU-wide ban on tobacco advertising in 1991 (and of course, most recently with the ban on smoking in public places in 2007). He said that it was important to focus on something "difficult but achievable", which with luck can result in a sea-change of opinion and behaviour.

Whether or not in this crisis we have the luxury of time afforded to the anti-tobacco brigade is doubtful, and this observer isn't convinced that flying is the right cause to focus on. There are other threats, some with a far greater contribution towards carbon emissions; as NASA's top climate expert James Hansen recently made clear, "You have to keep the eye on the ball and not waste your efforts. The number one enemy is coal and we should never forget that."

Felix Whitton is editor of [www.conservationtoday.org](http://www.conservationtoday.org)

## Science Museum launches online source for medical students

Mico Tatalovic  
Science Editor

*Brought to Life: Exploring the History of Medicine* is a new multimedia website. At the heart of the first phase of the project are 2,500 significant objects covering centuries of medical history from around the world. While *Brought to Life* is aimed at GCSE History students studying the 'Medicine Through Time' module, and undergraduates studying the history of medicine, the website also includes material supporting other GCSE subjects and content for anyone with an interest in the topic.

Supported by the Wellcome Trust, the website will provide access to items from the Wellcome Trust collection held by the Science Museum. Many of these fascinating objects will



be on view for the first time, while others are also on display in the Science Museum galleries 'Science and Art of Medicine', 'Glimpses of Medical History'

and 'Health Matters'. These include Renaissance treasures such as rare anatomical wax models and books; early surgical instruments; leech jars; artificial limbs and iron lungs.

The site initially covers ten themes, rising to sixteen in later phases, stretching back to the earliest forms of surgery and forward to the present day. They cover diseases and epidemics, medicine and belief, and the pioneers of medical science. Each subject is explored with detailed analysis and commentary by expert historians and curators.

The site's themes are explored using text and multimedia, with each section's featured object linking in turn to a further 200-250 related exhibits. Following the launch on 2nd of March 2009, *Brought to Life* will be further developed, with 4,000 objects becom-

ing available for close examination on the site by 2011.

Project Director Robert Bud, the Science Museum's Principal Curator for Medicine, said: "We are proud to be introducing a resource that is destined to become an acknowledged key tool for students and their teachers. ...But as well as providing a vital service, it is also a new source of thousands of fascinating stories and facts which will enthral anybody with an interest in medical history."

Clare Matterson, Director of Medicine, Society and History at the Wellcome Trust, commented: "Henry Wellcome was an avid collector of anything and everything to do with medicine and culture, up until his death in 1936. *Brought to Life* is a wonderful complement to the galleries at Wellcome Collection, the Science Museum and else-



where, which can only ever display the tip of the iceberg in terms of what he left for future generations to explore.

"While the website is primarily aimed at students, the vast range of objects that can be viewed, along with the accompanying detail, means *Brought to Life* is fascinating for everyone with an interest in the history of medicine."

## Wildlife exhibition at the Humanities

Mico Tatalovic  
Science Editor

There are two galleries in the Sheffield Building on the main Imperial Campus: Blyth Gallery on the fifth floor specialising in fine arts and Department of Humanities' exhibition space on the third floor specialising in sci-art exhibitions.

Blyth Gallery also occasionally shows science-related exhibits, such as recent art produced by scientist through the Leonardo Society and the upcoming Medical Engineering students' exhibition. At the Humanities' exhibition space there is currently an exhibition of wildlife drawings aimed at raising awareness about wildlife and biodiversity issues.

Nicolas Philippakis, featured artist, has spent most of his life in England, but was also educated in Greece and South Africa. He went to secondary school in Oxford (England) and then studied law at the University of Not-

tingham. Nicolas has been doing artwork as a fun hobby in various forms since his early childhood.

Finding the legal profession far too constricting, he decided to make a life change and get back to art, his first love. While in South Africa he had been on

**"Nicolas has been doing artwork since his early childhood"**

safari with his family, he became interested in wild animals and came to appreciate their diversity, living freely in a natural environment.

Nowadays many species are threatened with extinction. The drawings on display in the Humanities department at Imperial College are offered as a reminder of the beauty of our wildlife

heritage.

Climate change and green issues are now at the forefront of many young students' consciousness and Nicolas believes that more attention to the natural environment is essential as so much of it is being destroyed before our very eyes.

The original drawings were created in pencil and, in the case of the cheetah and gazelle picture, in charcoal. Nicolas used shades of black and grey to make the images stand out clearly in the art space provided. The works on display at Imperial are gicle prints of the original and are a limited edition of twenty each. Prices are available at the Humanities Department Reception in the Sheffield Building.

Watch this space for the colourful upcoming science comics exhibition that will go up simultaneously at the Humanities and virtually in Second Life at the House of Science: <http://slurl.com/secondlife/Haddath/79/99/69/?title=Zoonomania>.



One of the drawings at the exhibition

## Nature's design: are engineers ever creative?

Omar Mustufi

Just how creative can a scientist be? If you look at any scientific innovation you will find it already has its roots in nature. It seems scientists and engineers are merely inspired by what they see every day in plants and creatures.

The Technology, Entertainment, Design conference (TED) is held annually and invites some of the world's most inspired thinkers to share their views on science, business and the arts. The event had previously been hosted by the likes of Bill Gates, Al Gore and Jane Goodall. This year's conference is taking place in Oxford in July.

The subject of learning from evolution was touched on in one of these lectures by UC Berkeley biologist Robert Full. Full believes that examples from nature are sometimes over-

engineered for the purpose that we require. The challenge for the engineers is that they should only consider the necessary details, and the example he gives is of building an automobile which has, inside it, a factory in which you can make another automobile.

Full's research concerns locomotion in robots and studying techniques in nature that allow creatures to go, basically, anywhere. He found that two, four, six and eight legged creatures all exert similar forces on the ground; they all bounce and can be modelled as spring-mass systems or, in simpler terms, a pogo stick.

He went on to work together with mathematicians to create a model which imitates this movement and found that the model was able to self-stabilise without being directly aware of its surroundings, allowing it to

overcome many obstacles in its path.

This shows that it is the structural form of the animals which allow them to move so freely, without them having to even comprehend these obstacles.

Full collaborated with other scientists and engineers from Berkeley and Stanford to write a paper, 'Biomimetic Design and Fabrication of a Hexapedal Running Robot' which includes his research and also the results of implementing this model in a robot named Sprawl.

Another nature-inspired design is Velcro. The idea for it came to Swiss engineer George de Mestral after returning from a hunting trip with his dog when he took a close look at the burrs of burdock that kept getting stuck in his dog's fur.

When he examined them under a microscope, he discovered that there

were many tiny hooks that caught on anything with a loop; such as animal fur or clothing.

But most of the secrets within nature are hidden in a region which cannot even be explored by a microscope; the nano-realm. And it is only recent advancements in microscope technology which have allowed this region to be explored.

It was in this nano-realm that the mystery of how geckos are able to climb even the most slippery of surfaces was revealed.

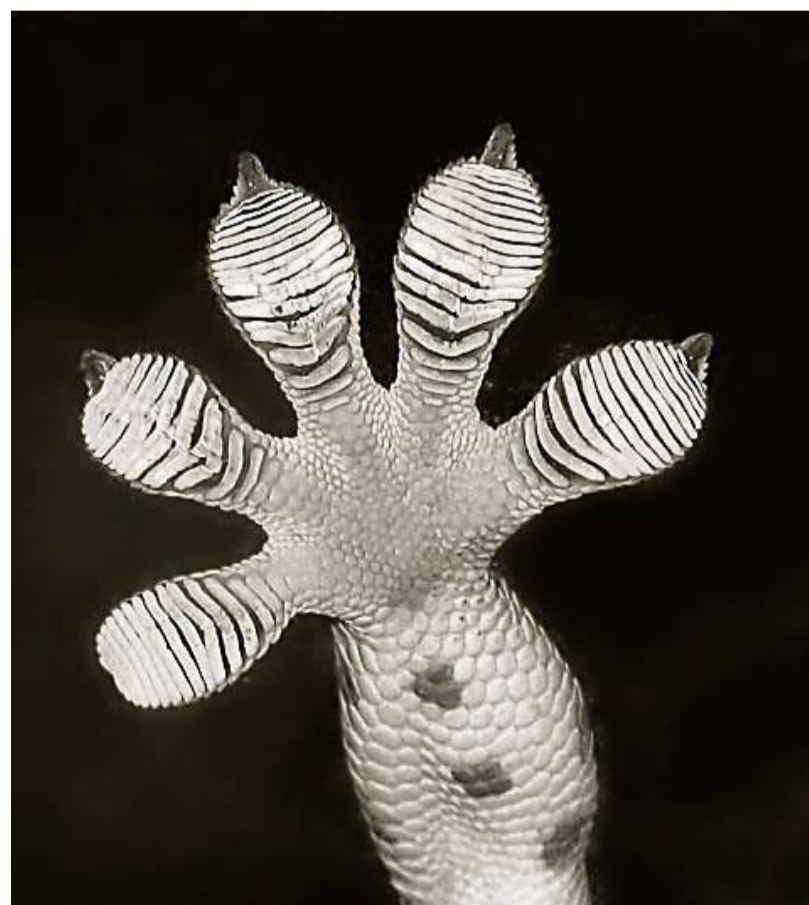
When examined, the foot of a gecko appears to be covered with many millions of hairs, and each of these hairs branch off into smaller hairs (like split-ends).

This huge rug of hairs on the feet creates a huge surface area contact, and it is the sum of the tiny Van-der-

Waal forces from each of these hairs with a surface that allows the gecko to literally stick onto any surface.

This technology has already been patented for use as adhesives in microsurgery and microelectronics; soon we can even expect to see people walking up walls with gecko inspired boots!

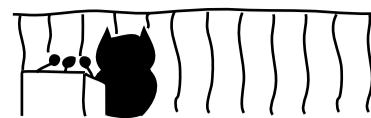
Going back to the original question of whether scientists and engineers can be creative and innovative at all since nature usually gets there first, even though many of the ideas are inspired by nature, there are still huge diversities in the applications of the technologies. Hence innovation and creativity is always required in a scientist to design for the specific function. Many more secrets are being held by nature, and the prospects for scientists and engineers depend on how deep they explore.



A gecko's foot: it could inspire technology that would allow Spiderman-like abilities of climbing the walls



Legendary Spiderman: inspired by nature



## Minimum alcohol pricing proposal

Sir Liam Donaldson proposes a stop to cheap sale of alcohol to curb the damaging effects of binge drinking

James Lees

On Monday the Chief Medical Officer for England, Sir Liam Donaldson, unveiled a proposal for a minimum price for alcohol of 50p per unit in an effort to reduce the burden upon society as a result of excessive drinking.

Sir Donaldson has stated that 'we need to think, rather like we did with smoking, that it isn't just the effect on the individual that drinks, and smokes, it's the effect also, on other people, the collateral damage'. Currently the annual cost to the NHS due to alcohol abuse is £2.7bn, while the total expense to the taxpayer due to the misuse of alcohol is thought to be in the region of £25bn.

Research carried out by the University of Sheffield last year concluded that increasing the price of alcohol would be one of the most effective measures of combating alcohol abuse, as the effect would be greatest on the most heavy drinkers, while according to Sir Donaldson at least, the price increase for a moderate drinker would be in the region of £1 per month.

Under his proposals a typical bottle of wine could not be sold for less than £4.70, the price of a 2 litre bottle of Strongbow would almost double, a 10 pack of Stella would increase by almost a quarter, and a bottle of Smirnoff vodka would increase by almost 20%. Of course, if you were to enjoy the home-

less lifestyle of supermarket own brand drinks, then the price increase would be crippling.

Supermarket prices are often cited as a cause of binge drinking, with supermarkets actually losing money on some promotions which are designed to bring in customers. By imposing a minimum price on alcohol the prices at supermarkets would of course increase, and with no suggestion of this increase being returned to the government through tax, the increase in price would result in little more than an increase in profits for supermarkets. Also the price of all alcohol, not just that at or under the 50p per unit would have to increase, as if a bottle of 'wine' previously costing £2.50 is to increase in price to £4.70, then a bottle of wine that was originally £4.70 would have to increase in price for it to be distinguished from the 'wine'. So it would seem that one of the main beneficiaries of imposing a minimum price for alcohol would be the supermarkets who are often blamed as being one of the causes.

The prime minister, Gordon Brown, is not currently backing the plan, saying 'We don't want the responsible, sensible majority of moderate drinkers to have to pay more or suffer as a result of the excesses of a minority'. The conservative party have said that it is more important to focus on people's attitudes



If Sir Donaldson's proposal is accepted, cut-price alcohol may no longer be available from supermarkets

to drink, instead of merely dealing with supply and cost. The Lib Dems, on the other hand support putting an end to 'pocket-money priced' alcohol. Clearly if you enjoy a cheap drink there is 1 party to not vote for.

In Scotland however SNP ministers have already officially put forward the idea of minimum pricing for alcohol. If the measures were to be implemented then Scotland would be the first country in Europe to take such a measure

to deal with excessive drinking. Wales and Northern Ireland have also both declared an interest in the idea. Currently the heaviest drinkers in Europe, the Luxembourgers, have no plans to end the party.

## Ex-guerrilla victory for El Salvador

Raz Jabary

This week saw the leftist FMLN party take power in El Salvador for the first time since the party's legalisation in 1992. Mauricio Funes, a former CNN Correspondent, won the Salvadoran national elections on Sunday 15th March with a majority of 51% of the votes. Although the results proved the race was a tight one, analysts in fact already speculated a leftist victory that would oust the republican ARENA party from power for the first time in 20 years.

'It is the happiest night of my life,' Funes told a crowd shortly after 90% of the votes had been counted.

The FMLN is a former guerrilla movement that fought a 12-year long battle against the U.S.-backed Salvadoran military dictatorship from 1980 to 1992, which left nearly 80,000 people killed. The conflict came to an end after the signing of several peace accords, which furthermore saw a general amnesty being granted to the members of the group and allowed the party to enter the political stage on a formal and recognised basis.

Former Salvadoran president Antonio Saca was a staunch ally of the Bush administration and considered by the latter to be one of America's three key allies in Bolivarian Latin America, next to Peru and Colombia, the latter which continues its own fight against the FARC rebel movement.

With a row of leftist presidents recently being elected in Latin American countries, amongst which is Argentina, the political processes in Guate-

mala and Honduras as neighbours to El Salvador are considered to have had an effect on the perception of Salvadoran public opinion with regards to their political preferences. Before that, a majority of the Salvadoran population have had concerns about the lack of ruling experience of FMLN. Larry Birns, director of the Council on Hemispheric Affairs, claims that for a long

time 'Salvadorans had been afraid to vote for the FMLN in fear of reprisals from Washington'. He told CNN International that the election of Barack Obama as U.S. president as opposed to the former administration could lead Salvadorans to expect a different view held by American foreign policy.

After his victory was announced, president Funes said to 'seek a path of

reconciliation' with the ARENA party in trying to book political progress and to have a common approach to tackling the financial difficulties imposed by the economic downturn which has also affected this small Central American country.

Despite the results, making the FMLN the ruling party, political analysts do not consider a radical change

to be brought about between Salvadoran-US relations. Although having received a majority of votes, the FMLN in fact lacks the number of parliamentary seats needed for an absolute majority in the country's National Assembly, which means future decisions have to be consulted and agreed upon with the opposition first, before being implemented.



Under the banner "Un Cambio Seguro", A Sure Change, Mauricio Funes from the FMLN party won the Salvadoran national elections on Sunday

# Are you carrying it?

Chlamydia affects 1 in 10 people under 25. Testing for it is quick, easy, free and painless. So why haven't you got round to doing it yet?

Chlamydia is the most prevalent sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the UK. One in ten people aged under 25 who are tested for it, have it. Despite high infection rates, a recent survey of under 25s in Westminster, Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham showed that 79% have never been tested for chlamydia.

## WHAT IS CHLAMYDIA

Chlamydia is passed on through penetrative vaginal or anal sex, oral sex, or through sharing sex toys with someone who has it.

Chlamydia often does not have any symptoms, which means that you or your partner could have it and not know about it. In fact, around 75% of women and 50% of men with chlamydia have no symptoms at all.

Although you may have no symptoms, the signs to watch out for are unusual discharge or more frequent or painful urination. Women may notice pain or bleeding during sex, bleeding between periods, irregular periods or lower abdominal pain. Men might suffer from irritation at the tip of the penis or painful swelling of the testicles.

## WHY SHOULD I GET TESTED?

If you have chlamydia and leave it untreated it can cause serious, lasting

damage to your or your partner's health. The infection can cause pelvic inflammatory disease and ectopic pregnancy and result in both men and women not being able to have children.

However, chlamydia is both easily tested for and treated. For both men and women, the test is just a urine sample and treatment will usually just be one dose of antibiotics.

## HOW CAN YOU GET TESTED?

Testing is free and confidential. You can get tested by:

- Visiting your GP and asking to be tested- this is now available at Imperial College Health Centre

- Calling Westside Contraceptive Services on 020 8962 4454 to book an appointment to get tested

- Visiting [www.check-kit.org.uk](http://www.check-kit.org.uk) to order a free test kit

- Visiting one of the outreach stalls organised by Brook London or the Terrence Higgins Trust on campus.

