

felix

The student 'news'paper of
Imperial College London

Guardian Student Newspaper of the Year
2006, 2008

Issue 1,431
Friday 8 May 2009
felixonline.co.uk



Daylight robbery?

How parking your bike outside Blackett could cost you £30 a pop. See page 2



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Students fined for parking their bike outside Blakett

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

Students cycling into College on Wednesday morning incurred the wrath of the Metropolitan Police Force, as they attempted to park their bikes into the numerous cycle racks outside Blakett Laboratory (Physics Department).

As students were trying to park their bikes, several members of the Met were waiting to issue on the spot £30 fines because they were cycling on the pavement. In order to get to the bike racks, students must leave the main road, go over a two metre stretch of pavement and then descend into the bike parking area. Cycling on pavements is considered to be illegal by the Met Police, however, since there is a small ramp that allows the bikes to get onto the pavement from the main road, it has led many students to believe that it would be acceptable for them to mount the pavement. There is even a small yellow line in front of the ramp preventing any cars from parking there and since there is no pedestrian crossing opposite the ramp, it is not hard to see why cyclists would assume such a thing.

The police were there for most of the morning and were even approached by angry students who were protesting the tactics employed by the Met Police. One such student, Dominic Galliano, told *felix* that "I do not object to being fined, after all I was doing something wrong. However, what I do object to is the way the Met Police went about the operation."

Mr Galliano went on to say that "the cynic in me would think this is just a money making exercise (after all I reckon in a few hours they could have

easily got about 30 students, so about £900) but apart from that it is not the way to raise awareness!"

Others, however, argue that this was purely a money raising exercise. One third year Chemistry student wondered "why the police were wasting so much time fining students for cycling on a two metre stretch of pavement? Did they have nothing better to do that day?"

The problem here is two-fold: is fining students for cycling on a two metre stretch of pavement really a good method to raise awareness about the illegality of the situation? Alternatively, which a larger percentage of the student body believes in, was this just a money raising exercise?

Inspector Nick Cornish from the Knightsbridge and Belgravia Police Department, informed *felix* that "[we] received some complaints about cycling on the footpath and clearly some proactive police/PCSO actions were needed. I will speak to the Team Sergeant to ensure that any tickets issued are proportionate and fair, with the location and duration of travel taken into consideration."

There do exist several options for the large number of cyclists that come to Imperial everyday; the most obvious of these is to get off your bike and push it for those two metres. Alternatively, the small section of pavement can be made into a cycle lane, thus overcoming the illegality of cycling on the pavement. An even more costly approach would be to create a segmented pavement to avoid any possible collisions with the pedestrians and the cyclists.

Imperial College President, Jenny Morgan, informed *felix* that "it does seem a little ridiculous that students have been fined just for crossing the



The small gate that allows cyclists access to the bike racks outside Blakett Laboratories, and the scene of the police fines on Wednesday

PHOTO BY CHARLES MURDOCH

pavement to get into the bike rack area."

Miss Morgan went on to say, however, that "we would recommend that students get off their bikes and push it across the pavement for obvious safety reasons."

This is not the first time that the local residence have brought up problems with cyclists around Imperial, however their main concerns were with students coming out of the archway in Beit and cycling straight into pedestrians. Terry Branch, Head of Security, Fire and Post at Imperial told *felix* that "whilst I understand why the police were patrolling the area for this problem following complaints from lo-

cal residents, it is a bit disappointing that they were issuing fines instead of informing the students or why they did not ask college security to ask students to dismount from their cycles when mounting the pavement area."

"We will be discussing the matter with the local police force at the next Safer Neighbourhood Meeting on 19th May."

Since the incident, *felix* has managed to get assurances from the local police force that incidents such as those that transpired on Wednesday morning will not happen again, however, they have informed students to not take liberties and cycle down the length of Queensway on their way into College.

Engineers travel to Antarctica

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

Two students from the Faculty of Engineering had an opportunity to take part in a trip of a life-time. Many people yearn for the buzz of some of the worlds biggest cities, or the cultural history the oldest civilisations, whilst some just want to enjoy the warmth of the Mediterranean and Caribbean.

Very few, however, seek out to go to one of the remotest and coldest environments in the world, Antarctica. Jeffery Marlow and David Whittleston were two such intrepid explorers who braved the cold and the isolation to experience one of the worlds most untouched environments.

The expedition gave the students the opportunity to learn from conservationists and climate change experts about the secluded continent, as well as giving them a desire to do more to combat climate change. Find out about their adventure in next week's issue of *felix*.



Jeffery Marlow (front) and David Whittleston (back) on their way to Antarctica

Imperial students win \$25,000 grand prize in New York

Raz Jabary & Feroza Kassam

This Easter break proved very successful for a group of Imperial College students winning a major donation for their chosen charity, the El Salvador Reconstruction and Development Project. During the three day trip to New York City they won the grand prize of \$25,000 from J.P. Morgan's Investment Bank to help fund the work they will be doing in El Salvador this year.

The team was competing against six other charity groups in the final round of J.P. Morgan's Good Venture Case Competition to secure the sponsorship, and came up against representatives of Harvard and Stanford University, among others. The four Civil Engineering students impressed the board of judges because of their dedication to and personal involvement with the project endeavour.

The charity is an initiative to build earthquake resistant houses in poor Salvadorian communities during the summer term. From 2001 onwards, each year a group of 10-15 students have travelled to relevant parts of El Salvador and lived with the community members, whilst dedicating themselves to the construction of safe shelters.

The finale of the Good Venture competition was held on 17th April 2009 at the J.P. Morgan head offices in New York City. The groups presented to a high-profile judging panel, including

Alex Lynch, Chairman of North American Mergers & Acquisitions, as well as other representatives from across the bank.

Team members Raz Jabary (1st year), Feroza Kassam (1st year), Mohammad Mahbub (1st year) and Adam Yang (2nd year) gave a collective presentation in which they conveyed the message mission of the El Salvador foundation and the reasons why J.P. Morgan should put their mark on their project. After seven competitive presentations, Mr. Lynch announced the winners from Imperial College.

This year, a total number of 124 teams from 74 Universities around the world submitted their cases, of which only 7 made it through to the final stage. From these finalists, Imperial College was the only non-U.S. university to take part in the event.

Other university finalists, apart from Harvard and Stanford, were the University of Michigan, University of Chicago, New York University and Mount Holyoke College. The donation prize will go to this year's summer involvement and should be adequate to finance the construction of a school as part of the team's widened activities.

Mohammed Belal, team leader of the 2009 Project, remarks to *felix* with satisfaction: "We put together an excellent team with great characteristics. The event could not have been any better."

As for the future of the project and how the prize money could have an



The winning team from left to right: Adam Yang, Feroza Kassam, Raz Jabary, Mohammad Mahbub

impact, Mr. Belal said, "We now have the opportunity to expand our project perhaps to different countries. We may start thinking about increasing our involvement by sending two teams to El Salvador on an annual basis as opposed to one."

The team would particularly like to thank Alison Ahearn, who was very supportive in providing information as to how best present their case.

This year's project will be concentrated on the town of Collima, situated to the north of the capital San Salvador.

Through their work, the team aims to make an investment into the lo-

cal health system, education system and the environment, all of which are key aspects that define their social responsibility.

Team member Raz says, "We had a great team with excellent team-working skills. We hope the finance would be put to good use so that poor communities can benefit from this as much as possible and I would like to thank all fellow members for their passion and commitment to the cause."

On the outlook for this year, team member Feroza comments, "The sponsorship funding from J.P. Morgan allows us to take this project to

new heights, surpassing all our initial expectations. The provision of education for the community of Collima is not something we ever thought our financial remit could encompass, but it brings a fantastic sense of completeness to the project."

During the summer term, the team members will spend six weeks among Collima's local community, whilst helping with the design and construction of seismically resistant structures, which include essential houses and retaining walls. So be sure to watch this space for more details on how the group got on in El Salvador!

Taxi firm cons Imperial NHS out of £280,000

Dina Ismail
News Correspondent

A taxi firm managed to swindle £280,000 from Imperial College NHS trust by billing them for thousands of phantom trips made by a bogus driver.

Employees at Lewis Day Courier gave their non-existent driver 'Stuart Villas' a fake driver number and set up a computer file to list all the "journeys" he had made on behalf of Imperial NHS, even giving him a false North London address and contact numbers.

On average, 20 fake journeys were made per day by Villas in a scam that lasted for over 18 months, with some journeys costing £109 a time. On one single day an astonishing 28 taxi trips were faked, ripping off the NHS to the tune of £900. In one instance, the fake driver ID was used to charge £74 to take a patient just two miles home. However, the trip had in fact been cancelled by the hospital hours before because the patient was too ill to travel.

Employees at the firm would often invoice trips that had been booked then cancelled or just completely invented. With hundreds of journeys to pay for each month, NHS staff did not usually check each one individually and often in good faith processed invoices without question. The contractor clearly aware of the gap in the checking system, made the maximum

use out of it. The matter only finally came to light when an anonymous NHS office worker found Stuart Villas's file. The staff member had never heard of him and noticed that most of his journeys invoiced were for cancellations. The individual contacted a national newspaper to expose the fraud, while the NHS called in its own investigation team.

Since the revelations Lewis Day has agreed to pay back £280,000 to Imperial College NHS trust, but despite the scam will continue to work for the



Lewis Day Medical couriers are a frequent sight at Imperial hospitals

trust because it is tied into a five year contract worth £6million a year, the courier's biggest hospital deal. Furthermore, it currently doesn't appear that anyone will be prosecuted.

A spokesperson for Lewis Day Medical Services has said that the director responsible for setting up and implementing the system that allowed this to happen has since left the company and a whole new system has been put into place. The revelations, however, call into question the suitability of Lewis Day as an Imperial NHS contractor.

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

The Goldsmiths' Company, one of the original 17 Guilds that founded the City and Guilds College, presented Imperial College with a unique gift to celebrate its independence from the University of London. Weighing 7.1 kgs and measuring 1.2 metres, the £25,000 mace incorporates a helix-shaped stem representing the structure of human DNA to reflect the College's mission to carry out and apply cutting edge scientific research. It is topped by a head depicting the College's crest and also includes the Goldsmiths' Company's coat of arms. The new mace was unveiled at Wednesday's Postgraduate ceremonies where the Rector, Sir Roy Anderson, commented that "We are enormously grateful to the Goldsmiths' Company for this generous and beautiful gift. It was a landmark occasion for the College to achieve independence and receive its new royal charter in 2007, and it is wonderful to have a tangible representation of that in this mace."



The new ceremonial mace looking nice and shiny!

felix 1,431

Friday 08/05/09



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

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OFF THE WEEK

The world beyond college walls



Panama

The owner of Panama's largest supermarket chain, Ricardo Martinelli, has been elected as the country's new president.

With his business acumen and, the 57-year old chairman of the board of the Súper 99 supermarket, won a landslide 60% of the vote.

The Central American state is known mainly for the Panama Canal, a man-made canal built in 1914 which is an artery for global sea trade, and Martinelli inherits the Presidential office in the middle of the canal's expansion. After a referendum in 2006, in which Panamanians approved building a third set of locks, about \$5bn (£3.3bn) worth of contracts is about to be awarded to companies to begin construction.

The global economic crisis has decreased the amount of container traffic through the canal, but \$2bn (£1.3bn) is still collected from the canal in tax revenues every year, making it a central part of the national economy.

Martinelli also said his government will make the finalisation of a bilateral trade agreement with the US – Panama's biggest trade partner – a priority.



China and Egypt

As the swine flu is slowly spreading across the globe, some countries have decided to take precautionary measures.

Some of them however, are aggressively taking things beyond official scientific advice, causing disputes between communities, and between nations.

In the past week, the Chinese government has quarantined dozens of Mexican citizens, forcing them to stay confined within their hotels, despite not showing any symptoms of the flu. The government has banned all pork imports from Mexico, the US, and now Canada. Mexican and Canadian authorities have criticized the decisions, and the World Health Organisation (WHO) has asked China to justify its discriminatory measures.

Meanwhile, Egyptian police have clashed with local pig farmers attempting to resist the government-ordered cull of the country's 300,000 pigs. The pigs belong, and are mostly consumed by Egypt's Coptic Christian minority, who say the cull has reignited religious tension in the predominantly Muslim country. No case of swine flu has yet been reported in Egypt.



Nigeria

Politics in Nigeria, Africa's largest democracy, are notoriously complicated.

The general elections in 2007 were widely regarded as the most flawed in the nation's history. On the road to the next general elections in 2011, the recent regional elections in the south-western Ekiti State have caused tensions to flare amidst allegations of vote rigging. The poll was marred by the most flagrant outbreaks of political thuggery and irregularities seen since 2007.

Frequent power shortages and a high crime rate are Nigerian trademarks, and the country is rife with corruption and fraud. All this is scaring businesses from investing, even though Nigeria has 150 million people and is seen as an emerging market. To reverse this perception, the new minister of information, Dora Akunyili,

has launched a rebranding campaign, with the slogan 'Nigeria: Good People, Great Nation', but without tackling the root causes of Nigeria's problems, a mere facelift is unlikely to attract investors.



Edited by Hassan Joudi & Raphael Houdmont

Rector criticises government funding policy at Postgraduate ceremonies

Jovan Nedić
Editor in Chief

The College saw around 1,600 students graduating with higher degrees in science, engineering, medicine and business on Wednesday at the Postgraduate Awards Ceremony. Honorary degrees were also given to philanthropists Jeremy and Hannelore Grantham, whose Grantham Foundation for the Protection of the Environment has funded research institutes on climate change at Imperial as well as at LSE over the past few years.

Two fellowships were also awarded to members of staff who have contributed greatly to the life of the College. The first of these is Professor Tom Kibble who has been at Imperial for over 50 years and was Head of Department of Physics from 1983-1991. The second fellowship was given to Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, now Chief Executive of the Medical Research Council and formerly Principal of the Faculty of Medicine and then Deputy Rector at Imperial.

Graduation ceremonies at Imperial have been a traditional time for Rectors to make their feelings clear on a range of matters, most notably the quality of the students that we produce and the state of the science and technology sector in the UK. This was no exception. Sir Roy Anderson told the graduates that "I find it inspiring to see this Hall filled with people who have chosen to invest their time, effort and finances in science, technology, and business, who have excelled as a result."

"I strongly believe that your investment is one that will bring significant reward. The benefits are long-term and far-reaching for individuals and



Sir Roy Anderson at a recent graduation ceremony

for nations."

His views, however, on the government's spending policy was not as flattering with Sir Roy making similarities with the US and their input into the science, research and development sectors. Sir Roy told the 1,600 or so postgraduates that "in March this year, President Barack Obama announced that he would invest over \$21 billion in US science as part of his economic stimulus package. He also wants his country to spend 3% of GDP on research and development."

