



felix

The award-winning student newspaper of Imperial College

Guardian Student Newspaper of the Year

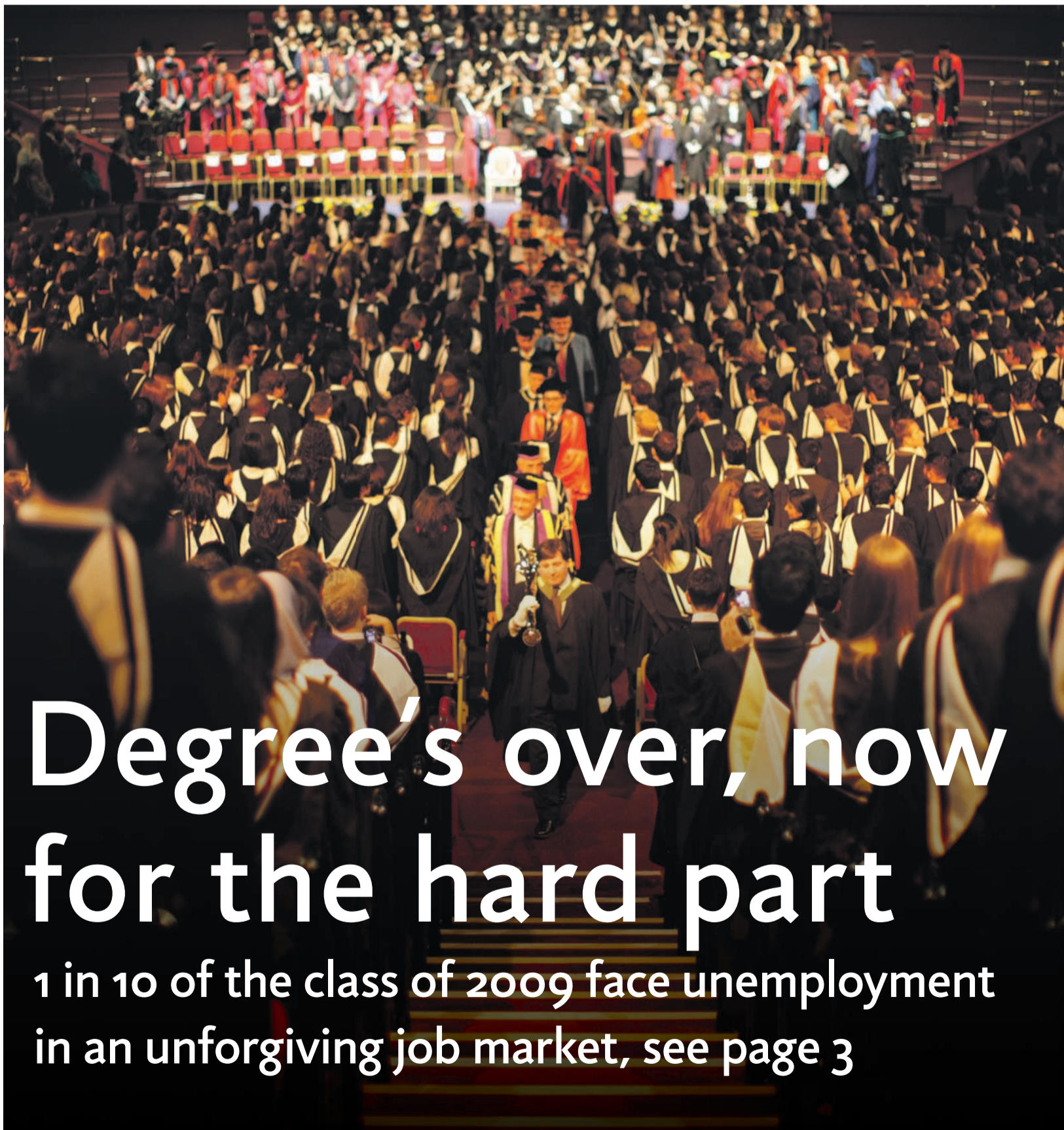
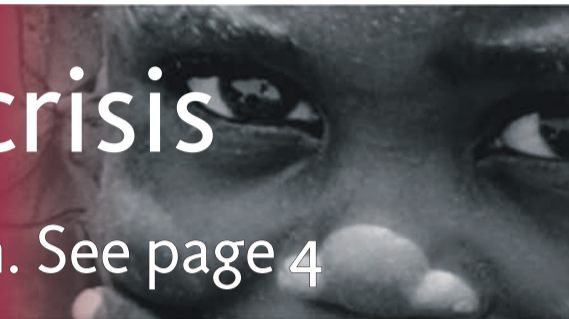
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Solving a Rwandan crisis

Imperial's e.quinox pioneer a solution. See page 4



Degree's over, now for the hard part

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Freshers' Festival fails to attract Freshers. Or anyone

Just what went wrong? Dan Wan reports on the Freshers' Festival Weekender 2009 and its miserable turnout

The first ever Freshers' Festival Weekender severely struggled to attract the crowds projected for an event of its size last weekend.

Even after all entry charges were waived and drinks were set at Sports Night prices, the festival held in Beit Quad came close to being empty at several points throughout its three day duration. Original ticket prices were £15 for all three days of the weekend, whilst entry to a single day's proceedings cost £7.50. However, after a poor turnout on Friday, the first day, the remaining two were made free of charge.

The organisers hoped the cheap drinks would help pull in more people, but the £1.50 pints seemed to do little for the crowd numbers, and one attendee described the place as "deserted".

Despite the impressive line-up, the Union's chronic problem of poor student turnout to its events lay injury to weekend festival. Reports on Saturday and Sunday night approximate a maximum crowd number of around 140 people.

IC Radio Station Manager and festival organiser Dan Fowler felt the festival was a reaction to student's boredom of previous Union events.

"How many times have you been sat on the small wall outside DaVinci's and over heard some drunken fool moaning that 'This place only puts on drum and bass nights?'"

Well the aim of this event was to change that mentality. I'm just looking through the set timetable now...house, indie, metal, rock, electro, acoustic, pop, hip hop/jazz – for me, this aim was achieved to the highest standard."

Chew Lips, releasing their material with Kitsune Records and arguably the band with the biggest reputation at the



The Ghostcat lead singer, Ali Cat, is so overwhelmed by the Freshers' Festival she collapses on stage (left), whilst the meagre crowd stare at the ceiling or floor (right)



festival, headlined Saturday night in which was described as the "biggest" day of the three. Their disappointment at the small audience was evident and Fowler himself was let down by the band's reaction.

"They have also fallen into the trap of thinking they are a lot bigger than they are and so sulked through the entire performance on the night when seeing the small crowd. Fair enough, it wasn't great, however when you're being paid you've got no excuses to not just go out and do what you do best."

The Freshers' Festival was the brainchild of members of ICRadio, Imperial's budding radio station. With fruitful contacts, and dedicated organisers, the event looked to be a resounding success. Impressive initial artwork for publicity attracted several other socie-

ties at Imperial to give their backing, including Jazz and Rock, Photo Soc, *felix* and especially DramSoc. The failure to lure in punters comes as a surprise, as the manpower and collaboration behind the weekend should have meant a packed Beit Quad all weekend.

As part of Union President Ashley Brown's manifesto, he pledged that more live music and entertainment would happen at the Union; the Freshers' Festival certainly provided this. Despite being a society organised event, the Union backed the event financially and administratively. Three of the major acts were said to have been booked through Union contacts, and money for advertising and publicity were provided. The timing of the event could also have been the root cause of the weekend's problems. Occurring only

two weeks into the new academic year meant the spread of publicity for an event of its size and duration was limited on campus and by word-of-mouth. Posters for the event were only seen around campus approximately a week before the event, and this was clearly not enough time for them to have any effect on the student population. Mr Fowler was happy to admit mistakes were made, but suggested that more of the blame laid elsewhere.

"Maybe the event started too early, maybe the pricing was wrong – these are all lessons that can be learned. However, if we want a Union to be proud we need to support it and events like this which are flagship and trail-blazing occasions for Imperial."

Where the blame actually lies will be debated in the coming weeks, and

the errors made are to be learnt from if the Freshers' Festival is set up again next year.

It comes as a great shame to many people across the Union; from the societies involved to the Union's entertainments team. Both of whom could have benefited majorly from the boost in reputation the Freshers' Festival could have provided.

Festival-goer and Fresher, Alex Karapetian, gave his honest and fitting opinion after initial bewilderment at the emptiness of the event.

"[The festival] gets 2/5 in my opinion – because of the overall sufficiency of the bands and the good work of the ICRadio DJs. The greatest limiting factor here was that we didn't have anywhere near the amount of people needed to be able to fully enjoy ourselves."

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OFTEN WEEK

Doom and gloom on Graduation Day

Kadhim Shubber finds the class of 2009 facing the prospect of unemployment after graduation

In the summer of 2009, the UK's Higher Education Institutions will produce 400,000 new graduates. They will be entering the labour market at perhaps the worst time in a generation.

This damning verdict from the Confederation of British Industry perhaps most bluntly sums up the employment crisis that Imperial graduates find themselves in.

They are by no means short of company, it is estimated that graduate unemployment will rise by 22,000 with 1 in 10 graduates destined to remain out of employment six months after receiving their degree.

The cause will come as no surprise, large companies, traditionally the largest recruiters of graduates, are reeling from the effects of the recession and have as result cut graduate vacancies on average by 25%, increasing to 56% for City-based investment banks. There are simply less graduate level jobs and this year's students are feeling the pinch.

But the environment is not as clear cut as one might initially believe. The recession has hit traditional graduate recruiters like the City hard, resulting in heavy cuts in recruitment. This has heavily skewed surveys by, for example, The Association of Graduate Recruiters which provided the above figure of 25% and "whose members tend to be large companies that are more affected by the recession" says Katherine Jensen of the HECSU.

Elsbeth Farrar, Director of the Imperial's Careers Service believes that sensationalist stories in the press have worsened the position of many graduates by putting many off from applying

for jobs. A view that a HECSU survey showed is shared by many university careers services around the country. While, of course cutting costs, companies are still keen to recruit wherever possible, keen to avoid a repeat of the 2001 recession where a sharp cutback in recruitment resulted in an "employment gap" several years later.

In addition, many small- and medium- sized businesses are continuing to recruit, offering new, less traditional opportunities for graduates. "Most students recite the same half dozen companies when they consider job opportunities, it's key that graduates looking for jobs think outside the box a little" says Ms Farrar.

Ms Farrar is well aware that Imperial will be affected by the fewer vacancies available but insists that Imperial graduates are still "well-regarded in the job market" and as a result are likely to feel the impact of the job drought less severely than the majority of other graduates this year.

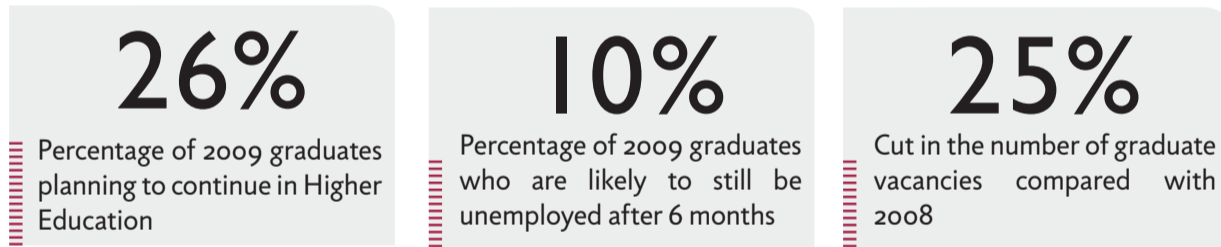
Many students have chosen to continue in higher education in order to put off the inevitable plunge into the job market until the economic situation improves. According to Highfliers UK Graduates Careers Survey 2009 26% of current final year students are planning to continue in education. However with only 20% of employers planning to increase recruitment levels in 2010 and a further 10% making further cuts, it is likely that students who put off entering the job market now are simply delaying the problem.

It seems there's little else 2009's graduates can do but play the difficult hand that the recent crisis has dealt them.

Additional reporting: Brigitte Atkins



Up in the air: 2009's graduates face an uncertain future as graduate opportunities shrink



On the dole with a 1st

2.47 million people are currently unemployed in the UK, of which I am one. Claiming benefits is not something I saw myself doing when I started at one of the world's supposed top 10 universities four years ago. Sadly, it has been a necessity.

A mix of complacency, lack of foresight and my own determination to strive for the best grade possible ultimately led to this depressing situation. I was fixated on achieving a first. I'd done a summer placement in the city, got the necessary experience beyond my degree – or so I thought – and I was solely focussed on getting the top grade. Experience, grades, job. Simple.

Except the third part didn't go quite so smoothly. After three months of having numerous applications ignored or being told: "you're talented, but we're not taking anyone on at the moment", I am at my wits' end. And I'm not the only one. Sitting in the Royal Albert Hall this week listening to Dear

Roy tell all the proud mums and dads how sought after we all were was like listening to the pitch of a dodgy dealer flogging his counterfeit wares. "What are you up to at the moment?" I asked the graduand beside me. "Well..." The single word lingers between us, "not much really." His reticence all too familiar. One down from him, the next graduand is just as apathetic. The two people on my other side are also jobless. Whether they're claiming benefits too is not up for discussion.

So, here we are: today's world-class graduates, tomorrow's waiters and waitresses – if we're lucky – all being congratulated on how lucky we are. But this is gross deception spouted to stimulate our false egos. Bragging about league tables, slapping the backs of the academics who teach us so splendidly, telling us how we'll change the world: it's all bullshit when the only change we'll be making is collecting our tables' tips for the next God knows how long.

Advice for graduates

1. Don't panic

This piece of clichéd advice is nevertheless quite useful. Don't run around like a headless chicken; one well written application is worth 100 rushed ones

2. Network

Lord knows that Imperial students are good at networking. Getting a job is serious business so don't be embarrassed to use every contact that you may have made in the last four years to try and find vacancies that you may not have previously spotted.