For more information see below.

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Once you have been tested, you can then choose whether to get your results by phone, text or post. If positive you will then be advised on where to collect your antibiotics which will clear the infection.



He probably won't be wearing these pants...

## STI Information

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, remain one of the most important causes of illness due to infectious disease among young people (aged between 16 and 24 years old).

If left untreated, many STIs can lead to long-term fertility problems (e.g. with chlamydia or gonorrhoea). Infection with HIV or the strains of human papillomavirus (HPV) that cause cervical cancer can lead to long-term illness and possible death.

## TOP TIPS FOR STAYING SAFE:

- have fewer sexual partners and avoid overlapping sexual relationships

- use a condom when having sex with a new partner and continue to do so until both have been screened

- get screened for Chlamydia every year and whenever you have a new partner

- If you are a man who has sex with men, then always use a condom and have an annual sexual health screen, including an HIV test

# Dealing with exam stress

Dr David Hayton  
Salaried GP

## EXAM STRESS

Exam stress affects us all at some time or another. There are few people who go into the exams at the end of the year without being nervous. It's a normal physiological reaction to being in a stressful situation. Flight or fight. Exams are designed to stretch us, to differentiate between the good and the less good students (or at Imperial the extremely good and the very good) and are inherently stressful, no matter what the examiners say.

For some people, the reaction to exams is extreme. The prospect of being assessed, being compared to other students and being judged provokes such an intense emotional and physical response that they simply cannot perform at all, let alone to the best of their ability. Worries might start early in the year, revision be impossible, or physical symptoms prevent the student from entering the exam hall.

## LEARN TO LEARN

Some people, some lucky people, can use their nervous energy in a positive way. They find the butterflies in their stomach exciting and motivating. They can revise more effectively, seem calm and still have time to go the gym. Of course, they are much more likely to do themselves justice in an exam, and yes, they usually get better results. They are not superhuman, but they have learnt skills and adopted attitudes which help

them. We can all do the same. We academics might all benefit from developing our learning and assessment skills as much as we do our knowledge.

And we all already have, to some extent. Whatever you feel, Imperial College students are good at being assessed, otherwise they wouldn't have made it this far. But the transfer to university is a difficult one, and the big fish in a suddenly-very-much-bigger-pond phenomenon is a very real challenge for the majority students at Imperial. It is so easy to lose sight of the fact that even those students who get thirds have earned their place in what my headmistress used to call "the upper echelons of intelligencia".

## IN TRAINING

You would expect an athlete to train hard, but you would expect them to have dinner every night. You would imagine that a pianist would put the hours in to perfect Rach III for their finals, but you would also expect them to sleep. This isn't Shine. So why, oh why do students try to concentrate on their work for 18 hours a day?

Work life balance is incredibly important. No matter how strong the temptation, don't ditch your society for the library. You need time to relax and forget work, so extracurricular activities are even more important in the exam term. Revising can be boring and tiring, so dedicate time to activities which given you a sense of achievement.

Look after yourself. To perform well

you have to be well, so do not neglect your physical health. Make sure you eat three balanced meals a day. Time spent on eating regularly and healthily is far more valuable than the extra 30mins you save by not going shopping.

Mood altering drugs only make things worse. Alcohol can help you relax but be careful it doesn't progress into an easy but counterproductive solution to that sleeping problem. Caffeine can help you wake up, but can keep you awake for 12 hours. Both disrupt the body's natural day/night pattern and ultimately productivity, are all impaired. Performance enhancing drugs are becoming increasingly more common in the UK, but there is plenty of evidence against their use in the general population and the guidance is clear: do not use them unless they are prescribed to you by your doctor.

## SLEEP HYGIENE

Not sleeping well can be a really big problem. Insomnia is often the first symptom of stress and worry. Most people suffer with it at some point, and most students notice a change in their energy levels at College, particularly in exam term.

Unfortunately most students are also inadvertently making the situation worse. In particular there is the temptation to try to work into the late evening. Although you might feel more awake then, work at this time is barely productive. Importantly, you cannot expect to go straight from hard con-

centration to good sleep, so make sure you put time aside to relax before going to bed.

Be firm with yourself about working in the day and at least be trying to sleep at night. You are in training, so remember that even one late night can leave you jet-lagged for days.

You can find out more about sleep problems and sleep hygiene at <http://www.patient.co.uk/pdf/pilsL835.pdf>

## WHERE TO FIND OUT MORE

There is plenty of information out there about how exam stress can affect you, how to help avoid it being a problem and even how to use it to your advantage. There are many different psychological models, and a variety of techniques and tricks which can be helpful. You can find out more at [www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk)

If you think you have a disabling problem with exam stress it is usually worth investing the time, sooner rather than later, in dealing with this rather than bury yourself in more and more work. It would do far more for your result. The doctors at the Health Centre would be happy to see any student who feels he/she has a problem, as would your personal tutor. Alternatively the Student Counselling Service (<http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/counselling>) offer free confidential counselling to any registered student of Imperial College.

The Health Centre also runs workshops on exam stress. These are free and open to all. You do not need to have seen a doctor first. Spaces are limited

and need to be booked in advance, and there is some preparatory work to be done. The workshops are about some of the cognitive theories on stress and how to deal with it; please be clear that they are not about the tools and techniques of how to study, revise and take exams. Find out more at [www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk)

## Top Tip I

There is plenty of research that shows our concentration can last 40-50 minutes at most. Have breaks (7-10 mins) every 50 mins of studying. Use this to relax don't spend it on the phone or planning your revision.

## Top Tip II

The secondary education system knows how to help students learn. Run your day like a school day. Get up early at a regular time. Have breakfast. Work for short periods with regular breaks and proper meals. Do something relaxing in the evening, and go to bed on time.

## Top Tip III

Think about having a regular arrangement with your friends to spend an hour together at the end of each day. And don't talk about work. Friends on different courses are useful.

## How can you get checked at Imperial?

### 1. Imperial College Health Centre

The Health Centre is now participating in the National Chlamydia Screening Programme which is open to all men and women of 24 years and under who have been sexually active in the past and do not have any symptoms currently.

You do not have to be seen by a doctor or nurse. All you need to do is provide a urine sample (you must not have passed urine for one hour prior to producing the sample) and complete a form. Further information is available at the Health Centre.

Imperial College Health Centre, 02075846301, [healthcentre@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:healthcentre@imperial.ac.uk)

[www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk](http://www.imperialcollegehealthcentre.co.uk)

### 2. Check Kit

The new website [www.check-kit.org](http://www.check-kit.org) has lots of information about chlamydia screening and lets you order a kit online which is delivered to your home address. For every sample returned, you get a £10 HMV e-voucher. Results will be returned to you via letter, email or phone and will take between 5-10 days. Terms and conditions apply, so check the website for more details.



### 3. Brook London and the Terrence Higgins

Brook London and the Terrence Higgins Trust are doing outreach sessions for Imperial students, based in the Union or the JCR. Details for next term's outreach dates will be uploaded onto the Union website during the Easter holidays.



Imperial College  
London

International Students

**Are you an international student?  
When does your visa expire?**

**Check your passport!**

**If your current visa expires before  
the end of your course please  
consider extending it now.**

The Home Office will be introducing the Points-Based system for students at the end of March 2009 which might result in a new application form and fee. If you wish to extend your visa now using the existing form it costs £295. The International Office can support you with this application.

For more information contact the Imperial International Office, tel 020 7594 8040, Room 164, Sherfield Building, South Kensington campus. [www.imperial.ac.uk/international](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/international)



## College Hardship Fund 2009

**EU and Overseas students**

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

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

**FURTHER INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS:**

**Web:** [www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/finance/thecollegehardshipfund](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/registry/finance/thecollegehardshipfund)

**Email:** [student.funding@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:student.funding@imperial.ac.uk)

**Telephone:** 020 7594 8122





## Books, bondage and buildings

Caz Knight  
Arts Editor

I feel as though I have neglected culture and the arts these last 6 weeks. The majority of second year and the first term of my final year flew by as my weeks were spent attending at least two cultural ‘happenings’ a week, writing comment pieces for *felix* and attending lectures, lab and what have you in between.

I have my time management skills and seemingly unending energy to thank for that. Today I tell an antithetical story. This term my nun avatar has barely made it into the introductory pages of the comment section and my reviews grow sparser with each passing week.

Final year sucks. Not only do I fear an impending nervous breakdown daily on account of just how much needs to be achieved before the last week of April when my finals commence, but I fear for the psychological welfare of my boyfriend, closest friends and family as they double as emotional punch-bags. Before I continue further and turn you devoted Arts readers into one too, I will just say that my pitiful lack of contribution is due to a temporary acceptance that I need to put things on hold until my exams are over. Come May 1st and I am all *felix*'s once more.

Not only has the work load stopped my opportunity to write but it has also meant I was not able to attend a play I have been looking forward to since early October. Madame de Sade features Dame Judi Dench and bond girl Rosamund Pike and is next up in the Donwar West End's superb line up (Hamlet with Jude Law follows next). In my stead ..... has stepped in and reviewed it. I am extremely grateful and only a little bit bitter.

Even worse than missing out on plays, the work load has prevented me from reading all those novels on my To Read list. As a wee girl of 12 or so I used to consume novels at an alarming rate. Alex Garland's grizzly Thailand as conjured up in his book *The Beach* was read, digested and accepted with its themes of an adult nature never eliciting even a bat eyelid. Come puberty and my reading seemed to go down as my acne soared, but since my summer (and coincidental visit to the land of Garland's novel) I have made an effort to up my fitness, as it were, and start reading regularly again. Since New Year's I have read six novels which I consider no small feat.

So, in a last effort to exercise my powers as critique before I go under I will whiz through a select few trying to capture them in a nutshell.

Mr Nice should really be a student staple for its easy going narrative from charismatic author, Howard Marks (Oxford graduated physicist no less), who writes his autobiography following 6 years spent in prison after finally being caught 20 years after beginning his career as one of the world's largest hashish dealers. Adventure awaits.

On *The Road* by beatnik Jack Kerouac doesn't need much of an introduction only to say that it will whisk you across

America and back four times on motorbikes, buses, open top trucks and in beat up Cadillacs. Might be an appropriate antidote to feelings of claustrophobia brought on by revision.

Dune by Frank Herbert converted me from sci-fi cynic to lover thereof in the time it took me to read this hefty novel (1 week: how's that for an endorsement. In fact, the transition may have taken within the first fifty pages.) This novel will excite anyone with an interest in physics, biology, politics, religion, poetry, action, travel, science-fiction (duh) and even throws in some soppy romantic shizzle. Please, please do read.

The Life of Ivan Denisovich by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn takes you through one grueling day in one of Stalin's gulags (labour camps) through the eyes of Shcha-845 (Ivan) as we live through every bite of frost, sharp wind and sanction enforced by the warders. An outstanding, easy 150-page read.

Arts this week is also a short, easy one with some more architecture reviewed by David Paw, as well as the previously mentioned Madame de Sade review.

However, for now I must desist with culture and persist with fact! Enjoy your Easter 'holidays'.

# What to do if your daughter marries the king of Sadism

Rosie Milton prepares to be impressed by an all star cast and director but is left disappointed.

When we all know that Monet's 'Water Lily Pond' is pretty. It's a great piece of art and we all like to look at it, but I implore anyone to look at it for 1 hour 45 minutes without an interval and not begin to tire a little of those sweet pastel hues. This is rather how I considered the latest instalment of Michael Grandage's 'Donmar West End' residency at the Wyndham's Theatre.

Madame de Sade is about the wife of the Marquis de Sade (Rosamond Pike) her mother (Judi Dench) and several other women who know the infamous French aristocrat from whom the word 'sadism' originated. Whilst the set looks almost edible and the costumes are stunning, annoyingly they only serve to enhance the overwhelming sense that the audience is peaking into a dolls' house. The proxemics are static and the actors literally

fade into the set like wooden dolls until they are as much a part of the furniture as the wooden chairs delicately placed around the stage.

Frances Barber's wickedly carnal Comtesse De Saint-Fond steals the production from the moment the curtain rises. Her impressive use of the riding crop cracks some much needed energy into the production and this is only Act I. While Rosamond Pike is well cast as De Sade's devotedly masochistic wife her rabbit-caught-in-headlights characterisation in the first Act makes it a hard to believe the reports in the second Act that during an orgy with her husband and a group of yokels she had quite literally been swinging from the rafters while a peasant boy licked her naked body.

Judi Dench makes a fine Madame de Montreuil obsessed with keeping her family name in honour while Fiona Button's Anne provides some welcome light relief as Dench's frivolous

younger daughter, the personification of feminine guilelessness. However, all the actors seem swamped by the sheer wordiness of the 40 year-old translation.

As an incurably nosy gossip, I am surprised that the play fails to solicit nearly the amount of interest and intrigue that such fruity subject matter warrants and this is perhaps because the direction lacks momentum. If you're happy to zone out for 110 minutes and watch a group of very pretty woman in gorgeous dresses sashay around the stage like bon bon's in an ornate rococo box then Madame de Sade is worth a watch, however, with credentials like Grandage's I don't think an audience can be blamed for expecting a little more.

**Madame de Sade is on at the Wyndham's theatre until May 23 2009**



Rosamund Pike (left) with hair that would have made the 80s jealous, and Judi Dench (right)

# He is to architecture what Hendrix is to the guitar: Andrea Palladio

The don of architecture is very much hard done by as the Royal Academy's attempt to pay homage to the great Palladio. David Paw tells us more.

When I started out learning to play guitar, I hacked it up like any other beginner. I would buy guitar magazines (Guitar Techniques and Guitar for the Practicing Musician - was there any point buying anything else?) and wallow in the rich soup of musical knowledge in their pages, trying to soak as much of it up as I could. I absorbed mainly anything and everything about my favourite players - Eddie Van Halen, Satriani, Jason Becker - while maintaining a neutral outlook on the other genres. Outside of my limited area of knowledge, the world of guitar and music was an incredibly daunting place, and basic priorities like memorising the chord chart were difficult enough, much less navigating insane jazz progressions.

I always reached a sticking point when it came to the greats, though. My 10-year old self genuinely could not understand for years why Hendrix and Clapton were so revered. In my eyes back then, I equated being able to "play" with technical ability, and naively this was how I gauged a musician's merit, much less paying attention to things like tone, personal style, innovation etc. Jimi couldn't play a million miles an hour. What was the point? I just didn't buy it. Later I would watch interviews of my favourite players speaking about Hendrix et al. with incredible reverence and though I still didn't believe the hype, I began to accept the inevitable. Without the reassurance of my heroes, it would have taken me a lot longer to see the light.

It is 3.50 on a glorious Saturday afternoon and instead of being outside in the sunshine, I am packed inside the Royal Academy in the space the size of a Hobbit's broom cupboard along with a collection of bored partners, their enthusiastic yet confused girlfriends (at least Topshop provides sofas), tourists and pushy middle class pensioners who probably look at Stephen Fry the same way Mrs Robinson looked at Dustin Hoffman. In the words of a very underrated liquor clerk in Superbad, fuck my life. I have been trying to make my way through the crowd while doing justice to the subject of the exhibition - reputedly the greatest architect of all time - while also trying to comprehend why this title had been bestowed upon him. His name is Palladio, and he wouldn't be happy if he were here.

The problem with Andrea Palladio: His Life and Legacy has nothing to do with undeserved reputations and hype. I fully trust that the curators know what they're talking about. The problem with this particular arrangement of architectural models, plan drawings, contextual tidbits and memoirs is that though the parts may be there, they feel less than their potential sum, largely in part to a dramatic in failure of communication from the organisers to their audience. I am somewhat sceptical in believing that the majority of people who were present with me that afternoon were there specifically to tickle their fancy for 16th century Northern

Italian architecture. The room is split up into several rooms, with the gross trend being that as a whole, each is better than the last. This is also valid when pondering the choice between staying in the well-lit and spacious lobby and descending into the first room.

The first room attempts to set the context of our subject's achievements. May I take this opportunity to stress the word "attempt". The first room is a bedlam of spatial and physical incoherence that fails to excite. If this were the Divine Comedy, the first room would be the dullness of Purgatorio and Paradise condensed into 400 square metres of plan drawings and minor details that only the dedicated follower of the architect would have any genuine interest in. There is one breathtaking scale model of the Basilica in Vicenza, and staring into its massive hallways and corridors it is easy to get a sense of scale of what he achieved upon its completion. But other than that, as important as context may be, a good proportion of it felt tedious and relatively indulgent given the limited amount of space the exhibition had. Paintings from the area try to set the tone of the figures involved, the world of the architect and the construction site during that era, but it still feels tenuous. Ornaments and artifacts from the era are dotted around the room to try to give the viewer a flavour of the time period. It feels like a GCSE Art and Design student trying to argue that the painting they plucked arbitrarily from Google images has plenty to do with their final piece.