"I hope that the UK government will be inspired by his example and also make substantial investments in the science and technology base of this country. The future of our country and

our world depends on scientific innovation and invention."

This is not the first time that Rector has criticised the lack of support from the UK government in supporting the science community in the UK, however, his views on the matter have been more and more open. Back in February, Sir Roy hinted that there was a problem with their spending in his interview with *felix*, commenting "that there are three or four areas of government expenditure where a lot of money could be saved"

The Rectors attacks on the government are likely to continue in the near future as graduates are finding it increasingly hard to find jobs in the current economic climate.

Vodafone scholarships for Imperial engineers

Undergraduates in the Faculty of Engineering are benefiting from a new and prestigious scholarship scheme thanks to a generous donation from The Vodafone Group Foundation.

Individual engineering departments have awarded prestigious Vodafone Group Foundation Technology Scholarships to two undergraduates, one from the UK and one from overseas, on the basis of their outstanding academic merit.

The scholars are currently in their first year at Imperial and, thanks to the scholarship scheme, both their tuition fees and living costs will be funded for the entirety of their undergraduate studies.

The students are Chee Yan Shek, studying Mathematics and Computer Science, and Ms Yanyan Jiang, studying Biomedical Engineering.

"The scholarship has taken away a lot of the worry about debt whilst I'm studying, which has enabled me to focus more freely on other aspects of my course and student life in general," comments Chee Yan Shek.

"Life at Imperial is more demanding than I had initially anticipated," she

continues. "It took me quite a while to settle into the new environment and at times, trying to balance work with play was a challenge. If I hadn't been awarded the scholarship it would have been much more difficult."

Working in conjunction with the College's EnVision initiative, the scholarships are not only aimed at rewarding excellence, but also at levelling the playing field for engineering study at Imperial by enabling the most talented undergraduates to attend the College regardless of means.

EnVision seeks to ensure that every engineering student at Imperial College is offered the best possible education. It aims to guarantee that each Imperial engineering graduate will be armed with the knowledge, skills and aptitude required to become world class leaders in every sphere of the sector.

"Imperial College has an important obligation to encourage outstanding students to excel in its academic environment. An excellent way of doing this is by encouraging the brightest students to study engineering here and rewarding their talent, and schemes

such as the Vodafone Group Foundation Technology Scholarships help us to do just that," explains Professor Stephen Richardson, Principal of the Faculty of Engineering.

Imperial College and the Vodafone Group Foundation share a common ambition to contribute to the global engineering talent pool and to stimulate innovation in the sector. Through the Vodafone Group Foundation Technology Scholarships, Vodafone is making a real and tangible contribution towards these goals which will ultimately benefit the engineering sector as a whole.

"We are delighted to work with Imperial College on this fantastic initiative," says Andrew Dunnet, Director of The Vodafone Group Foundation. "Vodafone is committed to investing in the cultivation of the next generation of engineers and maximising the future scientific potential of the UK. It is imperative that institutions such as Imperial College continue to attract and reward talented students into engineering, and the Vodafone Group Foundation Scholarships are a great way of doing just that."

And Finally: Paxman to donate his brain to the Imperial brain bank



Coming soon to a university near you, Jeremy Paxman's brain

Dan Wan
Editor-in-Prowling

Imperial College will be the holder of another great mind, but in an entirely different way.

BBC broadcaster Jeremy Paxman is to donate his brain to Imperial-based Brain Bank, once he has died. His brain is to go towards finding a cure for Parkinson's Disease, which affects 120,000 people in the UK.

Imperial has the largest 'brain bank' in the world, situated on Imperial's Hamersmith medical campus, and holds 296 samples. The University Challenge host has been keen to be added to the

donor list. His bold promise is to also encourage others in donating their brains for medical research.

"There's currently no cure for Parkinson's, which affects 120,000 people. If you register to donate your brain, you can help to find a cure." The Parkinson's Disease Society hopes to have 1,000 more confirmed brain donors signed up by the end of this year.

"Hard to imagine anyone might want your old brain, isn't it? But it's not as if you'll be needing it yourself," quipped Paxman, who does not suffer from Parkinson's Disease himself. Healthy brain tissue is also needed for comparative studies, and the importance of this is

highlighted by the fact both actress Jane Asher and TV presenter John Stapleton have also pledged their brains to The Parkinson's Disease Society Brain Bank.

"We need a greater awareness of the benefits of brain donation so that more people come forward to register with us. Scientific research on brains both with and without Parkinson's is essential," urged Asher, who is also the Parkinson's Disease Society President.

They say great minds think alike, and if you'd like to follow Paxman's suit and donate your brain, even after frying it by completing a degree at Imperial, visit <http://www.parkinsons.org.uk>.

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The research has been approved by the Brompton Harefield & NHLI Research Ethics Committee

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an
I, science Production

in association with *felix*

Directed by Mićo Tatalović,

Starring: butter popcorn, harnessing Mother Nature's power, Larnack and Darwin, London's wild parrots and Biofuels

at stands everywhere 15.05.09



I, science

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

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Hassan Joudi is wanting something else



"Why is the human mind so frequently not happy with what it has, and occupies itself with wanting something else."



For the male readers, if you were anything like me when you were 14 or 15 years old, you would have spent much time in front of the mirror, eagerly inspecting your chin for some signs of facial hair. Conversely if you're anything like me now, aged 19, you'd be moaning about how fast your beard grows and complaining at how often you have to shave. Instead of envying the other boys in your Year 10 class who already had enough of a beard to groom to a style of their choosing, you envy the guy in your tutorial class who doesn't seem to need a shave for months while you must tediously whip out the shaver weekly, if not more often.

This aspect of growing up is I believe representative of the overall gulf between our thoughts and aspirations in childhood, and those in adulthood. It is not uncommon for young children or teenagers to adopt the "I can't wait to grow up" attitude. Being older is perceived to bring more freedom: more power on how to spend your money or more choice on what to study or where

work. Conversely it is not uncommon for adults at times to think, "I wish I was still a kid." Being a child is perceived to bring less responsibility: your parents guarantee you have enough money and the life of simply going to school and playing with friends seems so trouble-free and easy.

This scenario extends further to other fields of life, and this common desire of always wanting something else to fulfil our happiness is characteristic of the human condition. In the workplace people who have a job they aren't enjoying sometimes feel they just want to quit so they don't have to drag themselves out of bed every morning, and can spend their time watching TV all day. Of course the fact is most unemployed people are desperately looking for a job and dream of getting back into work. At university the students who live at home with their parents may sometimes feel they're "missing out" on a lot of fun while students living in halls will sometimes feel lonely or loathe having to shop, cook and iron for themselves. The same can be said for people eagerly looking forward to a

holiday abroad, but then feeling homesick while they're there. In each case people wish they were in the other's position.

As human beings we have a tendency to subconsciously focus on what we don't have, be this what we have lost: our childhood, or what we have yet to experience: growing up. We convince ourselves that we can't be content with our present situation, and in short, we can forget what we already have. It makes sense then, that in the Arabic language the word for human being, *insaan*, is actually derived from the word meaning forget, *nasa*.

As a personal example, it was the Easter holidays when I was writing this article, where I was trying to balance my need to revise for the upcoming exams with my desire to relax and enjoy the free time. I found that during the day, while the rest of my family were out of the house and I was left alone with my books and lecture notes, I felt bored and thus "couldn't wait" for them to return in the evening so I could chat to them and enjoy dinner together. However once the evening

came round, I found myself irritated at their presence because they distracted me from revising and led me to consider studying in the library instead. And all this in the same day!

Interestingly this mechanism for wanting something else can work in other ways as well. In a posh banquet or a three-course meal, the eater can expect a grandiose series of dishes. First the appetisers, then the main course will be brought forth from the kitchen, the savoury desserts will no doubt follow, tea or coffee may be requested by the caffeine-junkies, and perhaps finally the post-dinner drinks. But what can often happen in the eater's mind at every stage of this grandiose meal is that they enjoy the new taste in their mouth for a while. But quickly this 'newness' disappears, less pleasure is derived from eating in that stage, and they quickly gobble down the rest of the dish as they look forward to the next stage. Much like the toddler constantly asking the mother for a certain toy, our moment of happiness only lasts for a few seconds before we start the cycle of wanting some-

thing else again!

That phrase "I can't wait..." is ubiquitous in all the scenarios mentioned. "I can't wait to go on holiday... I can't wait until term ends... I can't wait for the desserts." In the countless self-help books out there, you can always be sure that ever-present on the list of top ten ways to improve your life will be to "live in the moment." This philosophy underlies many relaxation therapies like meditation, qigong and yoga as well as major world religions like Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism and Islam.

While our mind often tells us we will only be content when we are thinking or doing something else, our happiness and comfort is often easily achieved with what we already have or are already doing. Knowing this is one thing, but controlling our thoughts so the words "I can't wait..." or "I wish..." are not constantly circling our heads is another more difficult task. So I urge you, during this exam period, or in the summer holidays when you are travelling, working or staying at home, don't wish you were doing something else. Live in the moment.

For David Stewart, reality TV doesn't get more real than Come Dine With Me

Depending on your definition, Reality TV probably started with Candid Camera.

The show filmed the reactions of members of the public to pranks, such as arranging for them to sit behind a rigged desk which would suddenly start to develop a will of its own. This format was copied many times: the British equivalent was called 'Beadle's About', The Richard Taylor Interviews, if you saw them, were essentially the same idea too. Titled by the ability to appear on TV for being made a fool of, scrotum after scrotum of idiots went out in search of fame and started deliberately involving themselves in stupid situations; the Generation Game for instance, or Britain's got Talent, or in more disturbing guises, Jackass and then Dirty Sanchez. However, none of these examples of Reality TV is genuinely 'Real'. They are all essentially end-of-pier: more-or-less freakish vaudeville shows for people with little to no talent. They don't have that whiff of Post-Modernism that

marks out what we would probably consider to be Real 'Reality TV'; something in the Big Brother mould. Ah, Big Brother: that televised catalogue of the desperate antics of contestants who want nothing more than a public hanging of their own self-esteem by conflict with other contestants who also want nothing but the same thing. But again, as extreme as it is, Big Brother is far too contrived to be Real. This is, after all, a procession of increasingly socially inept/mentally unsound/pretty (stupid) people forced into ludicrous situations who would have fallen out with everyone around them anyway. You could have just as much fun in a Psychiatric Ward.

What you need for Real Reality TV is a real situation. Real conflict from real people genuinely falling out with each other. Like a fight down a pub? Almost, but not quite—a fight down a pub is simply a release of tension, whereas for truly great Reality TV you need a build up of tension. It needs to be excruciating, almost to the point of embarrassing the viewer. It needs to make

you scream with pain. And you can't scream with pain unless you can live vicariously through the people there, unless you can (almost) completely and (almost) totally empathise with the motivations of the people onscreen.

For us to empathise as much as is necessary for our ultimate emotional torture, we require a situation which is very familiar to us. Well, I am middle class. So are you. Therefore we need the most middle class thing we can think of—a dinner party. A dinner party is an excellent choice: it is itself a competition, usually a collaborative effort by all attendees to be as aristocratic as they think that word means—an opportunity to show how lower middle class one is by how much effort is put in to show how upper middle class you are. It's embarrassing by construction, never mind what happens when you add the pressure of having to cook a three course meal, stick cameras in front of everyone and then offer them a cash prize if they show themselves to be the most successfully middle class person there. With an impossibly sar-

castic voiceover continuously denigrating those boorish enough to maintain that theirs is the best food on the planet you have an unbeatable recipe for watchability.

Thence we have the Channel 4 programme *Come Dine With Me*, to which I would freely admit, I am addicted. The tremendous rancour, violent malice, contempt, misanthropy, jealousy and vitriol that such a simple concept can generate is truly staggering. This is not to say that all episodes are car crashes, but not knowing the result a priori only adds to the fun. To give you an example, a notable episode ended with a woman (friend of mine, actually) running around the house with tear stained cheeks burning sage leaves to purify the atmosphere when a massive row erupted between several of the participants. Quote: "That's funny, I didn't think you had a heart./I do darling./Really? Where? Such inept insults, because of course, they can't just call each other cunts and bitches like any normal person would. It's like an anaconda of respectability trying to

digest a small wombat of anger – all eyes are on whether or not it's about to pop.

Perhaps the best episode ever involved a man whose most treasured possession was a photograph of himself standing next to David Cameron. His attempt to wow his guests involved shopping at Netto (a northern version of Lidl/Aldi) for food that cost no more than ten pounds to feed four people, despite the fact that the show provides 100 pounds expenses. His menu contained such wonders as a tuna and bean salad. Recipe: one can of kidney beans, one can of tuna, mix, done. Why would he do something like this? I believe, because he wanted to show the other guests that poor people can pretend to be middle class too, if only they had the gumption. Naturally his food was universally reviled, particularly the spray cream garnish on the bananas at the end. Add to this some unfathomable seat-squirming flirtation between two of the contestants and it's magic.

There's loads on the Channel 4 Catch-Up. Get stuck in.

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Science Challenge 2009: Results

The Science Challenge is an essay competition promoting science communication. This year the winners received £16k in cash prizes and trips to Parliament, CERN, Shell labs and National Physical Laboratories. **Daniel Burrows** presents some of the winning essays. All essays and references can be found at www.sciencechallenge.org

winner

What can be done to ensure an informed and balanced public and political debate of Science and Technology? Judge: Dr. Martyn Sené,

**Matt Silver
2009 Science Challenge Winner**



This editors impression of what human clones could look like.

It's a cold, damp morning, 2088, and the sun's rays barely penetrate the thick cloud above. But today the world feels like a better place. The centenary report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has confirmed what few had dared hope – the scientific consensus is that the earth's temperature has finally peaked. This seems like a good moment to look back and reflect on how we got here.

Just three-quarters of a century ago it seemed we were on the brink of catastrophe. While some were in denial, a sense of powerlessness in a complex, globalised world led others to turn their backs on rational solutions to our mounting problems. They placed their faith in false prophets. Self-proclaimed 'experts', often-charismatic celebrities, who offered solutions based not on evidence, but on anecdote and whimsy. Paradoxically this was a golden age for science, but it was a dark age for our culture.

Perhaps it's hard to appreciate from today's enlightened perspective just how profound a change has occurred. So let me describe the four key pillars on which I believe this renaissance in public attitudes to science was built.

The primary catalyst for change was education. While educators continued to teach the methods and facts of science as they always had, they began to do something else - they began to inspire children. In primary school, pupils were introduced to the wonders of the natural world, and - with the aid of new teaching technologies like HoloSim - to the amazing story of how scientists had begun to reveal the beautiful structures that lie behind our seemingly chaotic everyday experience. In secondary school, pupils learned how the scientific method was their bastion against those who would seek, often inadvertently, to undermine their own health, and that of the world in which they lived. They gained a sense of pride in knowing how not to be hoodwinked. To be ignorant of science was to be diminished as a person.