3. Get on the ladder

The world hasn't turned out as we expected it would, so adjust your expectations. If there's a job that interests you, don't worry that you're "overqualified". With some hard work, promotions will follow. Dead-end jobs are scary but quite unusual. Worst case scenario: find a new job later.

4. Find out what went wrong

Follow up unsuccessful applications to find out what held you back from the position. Maybe your interview technique needs improving. Use any criticism you get to improve your "game".

5. Keep building

The job market is tough at the moment. Don't let a year pass where the most constructive activity you've done is receive rejection letters. Develop your knowledge and skills and take unpaid positions if you can to increase your experience.

6. Don't let travelling deceive you

Truthfully, travelling is the graduate equivalent of an ostrich burying its head in the sand (beach pun anyone?). When you get back you'll be competing with a fresh set of graduates and unless you go away for 5 years, the job market won't have improved very dramatically.

Useful websites

imperial.ac.uk/careers

The home of Imperial's Careers Advisory Service with lots of information on upcoming events, talks and careers fairs.

london.gov.uk/graduates

Set up by Major Boris Johnson, ignore the front page which is patronisingly direct "what can I do with my ___ degree?" "Balls all it seems," you might answer. However it contains a detailed schedule of upcoming careers events in London

graduatetalentpool.direct.gov.uk

Useful website for internships, at the time of writing there were 2,524 paid internships, so get moving!

prospects.ac.uk

All the information that you could ever need to prepare, find and apply for graduate jobs.

Biomedical Engineering the best

Sina Ataherian News Reporter

Imperial's Institute of Biomedical Engineering (IBE), announced on Monday that it is this year's overall winner of the Times Higher Education (THE) Awards in the category of "Outstanding Contribution to Innovation and Technology." These were the fifth annual THE Awards, considered the most important awards ceremony for the UK's higher education sector. For 2009 there were over 600 entries from more than 130 institutions.

The panel of judges said that the IBE was being recognised for the "breadth of its innovation" in the areas of medical diagnosis and treatment, personalised healthcare, regenerative medicine and biomedical imaging. The panel was also impressed by the transferability into other fields of the Institute's research.

Commenting on the award win, Professor Christofer Toumazou, Director and Chief Scientist of the IBE said: "We are extremely proud to receive this special honour from the preeminent awards in the higher education sector. Our ambition at the Institute is to deliver breakthrough advances in technology that enable people to lead independent lives despite illness, ageing and disability, and we are thrilled



Biomedical Engineers get up to their winning antics in the Bessemer Building

that the innovation and leadership demonstrated by the entire IBE team has been recognised in this way."

The IBE opened its new state-of-the-art, purpose-built facilities in 2006. It aims to combine the strengths of Imperial's research in engineering and medicine, particularly to achieve faster commercial realisation of research outcomes. It focuses on the intersections between the platform technologies in science and engineer-

ing, including systems biology, materials, imaging and nanotechnology, and medical applications, such as bionics, biomechanics and tissue engineering.

Ann Mroz, editor of Times Higher Education, said of the winning entry: "Imperial's contribution to innovation and technology is simply too large to be ignored. The projects from the Institute of Biomedical Engineering are transforming lives in an enormous range of pioneering ways."

Imperial's school meals for Africa



Sina Ataherian News Reporter

The Partnership for Child Development at Imperial College London has announced a new project to help African farmers provide healthy school meals. The project is supported partly by a £7.2 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Partnership for Child Development (PCD) is part of the Division of Epidemiology, Public Health and Primary Care at Imperial College London. PCD is a global consortium of civil society organisations, academic institutions and technical experts who aim to improve the education, health and nutrition of school-age children and youth in low and middle income countries. The plan is to help governments manage school meals programmes more effectively. Many of these are already in place in Sub-Saharan Africa, but suffer from a range of problems. Most are run by international aid agen-

cies, mainly using imported food. The hope is to replace this with local produce, thus providing a regular and reliable income source to farmers.

The new initiative will work in conjunction with education, health and agricultural sectors, social workers and international development partners, such as the World Bank and the World Food Programme. The idea is that replacing a one or two ineffective organizations with a partnership involving many, will improve the child hunger situation.

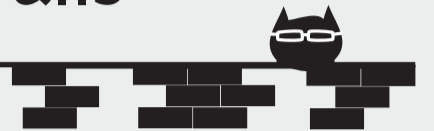
Project leader Dr Lesley Drake believes this will provide a double-blow to poverty by helping both schoolchildren and farmers, "By putting school feeding programmes using locally-sourced food in place, we can ensure that the smallholder farmers who supply the food get a reliable income that helps them look after their families and improve their businesses. We want to give them the skills and know-how to shape their own futures and beat

poverty."

Dr Drake argues further, "millions of school children are facing poverty and hunger every day. For many of them, a school meal is the only reliable, nutritious meal they get each day and it is often the reason they go to school. Getting an education is really important for these kids, as it helps them to get jobs and break out of the poverty cycle. We hope our new project will help governments make sure these children are fed and educated."

The first trials will be in Mali, Nigeria, Ghana, Malawi and Kenya. The project will be conducting a series of studies to analyse the cost and impact of its own, as well as similar, initiatives. It has been made possible through funding as part of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Agricultural Development initiative, which is working with a wide range of partners to provide millions of small farmers in the developing world with tools to boost their yields.

The world beyond College walls



Pakistan

Last Friday, Pakistan sent 30,000 troops into the lawless regions of Waziristan in a long-awaited offensive against the Taliban based in the region. The Pakistani troops, who are well supported by helicopters and fighter jets, face an estimated 10,000 Taliban fighters, and another 1,000 foreign militants, mostly Afghans and Uzbeks, who are operating in the region. Over 80 Taliban have already been reported killed in combat, whilst the Pakistan Army has suffered a dozen casualties.

The ground offensive follows two weeks of brazen attacks by the Taliban on key locations, including military headquarters and police stations in major cities. Western diplomats say that a Pakistani victory against the Taliban on its side of the border with Afghanistan would significantly help the NATO coalition fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan. The Pakistani army will be drawing on its experience in the Swat valley, where it successfully ousted the Taliban earlier this year.



Nigeria

Nigerian officials have announced a government plan to give 10% of oil revenues to people living in the Niger Delta, where the oil is drilled.

The area is plagued by frequent insurgencies. The plan is part of the government's efforts to stop militants from attacking oil installations in the Delta, which has had some recent successes after an amnesty was reached with leading militants. If the local community benefits from increased oil output, it reckons, pressure will grow on the militants to forgo violence. The rebels say they are fighting for a fairer share of oil revenues.

Presidential adviser Emmanuel Egbogah told the UK's Financial Times that the money would go directly to communities, bypassing powerful state governors. The plan could see more than 50bn naira (£207m) diverted to local communities in its first year.



Brazil

Last Saturday, a gunman in Rio de Janeiro shot down a police helicopter, killing three policemen and spurring violence which has left a further 21 people dead.

The helicopter crashed to the ground, erupting into flames, after the pilot was shot in the leg. Military police in Rio have begun a manhunt to find the assailant, but gang violence in the city, which has left thousands of people dead in the past decade, continues to be a problem. The violence has renewed concern amongst international observers about Rio's preparedness to host the 2016 Olympic Games. Brazil's President Lula pledged to do everything to combat the out-of-control gang warfare in the city. The President also promised an additional \$58m (£35m) to deal with the violence and provide the police with bullet-proof helicopters.



By Raphael Houdmont, International Editor

STUDENTS SOLVING A RWANDAN CRISIS

E.E.E. STUDENT **M. MANSOOR HAMAYUN**'S E.QUINOX TEAM ATTEMPT TO SOLVE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROBLEMS IN RWANDA; THEY SOMEWHAT SUCCEEDED

Rwanda Energy is an integral part to ensure an acceptable quality of life. Affordable electric power has several benefits for the developing world in areas such as education, health care and finance. The energy needed for most people in the developing world is met through use of primary fossil fuels such as fire wood and kerosene. The poor supply infrastructure using multiple middlemen results in that the poorest in the world often pay the highest to fulfill their energy requirements. However, much of the developing world is located in regions of the world where more effective use of renewable sources of energy such as solar and wind can be obtained than many parts of the developed world.

e.quinox, a student society of around 15 people, founded some 15 months ago at Imperial College London, recognized the problem of rural electrification and set out to create a solution to give the poorest in the world access to electric power in an economically sustainable manner. We at e.quinox chose Rwanda as the country to tailor our initial designs: due to its exotic location of being the 'heart of Africa', its proven track record of recent national economic growth and only 6% of the population being connected to the electric grid.

So what could be the technical solution towards rural electrification? The cost analysis of a western type grid network or micro-grid system proved to be very expensive with massive overhead and logistic costs associated with it. One of the most popular topologies to rural electrification is a decentralized energy production and consumption system by which each household is given a solar panel, battery and light. However, this type of system does not take advantage of the economies of scale that centralized production offered. Furthermore, we were interested in modeling the way people buy kerosene. Currently, people in rural settings normally buy kerosene in small quantities to fulfill some days of consumption. This electrification of the kerosene buying model we named as the 'Energy Kiosk' system. The idea was that each household is given a battery to use for lighting, mobile telephone charging and radio. When the batteries are depleted they can go to the energy kiosk and replace the depleted battery for a charged one in exchange for a small fee. Then came all the hard questions, in which we needed real quantifiable data: How much does a typical household spend on kerosene per month? How many hours of light do most people want? Are people even willing to change to a LED based lighting solution, or does kerosene lighting have a traditional value? Who would run any system we set up in Rwanda? The most important question: Where would a student society, with no experience or credibility find the money to implement any proposed solution? We understood that the only way an inexperienced group of students could



The e.quinox team Laurent Van Houcke, Christopher Hopper, Tom Luth, Alexander Rybka, M. Mansoor Hamayun. (missing in picture: Christopher Baker-Brian, Nd Kejeh, Alexander McLaren and Mathew Dayton)

establish credibility was by partnering up with well recognized partners. In the early stages of the project, we were able to confirm the Light Up the World Foundation (they have electrified over 100,000 homes in over 40 countries) and the Institute of Engineering and Technology (IET) as one of our official partners. These partners were only able to offer us advice on different issues when we requested it; they were more excited to see if a group of students could live up their claim and commitment. At this stage we started to contact anyone that had any association with 'Energy' and 'Rwanda'. It may seem daunting in the beginning to contact organizations such as the Ministry of Infrastructure and the United Nation Development Program. However, after some time you start understanding that each fancy organization is just a guy behind a desk with a telephone, computer, secretary and a budget somewhat bigger than your own.

Two days before the end of autumn term we secured funds from EnVision, the OC trust and the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering for four of us to go to Rwanda. This

lead to four of us (Tom Luth, Laurent Van Hocke, Chris Hopper and myself) landing at Kigali International Airport on 4th January 2009 12.05 PM local time. We had a few meetings organized with the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) and with the development arm of the Belgian Government i.e. the Belgian Technical Cooperation. Furthermore, we had a meeting organized with a local solar panel supplier and an information staff member of the Ministry of Infrastructure. So we started off at KIST and gave our pitch to the Rector of KIST and 15 minutes into the meeting he seemed very impressed and picked up his phone and started to call someone. We initially thought that this was a bit of a rude thing to do, but the Rector explained afterwards that he just called the Minister of Energy of Rwanda and that he had agreed to meet us the following day. So this was the end of our day: a few hours after we landed, we were secured to give a pitch to the Minister of Energy himself in one of his fancy board rooms.

The following day we were picked up from our one star hotel by a SUV with diplomatic plates to our first meeting

with the advisors to the Minister of Energy. Four inexperienced students in their early twenties were asked to give a pitch to some 25 top advisors to the Minister regarding the concept of the Energy Kiosk, and how it may be placed in their national energy strategy. We answered each question they had in a careful manner (we had done a lot of background research and knew what we were talking about). Two hours later, we came out with smiling faces, as the chief advisor agreed that our Energy Kiosk concept is a possible solution towards rural electrification in Rwanda and could be included in the national energy policy if we prove that the system is economically sustainable. Later in the afternoon we met the Minister of Energy (Dr. Albert Butare) and received the official support from the Government of Rwanda, through the Ministry of Infrastructure. So we went home that day having obtained the official support from the Government of Rwanda, having got our project VAT exempted and promises for partial funding for implementation.

This story repeated itself a few times and by the end of our January survey trip to Rwanda we added to our list

partners such as KIST, the Belgian Technical Cooperation and the United Nation Development Program. We then visited 8 villages and surveyed people's energy habits and enquired the local governments the possibility for us to implement the pilot project in their village. When we returned to London on 16th January 2009, we had achieved all of our objectives including a location for a pilot project and obtaining all the required local support.

After the January trip, the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering committed £10,000 towards the electrical equipment cost in Rwanda and the Government of Rwanda generously committed 11,000 Euros for infrastructure. By end of May we had all of our funding confirmed. Now came the real hard work: to turn all of our words, written documents and promises, into reality i.e. a tangible product. Obvious questions popped up: Do we have enough money? How do we get equipment to Rwanda? How long will it take to install the Energy Kiosk? We started to revise for exams and in-between squeeze in negotiations with suppliers and with our local partners in Rwanda. Although recession was hitting hard and unemployment was at an all time high, most of the e.quinox members had internships to do. This resulted in one of the most intense summers in our lives. 8 AM - 11 PM working, in which we worked for our respective companies in the morning and on e.quinox in the evening. The supply chain was quite complicated especially as we needed our main technology, 'The SparkBox', to be manufactured in-house for 60 households.

There was an official contract between e.quinox and the Government of Rwanda to implement the Energy Kiosk. One of our contractual obligations was to train and employ two shopkeepers to handle the day-to-day running of our system. This was probably one of the hardest tasks during our Energy Kiosk implementation. Firstly, we had no means of communicating with our potential candidates directly. We had to use our local team from Kigali Institute of Science and Technology to help us in the translation process. We organized an assessment centre type style selection process which involved interviews, a practical exam and a written exam. Finally, two people were selected and were given confirmed employment till the end of December. The employees were very enthusiastic to have been given the opportunity to work with the new technology in the village.