La Rotonda has inspired countless architects

Oh, we do get a sense of his beginnings as a collaborator with more well-known architects of the era. For example, a segment focuses on a joint project with the great architect Giulio Romano on the Palazzo Thiene in Vicenza. The details of the project are intriguing and the progression rewarding when followed to the end, and as a bonus we are even rewarded with a portrait of Romano by none other than Titian. But it is difficult to feel any genuine excitement without physical illustration, and by physical illustration I mean models. Architecture is a physical, visual language that requires the viewer to not only see and imagine the finished project and its interaction with its surroundings, but to obtain a palpable feel of its scale and physicality. The plan drawings and photographs never allow you to really get involved with the building and space itself, and parts of the exhibition suffer noticeably for that.

The second room is better. Larger, quieter and with less packed into the space, it offers a greater quality of depth and contemplation as far as getting under the skin of the buildings is concerned. It is difficult not to notice the large scale models of the Villa Emo and Barbaro with their imposing tripartate facades, and with the greater freedom allowed to the gallerygoer, it is certainly more of a pleasure to peruse. Rooms three and four focus on the emergence of the then newly-coined "Neo Palladianism" and its influence on subsequent generations, and the publishing of perhaps Palladio's greatest work in any sense, his influential compendium of reflections on the professional and idealistic aspects of architecture, the Quattro Libri. One could consider them a giant tome of sorts spread over four volumes, with the thoroughness of Grey's Anatomy, the vision of Delirious New York and the epic scale of The Bible.

This is where we reach the crux of

the exhibition. We are meant to be witnessing a tribute and exploration of one of the greatest creators and design influencers of all time, but we never reach a point of awe or complete understanding of his greatness until the very end. At the outset we are told his designs for the country house out in Italy were greatly influential from the European mainland to Britain to a point at which the British country house can trace direct lineage to Palladio's initial work. A little later on we learn of the influence of the Quattro Libri in subsequent generations over centuries of architectural history. But we're heathens. We're too used to giant skyscrapers born of oil riches and difficult concept buildings, too used to brash visual statements and the new standard of physical grandeur. We need just a little more convincing. Some reassurance, perhaps. So his achievements never really hit home until we watch videos and interviews of today's architects speaking in reverential tones about the great man himself.

He was a starchitect before they even existed. The Palladian influence is so great that it has become subsumed into modern architecture not just in a practical and technical sense but in a philosophical sense that the ethos of the modern architect owes no little debt to his ideas. A teenager sitting in his room playing his guitar would take the feedback and distortion and screaming lead tones for granted, but he would owe it to Hendrix who had brought all of these ideas to the fore and made them art forms. Just as much, the vocabulary and ideology of modern architecture owes a debt to Palladio's ideas, a man who, in the words of the Japanese architect Arata Isozaki, "could reach the real essence of architecture".

**Until 13th April at the Royal Academy, Piccadilly**



San Giorgio Church in Venice. (1560-1580)



# Review of DramSoc's spring term show

Jessica Bland reviews the opening night of *The Life of Galileo* – running in the UCH until Saturday 21st

Galileo proved that the earth revolves around the sun. He was called a heretic by the Catholic Church despite his unwavering faith and spent much of his later life under house arrest. He had a daughter out of wedlock called Virginia. He did move to Florence and he did go blind.

The story that Brecht weaves around these facts in *The Life of Galileo* is wonderful. It gives Galileo, Virginia and even the Pope complex and believable characters. Watching their story unfold made for a very enjoyable evening.

It employs the playwright's famous alienation effect: making the audience stand back and analyse the implications of Galileo's scientific discovery for society and for religion. This is Brecht at his best, using great characters to make a wider social commentary.

DramSoc chose well. And not just because Brecht is an accomplished writer. The social and political issues highlighted by the play are echoed in those faced by science, and sometimes science students, today. Galileo's murmurings about how much

more science he could do if he didn't have to teach are uncomfortably reminiscent of the complaints often overheard in the SCR.

He performs a careful balancing act between investigative, pure science and providing useful tools like the telescope to keep his sponsors happy. And it only takes a little imagination to remodel the sponsors as the funding bodies which provide the financial lifeblood to science today; the struggle to explain the economic benefits of theoretical physics or biological modelling is the bane of many a PhD proposal.

The opening performance in the Union Concert Hall was disciplined and energetic. The cast worked well as an ensemble, never tiring or losing focus. But it was Gilead Amit's skillful portrayal of Galileo that held the production together. Playing a lead with so much stage time and personality is a challenge he met with aplomb. Aaron Singh's interpretation of Sagredo & the Little Monk was thoughtful and engaging. The dialogue between these two actors exhibited an impressive level of dramatic sophistication.

Adam Khamis was convincingly

evils as the Cardinal Inquisitor, commanding the stage on every appearance. Shamini Bundell and Ziggi Szafranski were equally arresting as Galileo's daughter and the pope respectively; giving energetic performances throughout.

The set for this production was ambitious and perhaps, like many student productions, could have benefitted from a 'less is more' philosophy. The sometimes excruciatingly long scene changes interrupted the play's narrative for too long. But the intelligent design did work well to orientate the audience as the play moves between Rome and Venice, as well as providing a pleasing frame for the more static scenes. The period costumes were wonderful and useful for distinguishing the several characters played by several of the actors.

The *Life of Galileo* discusses the politics of science. And as students of science it makes for welcome food for thought. Despite the disruptions, DramSoc do a great job of bringing it to the Imperial student stage. Something that Brecht – who saw the stage as a social forum – would have no doubt approved of.



Ziggi Szafranski and members of the company from *Life of Galileo*



## Film

Film Editors – Zuzanna Blaszcak and Jonathan Dakin

# Go on a Easter bunny hunt with these films

Jonathan Dakin  
Film Editor

Don't know what to watch over the forthcoming break? Well even I was shocked to discover that there is nothing out at the cinema at the moment that I wanted to see (that I haven't already). For example, this week for the film section I could choose between reviewing movies such as *Marley & Me* or *The International*, both of which do not appeal to me in the slightest. So if you are like me, and are stuck for ideas of things to watch, then it is time to dust off the DVD's from your shelf, set your TV to record random films, or sign up to a film mailing site, and start to broaden the horizons of your film taste. And because Easter is beginning to loom around the corner, I decided to reminisce about films with Easter themes in. So why not venture into the unknown and join me by watching films you might not otherwise choose to see?

**Easter Parade**  
I think that this is the only film ever made with 'Easter' in the title, and a film that focuses on the actual holiday itself. Starring Fred Astaire and Judy Garland, this is a musical about a man who decides that the next woman he meets he will turn into a dancing sensation, and so he luckily bumps into Judy Garland. Her dream is to be a famous dancer and to one day walk down 5th Avenue in New York in the Easter Parade wearing a big hat. There is lots of singing and dancing, and to be honest I don't really remember the film very well, just that her life ambition is to wear a big hat in an annual parade. When thinking about it, this film isn't really about Easter at all, except for the fact that everyone seems to want to

**The Passion Of the Christ**  
I had to put something religious here, as after all, Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection is what Easter is all about. Following the last few days of Jesus' life, the film tells us about his disciples, his family and his teachings through various flashbacks, interspersed with



One bunny down. Any more?

walk down a street on Easter Sunday wearing big hats...

**Chocolat**  
Now this is a film about Easter! The film opens on the first day of Lent, and the main villain of the film gives up chocolate just as Vianne (Juliette Binoche) opens a chocolate shop. The small French town is cold and unwelcoming to her, but she quickly wins over the hearts of everyone through the magic of chocolate (I tell you, if someone wanted to give me chocolate for free, I would be their friend too). This film is a heart-warming tale of love and loss, and Johnny Depp makes a brief appearance as a gypsy that Vianne falls in love with. Ending on Easter Sunday, everyone learns valuable lessons about themselves, life and love. How sweet... (what a terrible pun).

**The Prince of Egypt**  
I haven't forgotten my Jewish cousins- don't worry! They had their claim on this time of the year for a holiday first (I am referring to Passover). And although this film appeals to both Jewish people and Christians, it does feature Moses, God, Ramesses II, freed slaves and Passover, so I feel the Jewish community have more stake in the film. An animated classic, this movie follows Moses as he tries to free his Hebrew brethren from being slaves to an Egyptian Pharaoh. Cue the Ten Plagues

some truly shocking torture scenes that demonstrate what Christ suffered before being crucified. When this film came out it caused a media storm and had a lot of controversy surrounding it, but if you are a Christian or a lapsed Christian, this film gives a good idea of what the message of Easter is. And even if you aren't religious, this film is still very powerful and interesting to watch, even though it is brutally gory.

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(scary!) and the moment Passover happens- the angel of death is coming and if you don't put lamb blood on your door he will kill your first-born child! Featuring an all-star cast (including Sandra Bullock, who I am secretly in love with), this film is a good watch, and includes a catchy song by Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey.

**Who Framed Roger Rabbit**  
Okay, so this has absolutely nothing to do with Easter. But it does feature a bunny rabbit as the main character, so I am kind of inclined to give this film a mention. If you haven't seen it, you must, as it is brilliant. Set in San Francisco in the 40's a detective is hired to solve the murder of a Cartoon Studio owner, the main suspect being an A-List Toon, Roger Rabbit. Now this might sound strange, but this film mixes live action with cartoons, and has cameos from Mickey Mouse, Bugs Bunny and Daffy Duck. Yes it is weird, but it is extremely clever and well plot-



One more! But this bunny looks slightly less friendly don't you think?

ted, and also features every man's favourite cartoon character, Jessica Rabbit (if only she were real...). Although it seems like it is for children, it is very adult, with gruesome murders and one of the scariest villains ever (if you could make swords pop out of your eye balls then I would be scared of you too). So don't be fooled into thinking it is for children, as it has universal appeal.

**Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey**  
So now I am really getting further away from Easter. But actually, this film does feature an evil Easter Bunny that lives in Hell and tries to torture one of the main characters. Odd, yes. Maybe you have to have seen this as a child to appreciate it. A sequel to Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure, this one is about two evil robots sent back in time to kill Bill and Ted (so they end up going to Hell) so that their music doesn't save the world from becoming a utopian society (because in the late 80's/early 90's people believed that rock music was so powerful that it could save the world). Hmm... an evil pink Easter Bunny, the Grim Reaper and some weird creatures that God creates all add up to a very strange, drug induced movie. Well, it still sounds better than Marley & Me.

Other films with Easter themes include:

**The Miracle Maker**  
Claymation film that chronicles Jesus' life through the eyes of a young girl.

**Donnie Darko**  
Psychological drama featuring a slightly disturbing bunny rabbit that predicts the end of the world.

**Octopussy**  
A James Bond film all about a Faberge Egg. James travels to India, Cuba and Germany to investigate.

# At the touch of horror...

Stefan Carpanu

... everyone becomes a human being.

While this is not fundamentally true of the whole genre, I would not be lying if I said that throughout the last few decades or so, the mood and atmosphere of such works of cinema have gone from unsettling to disturbing, nowadays bordering on disgusting. Horror movies have definitely undergone a bit of plastic surgery, and it's the manner in which this has shaped horror productions which causes my dismay. The fact of the matter is that with the immense visual power of the 21st century, many filmmakers have thought that inducing unease through violent images and brutal editing, amounts to a fair work of horror. While such a belief holds some truth in itself, this empowerment has led to abuse: once you focus on the imagery and not the content, the only way to become original and innovative (i.e. interesting) is by striving to new extremes of the disgusting.

However, this isn't necessarily bad. A film may be of debatable taste, but still terrifying. What has killed the modern horror movie is the baseness of its characters, the incredibly predictable plots and plot twists and, even worse,



The cute face hugging thingy was the icing on the cake in *Alien*.

the fact that some of these elements are portrayed in such a manner that they should impress the viewer. I won't even mention remakes more than once in this article, although they're a crying shame and deserve a dissertation sized spanking. What saddens me is that while production values have gone up and can finally inspire the fear one lusts for when happiness wants to kick one out of his/her house, there seems to be no horror movie left worth

seeing for the lingering effect of "I'm not opening the fridge, you do it". Some of the more gifted filmmakers have realized that the direction horror movies have taken is almost insulting and they've chosen to embrace their cheesiness and B-movie nature by turning them into parodies, or at least by trying to blend in some self-deprecating parody amongst the horror. This isn't a bad move – or at least it wasn't until everyone started taking horror with a

pinch of clownishness. Given that this has had a wide effect on American and British films in particular, almost all satisfactory horror movies of late have been in a language other than English.

The current state of affairs is so depressing that I don't even go to see horror movies any more. As soon as the trailer's finished, it's clear what *The Unborn*, *The Uninvited*, *The Haunting* and all their relatives will be like. And when a month ago I made the mistake of watching *My Bloody Valentine 3D*, all I got was a mindless borefest, a ridiculous pile of "let's play around with this technology so as to scare some people out of their money". I mean really, as has been argued many times before, there is a difference between scaring someone and startling someone. That's how bad it's gotten.

I don't particularly mind when you can enjoy a film without putting your brain to any use, but when having a brain proves an impediment to enjoying a film, well, then I have a problem. The truth is that not everything has to change, and this can be seen by contemplating the irony that a revolution has already taken place in modern horror, but we're no better off than we were before it. I can understand that it will take more than a Judd Apatow figure to put out a great work of horror, because patterns work way better in comedies than they do in horror movies. But it's not fair that the marketplace dictates what kind of horror is being

made (or what kind of movies in general), because the marketplace will never come up with ideas - it will only consume the next best thing. The genre needs a story to revive it, an actual story as opposed to a series of scares and massacres strung together. It needs a *Wicker Man*, a *Psycho*, an *Alien*, an *Exorcist*, some *Birds*, a *Shining* – hell, even a *Nosferatu*. Or maybe, just maybe, all it really needs is something completely different.



One of, if not the, most famous shower scene ever (from *Psycho*)

# Felix Easter Eggstravaganza 2009

Welcome to *felix's* annual Eggstravaganza where, purely in the interests of research, we wolf down copious amounts of ovoid-shaped, chocolatey goodness to let you know which eggs are worth your cash this Easter

## After Eight

£5.00, One egg plus some After Eight mints.

Appearance: 8  
Value for money: 7  
Endurance Test: 7  
Taste: 4  
Extras: 6  
Comments: Similar to the Chocolate Orange in terms of idea, but it really doesn't work as well here. A minty egg just tastes odd!

Final Score: 6.4

## Cadbury slightly more expensive than budget eggs

£2.00, Cadbury classic eggs.

Appearance: 4  
Value for money: 8  
Endurance Test: 6  
Taste: 6  
Extras: 6  
Comments: Plain and simple, if you're just looking for a good, cheap egg, this is the one for you!

Final Score: 6



## Guylian

£5.00, Milk chocolate egg with sea-shell praelines.

Appearance: 9  
Value for money: 9  
Endurance Test: 8  
Taste: 9  
Extras: 9  
Comments: It's just so damn good and cheap and amazing!

Final Score: 8.8

LAST YEAR'S WINNER DOES IT AGAIN, IT'S JUST SO GOOOOOOOOOOD!



## Sainsbury's Taste the Difference Egg

£2.00, Hollow milk chocolate egg with white chocolate decoration

Appearance: 6  
Value for money: 8  
Endurance Test: 5  
Taste: 7  
Extras: 0  
Comments: Although you get nothing with the egg, the price itself isn't too bad considering the taste of the egg. Not a bad option if you want a good cheap egg

Final Score: 5.2



## Green & Black

£5.50, 70% Organic dark chocolate

Appearance: 7  
Value for money: 5  
Endurance Test: 9.5  
Taste: 2  
Extras: 0  
Comments: It tastes like mud and you get absolutely no extras!

Final Score: 4.7



## Terry's Chocolate Orange

£5.00, Chocolate orange egg with chocolate orange.

Appearance: 6  
Value for money: 8  
Endurance Test: 9  
Taste: 6  
Extras: 8  
Comments: There's really nothing to it, it's just an egg version of the orange!

Final Score: 7.4



## Cadbury Collection Egg

£7.00, Three Cadbury eggs, all inside each other

Appearance: 8  
Value for money: 6  
Endurance Test: 10  
Taste: 6  
Extras: 8  
Comments: If you liked the basic Cadbury brand, you'll like this. Very nice appearance, but slightly more expensive than getting three of the normal eggs!

Final Score: 7.6



## Nestle Mid-range eggs

£5.00, Nestle eggs with bonus chocolates

Appearance: 5  
Value for money: 5  
Endurance Test: 5  
Taste: 6  
Extras: 6  
Comments: They're not too bad, but they are more expensive than the Cadbury ones and you don't get that much extra

Final Score: 5.4



## Baileys

£10.00, Milk chocolate egg with Baileys truffles.

Appearance: 9  
Value for money: 3  
Endurance Test: 7  
Taste: 9  
Extras: 7  
Comments: The egg is absolutely massive and tastes amazing, but it is just too expensive

Final Score: 7



## Lindt (Golden Bunny Egg)

£5.00, Milk chocolate egg with Lindt bunnies.

Appearance: 8  
Value for money: 7  
Endurance Test: 7  
Taste: 7  
Extras: 7  
Comments: A good mixture of size and extras, very nice

Final Score: 7.2



## Top Gear Egg

£4.00, One egg, one Stig mug

Appearance: 6  
Value for money: 7  
Endurance Test: 8  
Taste: 6  
Extras: 10  
Comments: We couldn't help ourselves, we had to get this egg, purely for the mug! The egg however was not so good!