75 years ago in politics, success was measured in terms of short-term popularity. The political class knew science and technology were fundamental to economic prosperity, but the importance of the scientific method to the process of political decision-making had not yet been grasped. After a decade of economic austerity and mounting environmental chaos, the public began to realise that what mattered was finding evidence-based solutions to the huge problems we faced. The people demanded their politicians gather evidence, and act on

it. Of course political disagreements remained, as they always will, but political argument had become less about rhetoric, more about a rational search for answers.

At the turn of the century, the public learned about cutting-edge science primarily through the mass media. With a few exceptions, the reporting of science news was woeful. Journalists adept at teasing fact from fiction in the difficult terrain of war reporting for example, saw no need to draw the distinction between scientific consensus and maverick opinion in the realm of science. Mass print and broadcast media competed with simplistic, sensationalist headlines produced by non-specialist journalists, often with the connivance of commercial interests, or even university PR departments hungry for coverage. The internet changed everything. A growing band of web-based science communicators began to satisfy a voracious demand for accurate science news, presented with originality and flair. Most importantly they brought together communities of people who could share, discuss and challenge scientific information in the public domain. Of course one key element in this new community were the scientists themselves...

Science always had its great communicators - men and women who

relished the opportunity to explain their work to the public. They were however a tiny minority. As science embraced its role of tackling the key technological and intellectual challenges of our age, attracting an ever-increasing proportion of public funds, scientists were forced to acknowledge their public role. A privileged position at the nexus of scientific research and public opinion meant that public accountability was a key element in every scientist's job description. Of course not all researchers could be great communicators, but an element of interaction with the public, whether through web communities, face to face work in schools, or work within the media or politics became mandatory. It was only then that science could regain its position, lost throughout much of the 20th century, at the heart of popular and intellectual culture.

We will never inhabit a trouble-free world. Within a decade of finding the universal cure for cancer new challenges emerged - the devastating epidemic of viral replicators from lunar mining colonies and the dreadful consequences of back street cloning to name but two. While problems remain, we can take comfort from the fact that we will face the challenges of the 22nd century with all the tools of human ingenuity at our disposal.

runner-up

Hydrogen is key to tackling the world's rapidly increasing demand for energy. Discuss. Judge: Duncan Macleod, Shell

**Rebecca Lockwood
2009 Runner-up**

An unseasonal downpour chases a group of television executives as they run from their 4x4 into the centrally-heated airport. They reach the lounge, order cappuccinos, and plug in their laptops. To raucous agreement, one of them exclaims that he's sick of reading programme proposals about 'flipping climate change'. He adds that if he but sees the word 'environment' in the subject title of an email, he immediately hits the 'delete' button.

Their flight is called. Packing away their laptops, they head for the gates.

Witnessing this scene, I felt it summed up a modern dilemma: our voracious hunger for progress has led to a depletion of the energy sources on which much of that progress depends. In November 2008 the annual report of the International Energy Agency predicted an increase in global energy demand of 45% by 2030. At the same time, supplies are becoming increasingly uncertain.

Even without such concerns, the wisdom of our dependency on fossil fuels is questionable. Their combustion releases greenhouse gases, causing global warming which could be irreversible. Those pesky 'unseasonal downpours' may only be the beginning.

Yet our TV executives are unmoved. While the lights are still on in the Big Brother house, it's business as usual.

Given this collective lethargy, it is perhaps unsurprising so many are unaware there is a type of energy that could break the deadlock. That energy is hydrogen.

Hydrogen should need no introduction. After all, it is the most abundant element in the universe. It is not freely available: in order to be used it needs to be extracted from other substances such as water, fossil fuels or biomass. Still, that list alone shows just how plentiful it is.

But then what? In fact, it can be combusted like a conventional fuel. Then there is the fuel cell.

A hydrogen fuel cell is an electrochemical energy conversion device that turns hydrogen and oxygen into water, producing electricity and heat along the way. Water is the only waste product.

A simple reaction, you might think - and an emission-free one to boot.

Even to the most ill-informed TV viewer, this must sound good. After all, this fuel is NOT going to run out. Furthermore, where other fuels are unevenly distributed around the world, playing havoc with global security, hydrogen, in its different compound

forms, is everywhere.

There's more. Hydrogen offers great potential for energy storage. In fact, it is the perfect bed-fellow for the discerning renewable. Not much wind today? No worries! Bit cloudy? Not a problem! In the hydrogen-economy, the power generated when the weather conditions were right can be used to create hydrogen. Thus, on a still, sunless day, the stored hydrogen is ready and waiting to step in and fill the gap.

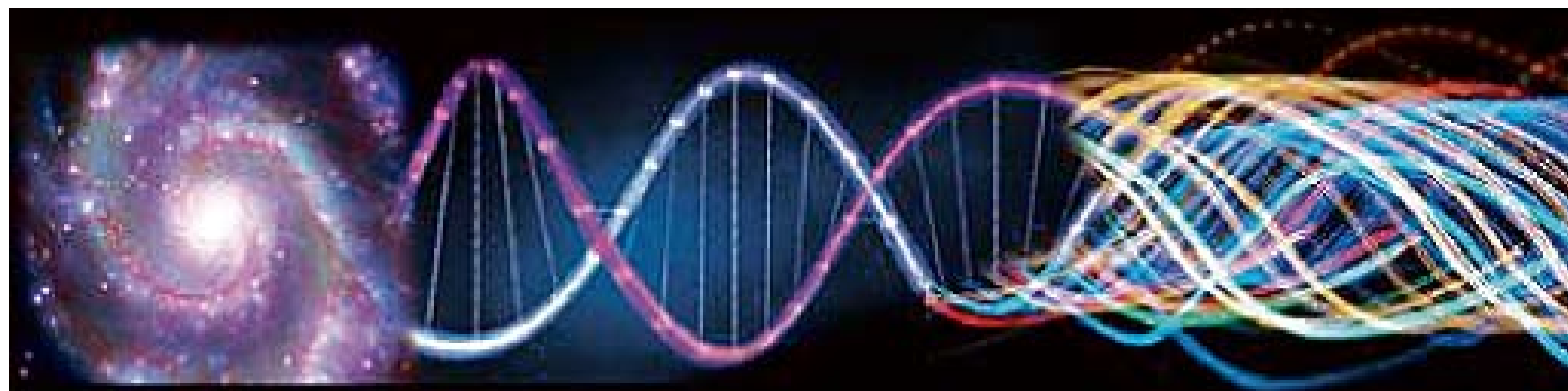
So - a totally clean, carbon-free route to sustainable energy consumption exists? Why aren't our television screens bombarding us with this news?

If only it were that simple. For a start, we know hydrogen cannot be used without being produced first. This requires other energy sources. In current hydrogen production, these tend to be fossil fuels, as they are the least expensive. Consequently, carbon dioxide is emitted, contributing to global warming. Unfortunately, as with most of our knottiest problems, the politics is as important as the science. Governments are unwilling to invest in infrastructure for technology until they know it has a long-term future. Likewise, businesses don't want to fund technology until the infrastructure is in place.

It's a 'Catch-22' situation that acts as a powerful brake - not only on the networks needed to make hydrogen ubiquitous, but also on the research and development required to solve the scientific problems that do remain. Hydrogen is so light, for example, that it needs to be compressed enormously or liquified before being transported in useful amounts. Challenging - but not insurmountable, given sufficient finance.

Luckily, there are glimmers of hope. A team of scientists recently placed 27 hydrogen-powered buses in 9 European cities, and monitored them for 5 years. The project ended in 2006. Result? Collectively, the buses traveled approximately 258,000km. Infrastructure problems were ironed out - and reliability compared favourably to conventional buses.

This was a discreet study that arguably didn't receive the publicity it deserved. Maybe that's the real message. Those TV executives - and their viewers - may not care what powers their laptops - but they would be devastated if nothing did. So, they need to be made to care. The superstitious traveler suspects it is only passengers' collective belief that keeps his plane in the air. So with the hydrogen economy. Until it has the weight of public opinion behind it, it is going nowhere. We need to believe - and then, just maybe, this bird will fly.



runner-up

Will Homo Sapiens continue to evolve? If so, how? Judge: Prof. Armand Leroi, Imperial College

**Sang Nguyen
2009 Runner-up**

Scientists clash on the subject of human evolution because evolution means something slightly different to each of them. For Prof Steve Jones, who considers evolution from a gene survival standpoint, the weakening of natural selective forces due to medical advances and modern technology suggests our species is reaching an evolutionary stagnation point. But although our genetic material is almost identical to primates, those who take the broader view that evolution is simply change over time, believe that genome maps point to an evolution explosion. Perhaps in the 150 years since Darwin's revolutionary observations, the term evolution has itself evolved, and the meaning of its descendent, clevolution, will help us answer whether and how Homo sapiens will do the same. This essay explores two analogies that unearth the possibilities.

Coiled Laser Evolution
What does evolution have in com-

mon with a laser? Evolution is often regarded as a continuous progression towards increasing complexity, but it does not always lead to more complex organisms. Veterans of evolution, such as bacteria, demonstrate that nature also enjoys the simple life. Similarly, a laser stays focused along its path, and although it appears as a steady stream, discrete photons emitted at random intervals mimic the unpredictable occurrence of genetic mutations. Though rather than viewing evolution as a one-dimensional beam, a better three-dimensional picture is a coiled laser (see above). Even if the laser coil collapses into a circle, the beam continues. In other words, if natural selection becomes obsolete, the other dimensions: genetic drift and gene flow, take on greater importance as driving mechanisms of evolution.

What does the coiled laser analogy reveal about our evolution? By metering total internal reflection, we use fibre optics to guide lasers around obstacles, enabling the vast global communication networks we now take for

granted. Likewise, our evolutionary path meanders to overcome challenges, and we can direct it by understanding our genome. Now consider a laser passing through double slits, which symbolises the simultaneous confrontation of two scenarios: climate led evolution whereby humans are forced to adapt significantly to cope with unpredictable environmental variations; and customisable lifespan evolution driven by our ability to manipulate the genes responsible for ageing. Ultimately, the laser encounters a distant surface and the resultant interference fringe pattern signifies the spreading of the human population. Correspondingly, colony leaping evolution emerges, as we move from planet to planet to satisfy our spiralling resource requirements. The necessary attribute for a laser to arrive at this destination is coherence. Hence, for humans to survive the twisting tale of clevolution, we will need global co-operation, as well as clever solutions.

Card Lattice Evolution
Alternatively, the intricacies of clevo-

lution may be explained by a game; a game of both choice and chance. This model suggests that nature plays cards, and we are the cards used to construct a triangular tower. The suits correspond to the four bases in DNA, while the many permutations of card combinations embody our genome. Just as our evolution depends on reproduction via male and female couples, pairs of cards leaning against each other establish the building blocks of the lattice. The clé to clevolution is diversity, represented by each horizontal bridging card that forms a foundation for further evolution. Mutation is the genetic joker card. The height of the card tower (the extent of human evolution) is determined by the number of cards at the base. Indeed, scientists believe that our evolution was recently accelerated by exponential population growth.

What does the card lattice analogy mean for humanity? If our population stabilizes, we would reach a limit for carbon life-based evolution. This population plateau may occur if our efforts to delay climate led evolution

involve restrictions to energy and food supplies. During this period of consumption limited evolution, we will reduce personal travel and increasingly communicate using information technology.

This cyber-linked evolution can be visualised as an extra 'base pair' of cards ascending aside the original tower, illustrating how silicon-based machines will evolve alongside Homo sapiens. Instead of male and female, the co-dependent card pairs are now processing speed and memory capacity. These will develop at such a rate that artificial intelligence is expected to overtake the brain power of humans by about 2050. Homo sapiens will finally have a threat other than ourselves. However, rather than be replaced by our competitors, we will undergo coalescing life-form evolution, as man and machine unite. In this outlook, it is variation not of the body but of the mind that matters. The question is: will Homo sapiens have the intellectual diversity to evolve further? As long as scientists continue to clash, the answer is 'yes'.

I, science

Issue 12 • Summer 2009 - OUT NEXT WEEK!

Scratch & Sniff front cover!!!

Focus: green energy

ALSO: Proust Phenomenon, Solar Cars & London's Wild Parrots

runner-up

What might we learn from the Large Hadron Collider project?

Judge: Prof. Tejinder Virdee, CERN

Gustavo Assi
2009 Runner-up

I was surprised when my office mate showed me a scientific paper signed by 3099 co-authors. To run my finger down the list of names was like browsing the index page of a world atlas. From Armenia to Uzbekistan, almost every country I could remember was listed there. This recent publication is a newborn from what promises to be a very fruitful parent: the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN), simply the largest particle accelerator ever built.

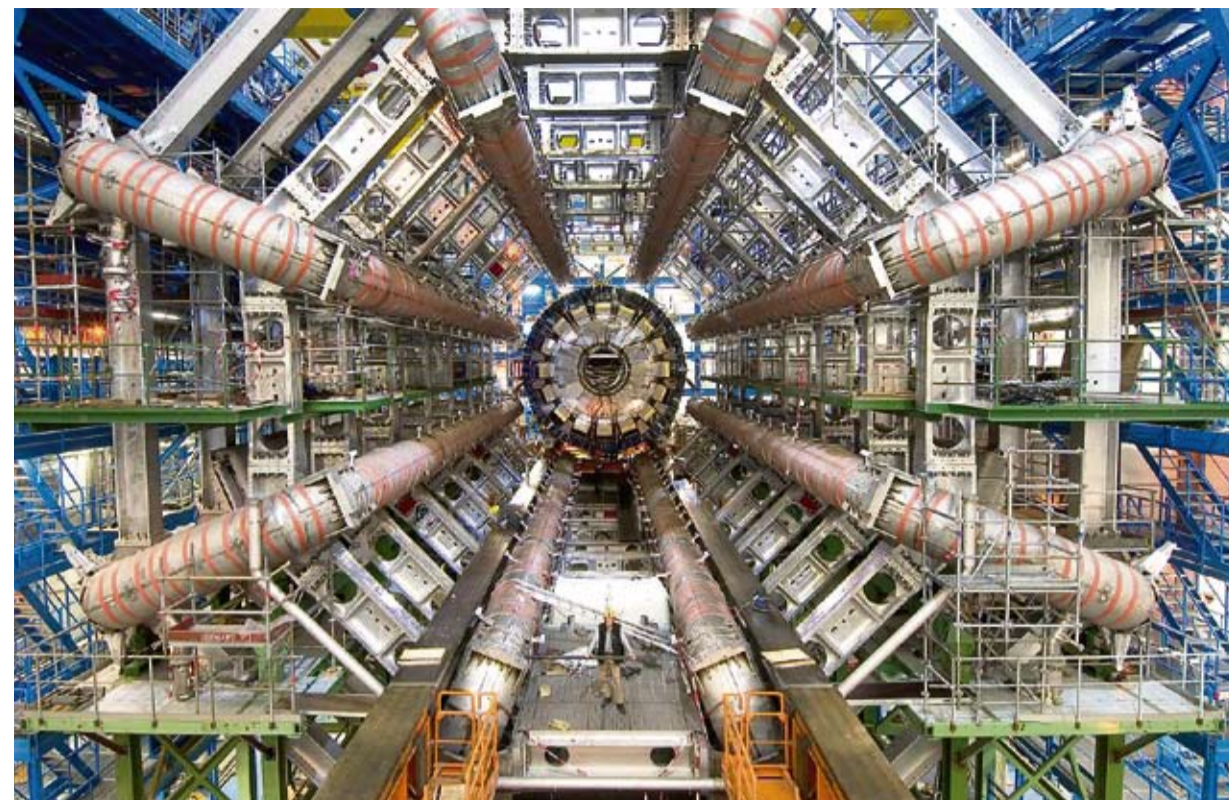
Its inauguration was followed by a big stir in the popular media. Some imagined that the LHC would cause the end of the world, supposedly draining all matter and energy into a black-hole centred in Geneva; while for others it promised to reveal the very beginnings of the universe, disclosing the password for the sacred source of existence. Suddenly humans had built by their own hands the key to unlock the Genesis or trigger the Apocalypse. However, in the real world between the two extremes of history, outside tabloids and novels, we find a determined group of scientists very keen to lead us on another step towards understanding the fabric of the universe.