A few weeks later we had a fully running Energy Kiosk. During our last meeting with the Minister of Energy and his advisors there were suggestions that the Government of Rwanda will sponsor up to 10 new implementations of our Energy Kiosk concept in Rwanda (valued in excess of 100,000 Euros).

Each member of e.quinox contributed to a critical element of the project and together we worked to achieve something many said would impossi-

Do people in Rwanda need electric power?

None of the members of e.quinox were from Rwanda or had a firm idea of conditions people lived under there. The first fundamental question was: do people in the developing world, in particular Rwanda, need electric power? Rather than looking at the source of energy, such as firewood or solar panels, they started to investigate the uses of energy. From obtaining reports on energy consumption in East African Countries and by talking to one of our initial partners, the Light up the World Foundation, the team found that people in the developing world spend a considerable amount of their income on kerosene based lighting applications in their homes. Using this information the team set the design criteria. They needed to make a system for home lighting application in a renewable manner which is of higher quality and cheaper than kerosene.



Angry Geek: you are all jobless twats



“Surprised? You essentially bullshitted your way through several years of education”



Hooray! You've graduated! Well, you haven't, obviously, otherwise you wouldn't be reading this, but well done indeed to all those who did put on a dress and a stupid face on Wednesday and paraded up and down merry South Kensington looking like you'd just been nominated for a fucking Nobel prize. Well done you. You managed to maintain a level of work slightly below that which you showed at A-Level for four years, without dropping face-first into a bowl of Red Bull and Chinese food, falling unconscious and waking up on a plinth in Trafalgar Square. Three

cheers for you and your unstoppable academic momentum.

Does it really require the Royal Albert Hall to be emptied and filled with thousands of simpering, besuited cocks? Does it? It lasted for almost half as long as your time at secondary school did, you worked probably half as hard as you did at secondary school, and yet for some reason you've obtained a License for Fuckwittery and plan to practise it with extreme prejudice. The bastards stroll back and forth along the walkway, their rented robes fluttering in the wind like a coat made of dreams. A dream coat. A dream coat that says yes, I am a graduate. I

have graduated. Forget the fact I know sweet Fanny Adams about my subject and am going to spend my life eking out a living working for a fucking project management team or pretending to do a PhD, let's all just focus on the fact that I'm a graduate.

And they've all got the same look on their face, right? It looks like they're about to start high-fiving everyone in the room. Literally everyone - a Professor will walk up to one of them and it looks like a scene from a musical about to take place. Which I guess makes sense when you realise that more than half of these people are probably surprised they managed to get this far -

you would be too, if you'd essentially bullshitted your way through several years of education.

Oh, but I'm being mean. This is a big moment, right? It's the time in everyone's life where they enter the real world, where they become an adult, an educated member of society. Let them have this time, this moment of reflection, you old bastard.

No. Fuck off. They're the exact same cockbags that were prowling around the canteen, the laboratories, the lecture halls last year, sneering and smug, it's just that this year they're allowed to do it. Why the hell would I let them off just because they've got an excuse.

If the Rector's going to stand there and individually kiss the arse of every one of them, from the first class Aeronautical Engineers through to the third class Materials graduates, then I think we're well within our rights to set fire to the occasional ceremonial robe.

So it's Friday for you. It's too late for you to make a difference to the year just gone. But we can still act now. So let's make today Kick A Fourth Year In The Abdomen day, as a sort of pre-emptive strike.

Want to tell me how your final year project was a lot of work, actually? Email me: anangrygeek@gmail.com

Aditya Narayanan: the nature of friendship



“Students here have never lived away from home before. The workload is intense and many get homesick”



What is the nature of a friendship? Think about that for a second. Seeing all the freshers around the place, faces bright with enthusiasm at the thought of university life I wonder, as someone on the verge of departure, is there any advice I could pass on. What have I learnt that is of use during my time here?

Look in any lecture theatre and there seems to be an unwitting segregation taking place between students on the same course. It is a definite elephant in the room; the sort of issue that people mutter about under their breath but rarely discuss seriously. In most cases it is unconscious and not intended to alienate anyone but in a few cases it results in the type of attitude where a group of people (including myself) were prevented from joining one of the overseas societies in our second year.

Why? Because we weren't from the country in question.

An international student I know once confessed she thought local students would not accept her if she socialised with them. This same person then boasts of her pride at the fact her fellow nationals all look out for each other. Maybe if she treated everyone equally instead of singling out those with the same passport as her she would not have such a problem. These things work both ways, and if your attitude towards people is already insular then what right do you have to complain? Someone else complains that those in their current social group do not understand them. However, they refuse to make friends outside of the group because they “wouldn't be lasting friends” due to the fact that after graduation they will return home. Friends of mine tell me I must be ‘one of theirs’ because I hang out with them,

a perverse form of acceptance considering it is not based on who I am as a person. Last time I checked, I chose my friends based on whether I could trust them, not whether we shared some superficial link. In my experience, closed-mindedness is an attribute of individuals rather than any particular group - all it takes is one rotten apple for the entire bunch to be tainted.

Put yourself in another person's shoes. A large proportion of students here have never lived away from home before. The workload is intense and many get homesick - I know I did. Most of us are in the same boat, no matter where we're from or what we're studying, and unless we actually attempt to get to know someone, how can we judge whether they are similar to us or not? In my first year I spent excessive amounts of time with people I had nothing in common with purely because it was convenient to do so. It

was not until that February I actually met a person I could talk to on a deeper level, and that too in the unlikeliest of circumstances. My closest friend is someone I only became friends with by accident, as we were revising in the same location during exam season. On the surface we are all from vastly different backgrounds, yet a lot of our attitudes are similar.

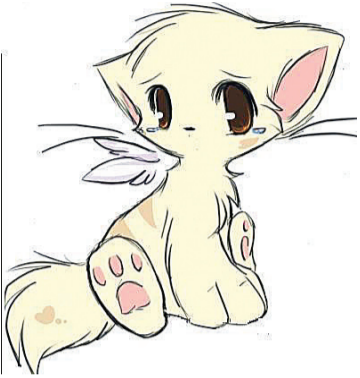
Imperial with the same clichés: not enough girls, the union sucks, people are boring/antisocial. These people never show any intention to go out and meet people anyway, and treat alternative viewpoints to theirs with disdain.

In a similar vein, there are societies whose openness towards others is almost non-existent. One only needs to look at the level of backstabbing that occurs within the committees of most societies (not to mention the union itself) to begin to feel apathetic towards its proceedings.

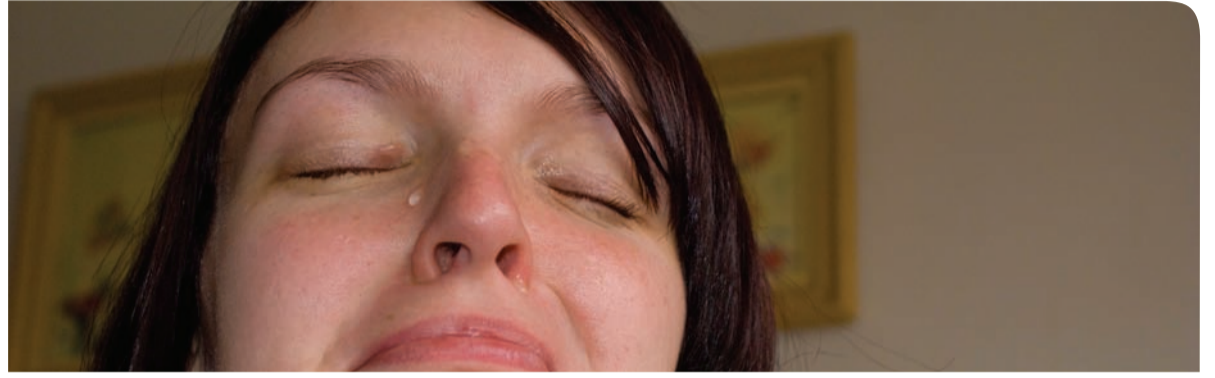
For me, a friend is someone who will bend their back to help you when you need it, yet over the last three years I have seen numerous people happy to sit in a comfort zone because it is easy to do so. Removed from the convenience of the situation, these people would probably never be friends in the first place.

Ask yourselves, be you new or soon-to-graduate, what makes you as a person? Is it measured by the company you keep? Or is it defined by the choices you make in life. Get out of your comfort zone and meet people you would not normally socialise with; it will be worth it. They could be the friends you have for life. Opening yourself up a little will make you appreciate your existing friends as well as potential new ones. Don't feel intimidated, most people are just as self-conscious as you are. If the roles were reversed, wouldn't you appreciate a friendly hello?

9 Lives: is graduation actually a happy occasion?



“When it’s all over, we’re expected to celebrate the poor form of living we have endured for so long.”



I seem to have been the only person in the whole of Imperial who does not feel the need to thrive off the euphoria of wearing an impressive billowing Harry-Potter-like-gown.

I have bumped into some old friends and they actually had a vivid look of incredulity on their stunned faces when I said ‘Yeah, I’m not going to graduation but I’m going to do some work instead!’ My nerdish traits surprise even myself sometimes, I am doing a postgraduate course so I’m not really in need of any graduation ceremonies at present.

Well, as you can imagine, most people thought I was mad for not wanting to attend my own graduation: ‘why

aren’t you going?’ was the general question. Well, the answer to that is because it’s all a lie! Of course it’s all a lie! We spend 3-4 years toiling and complaining and shitting about absolutely everything! Then when it’s all over, we’re expected to celebrate the poor form of living we have endured for so long. Sorry, but the harrowing experiences of university life, coupled with that of living at home and still being made to feel like a child, does not imprint many happy memories for me.

The second reason for my absence was because when I bought the tickets to let the parents into this student haven we call University, they mentioned how bored they were when they went

to my older sister’s graduation, subsequently making me refund the tickets feeling wholly un-proud, whilst booking their own tickets for a trip abroad.

Thirdly, I didn’t get the class of degree that I was aiming for. I was close, but it didn’t happen. So acting like I’m all happy for something that I feel I failed at is not something I want to do. Hence, I shall, once again, be the odd-ball and act anti-socially, by being the annoyingly depressive person out of a crowd of happy smiling people with flashing cameras and proud parents.

I must say, there was a mellow sadness about today. Perhaps it was because I felt alienated, and subjected to incredulous looks the whole day that

made my sadness kick in.

On an utterly random note, I made a complete utter fool of myself on the tube yesterday. Having tried to act social, rather than the other people who looked like the essence of life had been knocked out of them, I stabbed at a conversation with a middle aged lady sitting next to me. She was looking over a publicising leaflet for some artist called Cecil Collins, and I unfortunately mixed that up in my trying-to-be-social brain with Cecil Helman. I spoke suddenly to the woman, saying how I met the person described on the leaflet; she looked very interested, but said that I couldn’t have met him, because he had been dead for 10 years.

Oh crap.

Then I apologised profusely saying how I had mixed the artist up with Cecil Helman, who I was contemplating whether I had actually met before. I have just googled him now, and yup-he’s dead too. To cover up my huge embarrassment, I enquired after the artist, and the lady got a bit passionate and started talking about the soul, something that terrified me a little, I have no idea why. I was then incredibly unsocial and returned to my newspaper with a grace befitting incivility of the highest rank.

She said goodbye when she left the train.

James Cox: why I’m in love with the East



“It is very often too extrovert for an engineering student like me, I don’t think I’ll ever live somewhere... so much fun”



We’re pretty lucky guys here at Imperial; not only do we get to gloat at our mates over the fact that we’re cleverer than them, we also get to live in what many people believe to be the greatest city in the world.

But it is so big, and there is so much to do, it is rare that we ever manage to venture beyond Onanon on a Thursday night, or on very special occasions, Camden. Which is a shame, because we’re missing out on the most exciting, vibrant and coolest part of the city: the East.

I was lucky enough to live in Shoreditch over the summer. Yep, it is very often too extrovert for an engineering student like me, I don’t think I’ll ever live somewhere that is so much fun – the thing that seems to be exclusively what most of its residents live for!

For a start, bars-wise it’s by far my favourite place to go out at night. It’s wealth of colourful individualistic drinking and partying holes laugh in the faces of the pathetic corporate Youngs and Fullers dominated machines of Paddington and Hammer-smith. They’re crowded with students, musicians, fashion designers and all other kinds of interesting people, most of the time dancing rather than sitting and always having a laugh. Even better are the ranges of booze: Kick-ass lagers like Kirin Ichiban and Birra Morreti are commonplace, and you can find some of the weirdest ales. And a personal favourite, Aspall Cyder is found pretty cheap in Catch

(which super-Hoxton party girl Florence Welsh seems to enjoy). But this is nothing compared to the bar interiors themselves, which range from ornate - the Commercial Tavern, for example, has covered all two

floors, in Roman cum Indian and Moorish mosaics and chandeliers – to gloriously run down, like the intriguing pub The Griffin. The Red Lion is basically some weird-arise living room that sells Kronenbourg.

The music is fantastic as well. Whilst there are legions of fancy pansy indie bands, there are also some pretty exciting real bands, like Ulterior.

And Old Blue Last, owned by vice magazine, seems to take anything from metal to rap.

But a party there doesn’t just mean impenetrable underground music; the classics will always come out. And I don’t mean Britney, I mean The Faces, the Small Faces,

T-Rex, Joy Division, Blur – not always deep, but soulful.

But the gentrification of Shoreditch and Hoxton (ShoHo) is a new thing, and the new funky crowd has not obliterated the armies of settlers that have lived here for years. And this means awesome, great value curry houses (No, not the ones on Brick Lane). Like Chaat, where you’ll get a genuine but exceptional meal for under a tenner. And there are loads more like it in Whitechapel, but get in on the act quick while they’re still true, because the Rough Guides and Time Outs are creeping up on them like leeches.