Final Score: 7.4



## Peasant eggs

£0.90 - £1.50, One egg that is it!

Appearance: 2  
Value for money: 10  
Endurance Test: 5  
Taste: 4  
Extras: 0  
Comments: If there was ever an award for the simplest egg possible, this would be it. Oh and the Barbie and Simpson one taste horrible!

Final Score: 4.2



# Spot the Volleyball

Photo by Barbara K



Apologies to Nick Ablitt who actually took the photo last week of the IC Boat Club



# Music

Music Editors – Peter Sinclair James Houghton & Alex Ashford

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## Ice-cream and sunshine

Alex Ashford  
Music Editor

The other day I was sitting in my room doing some necessary Biology work when I heard the sound – THE sound. And suddenly, I knew; the harsh, cold tyranny of winter is over. That sound of loud, tin-ny chimes playing a barely recognisable version of “Greensleeves” and kids on the estate yelling, in their South London accents, “ICEEEEE CREEEEEEEEEEEEEEAM!” and “Get yo money den dat’s da ice cream truck!”, alongside the sounds of doors slamming and kids running. And I admit, I felt a pang of craving for ice-cream too but at the same time I am 21, and like most middle-class white chicks, I’m still a little bit scared of those kids who have grown up on a council estate in South-east London with parents who look like crystal meth addicts, I mean, don’t they all have guns and knives and shit? That’s what *The Daily Mail* says anyway.

As soon as summer hits you have to adjust your iPod playlists for the change in weather and stop listening to all that music from the winter because it’s not fresh any more. One of the things I’ve been listening to is dance music with horns that sound like Mark Ronson putting on a summer carnival rave in SE1. Mr Miyagi is a Swedish duo of “one rock musician and one computer geek” according to their Myspace and their song “We Gonna Give You The Lesson” will make you wanna dance like it’s Brazil and everyone is only wearing glittery thongs and feath-

ered head-dresses. Crookers, who you might remember from that remix of Kid Cudi’s “Day ‘n’ night” (I predicted that would be big in my January article, you read it here first!) has also got in on the brass section action with “Gypsy P” which sounds like a song you could dance to around a campfire, drinking psychedelic tea with Gogol Bordello. But my favourite horn-related song of right now has to be Jesse Rose’s “Touch My Horn” [Mad Kids remix], a perfect blend of anthemic brass and techno breaks – the perfect summer dance-track. Moving away from dance music, I’ve also been listening to the song “Obsessions” by Marina & the Diamonds approximately twenty times a day, every day for the past two weeks. It’s just that good. It’s so beautiful it almost makes me cry. However no one in the *felix* office seems quite as into this as I am, so my enthusiasm might just be because I am an unashamedly massive Kate Bush fan and she sounds like a cross between Kate Bush, Florence & the Machine, and La Roux.

My other summer staple is always, hip-hop remixes. I mean the kind of hip-hop that reminds you of the Fresh Prince of Bel Air. Last year it was Kid Sister with lyrics like “help your granny up out of her chair/if you wanna get loose say ‘hell yeah’” this year I don’t know what it’s gonna be. I’ve heard Rye Rye aka the new M.I.A. but I’m not sure she’s got what it takes. Also her Myspace has the worst design of all time, but I’m not sure if it’s just supposed to be “retro” or something.



## Festival line-ups so far...

### What? From To Line-Up Location Price

What?	From	To	Line-Up	Location	Price
Camden Crawl	24 April	25 April	Dan Black, Marina & the Diamonds, Heartsrevolution, Filthy Dukes, Echo & the Bunnymen, Wire, Drums of Death, Heartbreak, Little Boots, and more	Camden	£59
The Great Escape	14 May	16 May	The Black Lips, Chairlift, Abe Vigoda, Golden Silvers, the Macca-bees, White Denim, Heartbreak, Fan Death, Marina & the Diamonds, Ipso Facto, Passion Pit, Peggy Sue, and more	Brighton	£45
Dot To Dot	23 May	23 May	Friendly Fires, Ladyhawke, Annie Mac, Patrick Wolf, Abe Vigoda, Vivian Girls, and more	Bristol & Nottingham	£22
Dot To Dot	24 May	24 May			
Primavera	28 May	30 May	Aphex Twin, My Bloody Valentine, Sonic Youth, Girl Talk, Simian Mobile Disco, Jarvis cocker, A-Trak, The Jesus Lizard, Kimya Dawson, DJ Yoda, Bloc Party, Crystal Stiltz, and more	Barcelona	€145
Isle of Wight	12 June	14 June	Pixies, Prodigy, Basement Jaxx, Neil Young, Razorlight, more TBA	Isle of Wight	£120-£140
Download	12 June	14 June	Slipknot, Prodigy, KoRn, Mötley Crüe, Faith No More, Def Leppard	Donington Park	£135-£190
Sónar	19 June	21 June	Grace Jones, Late of the Pier, Erol Alkan, SebastiAn, Deadmau5	Barcelona	€140
Glastonbury	24 June	28 June	Echo & the Bunnymen, Lily Allen, Florence & the Machine, more TBA	Glastonbury	£180
Wireless	4 July	4 July	Basement Jaxx, Dizzee Rascal, N.A.S.A., Fischerspooner, The Streets, and more	Hyde Park, London	£40 - £179
Roskilde	2 July	5 July	Fleet Foxes, Nine Inch Nails, Coldplay, Friendly Fires, Oasis, and more	Roskilde, Denmark	£222 - £348
Benicassim	16 July	19 July	Kings of Leon, Franz Ferdinand, Friendly Fires, Mystery Jets, better acts TBA	near Barcelona	£155
Field Day	1 August	1 August	Mystery Jets, Mogwai, Erol Alkan, more TBA	Victoria Park, London	£29.50
Summer Sunday	14 August	16 August	Bon Iver, Micachu & the Shapes, the Streets, Noisettes, James Yuill, more TBA	Leicester	£92
Bestival	11 September	13 September	Kraftwerk, Massive Attack, LGMPT, Klaxons, Annie Mac, Soulwax, Florence & the Machine, and more TBA	Isle of Wight	£140

**Thursday**  
12:00 – 13:00 Belated Hype  
13:00 – 14:00 Dead Air Space  
16:00 – 17:00 Papercuts  
17:00 – 18:00 The Metal Hour  
18:00 – 19:00 Nath and Yuvi’s Happy Hour  
19:00 – 21:00 Instrumental  
21:00 – 23:00 The Spectre Show

**Monday**  
12:00 – 14:00 I[COBETRADIO]  
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

**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

**Wednesday**  
13:00 – 14:00 Eye on Science  
14:00 – 15:00 The Indie Show  
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

**Friday**  
14:00 – 15:00 Free Music  
16:00 – 17:00 Science Jam  
17:00 – 18:00 Peter & James  
19:00 – 20:00 The DC Sessions  
20:00 – 00:00 Music Tech Sessions

**Saturday**  
11:00 – 13:00 VPT  
15:00 – 17:00 Yes We Can  
17:00 – 18:00 Hypercommunication

**Sunday**  
16:00 – 17:00 The Pop Show  
17:00 – 19:00 The G & T Show  
19:00 – 21:00 The Roushan Alam Show  
21:00 – 23:00 The Crack Den

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# Music

## Hospitality Matters

Tom Phillips reviews one of the biggest and best drum ‘n’ bass nights in London

Founded by Chris Goss and Tony Colman (also known as London Elektric) in early 1996 in their west London studio, Hospital Records was set up primarily to spread their own music within the drum and bass scene. Since then, it’s grown to become one of the biggest drum and bass labels in the world, known for leaning towards liquid funk, a more melodic subgenre of drum and bass, with nearly 300 releases as well as being home to some of the most popular drum and bass producers, like High Contrast and Nu:Tone.

Hospitality, the label’s own club night, began in 1996 at Herbal in Shoreditch but quickly spread out of London to Cardiff, Brighton and even Berlin. Hospitality soon outgrew its London venue and moved to a hugely successful quarterly residency at Heaven.

At the end of September 2008, Heaven was sold by its previous owners and the new owners decided in November – with just two weeks to go before the gig – to cancel the last Hospitality of 2008. Even with the threat of legal action, no agreement was reached between Heaven and Hospitality to resolve the situation.

This led Hospital Records to make the move to London’s brand new Matter at the O2 Arena. Founded by the owners of Fabric, Cameron Leslie and Keith Reilly, the 2,600 capacity venue can only be described as incredible. The whole place is completely immersive. Capable of generating stiff breeze, no words could adequately describe the clarity and quality of the phenomenal 200 speaker sound system in Room One, and if you thought the BodySonic dance floor in Fabric’s Room One vibrated a lot, you have got to experience the latest incarnation, the BodyKinetic

dance floor, at Matter. Along with your hair and clothes moving in the air, kick drums pounding in your chest and your whole body vibrating from the floor, you’ll see some top-class Vjing projected onto all of the walls.

The whole experience makes every pretentious West-end club (e.g. Maya, come on RCSU...) seem like a crap house party where all the tracks are streamed from YouTube and played back on a knackered iPod dock bought in the closing-down sale at Woolworths.

However, you can have the best club environment in the world but without great DJs it’ll fall flat on its face. Hospital Records haven’t let us down here either. Room One kicked off with Nu:Tone and Logistics for the first two hours who warmed up the slightly sparse crowd nicely with their smooth flowing, minimal mixes.

Starting his hour-and-a-half set with some impressive turn-tablism, Brazilian DJ Markey took it up a notch and the dancefloor was soon heaving. Normally, I find scratching to be irritating and narcissistic because often it doesn’t add anything whatsoever to the music, but here Markey skillfully integrated it unobtrusively and intricately into the mix.

National Drum and Bass 2009 award winner (Best Liquid DJ) High Contrast followed with his trademark uplifting sets, although after DJ Markey he seemed a little predictable. London Elektric hit the stage at 2:30am. He played a great set with tracks from Mistabishi’s new album Drop – ‘Printer Jam’ in particular sent the crowd wild – and dubplates from new artists recently signed to Hospital such as B-Complex and Sigma. However, the set wasn’t perfect. TC’s ‘Where’s



Brazilian DJ Markey hits the mark with his renowned scratching and mixing skills

My Money’ virtually stopped the dance floor and even got a few boos from the crowd, prompting London Elektric to make a quick record change about 15 seconds into the track.

Cyantific then showed off some of his technical skills, playing three records at once and his more techy sound was a welcome change to the last two-and-a-half hours of liquid funk.

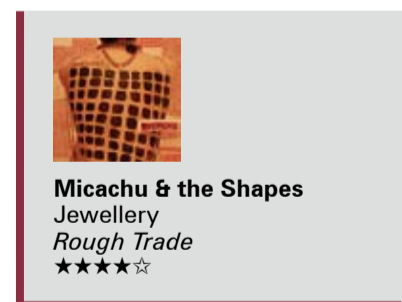
Room Two was dedicated entirely to dubstep all night. Although much smaller than Room One, it is well suited, both acoustically and atmospherically, to the darker side of electronic. Rinse FM radio presenter N-Type played a mind-blowing set with some really great tracks that kept the mix interesting, rather than the usual

two-step garage beats and wobbling sub-bass.

After last year’s release of his amazing debut album *Diary Of An Afro Warrior*, I was particularly excited about seeing Benga DJ at Hospitality, but he turned out to be a complete disappointment. After turning up 40 minutes late, he then proceeded to invite so many of his mates into the booth that he could barely move to get to his record bag and spent so much of his time chatting to his friends that the mix was all over the place. Silence ensued after he seemed to forget completely where he was and let the Skream remix of La Roux’s ‘Going In For The Kill’ play to the very end of the record. The look on his face when he realised what had

just happened was priceless. He also seemed to constantly mash his hand into the beat repeat button at every opportunity. Did he just want us to go back into Room One so he could catch up with his friends? The MCs were awful, one of whom seemed to only be able to make squealing monkey noises. Benga may be a great producer, but he’s a terrible DJ.

Back in Room One, Bristol’s Krust and Die rounded off what was, with the exception of Benga, an extraordinary night. Hospitality will be back at Matter on 1st May with High Contrast, Fabio, London Elektric, Friction, Cyantific, Danny Byrd, Skream and DJ Zinc. I’ll definitely be going, and I think you should too.



Steven Burgess

Don’t be put off by the name, despite sounding like a Japanese cartoon show these pocket monsters have produced a diamond of an album which sparkles in the Rough Trade catalogue. Hailing from London, the 21 year-old Mica Levi a.k.a. Micachu, along with Marc Pell and Raisa Khan (The Shapes) are a spit-ball in the face of the indie establishment. They have produced a collection of twisted three minute pop songs, a nicotine fuelled, manic ciggy rush and the perfect antidote to the insipid wave of morbid rock produced by the White Lies – just what the doctor ordered for 2009.

A graduate from Guildhall Music School, Mica has already written a score for the London Philharmonic

Orchestra as part of a young composers project and releasing her own grime mix tapes ‘Filthy Friends’. The debut album *Jewellery* is released off the back of an NME Awards show appearance and precludes extensive touring across the UK, US and Europe.

In constant decay, *Jewellery* skims the edge of sanity, knitting together a loose alliance of influences from low-fi to dubstep to hip-hop busting to break loose. Abrasive from the start ‘Vulture’ erupts with the energy of the Libertines setting the tone for a relentless assault of out-of-tune guitars and distorted samples mastered with the quirky ingenuity of a young Beck.

Threaded through with prickly lyrics, from the bitter “lie all the time you still get by”; “I was told I have a sell by date” to the direct “she stole all my money, the f---ing thief” backed with shouts, crushed and perverted sounds Mica builds up a monument of burnt nerves, pent-up anger and young lust in modern London.

The infectious ‘Curly Teeth’ employs an R&B section so catchy one could imagine Missy Elliot sliding into view then taking forward electro-pop, ‘Golden Phone’ sounds like a grimy Hot Chip track and ‘Just In Case’ sees Lily Allen meet Bjork in her Homog-

enic days with a fierce low-fi accompaniment.

This album owes alot to hours spent on sampling software and harnesses a diverse array of sounds that would make the Flaming Lips proud. This is best exemplified by ‘Turn Me Well’ which boasts a vacuum cleaner in its ensemble – art is life, life is art.

In the end, this a debut album with an irrepressible punk sensibility and it will be interesting to see where Micachu will take her sound next. However questions of the future are out of joint with the album’s outlook, so for the moment seize the day and enjoy this offering of raw, painful youth.





Nightlife

Nightlife Editor – Catherine Jones (CJ)

nightlife.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# Sun, sex, drugs and dance music

As summer is just around the corner, Catherine Jones previews nightlife highlights not to be missed



The sun has finally come out and made its happy presence known. Hopefully you've made the most of it, with the fairer amongst you possibly even suffering from your first batch of sunburn.

Summer will be along soon and we have to look forward to the best nights out, in the almost fresh air of London.

Here are a selection of events with the minimum amount of hassle, anyone can enjoy;

**Get Loaded in The Park**  
Bank Holiday Sunday 30th August

Get Loaded in The Park returns to Clapham Common for the Bank Holiday Sunday! No camping, no mud, no long motorway journey to reach the campsite. You can even catch the last tube home. This year's Headliners are **Orbital**, with the iconic duo Paul and Phil Hartnoll celebrating the 20th anniversary of the release of their first single "Chime", considered by some to be one of the best dance records of all time.

"We've got 15 years of active service, making songs," says Paul. "If you boil that down to a 90-minute festival set you should get something thoroughly good from beginning to end. Let's put some fun back into it." With their trademark torch glasses and innovative vid-

eo visuals, you know it will be one to remember.  
[www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk) (Standard tickets £35 + booking fee)

**South West Four**  
Bank Holiday Saturday 29th August

South West Four is Bank Holiday Saturday's mega all-day set to rock the green grass of Clapham Common.

The line-up has yet to be released as this goes to press, but you can bet it is going to be massive. Keep an eye on [www.southwestfour.co.uk](http://www.southwestfour.co.uk) for more details.

As a guide to the quality expected, last year saw the likes of Carl Cox, John Digweed, Eric Morillo, Danny Tenaglia, Armin van Buuren, Sven Vath, Tiefschwarz, Nic Fanciulli, Markus Schulz, Layo & Bushwacka, Claude von Stroke, Fedde Le Grande, Green Velvet, Francois K, Sander van Doorn, Sister Bliss and SOS take to the decks. Keep an eye on [www.southwestfour.co.uk](http://www.southwestfour.co.uk) to hear the official line up announcement.

SW4 2008 was hugely popular, with all 20,000 tickets selling out. [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk) (Standard tickets £40 + booking fee).

**O2 Wireless Festival**  
Hyde Park Saturday 4th July

Dance Saturday at the O2 Wireless features four stages packed with stellar acts, including **Basement Jaxx** headlining, with **Dizzee Rascal**, **The Streets**, **Paul Oakenfold**, **FrankMusik**, **Sneaky Sound System**, **N.A.S.A.**. Standard day tickets are £40, a limited duration early bird price.  
[www.wirelessfestival.co.uk](http://www.wirelessfestival.co.uk)

**SummerBreak 2009**  
Spend your days at the beach party,

and nights in the clubs! Like the American tradition of Spring Break, 12,000 students will be hitting the beaches of Newquay this June, for fun and frolics on one of the U.K.'s best surfing beaches.