Obviously the LHC was established with a clear scientific agenda: experimental and theoretical physicists join-

ing forces to validate models in order to expand our comprehension of particle physics. More than one hundred nations spent precious resources to build "probably the biggest and most complex scientific enterprise ever undertaken by humanity", designed to find the most fundamental building block we can conceive in our minds and make sense of in our theories. Like a snow leopard being photographed in the wild, a multitude of tiny particles that we have never seen - but are quite sure they exist - are posing to be framed by the talented and meticulous crew at CERN.

Together with these scientists, I believe the LHC will bring a new wave of scientific knowledge about the natural world never experienced before. Eventually, as a consequence, we might make sense of another small fraction of a second after the Big Bang or simply produce a fast grid of supercomputers; we might indulge ourselves in eleven dimensions or perhaps even find the famous missing boson. But even if the LHC does not produce the expected final answers to our current theories, the endeavour will still have fulfilled another goal: to help formulate better questions in our infinite journey of understanding the natural world.

In addition to all the scientific breakthroughs that should appear sooner or later, we are already harvesting significant lessons from the LHC project. We learn that there is no limit to our



The ATLAS detector at CERN, by Maximilien Brice (which we definitely did not nick from I,Science)

understanding of the physical world. "The deeper we seek, the more is our wonder excited". This Hadron collider is another step towards what we believe to be elementary, until we discover that there still is something more fundamental behind it. In this world of wonderful questing for knowledge "there is not one blade of grass; there is no colour" - and there is no elementary particle - "that is not intended to make us rejoice".

But we also learn that the most efficient (and probably most enjoyable) way to pursue this satisfying journey of discovery is by means of true cooperation. Whether or not it leads to the

ultimate Unified Theory, the LHC has already proved itself a major unifying endeavour, helping us to taste scientific unity in a context of astonishing social diversity. That thousand-author paper is one of the first fruits of a venture that gives birth to a new era of peaceful cooperation in science. Those first 23 pages, listing authors from the 177 institutions involved, are as impressive as the content on the remaining 293 pages. We celebrate scientific collaboration at a level never seen before.

In summary, there is another side of the LHC that goes beyond matter and energy. This multicultural enterprise is already shining a beam out of the ma-

terial world into the realm of thoughts and ideas. From physics to metaphysics, there is much more involved in this Hadron collider than the clash of tiny wild particles. Thousands of scientists with hundreds of different worldviews are faced with questions about our own nature even before one single particle has been released.

In the midst of this diverse universe of intangible particles we are eager to combine an ordered cosmos with an inquisitive human mind gifted with comprehension.

How wonderful it is that we are doing all this together. Let the family be fruitful!

winner

Hydrogen is key to tackling the world's rapid ly increasing demand for energy. Discuss.

Matthias Schnellmann
Merchant Taylors' School
2009 Schools Winner

Hydrogen is the simplest and most abundant element in the universe. It can be produced from a variety of sources and has great potential as an energy carrier. As a result it will be key in tackling the world's increasing demand for energy.

Currently the development of hydrogen has been mainly restricted to the car manufacturing sector in order to find a replacement for the internal combustion engine. Fuel cells have been developed, which produce electricity to provide power from the reaction of hydrogen and oxygen in the presence of an electrolyte. No waste product other than water is produced. When hydrogen fuel cells are used, they have several advantages: they are mechanically and hydraulically very simple, they are quiet, cheap to maintain, allow rapid acceleration and are more compact than combustion engines, giving the car manufacturer more freedom especially in terms of design. Finally they can even provide a mobile source of energy at peak times for domestic use, when the unit cost is high or in remote areas, since they run on cheap fuel and are more efficient than combustion engines. Apart

from in vehicles, they can also be used in aeroplanes, ships and trains. In April 2008, Boeing announced that it had successfully completed flights of a small propeller aeroplane powered by hydrogen fuel cells.

Hydrogen could also revolutionise the domestic renewable energy sector. Houses with their own wind turbines or solar cells could use excess electricity to electrolyse water to produce hydrogen which can then be stored. As opposed to lead-acid batteries, energy can be stored for long periods of time and performance does not degrade. Electricity generated in the summer can be stored for the winter for example. When necessary, stored hydrogen can be used to power fuel cells. At the moment it is very expensive but with greater development and demand in the future, prices should fall rapidly. In countries such as South Korea where the main cooking and heating fuel is methane, supplied in pressurised bottles, it may be possible to replace these with hydrogen.

At the moment there are a few technical constraints. Storage can be a problem since hydrogen either has to be cooled to a liquid or stored under pressure. With both methods, the techniques require further improvement and they still remain relatively expensive. One solution may be to

combine hydrogen with another element, such as lithium to form lithium hydride which can easily be stored. The reaction can easily be reversed with a platinum catalyst. Another problem is the lack of a distribution network which must be developed, similar to the oil distribution system. This will be expensive and will initially rely on the public sector. A solution may be to develop the system, first concentrating on places where there will be a high demand, such as military bases, police stations, large factories and hospitals. This would create a basic network of pipelines which would encourage the first development of commercial hydrogen stations.

The environmental implications of an economy based on hydrogen and electricity as energy carriers could potentially be very positive, provided that the electricity comes from renewable resources or potentially from nuclear fission or fusion. Until this is possible, fossil fuels could still be used to produce electricity and hydrogen since the carbon dioxide released could be sequestered. In the long term it is vital that all hydrogen is produced by splitting water using electricity since this will ensure that it is sustainable, as this is what the hydrogen returns to when burnt.

In the coming years political will to

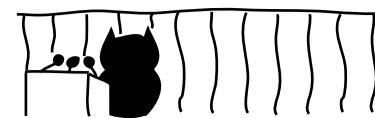


A Hydrogen Mini

develop a "hydrogen economy" will be vital to ensure continued research and development in this area, to create more efficient fuel cells and design effective distribution and storage systems. Stimulus packages, subsidies and grants will also be essential to encourage public uptake of the new technologies. I believe many countries will ensure this happens since for them it ensures energy independence from oil producing countries, many of which are politically sensitive. Also the increasing international emphasis on the need to combat climate change should also encourage political leaders to invest in hydrogen technologies. So far

at least 17 countries have programmes for the development of hydrogen, along with 30 US states and several Canadian provinces. With the election of Barack Obama it is likely that over the next few years significant development will take place in the USA. The European Commission also organised the European Technology Platform for Hydrogen at which over 300 representatives from interest groups took part.

As with all new technologies it will take several decades for hydrogen to become a primary energy carrier. Contrary to popular belief it will not happen overnight, it will be a long marathon.



China and the international pariahs

Dom Maciver

Over the early weeks of April, China and Russia refused to recognize a North Korean ballistic missile test, essentially blocking a strong UN Security Council Resolution that would have subjected the hermit regime to harsh sanctions.

For the two countries, China especially, this follows a long-running trend of supporting, explicitly or implicitly, regimes widely considered controversial or even evil. From backing the genocidal Khmer Rouge during the 1970s to arming and funding Robert Mugabe's ZANU-PF, the murderous regime in the Sudan and the military junta in Myanmar, China has shown a willingness to brush aside petty considerations such as respect for human life in its world-wide search for friendship.

One explanation for this readiness to seek friends unpopular in the playground of international relations is the Chinese perception of insecurity.

Following the collapse of the Soviet bloc, Chinese communist leaders are keenly aware of the threats to their dominance, the most prominent being the potential consequences of an increase in unemployment, damaging social stability and potentially uniting disparate antagonistic groups under the banner of nationalism: patriotic students, laid-off workers, discontented middle classes.

Given the scale of their financial reserves, the Chinese government feels relatively well-placed to ride this year's financial turbulence out. After all, they do not have to deal with public opinion furious at the scale of debt required by Keynesian economics that Western governments are experiencing.

Of greater concern to their long-term view is 'energy security'. The Chinese economy is heavily dependent on oil purchased on the international oil market, making them vulnerable to price spikes. Their demand is ever-growing with changing patterns of consumer consumption. They con-



China's President Hu Jintao greets US Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton whilst on a diplomatic visit

sider themselves to be more vulnerable to fluctuating prices because of their inefficiency in comparison to other oil importers.

It is this that propelled them towards association with Hugo Chavez, towards obstructing IMF attempts to improve governance in Angola, towards a good relationship with Iran (including selling them missile technology, according to the US reports) and towards arming

the military junta in Myanmar against discontented Buddhist monks.

However, it should be said that over the course of this decade, China has improved its behaviour in response to international criticism. They have pressured Sudan to accept peace-keeping troops, they have tried to force North Korea to the negotiating table (although appear to be almost as baffled as the West by Kim Jong Il's behaviour), and they have developed a

good reputation with governments in developing nations worldwide during the Bush years, advancing 'soft power' through generous and respectful diplomacy as America ruined its reputation in Iraq.

Why should this matter to us in the UK? In part, our prominence in world affairs relative to our tiny size relates to both our long history as the first parliamentary regime, and our unique position in between Europe and America. We see both sides of the coin, for example having long supported Turkey's admission to the EU.

This was recently backed by Obama as a means to open our doors to the Muslim world, but has long been opposed by France and Germany, who would lose their majority within the voting apparatus of the EU. Any decrease in American standing is a decrease in our standing as well.

To believe the output of the newspapers and politicians, our own society is fundamentally broken: apathetic, alienated and polarized. Twisted and divided by institutional greed, we are beset by police brutality, gang warfare, immoral foreign policy and political decay.

However, the incessant quest for sales led by the Sun and the Daily Mail and backed up by the broadsheets does not so often notice the strengths of our society from a comparative perspective.

The uproar created over Ian Tomlinson's tragic death has been impressive and deserved, and lies in stark contrast to the silence in other societies when protesters or dissidents are killed, in their countries or in others'.

To cite extreme examples, last year in Myanmar protesters were shot by the army after their attempts to influence the military regime and the monks who led the protest were arrested, beaten

and given absurdly harsh sentences (such as 65 to 100 years). The mouthpiece for the Chinese government, the *People's Daily*, in turn condemned foreign media reports that had criticized China for not exerting its influence on the regime, saying they had been motivated by "ulterior motives".

This is not to argue that we should always self-righteously intervene in other nations' affairs if we don't like their policies. China, despite its authoritarian tendencies and occasionally drift toward pariah statehood, has been the great success story of the 21st century, lifting millions out of poverty.

We have not been so perfect in our choice of friends internationally: replacing Iran's democratically elected Prime Minister in 1953 with a friendly authoritarian was one example of historical hypocrisy among many. Perhaps we have not put as much pressure on Israel to dismantle settlements in Palestinian lands as we should.

Nonetheless, errors of judgment notwithstanding, we still have morality on our side. The poor and displaced of the world dream of coming here, and are welcomed by the vast (sane) majority of society if they manage to.

The fact that we can replace our government without bloodshed is testament to the strength of the system that we have established, imperfect as it is. As Churchill said, "perfect solutions of our difficulties are not to be looked for in an imperfect world."

Interventions in Kosovo and Sierra Leone and the election of Barack Obama stand as proof to authoritarians that, as Obama put it, they are on "the wrong side of history".

Even in these dark times of economic crisis, inadequate government and traumatized society, we must not forget that.



Protesters in Myanmar were beaten, arrested or shot for attempting to influence the military regime



Centrefold goes to Europe!!!

ICURFC 4th XV on tour in Germany over the Easter Holiday



Foxy fox fashion fox hunt

Fox hunting is on. **Kawai Wong** samples some of the best outfits of the week. There is no guarantee that only the good styles are snapped in the future. So beware...



Queen of jeans

Jeans leggings are more comfortable and friendlier than the good ol' skinny for the summer. Somersaults are easily do-able and no sweaty legs either. Your main jeans piece has to be stonewashed this season - the paler, the older, the more 80s, the better. Mix with cream coloured accessories. Lemon shiffon, navajo white are good. Wooden bracelets and straw hats are optional top-ups. "I'm wearing a waistcoat from Urban Outfitters. The belt is Primark, the denim leggings are from H&M with a pair of Topshop canvas shoes", says Lizzie Boyce, a first year biologist.



Comfy school disco

Exaggerated shoulders are such a big deal this spring by Balmain. Translate the catwalk into high street chic by wearing a high and horizontal collar which draws attention to your shoulders. Alternatively, buy t-shirts or jackets with rufflings on the shoulders, if shoulder pads repel you. Gabrielle Yongue, a second year medical student adores the London's eclectic look and likes mixing vintage and high street chic. She is wearing a sequined top from Topshop, a velvet skirt from H&M and a lovely pair of suede pumps from Urban Outfitters.