There’s so much more to say about why I love the area; the fry ups in the mornings, the awesome sample sales in new shops desperate to be cool, boozing in Victoria Park in the sun. But the best advice I can give is to go there. Go there twice, go with your best mates, make a night of it. You won’t regret it.

SHOREDITCH

UNION ELECTIONS: AUTUMN 2009

Elections and manifestos explained for you

Hardly three weeks into the new academic year, Imperial College Union have opened the first round of elections for the year 2009-2010. The Autumn elections will see the Union Council take shape in the form of 4 undergraduate representatives for each Faculty (Engineering, Medicine and Natural

Sciences), 2 GSEPS representatives, 1 GSLSM representative and 1 non-faculty representative.

An International Officer will be contested in this round of elections too; the elected student responsible for welfare and issues relating to the international community at Imperial.

The Trustee Board is also appointed by the student body by the way of elec-

tions. It is the overseeing committee at the top of the Union. Big decisions may have to be made here, but less frequently.

Council is one of the most important committees within the Union as the decisions made by it affect every student on campus. Most importantly, the Members of the Council are given the power to vote on decisions brought to

the Council. Giving this power to the wrong person could potentially have adverse consequences.

Councillors meet roughly once a month to discuss the overall direction the Union is going in. The people throughout these pages will have to give their views on this decision as well as many other important ones.

Below are their manifestos, ready for

your analysis. Don't like any of them? Vote RON (Re-open Nominations) to run the election for that position again.

Some of the faculties still have outstanding positions to fill, so you still have a chance to stand.

To vote, go to www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote. Voting opens on Monday, the 26th October.

Undergraduate Councillors

ENGINEERING



He-in Cheong

Let your voice be heard! As YOUR representative of Department of Engineering in the Union Council, I will stand up for your opinion.

Basically, the Union Council is the policy-making body of the union, where everything starts and matters. And my point is our department should receive more money and more rights, so we can organize more fun events, have an awesome uni life, and have even better labs!!

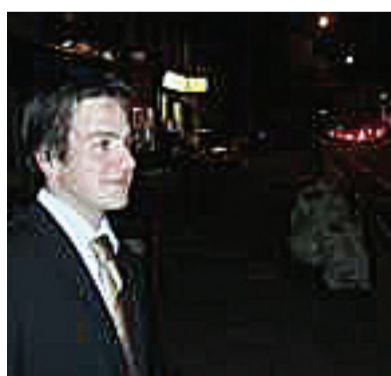
How am I different? I am not afraid of saying what I want to say—regardless of what other members of the council may think at first. I've got nothing to lose for expressing your opinion. However, if I don't do it, I will lose myself. I love engineering way too much to do bring it down.

So, in order to see a change, in order to see your goals for our department become reality, let your voice be



Lawrence Weetman

Hi. I'm Lawrence and I'm a second year computer scientist. I was an Engineering Undergraduate Rep for Imperial College Union Council last year, my first year at Imperial. I have seen how things are done, and taken part in debates and voting on important issues such as the splitting of the DPEW role. I am heavily involved in the Engineering Faculty Union (as well as being CGCA Officer for the Alumni association) and will use all of my knowledge and practice to represent Engineers properly on Council, as well as keeping them informed of what is happening in THEIR student union through the CGCU student media. I shall hold the union to account whenever possible, and ensure that all decisions made will be of the greatest possible benefit to students in the Faculty of Engineering



Edward O'Hare

As the City & Guilds Union Representative I am responsible for voicing the opinion of our faculty; this includes the Committees of the C&G but more importantly your voice as a student. I will help determine policies that you want on the issues in our union.

I have represented many sections of our college from Clubs & Societies to the Halls that we all once lived in and I now want to represent you.

Vote for me, Edward O'Hare.



Apostolia Matraki

My name is Apostolia (or Polly)Matraki as most of you know me! I am currently in my 2nd year , doing Biomedical Engineering. I won't overwhelm you with lots of stuff. ..I just wanted to say that as an active member of many societies here at Imperial and outside of it, I have developed really good skills for the position I am applying in these elections! Besides that, I am really enthusiastic and interested in working for our faculty and you all ,this year!!So all I am asking for is your vote, for a better faculty, and for new ideas to be placed on the table!! I think it is high time we all made a new change to something better. ..

Best wishes to everyone,

Apostolia Matraki



Rikki Norris

My name is Rikki and I am a third year Chemical Engineering student. I am currently the Vice-President (Finance & Societies) in the City & Guilds College Union, as well as a member of the New Clubs Committee. I also work in the Student Activities Centre, where I have good contact with the Sabbaticals and Union staff. I sat on Council last year as an Engineering Ordinary Member, and was involved with the decision to split the old Deputy President (Education & Welfare). I feel that I should sit on Council again this year as I am very experienced in most matters it covers, and know that it is Council's job to hold the Sabbaticals to account—especially at a time when new positions exist. You should vote for me to ensure that someone with experience is there to represent you, as Engineers, at Council.

Hey everyone, I'm Zahra! So, why should you vote for me...well for a start, my vision is to enhance your experience of studying engineering at Imperial, and make it a somewhat more enjoyable experience. Of course, engineering is by far the hardest subject (obviously), and we have LOADS of work to do, but we need to find time to allow us to have fun. You can be sure that I will help make your voices heard, and do my best to try and make sure that we have more social events.

SO PLEASE VOTE FOR ME!

No photo supplied

Zara Moledina

Union Council

ENGINEERING (CONTINUED)

Nicholas Heung & Zubin Jehangir are also standing within the Faculty of Engineering, but no manifesto or photos were submitted.

VOTING OPENS...
**Monday, 26th
October**

www.imperialcollegeunion.org/vote

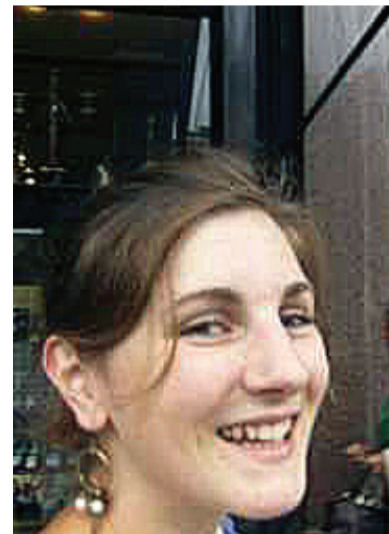
NATURAL SCIENCES

Undergraduate Councillors



Deep Shah

To ensure decisions made about the union are in the best interest of the students an individual who is easy to approach and talk to but also confident is required. I believe I possess these qualities and therefore I am running for the position of student trustee. Having worked at an accountancy firm, two investment banks and with a trustee from Oxfam, I feel that I am well prepared for the technical aspect of the position too. If elected I will endeavour too: 1) Continue to be approachable by attend clubs and societies meetings in order to understand our needs and thus direct the union to provide services that are needed rather than those that the union decides to provide. 2) Improve the quality and consequently the reputation of the union's student events. 3) Keep union and halls of residence facilities affordable. Thanks for reading! Think Deep when you vote.



Hannah Short

5 star luxury living, cordon bleu catering – our university is doing great things but are they imperative for our student lifestyle? Are we right to feel ever so slightly put out, sitting two to a seat in lectures and surviving on a diet of plain jacket potatoes after scouring the market for a reasonably priced bite to eat?

As Imperial College slowly changes its priorities from providing a first class education to staying afloat in this fragile commercial climate, we must ensure that our views and needs are not overlooked. If you would like a representative who casts their vote with consideration and with the wishes of the student body at heart, please vote for Hannah Short as your council member for Natural Sciences.

POSTGRADUATE POSITIONS

**Graduate School
of Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Postgraduate
Councillors**

NO NOMINATIONS

**Graduate School of
Life Sciences and
Medicine
Postgraduate
Councillors**

NO NOMINATIONS



Agneish Dutta

The Central Council and Imperial Politics are a bit of a mystery to most students. I'll make sure that you are all informed of the important decisions that are made by the Council, especially those affecting Union policy and budgets, on a monthly basis.

Having been part of several committees during my time so far at Imperial, I have worked with a large number of people, and heard a lot of what we would like more of, and less of, to make Imperial and it's clubs even better.

Being a second year medic, I am best positioned not only to represent the voices of the younger two years on the Council, but also the older years, many of whom I have met whilst on committees. Please vote for me, and I will represent the medical school, giving not just my opinion, but one that represents all of ours!



Jaimie Henry

Having seen tumultuous changes to the Union in recent years, from the Beit redevelopment to Governance changes, or leaving the NUS to creating new sabbaticals, I am concerned that as medics we are rarely involved in or even ignorant of the big decisions that affect us. With three seats on Council we have the power to make serious changes, but only if we are proactive and strive for the recognition we deserve. I don't pretend I could make huge changes overnight or revolutionise the Union, but what I can give is fair, honest and dedicated representation coupled with the necessary experience. Having sat on the Trustee board and been extensively involved with Clubs and societies I see where the opportunities and problems lie. If elected, I will tirelessly seek out and voice your problems and concerns, and decent medic representation won't be a pipe dream. Vote Jaimie Henry.

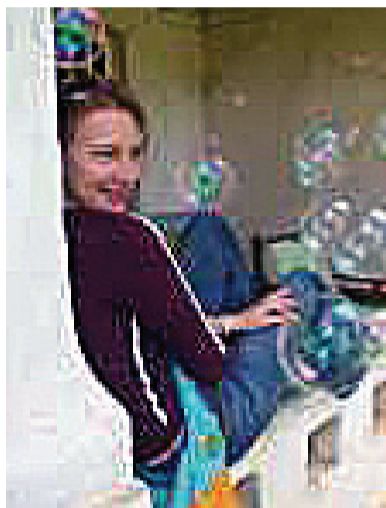


Richard Hewitt

As Deputy President of ICSM Students' Union this year, it would be a privilege to represent the Medical School as an Ordinary Council Member.

Throughout my time at ICSM I have been involved with all aspects of medical school life. Importantly, I have spent two years on ICSMSU which has provided a valuable understanding of all that goes on within our medical school and an appreciation of the issues faced by our student body.

My role on the SU this year is multifaceted and requires continuous interaction with ICSM students from all years. As a result I feel in a strong position to ensure your views are heard at Union Council. I will do my absolute utmost to represent the values and traditions of the medical school, whilst being pro-active in taking the medical school forward when important decisions are being made. I'd very much appreciate your vote. Thank you!



Nora Schorscher

You might not even know what the ICU Council is, and yet they're constantly making decisions on YOUR behalf! Because of this it's vitally important that we as medics use our voice on council - especially in these times where Imperial is chipping away at our independence and taking away the traditions that make ICSM the medical-school we love and are proud of! I want to help ICSM use its voice! I would ensure that the views and concerns of medics are heard, respected and taken into consideration in all decisions the council makes. I wouldn't allow IC to overlook us just because we represent a supposedly "troublesome" minority at this university! I'm very passionate about ICSM - as I'm sure you are too - let's use this passion to increase our influence and improve our position on the ICU Council, let's fight for decisions that will benefit us medics! VOTE NORA!



Alexander Walls

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Justine Zhang

As students certain issues are close to our hearts, such as keeping the cost of living low, receiving first class teaching, passing exams and having a great student life. I intend to represent you and push for issues that will benefit you, for example lowering the cost of campus food, having more access to past exam papers and making social events at our Union bigger and better. Vote for me and you will vote for more student discounts, better degrees, and a fantastic student life that all other universities will be jealous of! If elected, I will:

- Listen to you and speak up to reflect your opinions.
- Make decisions in your best interests.
- Provide relevant feedback to you.
- Promote efficient and effective use of the Union's budget and resources.

If you have any questions or suggestions for me, feel free to email me at justine.zhang07@imperial.ac.uk

Asanka Wijendra is also standing but no manifesto or photos were submitted.

MEDICINE



Undergraduate Councillors

NON-FACULTY

Non-Faculty Councillors: NO NOMINATIONS

Trustee Board and International Officer

STUDENT TRUSTEE



Amina Al-Yassin

Like Gordon Brown, the trustee-board is one of those things that is boring yet very important. It is something that few know about, less care about and only the weirdest get excited about. And I'm proudly one of those weirdos! As the most senior committee of the Union, the trustee-board oversees and approves all major changes. If elected, I thus promise to remain representative, open and accountable. I commit to seek out and represent *your* views and make sure that they are heard and responded to. At my previous university, I was college union president, member of the student council and director of the university paper. I therefore believe I have the experience to do a good job, the skills for staying awake in long meetings, and (as a passionate-cupcake-baker) the tools to keep meetings happy! So, vote for Amina- vote for representation, experience and cupcakes!



Deep Shah

To ensure decisions made about the union are in the best interest of the students an individual who is easy to approach and talk to but also confident is required. I believe I possess these qualities and therefore I am running for the position of student trustee. Having worked at an accountancy firm, two investment banks and with a trustee from Oxfam, I feel that I am well prepared for the technical aspect of the position too. If elected I will endeavour to:

- 1) Continue to be approachable by attend clubs and societies meetings in order to understand our needs and thus direct the union to provide services that are needed rather than those that the union decides to provide
 - 2) Improve the quality and consequently the reputation of the union's student events
 - 3) Keep union and halls of residence facilities affordable.
- Thanks for reading! Think Deep when you vote.

INTERNATIONAL OFFICER

Matthew Fitch & Noor Noor Hasnan are standing for International officer, but no manifesto or photos were submitted.

RON

RE-OPEN NOMINATIONS



Big Ron Atkinson is back from disgraced obscurity! It's not football management, but it's a job. After years of applying for jobs, I'm back. 2004 was a bad year, lads. After being caught on-air being 'racist', no one would employ me. For the last five years, I've been filming a series of Angolan adverts for various products. They love a bit casu-

al racism I reckon.

Anyway, I'm back in the limelight; the British limelight. See the fellas above? Rubbish. They're all thick, lazy.....people. I swear that description has got me into trouble before. Who cares anyway? I've managed footballing giants such as Kettering Town, West Bromich Albion and Aston fucking Villa. Aston fucking Villa!