Basically, it's a series of post-exam blow-out weekends, sure to be an unforgettable 4 days (Assuming you can actually remember the weekend...), with an exciting varied DJ line up; **Pendulum DJ's & MC Jakes**, **Scott Mills**, **Judge Jules**, **Mistajam**, **Jaguar**

**Skills**, **Scratch Perverts & Dynamite MC**, **London Elektric** and **Urban Knights AV**.

SummerBreak kicks off on 1st June, in Newquay, Cornwall. Tickets start at £59 for a tent pitch, going to £99 for caravan accommodation. Nightclub entry is included.

[www.summerbreak.com](http://www.summerbreak.com) for tickets, or enter the competition to win the 4 free tickets.

**Win a Holiday for 4!**  
**FREE camping tickets to Summer Break 2009**  
to give away.  
Email: [nightlife.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:nightlife.felix@ic.ac.uk)  
by Friday 27th March

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## Friday 27 March 20:00-03:00

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UNIONdjs

Emma Harkness

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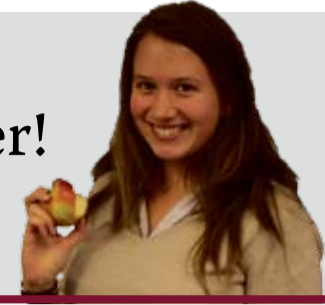
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## Have a happy, saccharine Easter!



Rosie Grayburn  
Food Editor

One month and counting... I'm still waiting for that bunch of reduced roses promised to me for Valentine's Day. My stubborn Mr Rosie vetoed Valentine's Day this year because he, as a bloke, felt pressurised into being romantic and loving. I do agree with him on some level – men find it hard enough without large pink signs reminding them on every corner about that inevitable day when everything has a 'love' premium.

So as a consequence of his anti-Valentine's Day anger, I was promised roses when they were reduced but even on Anti-Valentine's Day (14th March), they hadn't arrived. This fabled day among the romantically suppressed men of this modern society is also known as 'Steak and Blow Jobs Day'. In my opinion, all these 'feast' days have gotten out of control – in both these cases (14/2 and 14/3) we should live life like the Mad Hatter does. Life is too short.

I risk doing an 'Imperial Girl' if I carry on talking about matters of the heart. The next sentence might have contained the word 'orgasm' and I'd be faced with an inbox of hate-mail. Let's stick to food – it's safer.

What with all these elections that have been a-happening in the previous weeks, a lot of promises have been made concerning our welfare and everyone on the election wagon seems to be concerned with the quality of food that we're ingesting at Imperial. I will admit that the Union food stinks, but I really think we should be more grateful for resources such as the MDH. I rediscovered the MDH the other day after a 2 year lapse in Sandwich Shop and SAF limbo. No, it is not haute cuisine, but I think we all forget that we are students and we should be thankful that for £4.40 we can eat ourselves silly in the Sheffield Building. This gets you a large portion of hot lunch and as much pudding and custard as you can cram into your bowls (it's £3.30 if you just want the main course).

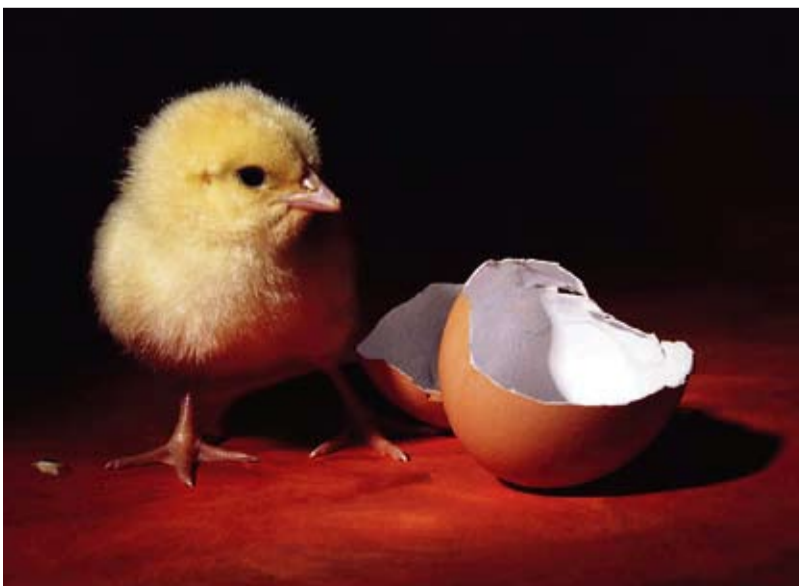
I loved the food at the MDH and was pleasantly surprised at the number of people sitting down to eat. The only

thing I didn't enjoy was the lack of fellow females around. The place reeked of testosterone and the demographic was worse than an EEE lecture theatre. I was the only girl tucking into a plateful of food and others were nervously holding a dainty soup spoon in hand, while watching their male companions scoff. So in conclusion, what the MDH needs is a MASSIVE salad bar and a makeover. Answers on a postcard.

I needn't rip the Union food to shreds. We all know its crap, so how can we make it better? I was at Warwick University last week visiting Little Rosie (sister, not daughter) and we treated ourselves to a meal out at their Union. In a space no bigger than Da Vinci's, they managed a nice looking, well cooked plate of food for a fiver. I was very impressed. Sure, it was just a small step up from Wetherspoon's food, but the portions were immense, as was the choice of food on offer. Students were packed round tables sharing piles of steaming wedges and tucking into steak baguettes or lasagne and salad. No doubt it would be a logistical nightmare for such a simple idea to come to fruition at the Union but Warwick's utopian eatery did make me wonder...

When I saw David's recipe for this week's food section my mouth immediately started watering. I have tried to avoid that cliché for so long, but when you're faced with a photo of glistening pasta with shiny peas and scallops it's impossible to resist. This dish would be perfect to cook for your loved one this Saturday night. For fish-sceptics, just omit the scallops or replace it with more bacon. James 'I eat your soul for breakfast' Copley went to Hell this week. From what I can tell from his account, in Hell there are lots of Australians plying you with very spicy pizza. I think we can expect to see more of Hell in the next few years as this Antipodean franchise of spooky pizza takeouts expands onto British soil. Don't worry - Hell is just like Dominos with more chilli and bats!

I can't believe it's the end of term already. You may insert a cliché about time going as fast as a fast thing, here. Happy Easter, folks. See you next term!



Meet Houdini, the Amazing Escaping Chick. He gets out of the shell then eats it whole, but we don't have a picture of that. Shame.

## In Hell, there are Kiwis

James Copley finds Hell on North End Road. What's new, eh?



### Hell Pizza ★★★

369 North End Road  
Fulham, SW6 1NW  
08456 666 999

[www.hellpizza.co.uk](http://www.hellpizza.co.uk)

**Best:** Hellish decor and matching coffin pizza boxes

**Worst:** Antipodean chilli scales on a mild, British palate

**Price:** All you can eat pizza for £6 on Tuesdays. Snack pizzas from £4.50 and giant ones from £9.

**Takeout:** Hell delivers to most places north of the river. Battersea dwellers despair.

As a treat this week, Felix decided to send me to Hell. Naturally, I had some initial reservations. Fire and brimstone are just a touch strong for my delicate palate. However, this was before I was told Hell contained pizza. Homer Simpson sold his soul for a measly donut; this was a bloody big pizza.

Eternal damnation notwithstanding, I ventured down the Highway to Hell (previously known as the North End

Road), through dreary old Fulham. If the underworld is this innocuous I really ought to start sinning more often.

So, what makes this place so hellish then? Basically, it is your standard pizza joint, but with all manner of demons, fire and bats lurking about the walls and ceiling. The pizzas are given suitable names, seven named after the deadly sins. Interestingly, 'Lust' contains only meat toppings, whereas 'Sloth' inexplicably is based on tuna and mushrooms.

Elsewhere there is the standard half-arsed array of pastas and salads, but this is really all about the pizza. Which is what makes the fact that the pizza tastes exactly like Domino's all the more disappointing. Hell Pizza claim to be all about "big flavours" and not about "old Italian recipes", but this is their downfall. The pizzas are irritatingly thick and the toppings piled on with abandon, raping the taste buds.

Several pizzas are available on a Nando's style spice scale, but be warned: stereotypes of Australasian machismo stand true. Opting for the second hottest option, the auspiciously named 'Ring of Fire' for my 'Mischief' pizza, I was confronted with obscene amounts of barely cooked chilli. Perhaps this was to mask the fact the supposed chorizo had the texture of a frankfurter. Elsewhere they use sauces to similar effect: the 'Mordor' arrives saturated

with a barbecue sauce that could have been made of pure treacle.

Hell Pizza came into existence in the mid 1990's in New Zealand, and though the food served is (very loosely) Italian in origin, the ethos could not be more antipodean if you named it Bruce. Now the second largest pizza restaurant chain in New Zealand, they are spreading their damned seeds around the western world with outlets soon to open in Ireland and Canada. Some gentle Wikipedia research suggests that they are famous on their native continent for controversial advertising campaigns including giving out free condoms with their 'Lust' pizza and, brilliantly, using "the skeletal remains of Heath Ledger and the Queen Mother dancing on their gravestones" for their Hallowe'en campaign.

These reservations aside, on Tuesdays Hell offer a £6 All You Can Eat deal which is excellent value if you happen to be in the Fulham area with a group of friends and have already started drinking. Arrive hungry, gorge yourself, and be damned with the inevitable stomach ache. Also, highly commendable is the takeaway packaging - a coffin shaped box 'For Your Remains'. Lol. Provided you're not expecting good food, the Hell experience can be quite good fun. Infinitely superior pizza is widely available elsewhere, but I would wager nowhere has bats.



### Linguine with scallops, bacon and peas

#### Never Mind the Scallops...

Scallops enjoy a somewhat lofty position among the pantheon of luxurious and decadent foodstuffs and, as a financially crippled student, you may well be horrified by my apparent fiscal contempt and brazen snobbery in producing such a recipe. But at just over £2.00 a serving, and by using scallops sourced from sustainable fisheries, this dish is as economically and ecologically friendly as it is unutterably delicious. So there.

Serves 2

100-150g frozen queen scallops (200g bag of frozen MSC certified scallops available from Tesco for under £3!)

Olive oil

3 rashers streaky bacon or pancetta (preferably smoked), cut into 1cm thick strips

2 – 3 cloves of garlic, squashed and finely chopped

A cup full of frozen Peas

Juice of half a lemon

50 ml Double cream

Good handful of flat leaf parsley, finely chopped

Linguine, enough for two

Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Freshly grated parmesan cheese

Heat 1 tablespoon of olive oil in a frying pan over a medium-high heat and cook the bacon until the fat turns golden and starts to crisp. Remove to a plate and keep warm.

Turn the heat down to medium-low and, adding a bit more oil if necessary, add the garlic and fry very gently for 2-3 minutes until soft. This requires your full attention as it is important to take care not to let the garlic burn. Add the garlic to the pan off the heat if necessary.

Once the garlic is softened, drain the contents of the pan onto the same plate as the bacon and keep warm. Cook the linguine in well-salted water until al-dente or according to the packet's instructions.

Meanwhile, wipe the frying pan clean before adding another tablespoon of oil, and return over a medium heat. Add the scallops to the pan and fry for 5-7 minutes, turning occasionally.

Whilst the scallops are cooking, heat the peas in the microwave, with a tablespoon of water, for 2-3 minutes and set aside.

Once the scallops are cooked, return the bacon, garlic and cooking juices/oil to the pan and add the peas, lemon juice, cream and chopped parsley. Twist in a few turns of black pepper and give a quick stir before also adding the drained linguine to the pan, making sure to toss everything together until thoroughly mixed.

Check the seasoning, and add a squeeze more lemon juice or cream if needed. Sprinkle on the parmesan, give another twist or two of black pepper and serve immediately, preferably alongside a glass of dry white wine.

Written and Created by David Wallis

# Bernard Sunley Hall SUBWARDEN VACANCY



### Position starting May 2009.

The Subwarden will assist the Warden in the running of the Halls, particularly social activities, pastoral care and discipline. The Subwarden receives a rent free room in the hall.

Bernard Sunley Hall is an undergraduate residences in Evelyn Gardens; about 15 minutes walk from College.

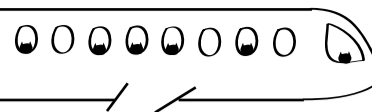
Applicants should be either Postgraduate / senior Undergraduate students or staff at Imperial.

### Application form available:

<http://halls.imperial.ac.uk/vacancies/>

Deadline 10pm Monday 30th March 2009

Enquires to [jude@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:jude@imperial.ac.uk)



## What should I write?

Dylan Lowe  
Travel Editor

This would have been my confession: I am running out of material. So exactly what did this mean? Well, I was afraid I was going to have to pack in the travel section, after just three weeks of service to *felix*.

Really? I hear you ask. Of course not – no shit, Sherlock.

So, in order to seek inspiration (keep my job), I delved into the mystical world that is the *felix* archives. In that dodgy backroom of the basement, I excavated the volumes of past issues that bore the names of my predecessors. Now I can draw upon their wisdom and salvage my many unfinished manuscripts of horrid writing.

That's when it struck me hard.

The eagerness to learn soured into jealousy. I mean, how can one travel writer write so well? It was certainly no Paul Theroux but, hey, this is a student newspaper after all. If this isn't discouraging enough, I found articles on every single place I have been to, or would want to visit. The series of memoirs written by Ammar Waraich, 4th year medic (2007-08) and travel editor of four months, essentially had the whole of Africa covered.

Truth to be told, I may as well as pack my bag and go home. Put my scripts in a box and burn it will you? In fact, I shall call it my funeral pyre and toss myself into the flames whilst I still have a shred of dignity left.

My revelation came in the form of Alex Marsden's article from last week's issue of *felix*. Literature and travel, I must admit, is indeed a divine mar-

riage – there is no doubt that the two combine to emanate the essence of true adventure. One's anticipation for adventure, most certainly 'enticing', can only be magnified through travel literature, while the thirst itself is quenched by the actual experience. It is how you get the constant doses of adrenaline before, during, and after the trip.

But now I am musing on a reversed debate: while we have established that travel literature and its reader do share an intimate relationship, what is the stance of literature with its authors?

How on Earth could travel writers cope with composing literature about localities that have been depicted, often repetitively, by hundreds in the past?

And that is when I understood what travel writing is about – personal experience and discovery. OK, I won't go on about the effects of travelling on personality development (I definitely didn't 'find' anything travelling) but there is no denial that every visit to the same place is unique itself as, even if the place hardly changes, your encounters and interaction with people would be different. This can't be better demonstrated than by Tosin Ajayi, who has kindly written this week's article about Nigeria. Don't expect to be bombarded with facts – just enjoy the many hidden gems he is willing to spill in order to grab your attention.

I guess I shouldn't be so discouraged – I shall remain, after a promising Easter break, at your readership's humbled service. In the meantime – chocolate.



# A rough guide to Lagos, Nigeria

One week, two crashes and some bartering later, Tosin Ajayi explains why Nigeria is worth your time

A couple of weeks ago, I went on a week-long trip back to Lagos, Nigeria. This was a trip unlike any of the others I have taken to my country of origin. For one, it was for my dad's 60th Birthday. And this time I travelled back with my brother's fiancée, who is white and Welsh – you could say this was a typical fish-out-of-water scenario.

Let me explain why this is a big deal. I used to think: if you are thinking of going to Nigeria but don't happen to be Nigerian, unless you are adventurous and have someone who will whisk you away the second you hit the tarmac at the other end, don't bother! Nowadays the requirements are different. You don't actually have to be Nigerian.

Nigeria is just not ready for tourists, and backpackers are just asking for the trouble.

With this in mind, I took it upon myself to be a tourist guide of a country that has yet to discover what the word 'tourism' means. In the words of my soon-to-be sister-in-law, "I went to Borders to find a *Lonely Planet* guide

about Nigeria, and there was nothing... there was one for West Africa with a paragraph on Nigeria, which basically says 'don't go there'."

So the following is, in part, my prospective entry for the *Lonely Planet* Guide to Nigeria.

The first sight you get to see when going to Nigeria actually takes place before you even depart – the airport. For those who walk in and think, "I've flown before, I know what happens at the airport, why should this be any different?", expect to be struck the frustration of standing in the check-in queue for many hours. Once checked in, frustration does turn into amusement when watching Nigerian women (and their husbands/bellboys), who have already gone to the counter and have been informed that the baggage allowances are '2 bags, 23kg each' not '3 of 32kg each', furiously repacking their bags by the queue in hope that it will make them 10kg lighter. As for the extra suitcase, it is handed to the next person they know who is boarding a plane to Nigeria with express instructions.