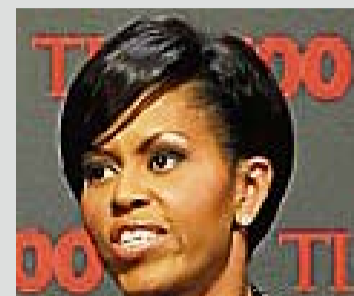
Bright cottons

You can still look as trendy as you please in the hot summer without piling on the layers. Bright loose vests are easy to mix and match. Wear a plain t-shirt over a pair of leggings and accessorise with an elaborate necklace. Also reference Giuseppe Zanotti's spring ad campaign - wrap up the sleeves of a boyfriend t-shirt and tuck it in a sequined mini (once seen in Primark). Couple with a pair of flat canvas during the day and a pair of stiletto in the night. Ishwori Gurung is a first year biology student, she is wearing a dress from Dorothy Perkins.



Grandfather Chic

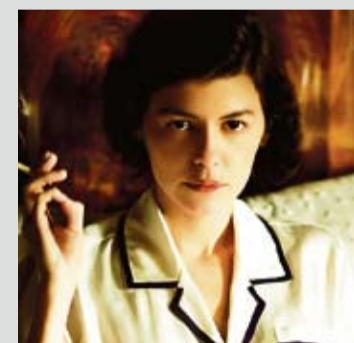
Have you noticed the resurface of the good ol' gold watch? A gold Casio combi your grandfather would have loved is at Argos for £17. Why settle for a simple comb-over which every other boy seems to be wearing these days? Go a bit wild, get in the gale and listen to your hair flap. Third year biomedical science student Rafi Latif wears a checkered shirt from Trinity Hospice, skinny jeans from eBay and a copper bracelet from India. A boy who is not afraid to accessorise, and was seen wearing a Barbour hunter jacket in the winter too, can we love him more?



Obama Sleek
How much more can we love this woman? And I'm sure a lot of girls who have troublesome hair will love her even more for setting a sleek and easy-to-manage hairdo trend. A friendly hairstyle for the summer: a nice fringe parting, styled with medium strength hairspray. Sick!



Colourful shoes
A new addition down in the felix office. Replacing Coffee Break Editor Ravi Pall is Ravi Pall Mk. II. He's a changed man. Gone are the days of the Asian tramp-cum-Metallica fan, and instead a well-preened, if not slightly overweight, young man. Included in his new look are these DC Park WCs skate shoes. Sick or shit? I can't decide. With endorphin-inducing colours, and a girth of a battleship, I'm just confused.



UK Sans Coco Avant Chanel
The most important film of the year, of the century, of the millennium, "Coco Before Chanel" is released in every part of the universe apart from England. The film - apparently - realistically depicts the rise of an orphan to the legend behind Chanel. The film has received favourable critics across the globe. Audrey Tautou was almost a reincarnation of Gabrielle Chanel in the film. But what do we know? SHIT.



Next week...

Fashion is always infused with different elements of ethnic qualities. To stay a step ahead of trends or to create a highly personalised individual style, what you wear traditionally in your country may be the inspiration for many fashion lovers and trend setters. Needless to say Imperial is an international house. And this provides us with a golden platform to explore your country or tribe's special costumes. If you have some exciting pieces in your country's unique



Attn: Fashion lovers & crazy writers

Are you a trendspotter? Do you know the difference between shirting and ruching? Do you browse the sartorialist more than facebook? Do prefer fashion magazines to food? Do you love digging out rags from second hand stores? If you answered yes to any of the above and you are a creative writer and have many budding ideas that felix fashion can feature, we need you! And if you are an expert in menswear, we need you even more! Positions for regular and freelance reporters and contributors are open. Send us a short letter with a brief description of yourself and your style, plus the ideas

and vision you have for felix fashion at fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk. Here are a few reasons why you should apply:
1) meet amazing people. In the past two months felix has met Margy Kinmonth, a BBC broadcaster who made the fabulous documentary "The Secret World of Haute Couture"; Hilary Alexander, the fashion director of the Daily Mail and simply the best fashion writer ever existed; Harold Tillman, the chairman of the British Fashion Council.
2) go to fashion shows. You're a member of the press, no need for bluffing.
3) be totally creative. Design your own projects and tell the world about it.

eVoting

GSA, POSTGRADUATE & SUMMER ELECTIONS 2009

STAND & DELIVER

Nominations open 12 - 20 May

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

Positions Open

- GSA Chair
- GSA Treasurer
- GSA Secretary
- GSA Activities Co-ordinator
- GSA Postscript Editor
- Engineering Postgraduate Representative
- Physical Sciences Postgraduate Representative
- Business School Postgraduate Representative
- Life Sciences Postgraduate Representative
- Medical School Postgraduate Representative
- Council Chair
- Community Action Group Chair
- RAG Chair
- Welfare Campaigns Officer
- Equal Opportunities Officer
- International Students' Officer

Greening Imperial Winners

The winners of Imperial College Union's 'Greening Imperial' competition have been announced, with two students sharing the £1000 prize. The judging panel consisting of estates staff, the College's new Program Director for Corporate Social Responsibility, academic staff, Deputy President (Education and Welfare) and the RCSU President who part-funded the competition made the unanimous decision to award the prize to two research students, Adele Peel and Steven Johnston for their practical approaches to making Imperial more sustainable. Adele's idea tackled student halls, proposing a competition between halls to reduce their energy use and waste production.

She says "I'm very pleased that student's in halls of residence will finally have an incentive to use energy efficiently! It'll be interesting to see the exact implementation and also which hall will be the best!"

Steven focused on the disposable paper cups available from catering outlets across the College, with a three-step approach to reducing the number we use as well as recycling the ones handed out. Other student proposals which came highly commended included ideas to reduce water bottle wastage and composting schemes.

The Union will be working with College to discuss the implementation of these proposals, continuing the efforts of many

College staff and students to make Imperial Greener. The College hopes to see its reputation as a sustainable university improve after achieving a disappointing 'Fail' in the People and Planet 2008 Green League Tables. Steven believes simplicity is the key, stating "Promoting a sustainable culture on campus will spread good habits that the students and staff can carry with them elsewhere in their lives." The People and Planet Green League 2009 will be announced in the Autumn term.



Hannah Theodorou
Deputy President
(Education & Welfare)
dpev@imperial.ac.uk

Greening Imperial

imperialcollegeunion.org/green

Enjoy A Relaxing Drink at the Union this summer.



Imperial College Union is the perfect place for an afternoon and early evening drink.

Join us in the Quad for great value food and drink plus chill-out tunes and shisha!





Is your club cooler than the cat that got the cream? Write to us.

clubsandsocs.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Fearless Fellwanderers finish Four Inns challenge

Heather Jones reports on the challenges the Fellwanderers underwent on the gruelling and exhausting Four Inns Challenge in the Peak District

The Four Inns Challenge is an extreme hiking and orienteering challenge run in the Peak District by the Scout Association and this year Imperial was represented by, not one, but three brave teams from the Fellwanderers. The challenge entails walking (or running) 45 miles (72 km) in a team of three or four across some of the toughest moorland in the Peak District, in a race that is almost double the length of a marathon!

The brave competitors were split into two teams of four and a team of three and set off (minus Jim and Ed) from the Union on Friday 4th April. Our first stop was Derby, where we met Jim and Ed and Jim's mum prepared us an epic feast to fuel us through the challenge ahead! After hungrily demolishing the pasta under the guise of "carb-loading" we drove to the start line – Holmbridge.

Holmbridge village hall, our glamorous accommodation for Friday night, was situated behind a slightly creepy graveyard. There was a definite feeling of apprehension in the group as we realised it was now im-

possible to back out of this crazy adventure – helped by Jim, who had done the challenge once before, making remarks such as "it's such a long way" and "it hurts so much!" Many of the other competitors were already asleep and as I looked around I couldn't help noticing that a large proportion of them seemed to be over-developed men clearly too muscular to properly fit inside a sleeping bag! The feeling of apprehension deepened somewhat as I noticed the female count was significantly lower than the often-lamented Imperial ratio.

The night was not a peaceful one, the snoring reached truly thunderous intensities and at times certain perpetrators seemed to synchronise, raising suspicions that it was actually deliberate and an attempt at sabotage... Thus, we were not as well rested as we may have been when we were awoken for breakfast at 4am. For those of us who hadn't really managed to sleep this came as less of a blow than

might be expected, but not everyone was in the best of spirits until their bacon sandwiches had been consumed. By this point excitement had set in and we were all eagerly anticipating our 6:20 start. However, before this we all had to pass the equipment check and for Ande who had already managed to lose – he may prefer mislay – three objects that morning this was going to be a challenge in itself! In the end (with some sleight of hand involving torches and Jim getting various items of clothing confused) my team managed to pass and we left the safety of the hut at 6:22, hoping for a time of 17 hours.

All three Fellwanderers teams started within minutes of each other but we chose diverging routes at the beginning and by the top of the first hill we had lost the C team. However, at the first check-point Fell-wanderers B had up Fellwanderers A by forgoing waterproofs in the wind and rain – assuming optimistically that it would get sunny later and that we'd walk so fast we wouldn't get cold. Fell-

wanderers team A was led by Nathaniel, this year's President, and his team were determined to beat Fellwanderers B, led by Jim the only Fellwanderer to have attempted this challenge before. We, of course, had other plans...

There was a general sense of fun and frivolity in the air as teams A and B made their way through the first four checkpoints together. However, at the fourth checkpoint Team B made our move. Instead of allowing time to recuperate and have a hot chocolate we decided to immediately push on leaving Team A behind. From this point the going became a lot tougher. As we rounded Torside reservoir and our route became clear, I had a sinking feeling – observing the huge mountain ahead. It seemed interminable and the terrain can only be described as "bog". Also, despite having veteran Jim there were moments of doubt as to whether or not we were even heading in the right direction! We saw many other teams branching off to the right but stuck to our path and were finally rewarded with a view of the road down to our lunch checkpoint – where before I could eat I had to have water poured all over my hands to wash them, having been forced to re-tie my bog-infested boot laces mid-way across the mountain.

By this point the paranoia which was to propel Fellwanderers B through the rest of the course had begun

to set in. Ande and I were so determined to beat Fellwanderers A that we were unable to relax at the checkpoints and after a 30 second stop would begin to feel an irrational anxiety that they were just behind us and if we were to wait any longer they would catch us up! Thus after reading the board of arrivals to check they hadn't arrived yet and wolfing down a few sandwiches and plenty of Haribo we were ready to go again.

The next checkpoint was directly below the tallest peak in the Peak District, Kinder Scout, which lay directly on our path. I named it my personal Everest and removed one of my layers in anticipation of the effort involved in scaling it. Jim had perhaps overdone the motivational horror stories and we were almost convinced that ice axes would be needed and we should not all expect to survive... In the end it turned out to be less fearsome than the previous slog across the moors but as Jim and Joe waited for Ande and I to reach the top of the hill (again) we were still preoccupied with Fellwanderers A... was that them we could see at the bottom of the hill? What about the team at the checkpoint? Why had we not brought binoculars??? Being unable to distinguish which team they were, we rushed on from the summit of Kinder Scout with only a passing glance at the view – deter-

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mined not to be caught up!

On the top of Kinder Scout I was merrily negotiating bogs when the result of a slight misjudgement (jumping into one) almost ended in my being consumed! I went in so deep that Ande had to abandon his poles to grab my arms and pull. We were lucky – I kept both boots! The descent from Kinder Scout was definitely the steepest gradient we encountered that day and we heard later than someone had been hospitalised due an ankle injury incurred whilst descending. Those of us with delicate knees (Ande and I) found it both extremely challenging and excruciatingly painful in equal measure and it was decided that overmedication with Ibuprofen was necessary! Much to the team's consternation Jim promised to meet us at the next checkpoint and practically bounced down the hill, disappearing into the distance as we gingerly lowered ourselves down... When we arrived at the checkpoint, expecting a Jim with a hot chocolate and a smile, there was no sign of him... Slightly miffed we went about arranging our now indispensable checkpoint necessities, fistfuls of Haribo and Hobnobs dipped in milk.

When Jim turned up we were just beginning to be concerned that he'd abandoned us – and in a fashion he had – whilst we'd been struggling down Kinder Scout he'd wandered along to the pub and had a "cheeky pint" whilst he was waiting for us! (It's true – there is photographic evidence) I believe this act alone entitles Jim to be christened Suavest Fellwanderer 08-09! Whilst casually chatting to the checkpoint ladies they happened to let slip that we were only half way...this was a huge blow to morale and both Ande and I found the next hill possibly the most difficult so far. We even debated giving up and making the challenge into a pub crawl instead... Ande especially was having a huge amount of pain from the knee he'd so carelessly sprained just a few weeks before the challenge and at that moment the Ibuprofen which had sustained us both thus far was failing him.

Just to help matters, at the top of the hill we met three Landrovers – necessitating us to leave the path to allow them to pass.

At this point our team leader felt the time had come for the magical substance which made all the difference to the rest of the course. Jim had made fudge...and not just any fudge, this fudge was so packed with sugar, so amazingly sweet that it had 350 calories per square! After just one square of this "epic fudge" we were all motivated again which of course had the downside of the return of the Team A paranoia... Ande and I had to be convinced that not everyone in light blue was a Wilfred (a Team A member) and that there was no need for a stampede down into Chapel-en-le-Frith – a brisk walk would suffice.

However, the unceasing paranoia would give us no rest and after I nearly left all of my checkpoint cards in Chapel-en-le-Frith as we practically ran out of the checkpoint, once again convinced that Team A were on our heels! The walk continued along a railway track carrying perhaps some of the slowest trains ever seen... It was half past five by the time we ascended our second last hill, up to the White Hall checkpoint – all the time watching our backs. We had been walking for over 11 hours straight and I for one had not sat down once! However, by now the end seemed near – there was only one more checkpoint to visit before our final descent into Buxton – the finish. Team A reached Chapel-en-le-Frith later and were actually both shown the way by a helper and then encouraged by the same man, who met them to check on their progress at the next checkpoint!

The final hill was conquered with plenty more assistance from Jim's epic fudge – I consumed two squares at the bottom, a quick shot of 700 calories of pure sugar and fat – and at ten past seven we arrived at the final

checkpoint. However, Team A and Team C, who did not have this magical substance to pull them through the last hurdle and had the increased handicap of completing it in the dark have described the guiding wall from the top of that hill to the final checkpoint as both "interminable" and "frustratingly endless". Happily, from the last checkpoint to the end was only 4 miles and by this point finishing within 14 hours seemed like an achievable goal for my team – cutting an amazing 3 hours off our original target.

Finally, the Team A paranoia began to subside, as the end seemed just around the corner. We ended up semi-running the last miles into Buxton along a rough track whilst singing and humming to distract ourselves from the pain from our shredded feet! One should never underestimate the power of "The Final Countdown" as a motivator – even our "acoustic" version! Finally, we reached Buxton and to finish we only needed to locate the school. We were so paranoid about getting lost that we

separated

rate groups of people to ask them for directions – including a pair of girls who Ande informed first that their school had closed and then that he'd "see them later". Narrowly escaping police custody for this unusual behaviour we continued towards the school...accelerating as the finish approached.