Big Ron would do a much better job on Union Council. Engineering? I've engineered Division 4-winning teams. Medics? I once fucking played in my short and unsuccessful career with a broken ankle for 82 minutes. Who needs Medics? Sciences? Pah, all these modern managers these days using food science to get their players fit and healthy. I forced all my players to eat a hearty meal of dirt and porridge, with a side serving of casual racism. Look where it got me! Unemployed! Desperate for media work! RON! Vote RON!

We are looking for *HAYFEVER* sufferers and *NORMAL VOLUNTEERS* to help with allergy research

If you are interested in taking part in research to help us understand the causes of nasal allergies and develop new forms of treatment, and if you are between 18 and 55 years old please contact us for more information:

a.goldstone@imperial.ac.uk

Andrea Goldstone – Clinical Research Nurse

Department of Allergy
Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Trust
and NHLI Ethics Committees
Fulham Road, London SW3 6HP

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

**VOTING
OPENS...
Monday,
26th
October**

www.imperial-collegeunion.org/vote



One small step for science & free speech

The most recent development in the Simon Singh libel case brings hope to the global scientific community

Duncan Casey Science Reporter

Last Wednesday morning, in a large and mostly empty courtroom in the Royal Courts of Justice, science writer Simon Singh won the right to appeal the ruling of the meaning of one sentence of an article he wrote some eighteen months ago.

Why should you, I, or for that matter, anyone care? Well, the article in question regarded whether the manipulation of babies' spines was in any way effective for the treatment of ear infections (no), or potentially damaging to their health (unsurprisingly, the evidence suggests this may be the case); the appeal regards whether or not Singh, as a scientist and writer, could criticise such potentially dangerous practices in the public domain. Rather than present their evidence and publically argue the point, the British

Chiropractic Association attempted to stifle any debate by suing for libel in the courts.

Singh now faces being bankrupted by the practitioners of this dubious art, for 'defaming their reputation' through what many argue is a very valid criticism. As a result, the outcome could be vital for us all: for science to move forward, we have to be able to pick holes in one another's ideas and practices, and if this can be quashed via the courts rather than through research and analysis of the data, then we may as well all go home. Furthermore, this isn't just about someone's pet ideas – if data regarding ineffective and potentially harmful 'therapies' can be hidden in this way, how can you or anyone else possibly make an informed decision regarding their health or that of their children?

The outcome of this case may well yet be positive, whether Singh eventu-

ally wins or loses the protracted legal argument. A campaign orchestrated by Sense About Science has garnered some twenty thousand signatures in support of both his case and numerous others, where scientists and potential whistleblowers have been prevented from making factually accurate statements under fear of prosecution due to Britain's arcane libel laws. Look it up and add your name: in the course of your career as a scientist, you will definitely be called upon to criticise the work of others. Whether you are able to or not without fear of reprisal may depend upon the outcome of this case.

For more information visit www.senseaboutscience.org.uk/freedebate

**KEEP LIBEL LAWS
OUT OF SCIENCE**

senseaboutscience.org



Popular science writer, Simon Singh, has been accused of 'defaming the reputation' of the British Chiropractic Association

Scientists disparage UKBA plan for genetic passports

Proposal for genuine asylum seekers to be identified through genetic testing deemed 'scientifically flawed'

Shupaula Dass Science Reporter

We've all had that awful passport photo. The one that fails to capture our natural beauty or at the very least, oneself on an OK day. We may envy those without passports. Or not. The British government is now toying with the idea of using genetics to identify nationality.

The UK Border Agency has contacted researchers with a proposal of genetically testing asylum seekers, specifically from the war fractured Somalia. Their goal is to separate the genuine applicants from those in neighbouring Kenya. Unfortunately for the paper pushers, this will remain a dream as the latest editorial in Nature disparages the plan; '[The] scheme to establish nationality through DNA testing is scientifically flawed, ethically dubious and damaging to science.'

In a nutshell, the government wanted to examine the unique SNPs (single nucleotide polymorphisms) in the mitochondria of approximately 100 'Somalians'.

An SNP is exactly what it says on the tin. A variation in DNA sequence of a genome attributed to a single nucleotide - A, T, G, or C and it differs between members of a species. For example:

Person 1 reads: ATGGC

Person 2 reads: ATGAC

Traditionally if these differences in alleles (the G and the A from Persons 1 and 2) occurred at a frequency of 1% or greater, they were labeled as SNPs or snips. However as science has progressed, snips that occur less than 1%



are included.

The genotyping of SNPs is probably what has conjured the idea of 'geneticisation' of nationality.

Recently scientists have compiled substantial SNP databases, leading to easier geographical identification of European groups. However scientists stress that it would be like a shot in the dark to apply this method to a continent such as Africa.

We at Felix asked visiting Professor David Balding, a population geneticist, why European populations are

easier to study than African. 'Nobody has quantified the misclassification rate. Europeans are very well studied and relatively homogeneous; their genetic patterns are fairly simple because of the recent settlement of much of Europe. African populations go back further in time, have greater levels of genetic variation and are not well studied. I do not think the research exists to adequately underpin the proposed programme. Even if it did there would still be a relatively high error rate because of recent migrations.'

Another method voiced involved using the isotopic ratios of elements found in hair and fingernails. These provide an indication of an individual's diet and environment. Again this argument can be quashed. It does not take into account the factor of human populations migrating, which has happened for thousands of years. Genetic variability is not confined to borders. Epigenetics (the idea that the environment interacts with our genes) is possible, but to base a person's future entirely on such methods is incredulous.

An example of this failing would be a Somalian who has parents from two different geographic regions. This child would be of a third region belonging to neither 'genetic geographic region'. A simple concept, but omitted entirely from the UK Border Agency's plan. They seem to be confusing ancestry with nationality.

Beyond the fickle rationale of the government's plans, the implications of enforcing the genetic testing are severe. If they wanted to pursue this path, large genetic samples from Somalia and surrounding countries would be needed, raising the issue of time and money. Many groups would inevitably come forward to protest such as migration organizations, population geneticists and the public themselves. Currently asylum seekers have the choice of providing swabs for testing or not. If the genetic testing becomes standard procedure and an individual rejects, it could worsen the relations and situation. Further cause of suspicion would only be aroused as a result.

As Orwell predicted in his novel 1984, we are in a Big Brother age. With so many advances it has become hard to rein in scientific speculation. Technically by now we should all have national ID cards, our iris scans on record and flying around campus on hoverboards. Whilst the latter may still be a little far fetched, so is the idea of genetic passports at this time, or ever. Thankfully, the government has backtracked on their idea, but they haven't dismissed it altogether.

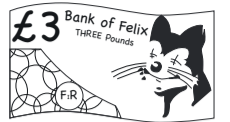
I don't know about you but I don't mind my passport photo so much now. In any case, it expires in 10 years.

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BNP's Question Time debut opposed

As the BBC asserts its impartiality, **Business Editor Sina Ataherian** considers the different motivations behind the protests against the decision to host the BNP alongside mainstream parties.

On Thursday the British National Party were hosted on the BBC's flagship political panel programme, Question Time, for the first time in the show's history. As would be expected, large demonstrations have been planned to coincide with the episode's filming. The protestors wish to criticise the BBC for its decision to reward the Party's success at the European elections with increased coverage and publicity.

The BBC's Director-General, Mark Thompson, has defended the BBC's decision by arguing that "It remains the BBC's obligation to scrutinise and hold to account all elected representatives and to do so with due impartiality." In common with anyone writing a news article on the BNP, BBC journalists benefit from a generally accepted right to express their own opinion of the Party through their reporting. Even when a sentence is expressed in a way so as to sound impartial, this is done in a comical and mocking tone that would be completely unacceptable if the news was about almost any other party.

For this reason protestors concerned only about the racism issue should take a chill pill. No one who does not already support the BNP is going to be converted by hearing Nick Griffin explain how the physically- and intellectually-superior indigenous majority is being colonised by minorities. On the other hand, almost a million people did support the Party at the last elections. It is highly doubtful that most of these people are genuinely racist and it is widely acknowledged that many of them cast their votes purely in protest at the fumbling, expense-claiming, mainstream parties.

Clearly racism has not been enough of a barrier to these people opting for the BNP. Luckily for the rest of us, the Party itself offers dozens more as yet under-publicised reasons not to vote for it. This begs the question of why presumably well-informed political activist types would not want Mr Griffin to rant before the whole nation against the evils of respected military Gener-

als, supermarkets, the services sector of the economy, private property and so forth. Secret racist sympathies and cynical attempts to gain popularity by sitting MPs aside, the motivation for the political organisers of such protests is clear.

Fascism was always been known as a particularly vile creature of the hard Left. Amazingly, the likes of Hitler

and Mussolini have since then been increasingly portrayed as 'far-right'. A second look at their actual policies shows that this is nothing more than the tactic of changing word meanings, as popularly warned against by George Orwell. Semantics may not seem to be on the same level of importance as the political issues of the day, but this tactic has been highly successful in the

past. For an especially amazing example, think of the word 'regulation'. Its meaning has been turned upside down in order to reverse the intentions of the US Constitution's framers. They used it unequivocally to mean 'to keep regular' whereas it is now pretty much thought of as meaning 'to interfere in and impede'.

Although it is difficult to know where on the traditional left-right spectrum to put policies such as ridding the NHS of its administrative staff and restarting the war on the IRA, the BNP still sits squarely to the left of Labour. It draws most of its supporters from the ranks of Old Labour voters disillusioned with their former Party's Blairite drift towards the centre. It espouses policies such as compulsory worker-share ownership, protectionism and the re-nationalisation of great swathes of the economy.

At first it may appear ironic that the flyers advertising the protest around campus mention as their partner organisation within IC, the Socialist Worker Student Society, or SWSS (yes, I checked, that is a real society and yes, I asked, it is not meant to be satirical). This may seem almost as laughable as the idea of putting on a big demonstration against the BNP receiving publicity. In fact, it is entirely to be expected. No-one within the political mainstream can seriously fear Mr Griffin turning the nation racist through his rational debating skills on Question Time. The likes of Peter Hain and the SWSS on the other hand have every reason to fear the broadcast of most of their views, sprinkled with some casual racism that in fairness they clearly do not share, on national television through the voice of Nick Griffin.



Review of the week's business news

Asset markets continue recent trends

Investors are continuing to flee USD amid growing signals of increased broad-money inflation. Speculation that China and oil producers are reconsidering their commitment to the world's reserve currency has been fuelling the exit. This is leading the charge into commodities, dragging them right out of their December 2008 lows. Eyes are strongly focused on gold, which will need to reach \$2000 before regaining its inflation-adjusted 1980 peak. Commodity exporters have seen their currencies appreciating significantly. Meanwhile, rising equities are generally not being accompanied by increasing optimism as the nominal gains are being put down to the weakening Dollar. US Treasuries have remained strong amid growing suspicions that the Fed may be buying them up.

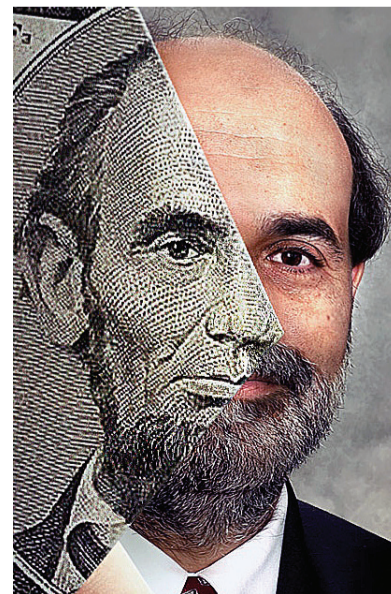
What's the Fed up to now? Demand for Treasuries defies weakness of the Dollar

The Federal Reserve has decided that threats to the supposed recovery trump long-term inflation fears. It has reduced the target rate for overnight lending to 0-.25% in response, and is claiming that this is contributing to rising demand for US Treasuries, alongside a flight to "quality." Expectations that China will act to stop the Dollar sliding too far, both to support its exporters and because it owns \$800 billion, are limiting the damage of this policy.

Factors counting against the claim of rising demand for Treasuries include the weakening USD, the trillion Dollar deficit and the record US debt. Suspicions are falling on the Fed being up to no good, as usual. Instances of it distorting various securities markets in the past are well documented. The incentive to make Treasuries look

more popular is clearly visible. The Fed's consideration of political factors is known to be higher either side of important nominations, as in this case for Chairman, Ben Bernanke.

The stakes are now even higher as support grows for two Congressional bills that aim to remove restrictions on the Government Accountability Office's ability to audit the Fed. These bills now both enjoy strong bi-partisan support, enough to override a presidential veto in the House. Senior Fed staff have been scrambling to win over the 75% of Americans who say they are fed up with the Fed. There now seems to be a tactical shift from threatening surging inflation to trying to show that investors still trust the system. Recent federal judgements against Fed exemption from the Freedom of Information Act may shed some light.



Snowe may not be a traitor

When the Senate Finance Committee passed the latest version of the healthcare Bill, it claimed bi-partisan support after Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, voted with the Democrats. The most controversial of the proposals have been considered unlikely to pass ever since August's townhall meetings showed where public opinion stands. The original Bills would probably have been filibustered by Republicans and moderate Democrats. Far from being a backstabber, Senator Snowe may have taken one for the team by offering the Democrats an opportunity to save face whilst withdrawing most of their important demands. It is worth noting that the Committee did not need Snowe's vote to get the Bill passed 14-9. If Senators such as Blanche Lincoln side with Republicans in the final vote, Snowe may yet join in fillibustering.