Another staple of the check-in queue is the last-minute mobile-phone guy. This particular stereotype usually comes across as having £5 credit remaining on his T-mobile (it is the Nigerian network) sim card and, leaving England for good or just for a month, finds it outrageous to let "the British Government take his money". To use his credit, everybody in the phone-book gets a call, and the pidgin English starts (translation in parentheses) "Ol' boy, wetin dey happen?" ("Hey, how's it going?"), "How body?" ("You good?"), "I jus dey oh" ("I'm chilling"), "I dey for airport, dis queue neva finish" ("I'm at the airport, standing in a long queue"). "Wait, wait, wait... when you go next go home?" ("Hang on, you're going back to Nigeria soon aren't you?"), "How many suitcase you fit carry?" And so on.

The flight itself is pretty uneventful, although you are always guaranteed that at least 10% of the passengers will be under the age of one (we had to become the most populous African country somehow). Which might be a problem if you were planning to sleep

during the six-hour flight time. Also, even though it has become a more regular occurrence in the last couple of years, the sight of a pale face on one of these flights still brings a few double takes from those sat close by, the unspoken question traditionally being: "I have to go back, Junior needs to meet his grandparents...but what are you looking for in Nigeria?"

I had once imagined that being an air hostess on a flight to Lagos was a job for the person who had drawn the short straw, or one who had really pissed Sir Richard Branson off. Why? Let's just say that 'order' is another word that Nigerians are still grasping the meaning of. I remember one occasion where the pilot had to halt the plane on the runway and refused to move until everyone had sat down, as almost the entire plane had shot out of their seats the second the plane touched down, with the 'fasten your seat belts' sign still on. To serve a Lagosian mob? Talk about career suicides.

This time round, I had a weird mix of glowing pride and simmering annoyance because, although I had promised



A Lagosian market, catering for your Nigerian needs



Teenage vendors selling goods by an immobile traffic

my ward some unruly behaviour on the flight, everyone stayed in their seats (talk about progress).

When you eventually step off the plane into the welcoming/suffocating arms of the heat, you are faced with final obstacle to entry to the hallowed country – the infamous border control. "Best to steel yourself," I thought, "to hear the words, 'Ah, oga sa, wetin you bring for us now?' ('Hello, sir, what did you bring for us?')". But no such advance was forthcoming, at least not until baggage collection, when I could smile and say "Ah, it's not like that" and walk off.

As you leave the airport, you are greeted by what is seemingly the biggest tourist attraction that Lagos has to offer. Just like the Table Mountain in Cape Town, everyone who comes to Lagos leaves having spent a fair chunk of time looking at it, and talking about it. Oh yes, the Traffic (not traffic, but *Traffic*).

Traffic jams are ingrained into the psyche and life of the Lagosian, should you be in it or making a living out of it. During our two-hour drive across the city (50 km?) we spotted CDs, DVDs, drinks, food, TV aerials, fans, radios and – I have seen at one point – puppies being sold in the traffic by car-to-car vendors. When it seemed to have settled an estate car – originally meant for people – went past us, packed full of plantains; there was about enough space for the driver and a passenger, and you wouldn't have been able to fit anything else in the car, no matter how small the item is.

And when the traffic does clear, you realise that this is a place that probably has never heard of the High-way Code (or blatantly ignores it). The use of the car horn becomes a central and essen-

tial driving skill and, in many cases, replacing the job that the rear view mirror of other drivers should be doing.

We got to experience the full frenzy of the local driving twice in the space of the week, with two accidents in the same car. Both times the driver of our car was not at fault; both times the driver who crashed into us jumped out of their car and started shouting "Ki lo de (What's up)? Are you blind? Why are you driving like that?" On the second occasion, the other driver, with a clear road ahead of him suddenly changed lane and blind-sided us. It resulted in a physical fight at the side of the road.

After about 20 minutes of yelling, during which time a crowd of bystanders who had nothing to do with the accident had gathered and commentated

**"That's Lagos for you", explained a friend involved in the fight, "you have to attack first before the crazy person attacks you"**

on who was at fault, the other driver simply admitted their guilt and paid for the damage on the spot, since insurance is an iffy thing in Nigeria.

So the question, I hear, is with all this

madness, why bother with Nigeria? It sounds like a hideously unpleasant country to visit.

But then, the best thing about Lagos is the people and, beyond all the craziness, they provide the best moments. As preparations for my dad's 60th birthday were underway, people kept popping up to help out with one thing or another, so we got to reconnect with people we hadn't seen for years – I was reminded just why the *New Scientist* has named Nigerians the happiest people in the world.

Nigerians seem to have a way of enjoying life whatever the situation is and regardless of how beleaguered they are, and are born with a delightful ability to laugh at themselves. And we do love a good party.

And speaking of parties, for his birthday my dad went to the market and haggled for a live ram for the occasion. This ram was then brought home and kept away from our dogs, which would probably have ripped it to shreds.

(A brief word on dogs: in England the average dog is called something like Fido, Rover or Lassie. Cute dogs have no place in Lagos. You would find names like Killer, Hitler & Satan; the dog has to be mean, hulking and preferably of German origin. Its primary purpose is not to look adorable or keep you company, but to bite anyone in your compound it doesn't recognise. Our two rottweilers are called, misleadingly enough, Casper and Daisy – they would eat that ram alive.)

On the day of the party, some guy (who I shall refer to as 'Ram Man') shows up with a couple of sharp knives and a half-barrel barbecue and transformed that smelly animal roped up in our yard (RSPCA would never fly in Nigeria) into succulent bits of barbecued goodness called *Suya*, otherwise known as the reason why you don't really find Nigerian vegetarians.

Then the band showed up, asked my brother for the names of family members and proceeded to insert praises for each family member into all the songs they sing, and by doing so, usher in another very Nigerian custom – spraying. This is where you dance and those older than you attach currency notes to your forehead: the more you do so, the more the band praises you and when you spray them, they shut up.

My brother's fiancée got in on the act, getting praises by the band, spraying them and having a bevy of aunts adopt her as their own child and lead her through the potentially scary world of Nigerian families. The way they took someone in and treated her as one of their own reminded me that regardless of all the nonsense we are known for around the world – the lack of or-

ganisation, the fraudulent emails you receive asking for your bank details, extreme tardiness – Nigeria has some really good things to offer.

With a revolving door of relatives, friends, former teachers and ex-col-

**"I was reminded just why the *New Scientist* has named Nigerians the happiest people in the world...we seem to have a way of enjoying life whatever the situation is"**

leagues, it was a great six hours of fun, and one of those places and times that makes everything else seem worthwhile. The traffic, the crazies who crash into you, the airport queue – they matter no more. You get together with the people, eat the meat, dance the dance, feel the love and you get a slice of Nigerian goodness. My protégée, who had a taste of it all, left Lagos wanting to go back. Lagos possesses a kind of crazy magic: it has everything to make you

make you hate it, but somehow leaves you thinking 'that was fun'.

However, I believe Lagos is changing: the recently-elected Governor of Lagos has shown that he cares about the state (a novelty in recent Nigerian history), and is committed in cleaning up the streets, building better, bigger roads and introduce some order to proceedings. So within a few years, my accounts might not be the picture the average visitor is greeted with – I need to publish these before they stop being true.

"I want to go to Lagos before it gets tamed," said a friend of mine. I can understand the sentiment.

So for those of you who have a Lagosian friend, make them take you to Nigeria with them before it does get tamed. One thing Lagos can guarantee is a lot of crazy stories to tell and, really, how is life complete without them?



A crafts vendor



Umm...Suya...Veggies, beware



The notorious Traffic



# Felix encounters New York Times

**Kawai Wong** met the fashion director for the New York Times Style Magazine, Bruce Pask in Dover Street Market. She asked Bruce a few questions.

**1** Last three songs played on your iPod? I only listen to my iPod when I travel on airplanes, usually trying to go to sleep. I love Sigur Ros and their beautiful songs. They really calm me. So the last three songs have certainly been by them, and the Icelandic titles are indecipherable to me!



**2** Three favourite publications? T Magazine, of course. The New York Times Style Magazine. Fantastic Man. My friend Charlie Porter is an editor there. The third is a tie between Numero Homme, Serge Girardi is a great fashion editor there. Arena Homme Plus, and Another Man. I'm a big fan of Nicola Formichetti's styling.



**3** What brought you to London this time? I took the Eurostar to London for the weekend after I finished shooting a still life fashion story for an upcoming New York Times Magazine in Paris. I hadn't been to London in a while and just wanted to run around stores, museums, restaurants, and theaters.

**5** Three most inspiring cities? I love Tokyo. I did a shoot there at the end of last year and I was incredibly inspired by all the street style. Their outfits are so carefully considered. The shopping is outrageous, they have some of the most amazing shops in the world. I love London. We Americans are style-obsessed by the English. Your history, your street style. And NYC of course. For the originality, the audacity, the creativity, and the beauty.

**4** Three favourite places in London? Dover Street Market of course. But that's quite obvious. I love Rose Bakery and the Labour and Wait stand there. Which leads me to the next: the Labour and Wait store on Cheshire Street off Brick Lane. I like the White Cube Gallery on Hoxton Square and I love the Tate Modern. I love eating at the Wolseley. Richard James, my favorite Savile Row designer took me there for dinner when it opened a few years back. And for going out I have a great time at the Joiner's Arms. Always a fun crowd.



Above from left: Lanvin men SS09 catwalk in Paris. White Cube Gallery, The Labour and Wait Store.

**6** Three timeless items a man must own? A pair of Levi's shrink-to-fit 501 unwashed jeans. Clark's sand suede desert boots. A solid wool single-breasted sportjacket from APC.



**7** Three most stylish women of all time? Katharine Hepburn, Audrey Hepburn, and Anna Wintour. Anna always looks amazing.



**8** Three most stylish men of all time? There are stylish people I admire. Paul Newman, Steve McQueen, Alain Delon are a few.



**9** Where do you get your fashion inspirations from? Hmm. Inspiration originated in the clothing we see on the runways. Then, with that in mind, I can be inspired by cinema, portraits, artists, famous personalities. I had seen a great exhibition of Carlo Mollino, a very gifted Italian designer. I saw pictures of him and was inspired by his personal style.

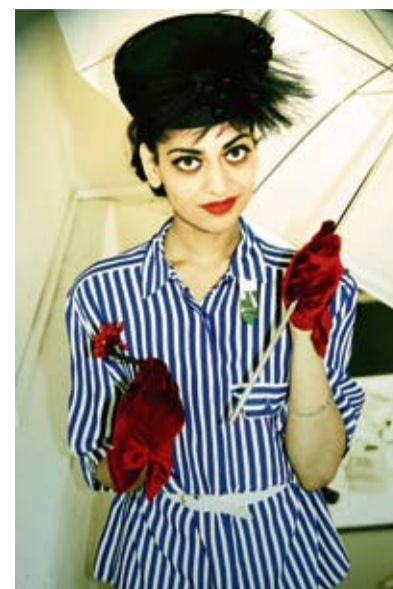
**10** Three designers a man should look out for Spring/Summer 2009? Lanvin, Burberry, Dries van Noten.

**Facts about Bruce:**

1. He has been the fashion director for T Magazine since March 2006.
2. He was the style director for a Conde Nast's publication - Cargo - before joining the New York Times.
3. He freelanced for Vanity Fair, The Sopranos.
4. T: The New York Times Style Magazine is similar to the Style Magazine of the Sunday Times in the UK. T circulates inside The Sunday New York Times across America. Bruce's latest project in T can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/felixNYTbp>

# Spring is all about springing

Two weeks ago, **Kawai Wong** teamed up with two Imperial photographers and models to prove that urban outfits don't have to cost a bomb. Sheena Mehnon sports some spring inspirations.



Sheena wears: Mens's blue stripe shirt, Fil'a Fil, £12.99; White canvas belt, price upon request; Red velvet gloves, £8.99.



## Keep Calm Carry On

Mixed, white and navy blue to achieve a bold and colourful look for spring. British colours for British attitude - tough times? Keep calm and carry on. Sheena wears: Red cropped pea coat with gold buttons, £19.99; Rollingstone bejeweled t-shirt, Mango, £5.99; Blue silk loose fit trousers, Ralph Lauren, £15.99



## Gold Revelation

Metallie accessories - the more the better. Vintage padded jacket with shiny leggings give the outfit a 2009 twist. Sheena wears: Gold brocade silk dinner jacket, £19.99; Gold knitted vest, St. John, £3.99; Gold leggings, American Apparel, £2.99; Golden strappy sandals, price upon request

**Just a note!**

The Gloucester Road Oxfam shop routinely receives donations from Gucci (women) and Emporio Armani (men). According to the shop keeper, James, the clothing items are "returned goods" to the luxury stores as they are slightly damaged (e.g. a sloppy button). Upon examination, these items are still in extremely good condition. Whether or not these are in season, we do not know. But all these pieces are on the rail in the Oxfam shop for £125. James once saw an original price tag on an Armani coat - £3000 - therefore a whopping 95% discount! Hardly anything skint students can afford, but definitely worth a mention! - Kawai

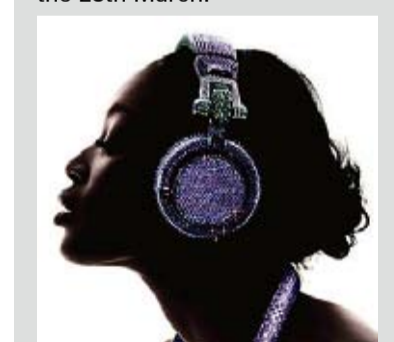
Model: Sheena Mehnon. Photographers: Andreea Babiu, Anton Korneev. Lighting: Alfred Yu. Fashion editing and Make-up: Kawai Wong. Hair: Jihee at Toni&Guy. Special thanks: James at Oxfam Gloucester Road. All the clothing items above are available from Oxfam Gloucester Road. Oxfam is a registered charity. Oxfam works on areas such as education, conflicts and natural disasters. See [www.oxfam.co.uk](http://www.oxfam.co.uk) for details.



**More dash than cash Returns!**  
**Her name is Rio**  
**Credit Crunch Hits Vogue**  
British Vogue has relaunched its "More Dash than Cash" section this April. The 9-page spreads featured heavy tribal and safari influence with accessories and clothing ranging from £5 to £485. Labels used in the photoshoot range from the rock bottom brand Primark to deluxe Antik Batik.



**Barbie Gets Botox**  
Barbie celebrated her 50th birthday on the 9th March. Mattel unveiled a new face for Barbie based on Christina Aguilera. The new Barbie wears an updated two-piece version of the black and white bathing suit the debut Barbie wore in 1959. Mattel sold the new doll at \$3 during Barbie's birthday week - the original cost of a Barbie doll in 1959. More than 50 designers, including Marchesa and Vera Wang drafted new outfits to celebrate Barbie's gold anniversary. Karl Lagerfeld's design is available at the Colette in Paris as "Barbie and Ken" exhibition from now until the 28th March.



**Fashion and Music**  
The most played track in the SS09 fashion shows is The Great DJ by The Tingz Tingz. And the cliché of the cliché goes to Stella McCartney for playing her dad's song. Check out all the tracks played on the runways in New York, London and Milan at <http://tinyurl.com/felixcatwalkmusicAW09>







Complete coverage of this year's Varsity

Exciting action shots from the day

Get your copy now!

Available in the Library, Reynolds Bar and the Union

Don't miss out!

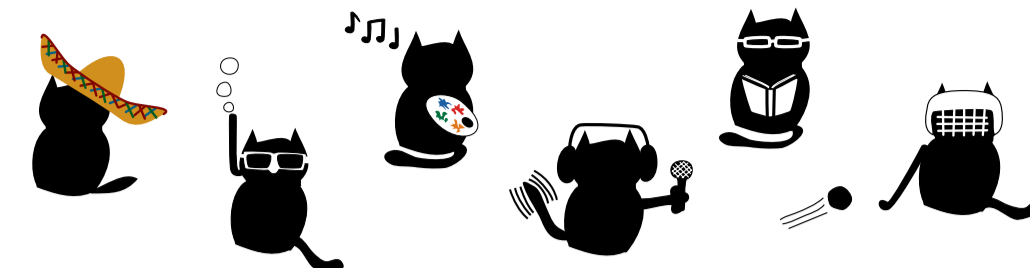


## What's on...

### Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editors - Lily Topham & Rachel D'oliveiro

whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk



#### Monday

##### Photographic Society Exhibition

The latest exhibition in the Blyth Gallery features work from ICU Photographic Society.

The works will be on display until Friday 27th March, so it is well worth going along and having a look!

For further information, contact Andrea Robins (a.robins@imperial.ac.uk).

Time: Open from 8am to 10pm  
Place: Blyth Gallery, Level 5, Sheffield  
Price: Admission Free

##### Why We Became Doctors

The ICSMSU Outreach Programme invites you to the launch of Vision 2009, a conference dedicated to helping students from underprivileged backgrounds get into Medical School.

Come along and hear Mr Barry Paraskeva and Prof. Karim Meeran share their motivations, inspirations and most memorable moments during Medical School and in their careers thus far, as well as find out more about getting involved with the Outreach Programme.

In memory of 4th Year student Jeevan Sivalingam.

Time: 6:30pm  
Place: LT1, SAF  
Price: Admission Free

#### Tuesday

##### Windband Spring Concert

After the great success of last term's concert and gala dinner in collaboration with the Coldstream Guards, Windband are back with their Spring Concert!