We finished the race at a run – and arrived at 8:10, just before dark. Immediately upon arrival a wonderful lady came and made us all hot chocolate whilst Ande tried to explain to the organisers how he'd lost the dog-tag he was under strict instructions not to lose! We called Rafal – an entrant from the Fellwanderers who had been forced not to compete due to injuries – who had been following our progress online. Here he let us know that our Team A paranoia was totally unfounded...they had not yet reached the last checkpoint, and as it turns out over an hour would pass before they did so! The C team were faring even worse and had only just reached the second last checkpoint. My first mark of celebration was to take off my boots and socks. This revealed the predictably blistered feet that most people suffer after such an ordeal and I realised that I couldn't physically put foot-

wear on anymore and wandered off to the shower – a necessary step before the first aid people would see anyone!

We all got cleaned and patched up as well as possible – in my case involving a wholly unnecessary sized bandage for a blister that the first aid team were forced to syringe. We tried to wait for Team A to finish but eventually succumbed to the temptation of food instead! After some of the best – or at least most welcome – baked potatoes ever, we returned to the finish where, still, none of our teams had arrived. Eventually at 11:30 Team A arrived with a time of 17 hours and 10 minutes. At this point I confess I gave up and succumbed to sleep. Despite doing our best none of our team managed to stay up until 2.04 to welcome the final Fellwanderers team back.

A set of cripples left Buxton bound for London on April 6th, but a very satisfied set of cripples, crippled by wounded feet and the aching of over-used muscles but whom would all agree that the satisfaction that comes from completing the Four Inns Challenge is hard to beat. We all extend our sincere thanks to all of the staff manning the checkpoints for their endless supply of Haribo, smiles and general optimism that made the pain so much more bearable. I, for one, would love to enter the Four Inns next year.



The crossing proved to be more challenging for some



A quick drink before the long haul



So we may have upset some people

Ravi Pall Coffee Break Editor

So it appears that some of our intrepid readers have taken offense to the text section. I fear that these people are slightly deluded. The texts that come in each week to the Cat Phone are often relatively abusive, sometimes funny, and rarely do we personally know who they are targeting. These texts are the views of the student body and go into the paper unmoderated. They do not represent the thoughts of the paper or any of the editors. We do not make any up, and all texts received are only edited for length. Even spelling and grammatical errors are retained in order to preserve the authenticity of the message. We do this with the aim to keep the meaning of the content original and unchanged. The motto of this paper is "keep the cat free" or in laymans terms, "freedom of speech." If one thinks back to when IC Rugby got reasonably aggravated at a particular text, you can see to take umbrage is not uncommon. Their supporters retorted to the unknown texter through where? The text section. It's clear to see that if you have a grievance you should be doing three things. Firstly realising that someone out there is pissed the fuck off with you and felt that the best way to insult you was (admittedly cowardly) though the pa-

per. Secondly you need to realise that one of the best things about this paper is the fact that we are not tied down by a man in a suit telling us what we can and cannot print. Lastly you have to realise that the purpose of the text section is not to single out individuals, then splash their name over 5000 copies of felix. The text section has been part of the paper for a number of years, yet only this year has the number actually been accessible. We apologise if anyone has text us in the past, but you were in fact texting an ex-editor's mother. I am sure she appreciated your snippets on the concept of student life. We decided this year that the 'in-joke' nature of the Coffee Break section needed to be lost, and opening up the texts to students was one of the steps we took towards achieving our goal. I am unwilling to change the editing style of the texts, as who am I to decide someone's personal view is irrelevant? I will however take more consideration when choosing which texts to use. We are lucky enough to live in a free country where we don't have to conform to predetermined ideals. This is what felix believes in and how it will remain.

If you want to read something that's amiable I suggest "The Very Hungry Caterpillar". To best of my knowledge that book won't be too radical.

Charles Murdoch

Battle of the Browns



James

Photo Explanation: "James Brown disappears into background at a gig in his heyday"

Known for: Being the Godfather of Soul

Catch Phrase: "I feel good!"

Hair: Loads of it

Interesting Facts: Brown's personal life was marred by several brushes with the law. At the age of 16, he was arrested for theft and served 3 years in prison. In 1988, Brown was arrested following an alleged high-speed car chase on Interstate 20 along the Georgia-South Carolina state border. He was convicted of carrying an unlicensed pistol and assaulting a police officer, along with various drug-related and driving offences. Although he was sentenced to six years in prison, he was eventually released in 1991 after serving only three years of his sentence.



Gordon

Photo Explanation: "And my turd this morning was this big!"

Known for: Fucking up the British economy. Badly.

Catch Phrase: "Getting on with the job"

Hair: Not as much as James

Interesting Facts: He suffered a retinal detachment after being kicked in the head during an end-of-term Rugby Union match at his old school. He was left blind in his left eye, despite treatment including several operations and lying in a darkened room for weeks at a time. Later at Edinburgh, while playing tennis, he noticed the same symptoms in his right eye. Brown underwent experimental surgery at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary and his eye was saved. Basically he is a bit blind which is why he probably didn't see the economic cock up that was in front of him!



Ashley

Photo Explanation: "The bright light on his forehead was doing his hairline no favours"

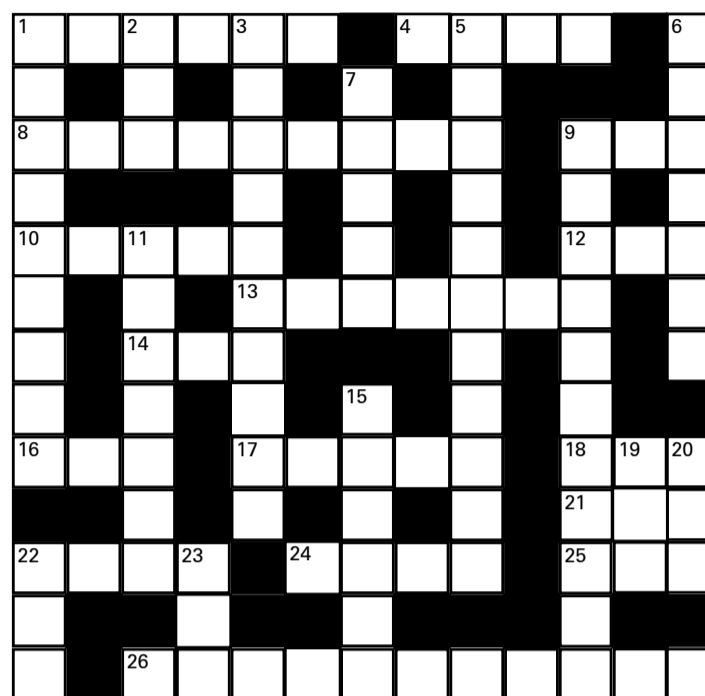
Known for: Winning a rigged election to the Union building by brutally threatening his nearest rival.

Catch Phrase: "I'm not too old! I'm still in touch with the student body"

Hair: Oh dear oh dear oh dear!

Interesting Facts: Ashley is actually four years old, however he has a rare syndrome known as the 'Benjamin Button' defect. If you don't know what I'm talking about, go and watch the film... basically he ages backwards! On a serious note, his experience can only be a benefit to the Union next year, because who else will be able to go to the local bridge clubs and bingo halls and fit in with the rest of the college and Union staff who have their weekly meetings there?

A Quickie (Crossword) 1,431



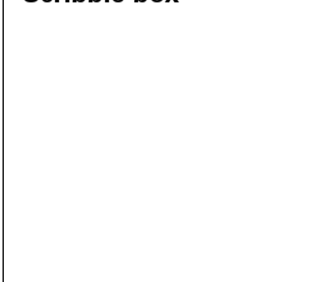
- ACROSS
- 1. Moronic TV fight starter (6,4)
 - 4. See 1 across
 - 8. Cohabitants (9)
 - 9. Bright, happy and... (3)
 - 10. Chorus of gunfire (5)
 - 12. Feckless student body (3)
 - 13. Capital of Indonesia (7)
 - 14. Grade of vintage (wine) (3)
 - 16. Male mammals (3,5)
 - 17. See 16 across
 - 18. O'Shanter (3)
 - 21. Granular gravy cubes (3)
 - 22. Silicate material (4)
 - 24. Nobleman - searchingly gaze (4)
 - 25. "The One" (3)
 - 26. Fabled damp arachnid (5,6)

- DOWN
- 1. "And did those feet..." - Stirring anthem (9)
 - 2. Brazilian city (3)
 - 3. Hokum (5,5)
 - 5. "_____, _____, three bags full, Sir!" (3,3,2,3)
 - 6. Homer's hero - Joyce's masterpiece (7)
 - 7. T'bone, Tuna, Sirloin? (5)
 - 9. Classic British cocktail (3,3,5)
 - 11. Overly concise - succinct (7)
 - 15. Warm and unpretentious (6)
 - 19. Wood chopper (3)
 - 20. Coarse fabric (3)
 - 23. ___ Widdecombe - "Stocky" Tory pin-up (3)

Solution 1,430



Scribble box



Congratulations to Dr. Science! At last we have a new winner folks. Good on you! Keep those answers coming in because everyone knows that points win prizes!

Crossword by Peter Logg

FUCWIT League Table

Teams:

Möchten sie mein Mannschaft?	360 Points
Team Shotgun	339Points
Team What What	48 Points
Team Dirty Medics	23 Points

Individuals:

Giramundo	100 Points
Hringur Gretarsson	60 Points
Jonathan Phillips	23 Points
Dr. Science!	16 Points

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

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

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

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

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

Dingbats 1,431

Oh hai y'all! We have a new team to enter. They go by the name of Laddzzzzzzz, but I feel that they have taken the use of 'z' too far and thus are definitely NOT lads. Moving on, this

week's Dingbats are all based around movies past and present. I will offer double points if an amusing anecdote is sent in with the correct answer. In fact the answer need not be correct.

1.

2.

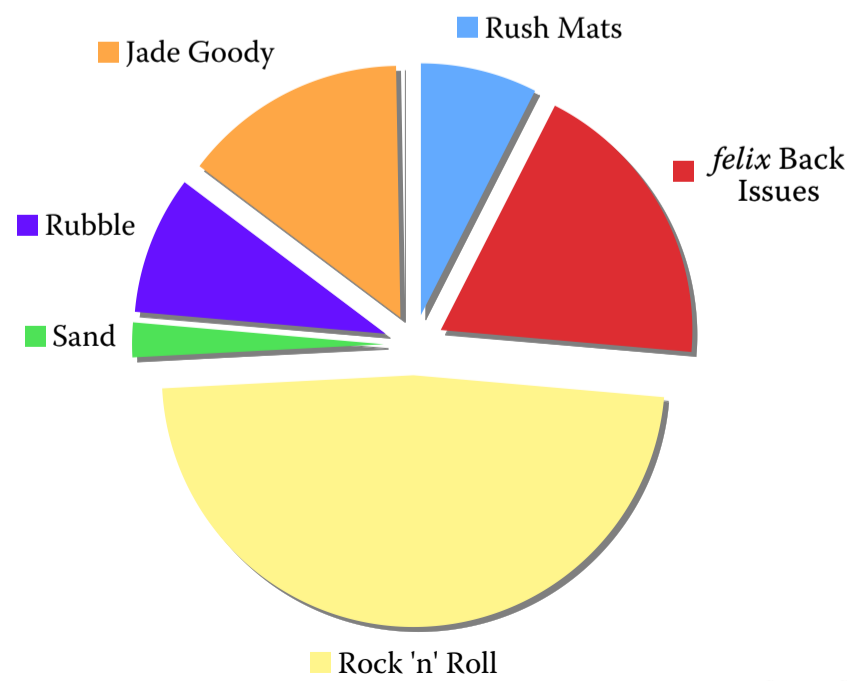
3.

4.

5.

- 1,430 Solutions
- 1. 'Pretty in Pink'- The Psychedelic Furs
 - 2. 'Stuck in the Middle With You'- Stealers Wheel
 - 3. 'Brown Sugar'- The Rolling Stones
 - 4. 'Rock Around the Clock'- Bill Haley & His Comets
 - 5. 'Without You'- Mariah Carey

Choice of traditional foundation materials for urban (specifically city) building preferences



Source: Starship 1985

Horoscopes, why on earth do I let this guy do them?

He's gone too far folks, we've given him one more chance to redeem himself, let us know what you think

Aquarius

You come back to your desk in the library after a gruelling exam on Finite Element Analysis to find that some git has taken your seat. In a fit of rage, you take the pencil with which you've been drawing your circular FE elements (that's not possible by the way retard!) and draw cocks over their notes when they go to the toilet. Classi!

Taurus

This week you decide that the Horoscopes editor has gone a little bit too far. There's a fine line between creative writing and a monkey just bashing the keyboard. You decided to give him a banana to see what happens and rather unsurprisingly, he can't figure out how to open it. You decided to do the honourable thing and shoot it, in the eye!

Leo

So, last week you got heavily fucked in the arse on a snooker table. Or was it pool? Whatever. After your cheeky shag you felt the desperate urge to lay a cable, and the green grass of the table top seemed the best place to do so. Shag over and feeling thoroughly satisfied you left. However the whole incident was caught on CCTV for all the security guards to see. Fail!

Scorpio

I would like to tell our Horoscope writer that what was originally written here was completely inappropriate. Shagging a transvestite would have been more morally accepted. I would like to apologise if any offence has ever been caused in this section. I wish to replace the current writer, however if you feel a second chance is in order, please text the Cat Phone. -Ed

Pisces

You wait to see what their reaction will be when they come back to your desk. As suspected they are pissed! They see you sniggering and decided to teach you a lesson with some FE books. You sit there, useless to resist as you get pounded by the books that you should have read. Blood pouring down your face you realise that maybe that wasn't the best prank, but at least you'll remember that you can't have circular Finite Elements. And also that you probably shouldn't write on the notes of your FE lecturer.

Gemini

As you walk the streets, people are beginning to glance oddly at you. This begins to un-nerve you ever so slightly. What could it be? You desperately try to find out and even pretend to ask directions just for a chat. Eventually you work it out, your hair dye is wearing out and people can see your foul ginger roots. Fucking ginger prick.

Virgo

You ran the London Marathon last week then did you? Dressed as a giant zebra. Well, well fucking done you fucktard. Firstly why run 26 odd miles? Cars were invented for that purpose. Secondly if you really must run, do it in your own time and on the pavement. Then the buses can still run and nobody gets pissed off. Except probably still me.

Sagittarius

This week, you suffer from a sore throat. You initially believe it is swine flu, but the only person you know who has been to Mexico was your French teacher. It turns out it has something to do with taking large portions of whole German sausage down your throat, until you loose your gag reflex. Well at least they paid to film you while you did it.