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Gingerism and the BNP

Phil Murray Politics Editor

This week has been an 'interesting' one for me. Due to an unfortunate hair dyeing accident at the weekend, I now look like I am being sponsored by *easyJet*. You might have seen me walking around campus – I am quite hard to miss. Yes, I am suffering from the terrible *Gingervitus!* Now I have temporarily joined their ranks, I did some research into 'Gingerism', the discrimination against red-heads, and found out that last November, a Facebook group with over 5,000 members caused outrage by organising a 'National Kick a Ginger Day'. This kind of unwarranted prejudice should have no place in our modern society, so why oh why does the BNP exist (see what I did there!)?

This week must have also been an 'interesting' one for 16,000 BNP members whose names, addresses, email addresses and phone numbers were leaked online last week. This is the second time in a year this has happened, and this time round it seems membership has dropped compared to the last list. Also revealed was the claim that the BNP had over 100,000 members, made by party leader Nick Griffin, whose details were amongst those released, was a blatant lie, achieved by adding a '1' to the front of the sequential membership number.

Griffin has had a very 'interesting' week. Last Thursday, was the news that the BNP's constitution was deemed racist by the UK's equality watchdog. No-shit-Sherlock moment there! What made me laugh was that because of this, it has to be revised to allow non-white members to enter the party. Laugh-out-loud!

Then this Tuesday, he pissed off the Army. Not the best idea really is it... Four former Generals put their name to a letter saying racist right-wing groups were tarnishing the forces' reputation. What they were referring to, amongst

other things, was the use images of a Spitfire, a red Poppy, and Winston Churchill in BNP propaganda, including their website. Griffin is also commonly seen in photos using the 'V for Victory' sign (personally, I like to think that he is just telling himself to fuck off). It is sadly ironic that Griffin models himself on our great wartime leader, when he spent his time in office fighting against these sorts of racist, supremacist ideas.

Worst of all is the fact that Griffin said in 1998 that he was "well aware that the orthodox opinion is that six million Jews were gassed and cremated and turned into lampshades; orthodox opinion also once held that the Earth was flat". He had reached the conclusion that the "extermination" tale is a mixture of "Allied wartime propaganda, extremely profitable lie, and latter witch-hysteria". I would pay good money to see the ass-whopping Churchill would dish out on him if he were still around today.

By the time you read this, Griffin will have appeared on the BBC's Question Time program. In the run up to this, there have been many calls for this to be pulled, but I hope it has not been. This will only be a further opportunity for him to embarrass himself and his party, something he has proved to be very good at. Go on, watch it, I dare you! Even if you know nothing about Politics (God knows I don't!) you will not fail to realise how wrong his ideals are. That's not an opinion - that's just fact!

Think of the BNP as an embarrassing, annoying in-joke. Please try and keep it that way. In May there will be a general election. We all know there is a lot of shit flying around in Westminster at the moment, but we must not let this be a cause for votes to be given to the BNP, not in jest, not as a statement of being pissed off at the current system. Please help keep them as nothing more than a joke.

Wilders Arrives In UK

James Lees Politics Editor

Last Friday the Dutch MP Geert Wilders came to London after successfully overturning a Home Office decision to deny him entry into the UK in February this year. Mr Wilders has been the focus of much controversy over his radical views on Islam, which involves his comparing the Koran to *Mein Kampf*.

In February Wilders was invited to screen his film *Fitna* in the House of Lords by a UKIP peer, Lord Pearson, which was to be followed by a discussion. This started a protest from Lord Ahmed, the first Muslim life peer and a member of the Labour party, who was reported to say he would "bring a force of 10,000 Muslims to lay siege to the Lords if the campaigning anti-Islamist Dutch MP Geert Wilders was allowed to speak".

Lord Ahmed was successful in stopping Mr Wilders from speaking to the House, as upon arrival he was promptly taken to a secure room then flown straight back to the Netherlands under orders from then Home Secretary Jacqui Smith. Smith had declared Wilders to be an "undesirable person" and refused him entry to the UK under Regulation 19 of the Immigration (European Economic Area) Regulations 2006, an EU law allowing refusal of entry to individuals if they are regarded as constituting a threat to public policy, security or health.

At the time refusing Wilders entry was condemned by much of the media as it was seen to be appeasing the militant Islamists who are criticised in *Fitna*. It also called into question free speech, as Wilders' right to put forth his views had been blocked due to the fear of the violence it might provoke from a tiny minority. In Britain the laws of the land decree dictates that a person has the right to free speech so long as they do not incite racial or religious hatred. This is certainly something that *Fitna* attempts to do by effectively tarring all Muslims with the same brush as those who had taken it upon themselves to destroy the World Trade Centre. Incidentally *Fitna* was



Dutch MP Geert Wilders enjoys pushing his right to free speech to the limit

still screened in the House and viewed by roughly 30 peers without Wilders being present to explain his film.

Still, just over 8 months later, the ban on Wilders being allowed into the UK has been overturned by the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal to the disapproval of the Home Office and Lord Ahmed has been to jail for killing a man. Wilders was again invited to Britain by Lord Pearson to discuss his views on Sharia Law.

The original plan had been for him to give an open air news conference but protestors promoting Sharia law arrived holding signs including "Wilders go to hell" "Islam will be superior" and "Freedom go to hell".

As a result of the protestors, Wilders was moved inside whilst protestors were kept at bay by the police.

So on this occasion Geert Wilders was allowed to express his views, his freedom of speech was not suppressed and nor were the protestors, who Wilders was more than keen to point out would not be allowed to express their views so openly under Sharia law.

Following all the fuss that was kicked up around the banning in February in comparison to the events of this month, it seems that the government would have played the situation far better had they just let the man speak and be ignored by everyone who knows that the Koran is not a "fascist book" as Wilders puts it.

This would have left hardly anyone who would care what he has to say, as Tom Smothers once put it: "the only valid censorship of ideas is the right of people not to listen."

Government sells your loan and the Channel Tunnel

Phil Murray Politics Editor

In a speech made by Prime Minister Gordon Brown on Monday 12th October, it was announced that the Government is to sell £16bn worth of assets, in order to bolster Public Finances. This is to shore-up the public purse after Gordon Brown's terrible handling of the economy, which is driving us deeper into debt and recession.

Sales could include Tote Bookmakers, The Dartford Crossing Toll Bridge, The Channel Tunnel, The Student Loan Book, Urenco, & surplus state owned property. This is to avoid public spending cuts.

Urenco, jointly owned between the Dutch, German & UK Governments, is a supplier of material and equipment to the UK's nuclear industry, supplying enriched uranium to nuclear power plants & isotopes for medical purposes. The Government plans to sell its 33% stake.

As the Prime Minister said, "we need a deficit reduction plan that supports growth and jobs not one that snuffs out recovery before it has started."

"Restoring public finance sustainability must be done in a way that supports growth, not destroys it. The failure to do so is the real risk of a lost decade of austerity."

These announcements have drawn

criticism from both the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats.

Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, Vince Cable, said the policy was "fundamentally flawed". In his own words: "what worries me about the government proposal is that they're proposing to sell off in very depressed markets, under very depressed markets for land and for shares...this is not a good time to sell assets."

A Conservative Party spokesman said: "as any family knows selling off things helps in the short-term and, given the state the country is in, is probably necessary but it is no substitute for a long-term plan to get the country to live within its means."



The Channel Tunnel is amongst assets to be sold under UK Government plans

CV2012

With the economy in the state that it is, we're told it's now the case that where there were 5 people vying for one job there's now 10, or something to that effect. The great thing about going to Imperial and working for a good degree is that you've already improved your chances in those 10. However, the Imperial stereotype (you know the one I mean) that many amongst us admittedly adhere to can sometimes counter that advantage leaving us back where we started.

With the impending Olympics you can't help but feel that it has breathed some new life into London, with a renewed sense of purpose being given to many aspects; not just sport. So it's lucky for us that we not only happen to be pretty clever but also in London enveloped in this atmosphere, to take advantage of this.

In recognition of this, a new initiative has been launched called CV2012; a joint effort from Imperial College Union, the Careers Service, the Volunteer Centre and Sport Imperial. 'What's this about?' I hear you ask. It's a way of getting recognition, nay, an award for all the extra that you do with your time here at Imperial, that gives you a noticeable and exciting edge on the competition. The other cool thing about it is that it is yours to make of what ever you want to gain from it.

It's made up of a points based system, working towards getting 50 points. To

help you get started, just turning up to the induction gets you well on your way with 5 points- after all, its worth knowing what you are getting yourself in for. The biggest component is the activity that you do which is 30 points for 30 hours of your time. This should have an element of outreach or volunteering to it, but this is also where the Volunteer Centre is able to help you out. With over 40 different categories of volunteering there is definitely something for everyone; whether you're a die-heart gardener and want to help spruce up some of the city's green spaces, or want to help rehabilitate prisoners you're able to give back to the community, which is something that a lot of potential employers love to see.

Alternatively, if you are more inclined towards sport, Sport Imperial have created a unique opportunity to work towards the Sport Leader's award. This is something that you would normally have to shell out a fair few quid for, but being nice as they are have decided to cover the cost of your award. This award, while called 'Sport Leaders' really aims to develop a host of transferable skills through the medium of sport, for example: being resourceful and thinking on your toes, or performing in high pressure situations. You're able to do your outreach element as it involves going into schools and working with secondary school children. To do this award you don't have to be outstanding at sport yourself, in fact being able to throw and catch isn't even a prerequisite. All you need is enthusiasm!

Jenny Wilson

Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

dpcs@imperial.ac.uk

On top of this, there are 5 points for going to a session with the Careers service, and this is probably the bit which helps you the most to transfer those skills that you inadvertently learn by doing your activity, into attributes that you can really sell effectively come application and interview time. The Careers Service have a whole range of sessions to help you from a 20 minute mock interview to a 2 day insight into management. You can do this session at any point during the programme though, again being totally flexible to fit around everything else that you have to do.

To finish up there is a verification and an assessment, but these are short and painless! After all, since you've done the work this is your time to shine and report back on all the good work you've done to pick up a further 5 points for each. And there you have it; five easy steps to enhancing your CV to help make you the first choice when you're competing against 9 others for your dream job.

Now all there is left to say is when the next induction is so that you can get started with the award. This is being held at 4.30pm on Monday 26th October in SALC 5 (on the 5th floor of Sherfield). If you can't make these or want any more info check out www.ic.ac.uk/2012 or email cv2012@ic.ac.uk.



University Challenge 2010

Trials to be part of the team for University Challenge 2010 are taking place early in November.

In light of the recent success of Imperial on the show BBC TV quiz show University Challenge we are now selecting the team to take part in the show in 2010. We are looking for a team of four with an additional reserve member, who have not competed on the show before.

Applicants must be current students (either undergraduate or postgraduate) and expect to be still a student in April 2010.

Trials will take place in the Read lecture theatre on Level 5 of the Sherfield Building at 1800 on the 2nd and the 5th of November. No need to book, just turn up!





Life, Arts and Blue Plaques

Lucy Harrold Arts Editor

And so you finally get to meet me, your third Arts editor. Sorry it's been such a wait but you can't see much art lying on the sofa with flu (possibly of the swine variety).

Those of you who aren't still doe-eyed and fresh-faced may recognise me as "that girl who reviews all the musicals". Yes it is true I am a bit of a fan, but I like to try other cultural delights as I hope you all do when not slaving over a problem sheet or attending another lab session. Even if you do tend to get stuck at Imperial there's plenty of culture around as I've been finding on my progressively chillier journeys into college.

After a year travelling the same route I've become a little weary and so have begun to occupy myself by playing games. Aside from "count the leavers hoodies" (seriously people, we know you went to school otherwise you wouldn't be here, you don't need to tell us) I've taken to playing "spot the blue

plaques". On my journey in I've seen everyone from Dennis Gabor (inventor of holography) to composer Bela Bartok. This week I was surprised to find that John Millais and Frances Bacon both inhabited the same house near South Ken Station, although not at the same time obviously. I'd love it if they had been around at the same time, I can just imagine them sat smoking pipes in the living room around a roaring fire. Millais is telling Bacon to get a backbone and suggesting he tries painting a pleasant landscape whilst Bacon is criticising Millais' decision to shag his critics' wife. Aww, artistic bliss...

This week we're concentrating on theatre, but not of the musical variety. We've been sending our eager reporters to review the latest plays to hit London, and what a bounty to choose from. As an added bonus, I've taken a look back at this Summer's cultural highlights and glimpse at what we're expecting this season. Enjoy!

Summertime and the culture was easy...

Lucy Harrold looks back at this summer

In a vague attempt to relive the past few months where the sun would occasionally shine, exams were a distant memory and most of us attempted to make as much money in as short a time as possible, we take a look back at this Summer's culture.

The big news in the arts world was Anthony Gormley's "One and Other" project on the fourth plinth of Trafalgar Square. Gormley's aim was to allow a different person to do whatever they liked for an hour at a time- as long as it was legal.

The result was lots of people standing still in the name of charity and lots of people getting naked in the name of being a bit of an idiot. A friend of mine was one of the lucky 2460 to be selected and got to spend a dark stormy night throwing glowsticks to drunken louts; not my idea of a fun night out.

The other big event for culture vultures was the Edinburgh Fringe, this year hosting everything from Dramsoc's own production of "Crave" to an audience with "that guy what stopped terrorists bombing Glasgow Airport" (I kid you not). This inevitably lead to a barrage of plays arriving in various London fringe venues- look out for these as they provide a large amount of the new writing coming to

the capital.

In other theatre news, "Too Close To The Sun" opened and then closed a week or two later. Sorry, but who thought that a four person with no star names about the last hallucinogenic days of Ernest Hemingway would survive in the summer season in a recession?

In stunt casting news (yes, it's so commonplace it gets its own news section) - John Barrowman, everybody's favourite gay, is currently dragging up to play Zsa Zsa in La Cage Aux Folles. Phil Jupitus will also be partaking in a spot of women's clothing as the latest Edna Turnblad in Hairspray.

Forbidden Broadway took to lampooning such behaviour in their show at the Menier Chocolate Factory. Tackling everything from Andrew Lloyd Webber to the campness of Mamma Mia, they basically highlighted everything I dislike in theatre, way to go!