Repertoire includes: 'A Lindisfarne Rhapsody' - P. Sparke (featuring student soloist Phin Chooi), 'Concerto for Band' - Gordon Jacob and 'Sandpaper Ballet' - Leroy Anderson.

Time: 6:30pm  
Place: Great Hall, Sheffield  
Price: £2

##### Gospel Choir Concert

Your attendance is requested for a night of song and praise with ICGC & Special Guest Performers!

Get ready for singing, dancing, comedy, spoken word and gospel rap as we look to get you armoured, mobilised and deployed to celebrate Easter and life thereafter in victory and style.

To reserve tickets, phone Obi (07852989687) or email eo05@ic.ac.uk.

Time: 6:45pm  
Place: Drewe LT, Reynolds Building, Charing Cross Campus  
Price: £4/£5 (Students/Non-Students)

##### ICSMSU Orchestra Concert

Repertoire includes a selection from 'Pirates of the Caribbean' as well as music from Bizet's 'Carmen' plus Chopin's 'Piano Concerto No.1' (student soloist Alasdair Warwick) and Telemann's 'Viola Concerto' (student soloist Jenny MacRae).

Time: 7:30pm  
Place: St Stephen's Church, SW7 4RL  
Price: Free/£5 (Students/Non-Students)

#### Wednesday

##### Photographic Society Exhibition

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The works will be on display until Friday 27th March, so it is well worth going along and having a look!

For further information, contact Andrea Robins (a.robins@imperial.ac.uk).

Time: Open from 8am to 10pm  
Place: Blyth Gallery, Level 5, Sheffield  
Price: Admission Free

##### ACC Dinner and Dance

The annual ACC Dinner and Dance is tonight! Why not come along and celebrate the achievements of the ACC this year?

The ticket includes a champagne reception, three course dinner with choice of wines, prizes and dancing 'till late.

Tickets available from: www.imperialcollegeunion.org/acc-exec-360/acc-exec-icu-acc-annual-dinner-and-dance-1278.

Time: 6pm  
Place: LT 207, Skempton  
Price: ACC Member: £32.50  
Student (Non-ACC): £37.50  
Staff or Alumni: £40

#### Thursday

##### Photographic Society Exhibition

The latest exhibition in the Blyth Gallery features work from ICU Photographic Society.

The works will be on display until Friday 27th March, so it is well worth going along and having a look!

For further information, contact Andrea Robins (a.robins@imperial.ac.uk).

Time: Open from 8am to 10pm  
Place: Blyth Gallery, Level 5, Sheffield  
Price: Admission Free

##### Big Band Easter Gig

The award winning Imperial College Big Band return to the Union for the Easter Gig. Playing a wide range of Jazz, Latin, Funk and Soul Music, the band are guaranteed to get your feet tapping!

The various Union bars will be open, so come along and chill out/boogie to some of the best music to come out of Imperial.

Time: 8pm  
Place: dB's, Beit  
Price: Admission Free

#### Friday

##### Photographic Society Exhibition

The latest exhibition in the Blyth Gallery features work from ICU Photographic Society.

The works will be on display until Friday 27th March, so it is well worth going along and having a look!

For further information, contact Andrea Robins (a.robins@imperial.ac.uk).

Time: Open from 8am to 10pm  
Place: Blyth Gallery, Level 5, Sheffield  
Price: Admission Free

##### Easter Ball 2009

Come to the Union and celebrate the end of term at the Easter Ball 2009!

Time: 8pm  
Place: dB's, Beit  
Price: TBC

Welcome to the last edition of What's On for the Spring Term! It's been a fantastic term of events, thank-you to everyone who has sent in an event listing!

We will still be running the page next term, so keep emailing to let us know what your clubs and societies are up to.

The deadline for the first edition of next term is **Monday 27th April**.

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

Imperial College London

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



## Student Associates Scheme (SAS)

Support secondary school Maths, Physics or Chemistry in London

### What does the scheme entail?

- ★ Undergraduates/Postgraduates undertaking a 3 week placement in June/July in a school/college
- ★ Working alongside experienced teachers and assisting in classroom teaching
- ★ Groups of up to 10 students can be placed in one school
- ★ Placements arranged by Exscitec



### What are the benefits of the scheme?

- ✓ Receive a £600 tax free bursary for completing the 15 day placement
- ✓ Receive a free CRB Disclosure check
- ✓ Have something different for your CV
- ✓ Develop new transferable skills and communication experience
- ✓ Gain first hand experience of what a career in teaching involves

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



For more information or to apply contact Sarah Cooper:

Chemistry  
sarah.cooper@exscitec.com  
01730 235683

Links : [www.tda.gov.uk](http://www.tda.gov.uk) / [www.imperial.ac.uk/outreach](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/outreach) / [www.exscitec.com](http://www.exscitec.com)



# Coffee Break

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## The end of term 2...

Ravi Pall  
Coffee Break Editor

Well can you believe it, it's now the end of term 2. The good thing is we have the Easter holidays to look forward to. The bad thing, exams are just around the corner. Let me tell you now, next term will not be easy. Here you are at university, spending every last second of your time revising all the lecture courses you have missed, when you get a phone call from your friends telling to come play Frisbee in Hyde Park. You won't be able to resist. This is why you must spend your holiday break studying, and accumulating the knowledge you should have gained months ago. Not fair I know, however this is the only time to catch up and hopefully not fail your year. So while everyone else is at home this holiday, stock up on relentless and redbull, top up your printer credit, and start collecting missing lecture notes. Go through every problem sheet now, as doing it before you exams will just stress you out. More so than Jov (*felix* editor in chief) sending the paper to print on a Thursday evening. Well seeing as you need to make the most of the rest of this term, my advice to you is to go mental, and party like it's fresh-

ers' week all over again. With one week left hit the union every day, and enjoy yourself more than ever at the Easter Ball. Seriously cheap drinks, it's going to be awesome. It's also the last time you'll get to see everyone before people go home etc.  
Also don't forget to take a little time out to enjoy the good weather we have had lately. Do a bit of sun bathing, get a few pitchers of Pims, and be social in the quad or queens lawn. Just because you've now planned to work during the break, doesn't mean you can't relax now. At least if you do it now, you'll have you friends about and not look like a complete muppet sitting by yourself. Yes I have done this, and yes I felt like an idiot. I'm sorry, I just get so lonely...  
I'd like to now announce the winner to the twitter competition. after 4 weeks, I p0wned Kadhim, by having 42 followers. The winner of the 120Gb HDD is **8Kerski8** aka Ryan Kerr. Send an email to felix.imperial.ac.uk to arrange a collection of your 120GB external HDD. Thanks for everyone who participated, and please continue to follow us.  
[twitter.com/D00SKI](https://twitter.com/D00SKI)

## Battle of the Morgans

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



### Captain

**Known from:**  
RUM/Pirate

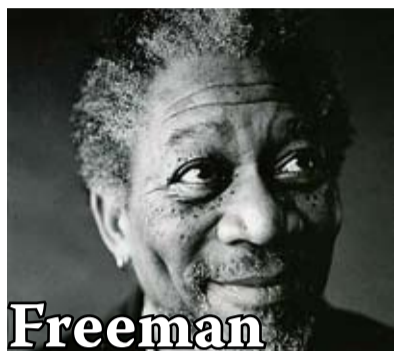
**Money:**  
£1billion ish/1 million pieces of silver

**Colour:**  
Golden

**Country of Origin:**  
Puerto Rico/ Wales

**Slogan:**  
"Got a little Captain in You?"

**Interesting Facts:**  
The rum is actually named after the 17th-century Caribbean privateer from Wales, Sir Henry Morgan. Captain Morgan was ingenious but ruthless at the same time. He faked a landward attack on the fort at Maracaibo which convinced the governor to shift his cannon. In doing so, he eluded the enemy's guns altogether and escaped in safety.



### Freeman

**Known from:**  
Film

**Money:**  
Roughly \$300 million

**Colour:**  
Blind

**Country of Origin:**  
USA

**Slogan:**  
"I find it difficult to watch myself... I find it boring"

**Interesting Facts:**  
Morgan Freeman (yes Morgan is his first name but this guy is a legend) endorsed Barack Obama's candidacy for the United States presidential election, 2008, although he stated that he would not join Obama's campaign. He has won an Oscar for *Million Dollar Baby* and is noted for his reserved demeanor and authoritative speaking voice.



### Jenny

**Known from:**  
ICU President

**Money:**  
-£20,000

**Colour:**  
Egg Shell White

**Country of Origin:**  
UK

**Slogan:**  
"well....."

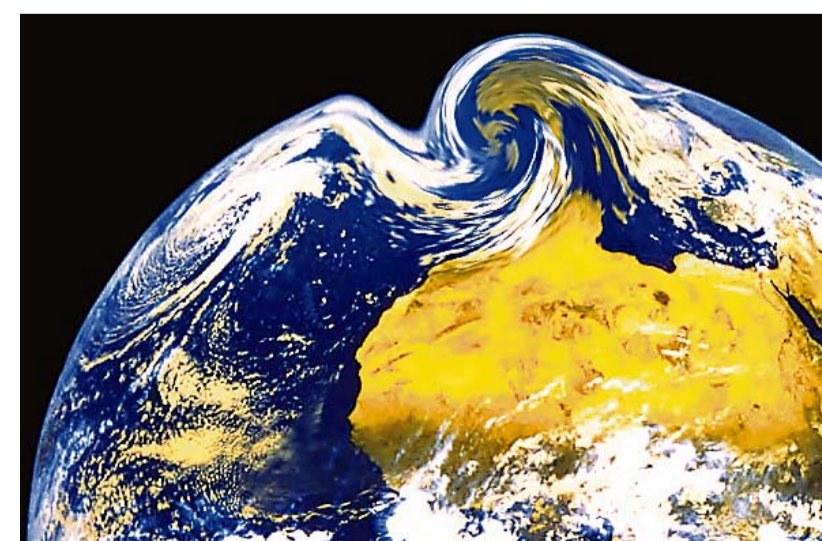
**Interesting Facts:**  
Distinctly hates going to Council

Jenny also like strolls on the beach, karaoke and pina colada's in the rain. She is currently looking for a tall dark handsome man, who has similar interests. Ideally someone with a strong deep accent. If you feel you meet this requirement feel free to email president@imperial.ac.uk

# Controversial Research Angers Protestors

Noh Juan Lykes Yu

Protests threaten to hit the South Kensington campus for a second time in less than two weeks as campaigners are expected to demonstrate about the controversial project, internally labelled 'CORE', set to be completed shortly with the help of Imperial College.  
The project is believed to be the spearhead of a global initiative that has been under development since 2003, looking to tackle global warming by manipulating the Earth's rotational period relative to other celestial bodies. The central structure known as an Anti-Spinatron is undergoing final testing in the Mechanical Engineering lower ground test facilities and is believed to affect the Earth's inner core rotation by the use of seismic body waves.  
By changing the Earth's orbit it is believed that the Earth can be accurately manipulated to a distance further from the sun with the aim of achieving a drop of 6% in annual solar radiation absorption.  
The protesters are a faction of the same group that campaigned for the banning of the Large Hadron Collider experiment and have united under



Computer generation of what will happen if the test goes wrong

longer be applicable, meaning the requirement of mass international intervention to stabilise affected industries.  
The final static tests are set to be completed next week with initial runs expected to commence on April 1st. If these prove successful further development is required and will continue to involve the college.

## RON team disqualified from ICU Sabbatical elections

Ross Goldberg

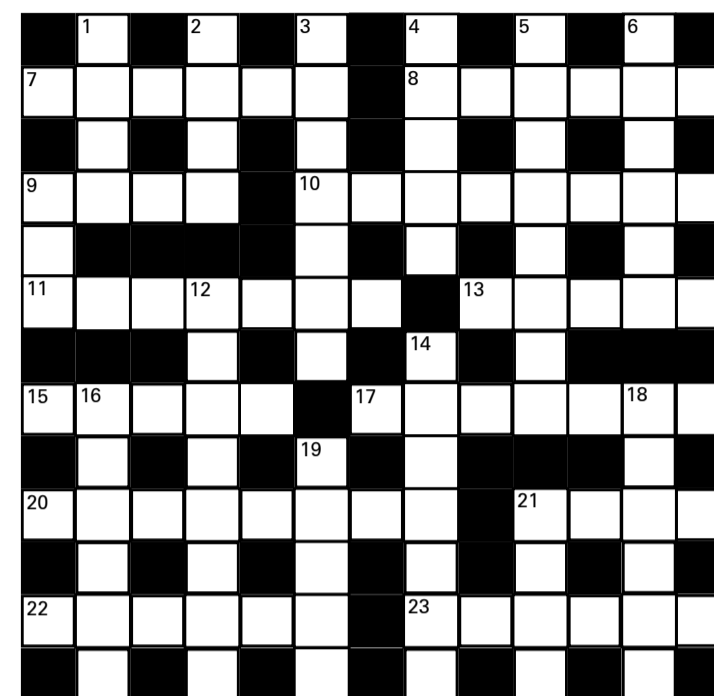
Students at Imperial College were in uproar after it was found that the RON campaign, headed by legendary anchorman Ron Burgundy, planned to "Make Imperial Like King's" which is the most likely reason for the record elections turnout. When asked about his actions, Mr Burgundy told *felix* that "The plan, which we code named MILK, was a bad choice!"  
Returning Officer Christian 'Beaker' Carter, said "[he] had no choice but to



The RON team hear the bad news at the final candidates meeting

sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## A Quickie (Crossword) 1,429



- ACROSS**
- 7 Written text (6)
  - 8 3D artform (6)
  - 9 Cut with scissors (4)
  - 10 Frivolous musical drama (8)
  - 11 Short-term solution (7)
  - 13 Temperamental (5)
  - 15 Rub with a wet brush (5)
  - 17 Underwater crustacean (7)
  - 20 Collection of 8 across (8)
  - 21 Riding whip (4)
  - 22 Performs an examination (6)
  - 23 Bird of prey (6)

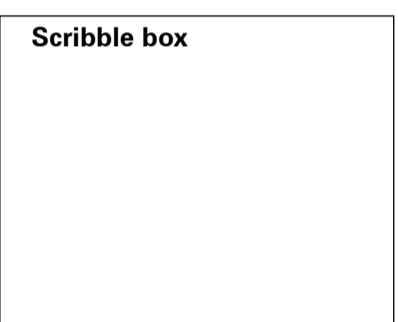
- DOWN**
- 1 To make 8 across (6)
  - 2 Speech impediment (4)
  - 3 Upholstered sofa (7)
  - 4 Type of poplar tree (5)
  - 5 Starving (8)
  - 6 Named the price (6)
  - 12 Soft mass applied to aching body part (8)
  - 14 Many-sided shape (7)
  - 16 Hard to get out of one's head (6)
  - 18 Worn down (6)
  - 19 German alchemist who sold his soul

### Solution 1,427

```













RECELIVE BASIC
AONRRLH
DEMONSTRATIVE
IPEILPV
OWLRICEPAPER
ITELLO
TUMOUR MICRON
REBEMY
INNQUENDOS SIP
PTIOLL
PRACTICAL JOKE
ERATLPAA
RAYON SUSPECT
    
```

Möchten sie mein Mannschaft did a fairly good job of this one, so well that they won the quick crossword. Whoop-di-bloody-doo!  
Anyway, this is the last one of this term, I hope you all like it, if not then I really really don't care! We'll be back in the Summer term, first issue back is on the 1st May. Swat up on your words and we'll be back with bigger and better puzzles for you all.  
Kthnxbye!