Aries

A lot of people have been saying it, but no one really knows who the Horoscopes editor is. So I thought I'd do everyone a favour and say, George [redacted]ch, you're a cunt!

Cancer

Apologies to all those Jade Goody enthusiasts (go and kill yourself, NOW) but she had been given the week off. As to why? I have decided that along with Phil Collins and Jade I'm fucking dead OK? Goody I want to shoot Lady Gaga. With a child's bow and arrow. By shoot, I mean kill. This may take a while, volunteers please. Shotgun the arse!

Libra

So you started your vegetarian diet last week. Excellent. By your overweight self not eating any meat it will obviously help those poor animals. What the fuck is wrong with these veggie types? Their only purpose is to piss people off at dinner parties, you have no effect on farming at all. Cows are bred to be eaten in the same way that the French are born to surrender.

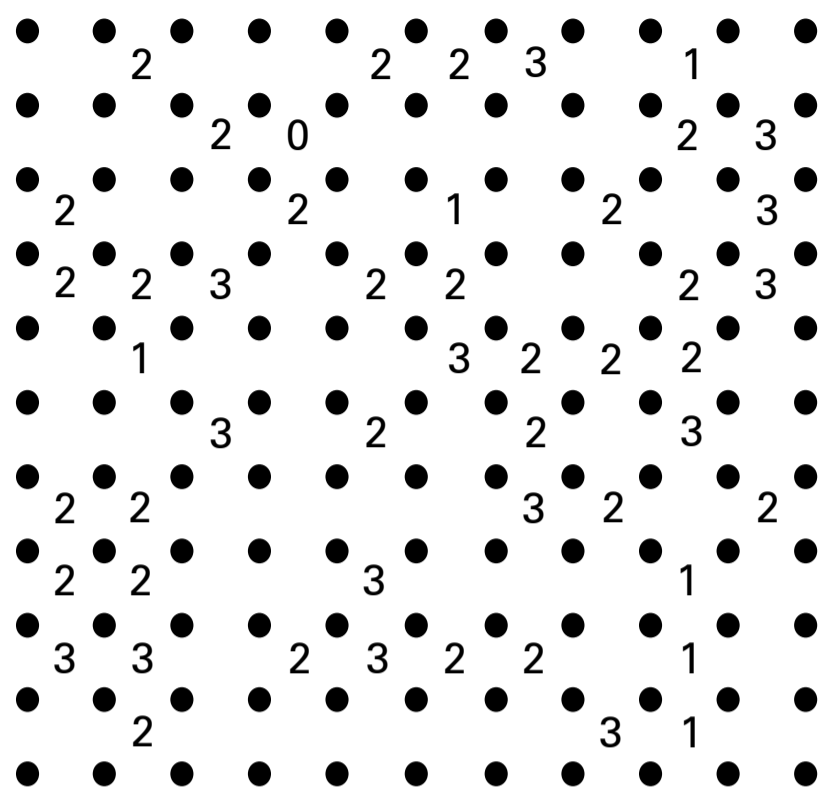
Capricorn

Ah Capricorn, you are to me what a prostitute is to lube. We go hand in hand. Or cock in arse if you are still thinking about prostitutes. But just because you are a Capricorn, it does not mean that you will pass your exams, oh no! In fact you are more likely than most to fall arse over it and fail. And then you will be kicked out of uni, the outlook looks bleak for you. Pint?

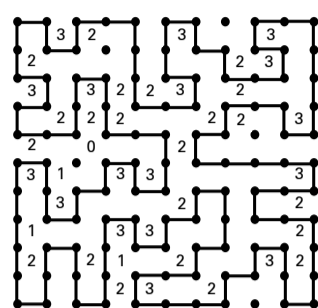
Fun & Games

sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Slitherlink 1,431



1,430 Solution



Möchten sie mein Mannschaft were yet again winners. I am assuming that they either have resigned to failing their exams, or are so clever that they deem revising for pussies.

How to play:

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

This week's Cat Phone:



NEW NUMBER: 07849 190 043

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

To the editor- printing childish bitchy messages about your copy editors in the txt section is out of order. people should call you a cunt to your face.

To the boy from materials. Please stop texting me you creep me out

I called the nhs line to find out more about swine flu... All i got was crackling. ... Its the apokalypse!

Dear felix. Ive slept with this girl a few times and been talking to her on facebook but cant figure out how to finish the message. Would ps i loved fucking you from be-nind work? 2nd year materials

Sorry about that guys. The sector [rector?] wasn't punched. My bad

Wordoku 1,431



Scribble box

1,430 Solution



Giramondo was the winner of this amazing puzzle. I want to say "well done and carry on", but I would rather say "I'z so impressed cos I fucked it up a lil bit!". Anyway, hopefully this one will work better!

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

Going Underground

GANTS HILL was the tube station gracing these pages last week, and well done to Team Shotgun. I hope revision is going well, and please take the time to fill in all these puzzles that we give you each week wing it my way. Nothing I love more than a good puzzeling!

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

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

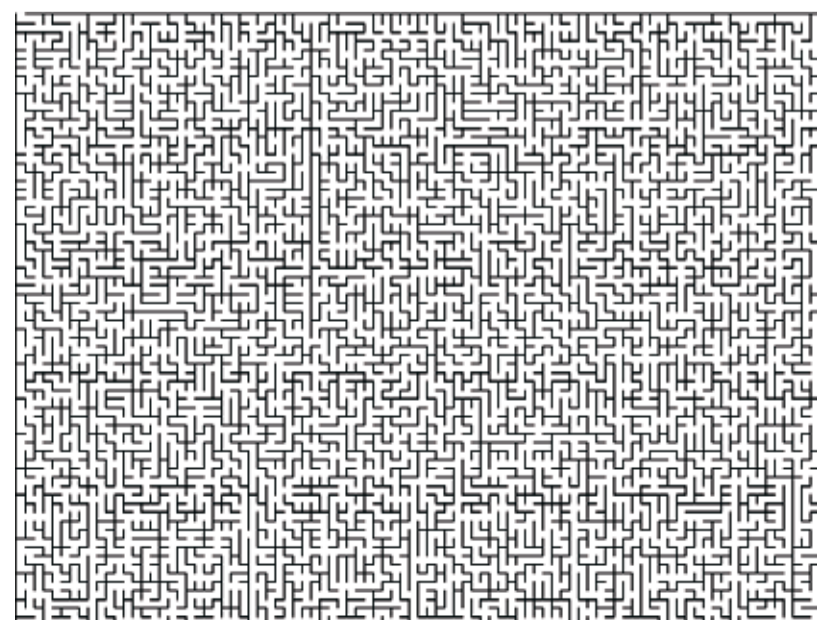
BANK = 28 (2+1+14+11)

So which London tube station sums to 146

Mentalist Maze...

I hate you all. I commend you on doing the maze, and even say that I am unable to do them so you must be all so clever. And what do you do? Absolutely

bloody nothing. Thank you all for not bothering to send me anything. If this continues I will remove this maze all together. Don't push me!

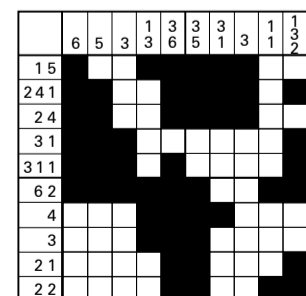


Nonogram 1,431

Nonogram grid with numbers 2-6 indicating row and column lengths.

Big well done to Team Shotgun for winning our brand new puzzle. Thank you for the numerous entries last week- please keep them coming. Remember that there are four iPod Nano's up for grabs. One for teams and one for individuals. Oh and it doesn't make a pic!

1,430 Solution



How to play:

Nonograms are logic puzzles in which cells in a grid have to be colored or left blank according to numbers at the side of the grid.

The numbers measure how many unbroken lines or filled-in squares there are in any given row or column. Look at the solution for help.

Hangman

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

felix Hangman interviews Elle Macpherson

The new Super-Happy-Fun-Times Officer talks to ХАНГМАН about how she plans to improve the Union

Miss Elle Macpherson, or Elle for short, is well known for being one smoking hot bitty, as well as a humanitarian. Hangman decided to ask her a few questions about her latest humanitarian project, tackling the sometimes dire and frankly dull atmosphere that can exist at Imperial College Union.

Elle No... Actually I have found some, but there's a small technicality.

Hangman Which is?

Elle They don't want to come. I'll have to pay them to actually turn up to the Union! Maybe dress them up a little bit, probably use some of my Intimates Range, you know, kinda have them as promo girls. Hot naked, promo girls.

Hangman I'm sure Imperial Girls here would approve of that.

Elle What are they?

Hangman Not sure. So what are these anonymous hot naked, promo girls going to do.

Elle We're going to get them to go around and talk to the guys, tell them how interesting their subject is and that their t-shirts are really 'trendy'. You know ego boosting, completely unjustified ego boosting.

Hangman A bit transparent don't you think?

Elle Of course we won't tell the male population that the girls are only talking to them because they're being paid. What's transparent about girls walking around the union in underwear complimenting guys? You're probably wondering where I'm going to get these girls from aren't you?

Hangman No, not really, I'm just wondering if you have any brain cells.

Elle America!

Hangman Nope no brain cells. What do you mean America?

Elle Yep, Land of the Brave and the Free and all of that star spangled stuff. They ship them over by the brothel load! They're kept in this shithole called Richmond University doing 'courses' such as "Travelology" or something like that. What people don't actually realise is that it's not really a university...

Hangman I think everyone at Imperial realises that

Elle No, no, I mean it's exists primarily

to keep the male:female ratio in the Union on Wednesday nights to an acceptable level. If it reaches 101:1 we're legally obliged to shut down. It's called the "Get-a-Fucking-Life" Act of 1989.

Hangman Shouldn't you be addressing the core issue, which is that many Imperial girls don't come to the Union. How are you going to persuade them to come to the Union.

Elle There's really no hope I'm afraid.

Hangman No hope?

Elle This is London. Why would girls with any sense want to go to Imperial Union when there's a whole city of real people with proper lives out there. Haven't you heard of clubs?

Hangman Excuse me?

Elle You know, underground, loud music, impossible to talk, sweaty, only fun if you're pilled up?

Hangman You've completely lost me. Anyway, you're saying that Imperial girls won't come to the Union because there are much better places to go. Isn't that what you're meant to fix? And why on Earth would American girls come if Imperial girls don't

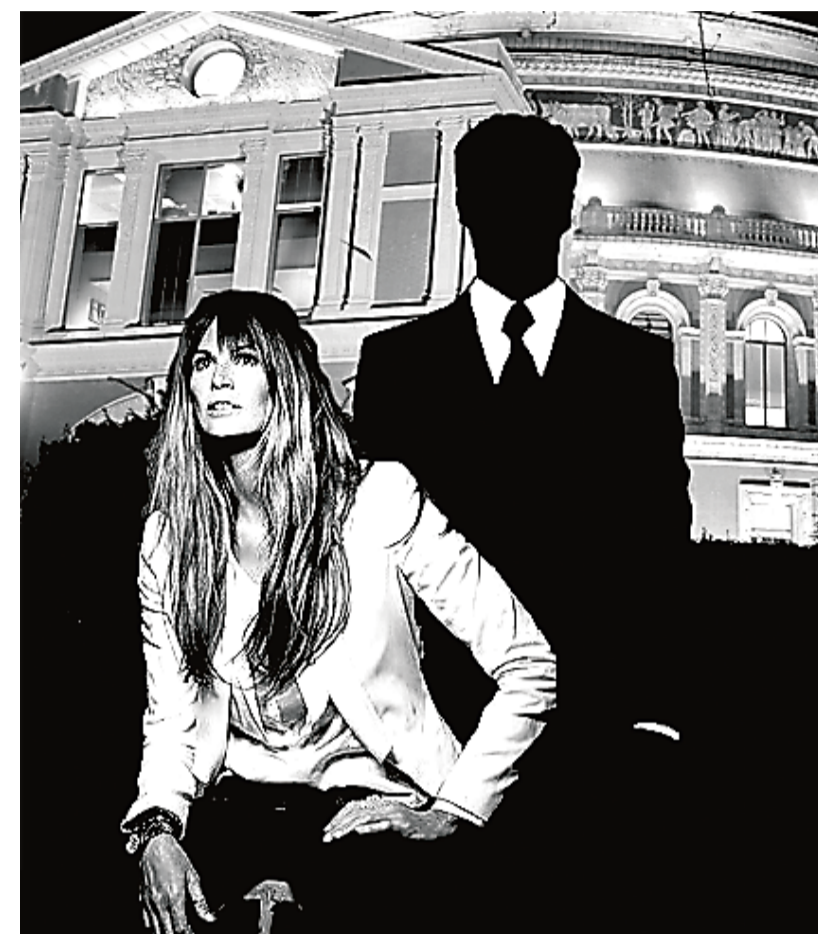
Elle I'm going to fix it for the guys, then maybe the girls as an after-thought. And it's simple, those American girls are dumb enough to come here... and also... ahem... we pay them....

Hangman WHAT!?!? So the only reason there have been so many Americans in the Union over the past few years has been because we've paid them to come here. What about the financial implications of this?

Elle What financial implications?

Hangman What do you mean, what financial implications?!?!? You're paying people, no sorry AMERICAN people, to come to the Union, you're flushing money down the toilet.

Elle Sorry still not fully understanding the problem here. We always lose money, I thought that was they way it was meant to be. Plus the Americans are the only people who seem to like the music we play



Elle Macpherson and Hangman pose outside the Albert Hall. You can't see, but Hangman has a boner... and a gun... You don't want to know.

here, got to give the people what they want.

Hangman So we're playing music that people who are only here because we pay them to be here like? Even though most Imperial students fucking hate Drum & Bass. You don't really know what you're doing, do you?

Elle That's not true. I know exactly what I'm doing. I'm paying hot girls...

Hangman well...

Elle Ok, I'm paying slutty girls to come to the Union and interact with the male population here. They're getting paid, the DJ's get paid and I get paid. It's a win-win-win combination! That's THREE wins!

Hangman Right, we're doomed. Well, thanks very much for the interview!

Next week, I'll be talking to the new head of food and drink, as well as having a look at a new addition to the evening menu in the Union. Sources tell us it's edible... We'll see.



We didn't actually email Elle for an interview, we just found her under this waterfall. You see, good things come to those who wash :)

Imperial Hockey Club prepares for tour of a lifetime

Amanda Cheung & Arabella Walker

Imperial College Hockey Club has arguably seen one of its most successful seasons in recent years, with a record membership of nearly 100 committed students achieving some superb results both on and off the field. ICHC Men's 1st XI went through the season with a better than 90% success rate in the ULU Premier league and BUCS 2B division, securing both titles and gaining promotion to the Men's 1A BUCS league for 2009/2010 thanks to a tense play-off victory in the final week of the spring term.