A little closer to College the Proms sneakily ran at the Royal Albert Hall. Many complained that an evening of MGM classics was not what the Proms is about.

I disagree, film music is a great way to get people into Classical music- I certainly wouldn't have listened if it weren't for movies. Also, classical

OMG! Lily Allen's dad in a play!

Rox Middleton treks to Hammersmith in search of *Comedians*

So, maybe you've never heard of Trevor Griffiths? Neither had I, maybe that makes us both philistines, but maybe not. Let's get one thing straight, I am certainly enough of a cultural ignoramus not to know whether I ought to know about Trevor Griffiths.

Anyway: *Comedians*. It sounds funny doesn't it? It is, and it is also a hell of a lot more than that. A brief summary sounded somewhat less exciting I thought; Six men from an evening class in stand-up do their first show but find out some "home truths" in the process. Well maybe.

However you can't judge a play by its précis and this piece directed by Sean Holmes is sweltering under the strain of making the phrase "home truths" an understatement. Home truths doesn't come close to describing the bubbling turmoil that is a discussion of loyalty, craziness, sex, truth and disillusionment.

The play is in three acts, first and last being in a classroom and the middle calling a stage, a stage as the audience is victim to the debut acts of the six aspiring comics. This straggling group of men who all desperately want to follow their dreams into professional stand-up have been under the guidance of Mr Waters (Matthew Kelly) and tonight they are being watched to see if they make the grade. The question is whether they will stick with the earnest old man and his direction not to play to sexism and racism or abandon it to score cheap laughs.

The play is absolutely dripping with comedy actors including Reece



Keith Allen showing off apparently

Shearsmith from *League of Gentlemen* and OMG! Lily Allen's dad, who both give excellent performances, but it is David Dawson who absolutely steals the show with his amazingly electric performance of Gethin Price. Dawson's energy is terrifying, especially in the bizarre second act where Gethin, an angry, honest and bizarre man, does his first stand-up. It's freaky, quite frightening and unlike anything else in the play. This is the culmination of the fabulously excruciating and funny second act, and displays Dawson's mind-blowing energy and expression, guaranteed to send the audience out bewildered into the second interval.

After the amusing and more

predictable first act, full of cute character detail and ever-so-slightly uninspiring comedic philosophy, and left aghast by the second, the third scene does not disappoint. Revelations come tumbling out and cut deeper than they had, tensions run high and Keith Allen shows off. Some "home truths" are regrettably left hanging, but the themes which started off tame and dry find their full meaning in dialogue between Dawson and Kelly. The young and old men argue and Dawson's stellar acting drives home justification for the whole play. Ending with a good laugh, it really is a funny play but that's not the point, it's about why you laugh. You should see it because although it's not hilarious it is exhilarating.

music shouldn't just be something from a hundred or more years ago, if we stop recognising classics what will we play our children?

So what was the cultural highlight of my Summer? A little gem of a show up in Highgate Village by the name of Zanna Don't. A fun, poppy show but with really deep emotion and a huge heart, it was Fringe theatre at its best-go Google it!

And so to this year, what can we expect? Well theatre-wise, pickings are pretty slim as everyone seems anxious to open in a recession.

Musicals-wise we have *Annie Get Your Gun* at the Young Vic starring Jane Horrocks in the title role and the *Menier Chocolate Factory* is offering Tamsin Outhwaite in *Sweet Charity*. Our only West End opening is *Legally Blonde* with Sheridan Smith and a cast of "people off the telly" from 5th December.

Oops, let us not forget Andrew Lloyd Webber's latest cash cow *Tomorrow Never Dies*, the sequel to *Phantom of the Opera*, I will be aiming to forget it thanks. Hopefully Santa will bring me some more musicals in my stocking at Christmas.

Straight play openings are more abundant (possibly due to lower



running costs and larger target markets). Big news for me is *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice*, not because of X Factor finalist Diana Vickers but because of Lesley Sharp and Marc Warren filling the roles played by Brenda Blethyn and Michael Caine in the film version.

An *Inspector Calls* will be filling the Spring Awakening shaped gap at the Novello Theatre for a limited

run. I've heard good things about this production although it has been touring for years so may be a bit tired, lets hope I'm wrong.

We'll also be seeing the Broadway transfer of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, with Darth Vader himself; James Earl Jones.

The reviews for this weren't great and many are wondering why it is transferring but it is classic storytelling that will get bums on seats.

I thought Endgame was a chess move...

Caz Knight enters the bleak world of Beckett and finds, well, a load of old rubbish and some very good actors

Nothing is funnier than unhappiness. Regarded as one of Samuel Beckett's most important works, *Endgame*, written in 1957, had its first production staged at Imperial's "local", the Royal Court that same year. The play was performed as a French language production, the tongue in which it was first written and named *Fin de Partie*; that moment in chess when there are very few pieces left on the board: the end. Complicite's production at the Duchess theatre is the English version of the work which Beckett translated after writing the original script in his second language.

Notorious for his nihilistic and bleak outlook which became ever more so as the artist progressed through life, *Endgame* is no exception as the curtain opens on a fetid, featureless room apparently devoid of any natural light, intelligent life or furniture. Enter Clov and moments later the tarpaulins are thrown off the only objects on stage to reveal the wheelchair-bound Hamm and two dustbins, after much meticulously folding of said tarpaulins.

Everything is at "zero": the time, the temperature and the state of the world outside the windows for Hamm, his servant Clov and Hamm's legless, dustbin-residing parents Nagg and Nell (all with appropriately dismal names) have existed in a room in a world where even nature has abandoned them. The air of stagnation is potent creating an uncomfortable, eerie sensation heightened by the swirling of dust about the

stage. Beckett has created a situation from which they cannot escape; he has created a metaphor for the way in which we get stuck in our own lives, trapped in cycles.

For a man who once professed to hating words, only using them because "one has nothing else", Beckett certainly manipulates words effectively to add to the plot's peculiarity. Meanings are contorted, as the ladder becomes "the steps"; "bottle him" a term used to put his father back in his dustbin.

The importance of physical theatre is pivotal in all Beckett's plays including this one where what the audience sees is just as important to the meaning as what they hear. (Hence why perhaps the French - les spectateurs - supposedly have a better visual imagination than us Brits, the audience.)

Actions reflect the rut in which these characters are stuck. The repetition of Clov folding the tarpaulin and Hamm folding his bloody handkerchief into smaller and smaller halves bring to mind a stuck record, not being unable to escape.

Where the production's vitality lies is in the discordant rapport between opposites Clov and his master, Hamm. One cannot walk whilst the other cannot sit recalling the Grey Sisters in Greek mythology who have only one eye and one tooth between them. Director Simon McBurney as the unenthusiastic Clov is duly monotonous, save for momentary outbursts of rage and oddly resembles David Thewlis, who starred as Clov in Conor McPheerson's film version. But the play stands



The hilarious but brief Nagg and Nell played by Tom Hickley and Miriam Margolyes look on as Mark Rylance takes a nap

out spectacularly thanks to the glorious Mark Rylance playing the sedentary Hamm. His confinement to the wheelchair is no hindrance to the range of movement he is able to muster, nor to the energy with which his

bizarre gesticulations are mustered: one has absolutely no difficulty imagining Johnny Depp in the role.

The company and cast, which include Tom Hickley and Miriam Margolyes who make a hilarious but all too

brief appearance, as the decomposing parents Nagg and Nell make a noble effort to inject much humour and life into what is a very somber and intense play. Especially when lasting over ninety minutes with no interval.

Mother Courage: Fiona Shaw ditches Aunt Petunia

Currently at the National Theatre, we present Brecht via Tony Kushner via lots of running around and singing

Wind back the clock to the first half of the seventeenth century, back to the (so aptly-named) Thirty Years War. Much of Europe is embroiled in a conflict whose effects will be felt most by the powerless peasants, voiceless pawns living their

seemingly insignificant lives. There is, of course, much death and much pain and much suffering – and somewhere in the midst of all this hardship, there is an opportunity, so it would seem, to make a quick buck.

Enter Mutter Courage, the ever-haggling, ever-resilient 'hyena of war', who

is the central character in the German play, by the Bertolt Brecht. The Tony Kushner translation currently showing at the Olivier Theatre features Fiona Shaw in the lead role. However, her new persona is totally different from that of Aunt Petunia's, who she plays in Harry Potter. Mother Courage is the ultimate contradiction: she is a shrewd businesswoman who depends on war to make a living, while war slowly takes its toll on her life.

The stage crew are bustling about on stage while the audience takes their seats, and this energy will be maintained throughout the production. Out bursts a vivacious Shaw perched on Mother Courage's wagon, the symbol of her livelihood. She sings and dashes about the stage, pausing only to bargain for the goods she buys and sells in order to feed herself and her children. Through her adventurous exploits in bed, she is the mother of the brave but hot-blooded Eilif, the stupid but honest Swiss Cheese, and the kind-hearted but mute Kattrin. All three of her children will be lost to the effects of the war. At the moment each one is taken away from her, she is elsewhere, haggling over some business

transaction. Nevertheless, she goes into mourning during a brief period of peace – without war, how will she make her living? Along the way, she becomes the object of attraction for an earnest pastor and a general's cook, both of whom she eventually rejects. Refusing to reflect upon the tragedy of her situation, she is ultimately focused solely on survival, never lowering her stoic exterior; despite the pastor's pleas to free the 'woman' within her. The play's irony is perhaps best captured in a scene when she must tearfully pretend to not recognise her dead son's mutilated body in order to guarantee her escape – here, then, is someone caught between her duties as a mother and what she must do to live on.

In this sense, the frenetic pace of this particular adaptation works to some extent in amplifying the contradiction: the jaunty, almost raucous nature that Shaw gives to Mother Courage clashes successfully with the harsh realities of war in the backdrop, and makes some perverse moments – such as when Courage kicks her daughter's corpse to see if she has really died – even more jarring. Nevertheless, all the running around and brash shouting occasion-

ally feels a little overdone, and, in the huge two-hour-long first act, the acting can become slightly monotonous. This, in addition to the percussive music of Duke Special's band, which sometimes drowns out the lyrics of the interspersed songs, means that some of the more sensitive moments in the play are not fully realised. For example, the final scene, in which Shaw is left pulling her wagon on her own, toiling away despite her losses, feels as if it has been glossed over, even though Brecht is using it as an important symbol of the common man's resigned attitude to war as something inevitable. The shorter second act does work better, with the bare usage of text in the set design creating more space for some moving scenes. Overall, however, while not uninteresting, the production is a little underwhelming.

Mother Courage is on at the National Theatre until 8th December which gives you plenty of time to get down there.

As part of the Travelex Season, many tickets are available for £10!

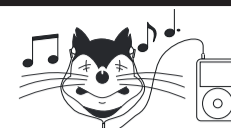


Fiona Shaw as Mother Courage, or should that be MC Mamma Courizzle?

MUSIC

Music Editors Alexandra Ashford & Kadhim Shubber

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We love pop music

Alex Ashford Music Editor

I got an email from a reader and I'm not going to name any names but he introduced himself with the amazing line, "I'm a pop music master, and all thing pop/rnb/chart i'm the first to know about :)" [sic]. Pop music master here suggests that we shouldn't review pop music as we clearly all hate pop music here at the *felix*, but this isn't true! I love pop music.

I like David Bowie, Michael Jackson, La Roux, Weezer, and so on. We try to cover a range of different music and if you want something else in here, go ahead and write it and send it in.

Someone else I spoke to recently, when asked what sort of music he listens to replied that all music is either classical or pop, and if it isn't classical, then it's just pop music. I think there's truth in this, while I love to categorise and dissect music into boxes, it occurs to me: there is no definition of pop music. Pop obviously just stands for 'popular', and the music that we think of as modern pop music really just means it is music made to be popular, i.e. to sell records. And this is why I don't like the Saturdays. It's made to appeal to the most easily manipulated and easily influenced corner of the market, the real low-brow, microwave-dinner eating, George-by-Asda wearing, X-factor voting, Sun reading cretins. Urgh.

So, here are some things I like (yes! There actually are things I like!), that

I bought recently and recommend you getting into. **ZE 30: ZE Records Story 1979 – 2009** is a compilation of artists on the New York record label that includes an eclectic mix of post-punk misfits and music ranging from disco (Material with Nona Hendrix - Bustin' out), calypso (Kid Creole & the Coconuts – something wrong in paradise), no wave (Suicide – dream dream baby), and off-beat Jazz weirdness (James Chance and the Contortions – roving eye).

Gang Gang Dance – Saint Dymphna is an album that came out in 2008 but I only just got round to buying it recently because the sticker said "Fact Magazine names it the best album we've heard all year!" and I like Fact magazine. It's a weird and twisting mix of ethereal electronic and worldbeat. I can only think to describe it as exciting and magical and weirder than Bjork and Animal Collective together. The track "House Jam" is probably one of the best songs I've ever heard.

Girls – Album is lovely, fuzzy, indie pop gold. Who can't relate to opening lyrics like "Oh I wish I had a boyfriend/a sun tan/a pizza/a bottle of wine"? I love the whole album. The lead singer was brought up in the Children Of God cult, where his brother died due to lack of medical care and his mum became a prostitute. He left at the age of 16 and ran away to become a stoner in Texas living with millionaires. Woah, that's pretty crazy.

Funeral's voted-for gigs a winner

Eliot Barford drops his prejudices and gets a bit emotional

For most people, the name "Funeral for a Friend" evokes the term "emo"; perhaps a rather glum association. I too had dismissed them as bland fad-followers before a chance run-in with their debut album, *Casually Dressed and Deep in Conversation*, and I would encourage wary listeners to shed their prejudices too – you might be pleasantly surprised.

Despite the fact that Wednesday's gig was on Matt Davies-Kreye's (vocals) birthday, their current tour itself is something of a celebration for the band. They just released a best of album, and a sense of awe at the act's survival over seven-and-a-half years was conveyed in the birthday boy's light-hearted between-song banter. *KOKO* was sold out and the rapport between the band and audience was strong yet relaxed, almost relieved. This couldn't be said for the support acts, **Telegraphs** (emo-tinged "alternative rock") and **Save Your Breath** (emo-tinged pop punk), whose good sets to a floor, mostly empty thanks to six wasted manly men and one mental (and more than inebriated) scene girl. Thankfully, the fervent crowd swamped their disruptions well before the main act came on.