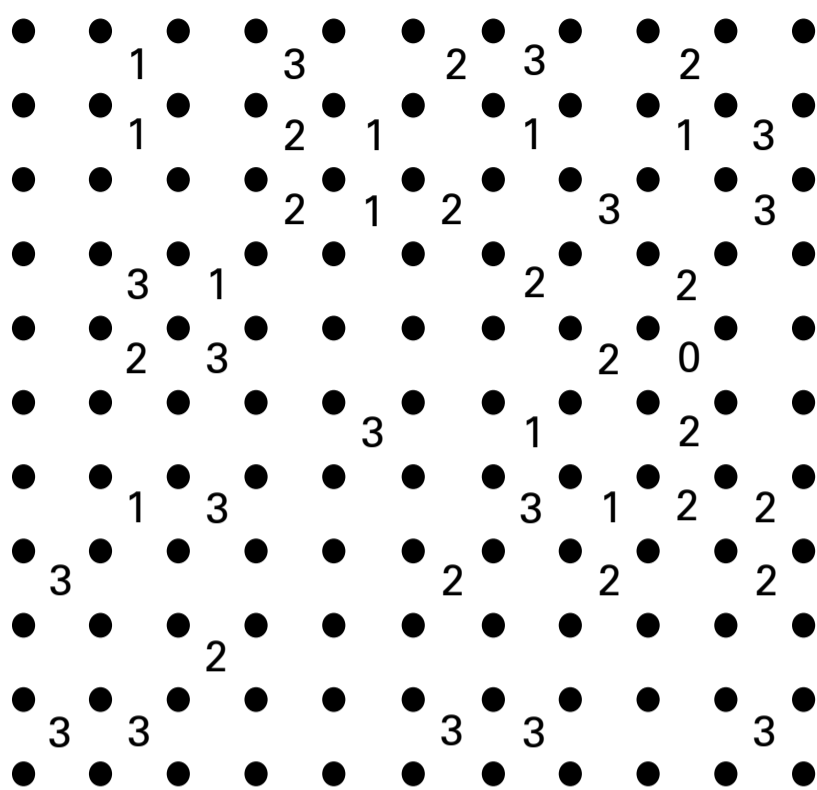


## Horoscopes: well this is true, Union food is shit

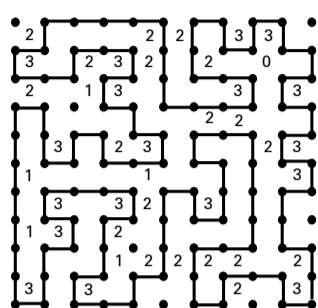
So for the last time this term I write Horoscopes, as I write I think, "who the fuck cooks that shit?" Read on

 <p><b>Aquarius</b></p> <p>So you wannabe editors think my horoscopes are shit. Well fuck you to hell and back! You can't please everyone</p> <p>and I get more comments of praise than I do of hatred. So with that in mind, how about you get a razor, salt, vinegar and just for good measure some AIDS in a jar, put it in a blender, mix it all up and drink it all down! Cunts.</p>	 <p><b>Taurus</b></p> <p>Last week you walk down the street and you slowly notice mothers pulling their children closer to them as you walk past them. You stand confused, and confess to the mother that despite your appearance you are in fact not a paedophile, an even if you were you wouldn't go for her daughter as you're more into brunettes.</p>	 <p><b>Leo</b></p> <p>So you have a little shave this week, wash the hair, generally smarten up because of the paedophile claims last week. And then as you're walking down the street, you start seeing mothers with their children, this time not pulling them away. This makes you happy, but are you sure you're not a paedophile, you just might not have met the right child yet!</p>	 <p><b>Scorpio</b></p> <p>Wow, really can't get off this paedophile theme, something is definitely not right here. You go to see the doctor about this as you start to worry. The doctor looks at you and explains that you can't be a paedophile because you're actually 12 and it's all perfectly natural. A paedophile you may not be, but the doctor sure as hell is. Unlucky!</p>
 <p><b>Pisces</b></p> <p>So you think you are tall? Get over it, grow some hair and find someone to fuck before your balls explode. I tell you that it is not healthy to allow yourself to put more than one finger up your bum at a time. And remember to wash your hands before that finger buffet at your grandmas house. Sleep well, eat healthy and tell mum jokes.</p>	 <p><b>Gemini</b></p> <p>This week you are forced to work in the Union kitchens. You hate your life and everything about it and definitely don't show it when serving. Where the fuck is your finesse? Sort your life out before I get really aggressive, jump over the counter and force your to eat that monstrous creation that you sell to me as pasta bolognase.</p>	 <p><b>Virgo</b></p> <p>Oh haiz honey. I hate everyone else but you are just about bearable. I think I miss WHAT THE FUCK?! I apologise.</p> <p>I don't know what came over me, don't worry I am now beating myself with my right arm that I just ripped off. Don't worry I promise that it won't happen again. Here's a racist joke: [REDACTED]</p>	 <p><b>Sagittarius</b></p> <p>Who knows that song "Dark End of the Street" by Muscle Shoals. The lyrics go "at the dark end of the street, that is where we always meet, hiding is shadows where we don't belong..." I think of it as a rape song. If I were going to rape you it would definitely hide in the shadows at the dark end of the street. But then again you're fucking horrible so I wouldn't.</p>
 <p><b>Aries</b></p> <p>What the hell is this, there's some sort of bright light coming through the very small window in the office, it's blinding</p> <p>me, I can't see anything. Wait a minute, what's that sound? It sounds like people having a good time. No wait, that's screaming, oh and I've figured out what that light is. You're all fucked, Zeus is pissed!</p>	 <p><b>Cancer</b></p> <p>I feel that a certain someone it being a big (emphasise on big) brave girl (read useless fucktard). And who could this wonderful character be... well Jade Goody. Unfortunately I think that the star sign used could be a little non-PC, but this is all I had left. Oh well. I really hope you get better. Sorry meant I really hope you DON'T get better.</p>	 <p><b>Libra</b></p> <p>Is it OK to just hate people without even talking to them? Well I currently hate everyone, very much you included. Look out of the window, no really look hard as you are going to be thrown from it and you better choose a soft place to land. Yer that's what I thought piss your pants you scum. Go get your own country.</p>	 <p><b>Capricorn</b></p> <p>What's that coming over the hill, is it a monster, is it a monster? You bet your sorry arse it is, because guess who'll be back next term; you love him, you hate him, you want to have babies with him that would have undoubtedly been killed if they were Trojans. Yes everyone, Hangman is coming back, so be afraid, be very very afraid. If not, then how about a pint?</p>

# Slitherlink 1,429



1,428 Solution



Last one of term here so you better enjoy it. Last week's winners were **Möchten sie mein Mannschaft**. Epic. This week's winners is as yet undecided due to the unpredictable future.

### 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 1,429

T	W			N		P	
			W			E	
I	E		R			W	
W			S		A	I	
	T			N			
S	I		N			W	
	T		I		P	A	
E			A				
P			S			N	T

### Scribble box

1,428 Solution

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

**Möchten sie mein Mannschaft** officially don't wash. This is the only fathomable reason as to why they were so quick to answer with ARSEMOULD. Lets hope that this week the word is more mature... it won't be.

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

# Going Underground

Apparently there were fuck loads of answers last week. The one I had in mind was BAKER STREET, others fitted, give a shit? No. Enjoy this week's and remember kids; play safe. The underground is no place for a skateboard ramp. Over and out.

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

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

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

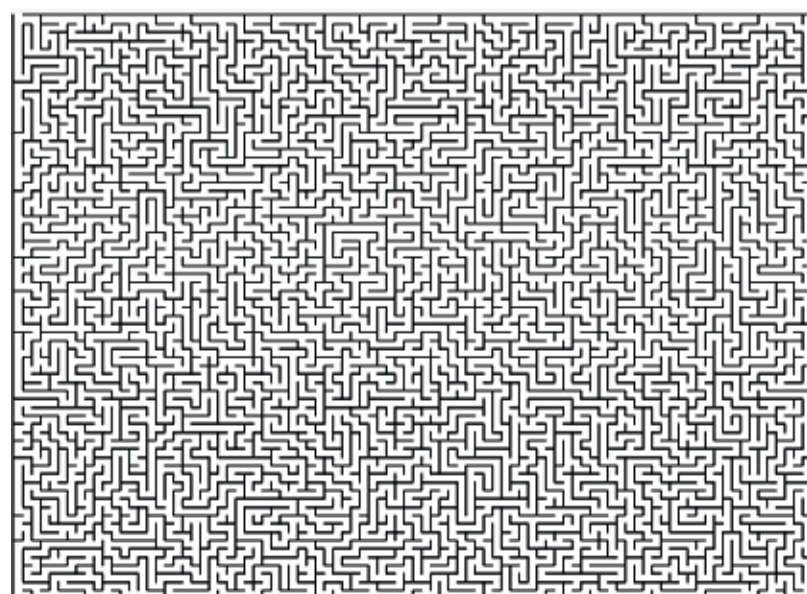
So which London tube station sums to 104?

= 104

# Mentalist Maze...

This maze is to its title as Ronsell is to its tin. It's mental, I have still failed to complete one. This however is not a problem shared by my best friends

**Shotgun**, battling to victory. As a result I have rustled up another one and look forward to seeing correct answers as much as I do AIDS.



# Watz they meanz?

Fuck yeah! We have a new game. Dunno how this will turn out as your Sports Editor, Jack Cornish failed to get any at all. Even after we spelt them out to him. But then again he is retarded. Back to the matter at hand, each box depicts a well known phrase, cleverly worked into textual format. For five

FUCWIT points simply work out their meanings and send them into [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk). If you can't get them all, don't worry, you're just an idiot. If you like my latest brainwave I shall continue to make them up, having said that I probably can't be arsed and shall use my time to nap.

1  
**NETHGILL**

2  
**SPINAL**

3  
**someINthing**

4  
**GET IT**

# Riddle me this 1

Time to flex your brain a bit, we have a logic puzzle for you. Normal FUCWIT rules apply and send your answers in to [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk). More next term!

**Crossing the Lake**  
There are four people in an adventure race that need to get across a lake. They have a small canoe. The rules say that only the slowest person in the canoe can paddle, only one or two can be in the canoe at a time, and they must all cross in the canoe. From practice, they know that:

- Mike can paddle across in 1 minute.
- Bill can paddle across in 2 minutes.
- Sue can paddle across in 5 minutes.
- Anne can paddle across in 10 minutes.

How do they get everyone across the river in the fastest time without breaking the rules?

# Monumental achievement for Imperial sports with a record turnout at BUCS Championships

### Continued from back page

the University of Glasgow in their semi-final. Both sides were clearly tired at this point with Imperial giving away points due to fatigue and service mistakes, however, Imperial managed to win the match 3-0 and became the BUCS Men's Trophy Champions.

### Women's Volleyball

The women's team, unfortunately, couldn't repeat the performance of the men's team, however they put up a great fight. On the first day they played Dundee, who were one of the championship favourites, and although they played hard, they eventually lost 2-0. As a result, it meant that on Saturday they had to win both games to qualify for the semi-finals.

Their first match that day was against Birmingham at 9am and with some great play they managed to win the game 2-1. Manchester were the next team the girls had to face, and with sets being decided by only a few points they were unlucky to lose the game 2-0. In their final match of the tournament, the women's volleyball team were up against Durham for 5th place, however luck was not on their side and although the match went to three sets, the final one went Durham's way at 17-15. Captain Alana Johnson commented on the girls performance saying that "The girls have done extremely well this season, after only being promoted to the first division this year, to qualify for the final 8's was a great achievement."

### Women's Fencing

In other sports, having scraped a win against Cambridge in the quarter-finals the women's fencing team were heading to Sheffield for the BUCS championships. In the semi-finals the team were facing Birmingham. The Imperial epee team consisting of team captain Emily Bottle, Hannah Bryars and Joan Chang, did a fantastic job of keeping the match close throughout and limited what could have been a significantly

worse loss to 2 hits. Despite everything the foil team maintained their lead to win the foil. Unfortunately with two extremely strong foilists (including one due to go to the world championships in a few weeks) in the Oxford team, the foil team lost the 30-45. The sabre followed, with an unchanged team from the semi-final. Again the sabre went without any problems winning 45-27. The Oxford team took the epee 45-40 giving them an overall lead of two hits 117-115. Despite the frustration of having come so close in the final, this was a fantastic end to the season which saw the Imperial women's team lose to only one team throughout the year and gain the silver medals in the team championship.

### Men's Table Tennis

In the men's table tennis trophy competition, after defeating Plymouth, Bournemouth, Cardiff and Glamorgan in some closely fought knockout matches, Imperial's men's tennis team qualified into the final of the national trophy competition. The final was very close with Imperial successfully beating the University of York resulting in a gripping 9-7 win. In addition to this fantastic win, Imperial's Eddie Liu was then awarded with 'Player of the tournament'.  
**Men's Judo**  
Eugene Weiming Siew and Rahual Bose from the Imperial Judo club managed to come away with a silver and a bronze medal. In the men's "Dan" grade section under 100kg, Eugene Weiming Siew came away with the silver medal, whilst Rahual Bose came away with the bronze in the under 73kg category.  
**Indoor Athletics**  
On the Friday, athletes from the IC & ICSM Athletics clubs travelled up to Sheffield to compete in the prestigious BUCS Indoors Athletics event. The pressure was high to perform well against the fierce competition, but eve-



The Women's fencing team, who narrowly lost to Oxford, posing with their hard-earned medals

ryone was ready to put forward their best efforts following weeks of preparation and training.

James Teuten and Sam O'Neill both ran in the days opening event, the 1500m. Ajay Mohite started off his Athletics season very well, jumping an impressive 13.08m in the triple jump, and subsequently qualifying for the final. Tom Brown ran an excellent 3000m heat amongst stiff competition. In a later heat Alex Milne also ran the 3000m, coping well with a very difficult heat in which the leaders stormed off at the start. Alex still ran a strong race in 9 minutes and 42 seconds.

Pavidra Sivanandarajah also ran the 60m achieving her PB and closely missed semi-final qualification in both this event and the 200metres. Her dedicated training regime clearly paid off. Aaron Mason ran...to qualify for Sheffield they had to travel away to a range of universities including Plymouth and Bournemouth and face two very tough fixtures at home versus Glamorgan

scraped qualification.

### Other Sports

Imperial's snooker club took away the bronze whilst the highest break for the championships went to Imperial's Sam Groth. The swimmers also achieved success with a silver medal in the women's 100m freestyle

Neil Mosley, Head of Sport Imperial, told *felix* that "This was our best ever performance in BUCS with some incredible team and individual performances from all who qualified. There was an unexpected highlight for me at Sheffield though... Men's Table Tennis... not a sport that we have had much success at before, and not a club that has had much support from Sport Imperial, they are self coached and very much student run...to qualify for Sheffield they had to travel away to a range of universities including Plymouth and Bournemouth and face two very tough fixtures at home versus Glamorgan

and Cardiff."

"Their final against York was incredibly exciting...the standard of table tennis was breathtaking and the York number 1 player was completely unbeatable at a higher level... but the performances of Eddie Liu (who won player of the tournament), Yang Zhang, Bernd Kleinwachter and captain Darius Atashroo, who all consistently raised their game to prevail 9-7, were simply breathtaking and they were rightly delighted to win the Trophy."

"Overall, I was immensely pleased and proud of our performances and the way that the teams competed with the very best. We have truly raised the bar now and taken sport to a higher level. The championships were very professionally run and I also think that BUCS has finally arrived too!"

Lastly, this reporter would like to congratulate everyone who was involved over the weekend, as well as those of you who provided the information to make that fills the report.



Trophy winners Imperial College Men's Table Tennis 1st team.



The victorious men's volleyball team, with coach Ercu





## Success for Imperial at BUCS finals

Nine teams travel to Sheffield to take part in the BUCS Championships. *felix* sport reports back on their achievements

**Jovan Nedić**  
 Editor in Chief

Several of Imperial's teams were taking part in the British University and College's Sport's (BUCS) Championships last week (11-15 March). Imperial sent a total of nine teams up to Sheffield to take part in the competition which brings together the best athletes from around the country.

### Men's Volleyball

Both men's and women's volleyball teams managed to make it to the finals, something that is a great achievement in itself and clearly shows the standard of our athletes at Imperial. On the Saturday, the men's team, comprising of Johnny Zhang, Jonas Morgenweg, Julio Jover, Alexandre, Alex Bourry, Marc Schäpertöns, Zimuso Okoli, Do-

menico Corapi, Gonzalo de Gisbert, Nicolas Vecchione and Marios Char-tosias, played against the University of Southampton.

Imperial won the first set quite comfortably and thought the opposition would not be too hard a team to beat. Southampton then improved as Imperial started to flake resulting in them losing the second and third set. This turn of fortune for Imperial meant that they had to find something extra to ensure that the match went to a fifth set. After saving a match point in the fourth set, Imperial managed to win it and eventually went on to win the fifth set comfortably, winning the match 3-2.

On Sunday they played Nottingham in the final, who had managed to beat

Continued on page 37



## Men's hockey win BUCS 2B division

<b>Hockey</b>	
Imperial Men's 1st XI	4
Hertfordshire Men's 1st XI	1

**Jack Cornish**  
 Sports Editor

After a highly successful season the Men's 1st XI have capped it off with a final win away at Hertfordshire University. A stunning day was graced with some glorious hockey from both sides but the class of IC was obvious during the whole game even after intense pressure from the Hertfordshire forwards.

The short corner routines from IC were performing well and an early goal from Koch left Hertfordshire stunned by the German's reactions. A second goal soon followed, but by half time the score was 2-1 after a rare mistake from the Imperial backs.

The half time break was a welcome relief for both sides after some scorching sun that was only matched by the hot IC team. Avatar the great provided inspiration and words of wisdom, which were followed by a classic emo-

tional Cornish chat. The jaffa cakes were an interesting choice as half time snacks, but substituted well for the lack of water available in the county of Hertfordshire region.

The second half saw IC put everything into the match and with an early goal the result of the game was clear. Classic performances all round, especially from the experienced heads of Tunncliffe Senior, Connick, O'Reilly and Cornish.

The team would like to thanks both Avtar (coach) and Mark (president) for attending the league winning match, and hope that they both enjoyed the Champagne hockey.

The team now have a promotion playoff next week against Reading, winners of the 2A division. Celebrations of their two league topping performances have already commenced however, with the mighty men's 1s out in force at the ACC bar night and they will be in good voice this evening to let the whole world know who we are.

The club also wishes the Ladies 1st XI the best of luck for their BUCS Cup Final next week. If you are interested in coming to support both teams next week at Harlington, then go to [imperialhockey.co.uk](http://imperialhockey.co.uk) for more details.