The Ladies 1st XI has also had a stellar season, reaching the finals of both the ULU and BUCS cups under the guidance of Captain Sarah Clayton, who has developed a young squad into an exciting outfit for future years. Congratulations also go to the Men's 2nd XI who have secured the ULU league division 2 title with a game to spare and will play in the 1st division next season. They narrowly missed out on silverware in their BUCS league, finishing second, as did the Men's 3rd XI, who enjoyed a resurgent season under the captaincy of Andrew Bromfield. The Ladies 2nd XI and Men's 4's have both improved as the season progressed; the latter recently enjoying a relaxing weekend excursion to Italy!

Off the field, we have been very lucky to secure the sponsorship of Merrill

Lynch this year. Their generous support has been crucial to securing the services of a top class coach, new playing kit and subsidising our annual fresher's tour and annual dinner and we are extremely grateful for their assistance. As the most sociable mixed sports club at Imperial, ICHC's social events have scaled new heights this season. Our fresher's tour to Brighton and the entertaining Christmas dinner were just two of the highlights from the autumn term that also saw curry nights, pub crawling and plenty of dressing up at the ACC bar nights. In the spring term, our successful black tie annual dinner was attended by over 100 people and our yearly mixed tournament attracted university teams from across London and even a travelling outfit from the West Country!

Finally, to top off a sensational hockey season, ICHC are incredibly excited to announce that the destination of the summer tour 2009 will be none other than the magnificent, vibrant and exotic INDIA!!!

This summer, the best club at Imperial will be spreading its awesomeness further across the globe to conquer yet another continent. We have touched Africa and Europe; now it is time for Asia. Over 40 keen adventurers, including our very own *felix* editor, have already signed up for this trip of a lifetime, one of the biggest groups ever in the history of ICHC summer tours. This builds on the success of tours of

the past, which have included destinations such as Berlin, Cyprus and Ghana.

This year's immense voyage is set to depart on 27th June with the first stop being the capital, Delhi. The itinerary includes excursions to Agra, home of the Taj Mahal; a stay in the beautiful northern city of Chandigarh, and a major highlight of the tour – a wildlife safari at the Corbett National Park! Needless to say, there will be a lot of culture (and heat!) to soak up on this trip, but not without playing a few games of hockey in between, after all, this is a hockey tour and incidentally, hockey is the national sport of India! Imagine 'Slumdog Millionaire' but with the inevitable drunken exploits and Chaz!!!

In preparation for the trip, an eager volunteer was sent to the health centre to enquire about which injections and tablets we needed (besides lots of ibuprofen!). The list is long but on learning that it was to be a mixed tour, the nurse got a little bit over enthusiastic with the Durex. This might be a little superfluous to requirement as there is a marvellous place called the Condom Bar in Chandigarh which we will no doubt conveniently stop over. The *Hindustan Times* describes it as having 'Interiors decorated with real condoms, beer mugs in the condom shape, staff dresses with condom prints... a bar cum discotheque..... like none other in India.' If you did not notice the obvious



Last summer's touring hockey side to Germany

hilarious pun there then you have not been revising as long as I have!

The second half of the tour will take the group on a train journey through the heart of India all the way to Kolkata, where we will be collaborating with Future Hope, a charity that provides shelter, education, medical aid and opportunity to children and orphans suffering from extreme poverty. Today, there are six Future Hope homes in Kolkata and a school that provides activities, sport and teaching programmes so there are going to be plenty of things we can do to help them out and support the children of the community, including coaching the children and contributing with commu-

nity work. Another charitable aim of our trip is to bring along some hockey supplies (especially goalie kits which are really expensive) to be donated to some of the teams we play or train.

This two week tour to one of the most remarkable places in the world would not have been possible without Merrill Lynch, the generous sponsor of ICHC. To raise funds to support the tour, the club is hosting a bar day at the union on Friday, 8th May starting at 12pm. Everybody is welcome so make sure you are there! Your support will be greatly appreciated!

One thing is for certain – this year's hockey tour is promising to be one big epic adventure!

All conquering Wilson House claim the double

Men's Football (AET)
Inter-halls Football

Wilson House XI 1
Piccadilly Court XI 0

Dominic Bradley

Last Sunday 22nd March saw the climax of the Interhall Football season, with Wilson House winning the Kay Dillan Trophy against Piccadilly Court, courtesy of a dramatic late goal in the dying minutes of extra-time. The 1-0 victory AET means the undefeated Wilson House team completed the league and cup double to the delight of all the Wilsonites, past and present, around College.

Every Sunday for the first two terms, a selection of Imperial halls of residences battle it out with each other around various London Parks, with the top eight teams in the league then progressing to a knock-out competition. The semi finals on the previous Sunday saw Wilson ease past Clayponds 3-0 with a brace from Javier De Esteban Chocarro, whereas Piccadilly Court just edged passed league runners-up Fisher Hall with a 3-2 victory.

The cup final match itself was played at Hyde Park, with the erratic surface giving the match the special magical aura that makes Interhall Football so thrilling for all those involved.

Both teams had brought with them a group of supporters, with Wilson out numbering the Piccadilly three to one. Chants of "gimme a P, gimme a C" came and went, with "We love you Wilson, We do" ringing throughout the afternoon.

The match itself was played with high tempo and was full of end-to-end action. Wilson were playing high up the field with the midfielders winning the aerial challenges in the middle of the park. For all their pressure Wilson looked most dangerous from their large number of corners, with one header clipping the top of the cross bar at the end of the first half.

In the second half it was Piccadilly who came closest to scoring. The Wilson defence, having conceded only 4 goals all season, largely held tight and were strongly marshalled by centre-backs Marco Aliprandi and Jamie Beal. Wilson Keeper, and Man of the Match, Andy Kearney kept his fine form going, denying Piccadilly through an array of first-class saves, including a tip over the bar and a sprawling save low to his right.

Captained by Aziz Kamara and led upfront by the flamboyant Diogo Geraldes, Piccadilly were deserved finalists and played their part in making the match such a tightly fought contest. Tough challenges were flying in across the park with one at 75 minutes leaving Wilson Captain Dom Bradley with



The victorious Wilson House team celebrating with a few beers

a bloody nose after a highly contested corner. With the clock counting down full-time arrived with no teams any closer to getting their hands on the coveted trophy.

With rousing team talks from both sides, extra-time followed. The rolling subs continued to provide bursts of energy and this kept the match running at a frantic pace. In the earlier stages it was Wilson who came closest to scoring when a pull-back from the right byline was met by Giles Ostermeijer ten yards out, however he placed the ball just wide of the left post, with the goal

beckoning in front.

With penalties on the horizon, Wilson were the team pushing hardest for the victory in the second ET period. Their hard graft was rewarded deep into extra time when a quick free kick from the centre of the park split the Piccadilly defence and was met by onrushing centre midfielder Dom Bradley, who with one touch nipped the ball over the advancing keeper, for his 16th goal of the season. Peeling away in celebration he was mobbed by the Wilson players and a 20-man plus pile on ensued, with the crowd going ecstatic

on the sideline. Wilson had robbed the match at the death!

The final few minutes were played out and spectacular scenes were seen as Wilson realised the dream double had been achieved. With the new East-side Residence opening for the next academic year, Piccadilly Court's FC fairytale ending was wrenched away from them in the cruellest fashion. On pitch Wilson House celebrations were jubilant and partying continued throughout the evening at The Monkey Puzzle Pub, Paddington, where pints flowed freely long into the night.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE HOCKEY CLUB BAR DAY-NIGHT

From midday in the Union!

£3 for a wrist band then £1 a pint!

Fosters John Smiths
Blackthorn Snakebite

Finishes when the
8 kegs run dry!

Imperial College Hockey Club
India Tour 2009



Come for the whole day!

Come for the good weather!

Come for a quick one at lunch!

Come to celebrate the end of exams!

Lacrosse club flying high after an impressive season

Elizabeth Keeling

It has been a fantastic year for Imperial Lacrosse. The ladies upped their game in the BUCS league winning all but one of their matches only to lose the overall title to Brighton on goal difference. However, their brilliant season saw them the highest scoring second team in the country and on to the BUCS Cup. Several lacrosse workshops with the England U19's head coach later, the ladies sailed through to the quarter finals but unfortunately Exeter scored in extra time to narrowly take the win.

The men were pushed hard in their first competitive season with a jam-packed playing schedule and two difficult leagues. However, the boys took this on the chest (in some cases, literally!) and improved immensely this season, finishing in respectable positions in both competitions.

The mixed team have been unstoppable! Without a single loss in the ULU league, the mixed team convincingly took the title. A further unbeaten record in the ULU Challenge Cup, they stormed through to the cup final against UCL and finally won the double!

Our annual tour to Oxford in November was a fantastic opportunity for the club to bond and the newbies were thoroughly tested not only by the drinking but a tough match against the Oxford University mixed team!



The Lacrosse club on one of their many successful social nights

In March we organised the Imperial Cup mixed tournament for 16 teams from across the country. The club managed to field two phenomenally talented teams, with Imperial 1's getting through to the semis against Brighton. Unfortunately, they were too well rehearsed and narrowly beat us into the finals. Kit supplier Hattersleys provided a stall, we held a raffle and ran a BBQ throughout the day, earning the club much needed funds. All this whilst enjoying the sun and playing

some excellent lacrosse!

Just one week later, the ladies and mixed teams took part in the National Tournament, playing against elite teams including the England U19s ladies squad. It was tough competition but a great weekend was had by all!

We can now confidently say that we are the best Lacrosse club in the whole of London, so a massive thank you from me to all our members who have been around and made this a truly unforgettable year!

Imperial rugby dominant in 2009 Middlesex sevens

Continued from back page

were dangerous.

The last pool game was against LSE, proved more testing yet Imperial still produced a 26-7 victory, which secured their place in the final.

The final would be played against Kings College Medicals. This same team had secured promotion into South Premiership B and earlier this year surprised everyone by defeating Imperial Medics in the UH Cup final, a competition that the Medicals have won for several years. The pace of the

game was the highest so far and Imperial were the first team to concede points. The next few moments were challenging, but after regaining composure Imperial were able to secure possession and run in the tries. Again Tom Carroll and Joseph Brown scored two a piece, with Nick Johnstone adding to the tally to make the final score 35-7.

Having retained the title for another year, Imperial proved once again how great they were at sevens, with Captain Joe Brown collecting the Silverware. Let's hope for the same next year!



Imperial's winning Middlesex 7's team at Richmond Athletic's ground



Imperial rugby win Middlesex sevens

James Pettit

Imperial College once again proved that they are probably the best sevens team in the world. Having won the Middlesex Sevens tournament in 2008, I.C.U.R.F.C. set out to defend their title. Eleven rugby players, one frog, the Chalkes, the Browns, Chilli, two Tim Burr's and a Brime time with Grand Children, arrived at Richmond to begin the long day.

The first game was played against old rivals Brunel, formally a well recognised rugby college but as of late have had a poor run of form and were looking for a return to greatness. It was not long, however, until the incredible Imperial defence secured a turn over that resulted in possession for the majority

of the match. This resulted in tries from Joesph Brown, two from Tom Carroll and two from Freddie Chalke giving a final score of 29-12 to Imperial.

The second fixture for the Imperial boys was against Suffolk University. Having brought such a large squad with them, Imperial were able to use the full depth of talent that they had at their disposal. What happened in that match can only be described as sheer dominance with the Imperial players crossing the try line a total of eight times. Two each from Max Joachim and Tom Carroll, and one each from Hugh Jarman, Coalan Cotter and Louie Barnett saw a final score of 50-0 in only 14 minutes of rugby. It was clear we

Continued on page 25



Imperial cricketers off to promising start

Navin Surtani

Imperial College Men's Cricket 1st XI got off to a winning start against London Met University on Sunday and came very close to making it 2 out of 2 against Sussex University at Hove, but fell short by 2 wickets on Wednesday. Two contrasting teams were faced over the matches and general consensus was that Imperial should have got more runs than the 289 scored against London Met. The top scorer for IC was our own El Presidente Ali Najefi who got a very stylish 65 backed up by Big Bad Zeeshan Malik with 39. In reply, London Met never really looked like getting the score because of losing regular wickets - Viran Parmar ripping through the top and middle order with 6 wickets. The opposition didn't exactly play very fairly and because of their slow over rate and the setting sun, started to waste more time while batting to eventually try and come off for bad light so that they could try and salvage some points. A London Met batsman, who straight after muddling a ball to extra-cover proceeded to complain to his mate/umpire that he couldn't see the ball. The players were soon off for light but justice was done as IC were awarded full points.

Sussex were the opposite end of the spectrum, and even though we lost to them, it was an honest, hard game of cricket with both teams fighting and scrapping for victory. They were such good guys that our wicket-keeper for the day Andy Payne - who did a stellar job behind the stumps despite not being a regular keeper - wound up getting a Sussex batsman's phone number. IC batted first again, and got a decent start with Matt Tarr top-scoring with 33. People got starts but never really kicked on until Daniel Johnpillai and Rajiv Shah dug in for a partnership at the death, both of whom were executing the now legendary ICLC (Imperial College Late Cut) to perfection. Imperial bowled well, and fought for everything, with Ankit Patel getting 3 wickets and Ahsaan Ismail showing some real fire getting 4 wickets on his first match on English soil. Eventually however, the 163 scored by Imperial turned out to not be enough as Sussex got it with 2 wickets to spare and about 6 overs remaining.

A note of warning that Imperial's fielding has not quite been up to scratch as there have been several chances that should have been taken in the first 2 games. Mr Jacob Chacko, standing at slip due to a hamstring injury, wound

up letting a ball hit his foot after a batsman had edged it. He then proceeded to say something along the lines of "why didn't I just put my hand there?" and "if I put my hand there I would have caught that". Mr Chacko then had to call on a substitute fielder because he couldn't field in the deep, put on an olympic sprint to the boundary so that Pete Swallow could come on and then helped himself to some biscuits on the boundary - job well done Jacob.

As for the freshers playing this year, it's fantastic to see people stepping up and making the old-guard fight for places. People like Imran Zahid, Ahsaan Ismail, Matthew Tarr and Navin Surtani have trained hard over the winter and are making good contributions to 1st XI Cricket.

On a lighter note, rumours around the club are that Matt Tarr has swine flu. If you know the man, find out if this is true or not - but take caution. The worst sledge of the week goes to Ankit Patel. After a batsman was out LBW, Ankit is quoted "That was more plumb than the fruit from the tree". Fines are common in the cricket club and leading by example is Ali Najefi who stalled the minibus in Hove and blocked traffic while doing a 3-point turn at Hove cemetery.



Imperial's cricketers on fine form at their match against London MET