For this tour the band allowed fans to vote for their favourite songs and from the results they created their setlists. This meant that everyone's dream selection was played, and the energy didn't let up for a minute. By far the largest track contribution came from their first album with choice cuts from all three others, including the moving "History" and grandiose though slightly sickly "Into Oblivion (Reunion)".



One of the band's greatest strengths is their talent for writing gargantuan choruses, a force only magnified live. Davies-Kreye hardly needed to sing his own songs, and even Kris Coombs-Roberts and Darran Smith's intensely melodic guitar hooks were overcome by the crowd's voice at times. For myself, I didn't realise how far forward I had moved until the lights went up, and my voice hurt from trying to sing over all the other fans. My only complaint would be that obligatory closer "Juneau", felt almost anticlimactic after

a set of songs of such consistent and perhaps superior quality.

Funeral for a Friend are hard to recommend to anyone with decent musical taste, but with so many anthems I promise you their live show is a fulfilling experience.

Funeral for a Friend
Koko, Camden
14th October
★★★★☆

Reviews

FRANK TURNER
POETRY OF THE DEED
XTRA MILE/
EPITAPH
SINGLE



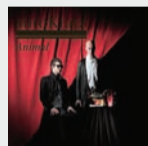
This is some kind of acoustic punk/emo. I've just listened to it and I've already forgotten what it sounds like. I think it was alright. If you like folk punk sort of stuff you could do worse than this. - Alex Ashford

RICHARD WALTERS
THE ANIMAL
KARTEL
ALBUM



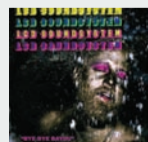
This guy looks a lot like Moby, and sings with the same kind of melancholy self-obsession. Maybe it is Moby's alter-ego? It's unlikely because this is actually pretty good. It's quiet and haunting and more than a little bit comforting, in the same way that Elliot Smith songs are. - Alex Ashford

AUTOKRATZ
ANIMAL
KITSUNE
ALBUM



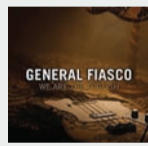
The electronic beats on Autokratz's debut album, are fairly repetitive and get on your nerves after a while. But the vocals by David make the songs ever so slightly catchy and are strong enough to get you dancing along. Similar to Hot Chip this is music you might listen to, to get into the party mood. - Holly Cumbers

LCD SOUNDSYSTEM
BYE BYE BAYOU
DFA
SINGLE



This take on Alan Vega's original from LCD Soundsystem is a straightforward, slow build romp in the same vein as 'All My Friends' off their 2007 album. Groovy bass lines and cool, airy vocals make it pretty listenable, but it is lacking in the vivacity of classic tracks such as 'North American Scum'. - Michael Inkpen

GENERAL FIASCO
WE ARE THE
FOOLISH
INFECTIOUS
SINGLE



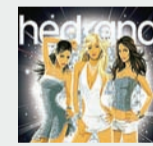
This song is about three minutes too long. The whole thing just reminds me of the sloppy shit I took the other day when I ate too much lentil curry. They're touring with The Enemy, so if you like them this'll be a wet dream for you. - Barnaby Walker

TIMOTHY J SIMPSON
OUR GLORIOUS
HERO BATTLES
THE MAN
ALBUM



The upbeat acoustic guitar and occasional clever samples disguise a range of bleaker topics than is apparent on first inspection. His lo-fi approach and singing voice, is reminiscent of artists like Badly Drawn Boy. This is small-venue, intimate stuff; the music would feel out of place in on a big stage, (except Glastonbury, at least), somewhere like the Troubadour - it could be really special. - Duncan Casey

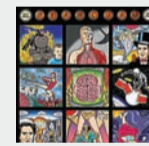
HED KANDI
DESTROY THE
DISCO
HED KANDI
ALBUM



Hed Kandi claim that 'Destroy the Disco' is "reaching into the future". It's quite a lofty claim, and one that this 2-CD mix falls far short of, but I wouldn't hold that against it. The first CD is full of remixes that you can see coming from a mile away. There's a reworked track by Gossip, one by Block Party and one by Calvin Harris – you get the picture. CD2 is less packed with predictable remixes, but still offers little respite from the formulaic bass-heavy electro clichés.

Although there are a few highlights, including a remix from Kissy Sell Out that transforms a Noisettes track into an absolute leviathan, overall there's nothing that stands out here really. For a mix that runs the length of two CDs, it's not really worth the time it takes to listen to it. You're much better off just investing in a Fabriclive mix – they're a lot more original, and don't make you feel like you've been listening to the same track for the past hour. - Barnaby Walker

PEARL JAM
GOT SOME &
JUST BREATHE
MONKEY
WRENCH
SINGLE



The new double A-side from grunge veterans Pearl Jam is a brilliant demonstration of strength in depth: Got Some's classic rock and roll feel contrasts beautifully with the delicate, wistful orchestral manoeuvres of Just Breathe to show a band once more approaching the top of their game. A tighter, more disciplined effort than a number of their recent releases, Got Some alludes to the McCarthyism of the tail end of the Bush maladministration; Just Breathe is a quietly moving romantic masterpiece on the acoustic guitar and Hammond organ, leaning in places on the acoustic folk of the early '70s.

It's long been accepted that Pearl Jam would have eclipsed Nirvana completely had Eddie Vedder taken the sensible career move of developing a heroin addiction and topping himself. As the band's sound continues to develop, though, I find myself more and more glad he didn't. - Duncan Casey

Live



All American Rejects

Mariam Zahedi gets weirded out and captivated by Tyson Ritter

Tyson Ritter, lead singer of the All American Rejects, is like no front man I have ever seen. In all my years of attending anything from small local gigs to sell out stadium concerts I have never witnessed a singer quite as entrancing, unpredictable and, let's face it, downright weird as Mr Ritter.

Not exactly what you would call a devoted fan of the Rejects, I was curious to see how their hits translated from record into the live atmosphere, as well as get a chance to hear their lesser known work. Songs like 'Give

You Hell' (a Top 20 hit in the UK singles chart), 'I Wanna' & 'Dirty Little Secret' had all of Shepherd's Bush Empire dancing, whilst the ballads kept every member of the audience captivated by Tyson's surprisingly pure and powerful vocals.

But more entertaining than their music by far were Tyson's on stage antics, which ranged from crawling onto the stage on all fours Gollum style, to screaming 'PULL MY HAIR B****' at an unsuspecting blonde female fan. There was not a dull moment to the set, because he wouldn't let there be.

Though not a band that will ever

make it onto my top 5, I'll hand it to the Rejects that when they get it right then they are one of the better bands of their genre. But that's just it, they might be great at what they do, but what they do (primarily poprock with more than a touch of the E word) just isn't that great.

All American Rejects
Shepherd's Bush Empire
14th October
★★★★☆

Levi Roots

James Mossahebi tries some reggae sauce

As he takes the stage, the man himself proclaims, "you may know me for drag-on slaying... but its the music makes the man," a perfect introduction to a sauce inspired performance.

To the majority of Britons, Levi roots is the flagship of what the Dragons Den can do in making an entrepreneur, But he's far cry from a TV chef with a simple Jingle. Nominated for a MOBO award in 1998 he was known to be a close friend of Bob Marley, He performed with the likes of James Brown and sung "Happy Birthday, Mr. president" to Nelson Mandela on his trip to the UK in 1992.

Still Levi's new single, "So out of my mind" will have a hard time fighting for its right as genuine track rather than a cookery related gimmick. His single and performance was a mixture



of energetic self written and reggae covers, whilst acts such as Damien Marley might be trying to revamp the island style for a new generation Levi is keeping his music firmly to its roots (...sorry)

Without a doubt watching him perform eradicates any question that roots is a one trick pony, but I think it might be a hard sell to fight for shelf space with a somewhat dated reggae sound. As the final song comes round however and the scantily clad women take to the already crowded stage, I realize that with this man, you can never be so sure.

Levi Roots
Bush Hall, Shepherd's Bush
19th October
★★★★☆



Albums that you should know

Hugh Crail looks at modern classics that shaped music today

It's blindingly obvious, the lead singer and songwriter of Neutral Milk Hotel, Jeff Mangum, is mentally unstable. He hails from the remote town of Ruston, LA and has a slightly disturbing obsession with Anne Frank.

He is a recluse and the last time the world heard from him, he asked everyone to help him save an antiquated merry go round in Massachusetts. But as per the cliché, as well as being mentally fragile he is also a bona fide musical genius, which results in a highly interesting album. It's like a disturbed child creating brilliant art out of road-kill.

The band described their sound as "fuzz-folk" fusing their earlier sounds as a noise rock band with simplistic melodies and acoustic guitar chords, but this album wasn't brilliant because of its genre splicing, it's the emotive level the band bring to the table. The album jerks you through countless feelings; euphoric happiness then hopeless loneliness then desolate depression, all while showing you the full state of Jeff Mangum's disturbed psyche.

The 8 minute long "O Comely" starts with a simple strummed minor chord, with cryptically troubled lyrics; 'Oh comely, I will be with you

when you lose your breath/With some pretty, bright and bubbly terrible scene/ That was doing her thing on your chest,' it continues to twist and turn through Mangum's demented scenes, but occasionally he shows you a glimpse into his rational mind, revealing the true meanings of his lyrics, before falling back into his obsession with the plights of Anne Frank. His lyrics make you feel that you're in the psychiatrist's chair, but the perfect delivery of his fanatical ideas will make you question your own sanity. 'And will she [Anne Frank] remember me fifty years later?! I wished I could save her in some sort of time machine'...

Neutral Milk Hotel
"In the Aeroplane Over the Sea"
1998



will start to seem pretty valid, all things considered.

As you may have guessed this album isn't easy listening, it's so visceral as to be uncomfortable at times, but it all comes from such a raw place that trying to understand it becomes unbelievably rewarding. It is hard to compare this album to any other, as

it is unique and isolated from anything happening at the time, but it set a precedent for bands like Bright Eyes and the Arcade Fire who brought emotionally laden folk music into the 21st century mainstream, and I am betting that they are hoping for a new Neutral Milk Hotel album as much as I am.

FILM

Film Editors Zuzanna Blaszcak & Ed Knock

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Dust off your childhood dreams and let them soar high in the air with Pixar's *UP*.

Eliot Barford

Pixar has a portfolio of acclaimed and beloved animated films, which many attribute to the fine balance of adult and child appeal in their work. *Up* achieves this feat perhaps more completely than any other Pixar film. It's almost as if it contains two different films woven together. I think this film will remind any honest student viewer of something we've somehow lost since childhood, and regretfully so.

Up riskily delays the start of the main story, its introduction instead forming a biography of the elderly protagonist, Carl Fredricksen. In just a few minutes, we witness him meet and marry his wife, make plans for adventure with her, and eventually lose her at the brink of living their dream. This largely dialogue-free sequence is utterly enthralling, filled with emotional ups and downs yet punctuated with humour, and not the kind that only appeals to kids. I confess a tear came to my eye several times. It's surprising how well



the filmmakers handle such a rapid progression through the character's history, guiding the audience's feelings from laughter at slapstick clumsiness to sombre silence after the loss of a baby. Personally, the film's opening twenty minutes or so were probably my favourite, but the passage didn't overstay its welcome. By the time we are shown old Carl's ancient house swarmed by urban development, we

have a close understanding of his personality – whether we are adults dwelling on his regret over that great missed adventure, or kids sympathising with his longing for his lost wife.

The bulk of the film is decidedly more mirthful, but it doesn't lose its emotional poignancy. Indeed, this poignancy is needed to keep mature viewers interested – even I baulked a little at the sudden plunge in realism

when ten thousand balloons exploded from the little house and it surged into the air. Carl's journey to Paradise Falls with his over-eager assistant, Russell, is the central object of the story, and it's a surreal one to say the least. Fortunately, the animation and environmental stylisation is stunning, providing relief for those who might be bored by the sometimes immature plot. Interestingly, the primary setting is rooted in reality: Venezuela's "tepui" or tabletop mountains and the famous Angel Falls. References to *The Lost World* abound. The pair trek over a dream-like landscape of windworn rock and wild jungle while pulling the floating house behind, until getting embroiled in all kinds of peripheral trouble and, of course, action scenes.

The supporting characters are engaging if not particularly empathetic. Certainly, their parts in the story serve to entertain younger viewers more than us grown-ups. The iridescent bird, Kevin, provides mainly physical humour, serving for a fair few laughs, and the legions of semi-talking dogs

garnered considerable giggles. The foremost canine character, Doug, benefits from an adorably hilarious vocal performance. In particular his line, "I have just met you and I love you," is absolutely life-affirming. The animals' stories provide the basis for the rest of the film's events and some quite thrilling chases and dogfights (both meanings intended).

However, at the end of the day, it's the growing relationship between the two leads that keeps older viewers hooked and that leaves you with a warm feeling after the credits. As Russell's enthusiasm for exploration reminds Carl of his childhood ambitions, so director Pete Docter makes us recall the fantasies that were our own comforts when we were young. Rarely do films marketed towards children have this kind of emotional depth, and I haven't even mentioned the subtle allusions to Russell's relationship with his father. I highly recommend this movie, even to those who typically regard such mainstream, childish fare with scepticism; you'll be pleasantly surprised.

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BFI film festival off to a surprising start

Jade Hoffman

If George Clooney only ever lends his voice to one animated family film, he's chosen well. Perfectly cast as the super-suave Mr. Fox in this retelling of Roald Dahl's *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, the film sees him face off against a trio of farmers seeking revenge for his thievery (for those unfamiliar with the story: think *Ocean's Eleven*, if Danny Ocean was a fox living in rural England).

Wednesday 14th October marked the opening of the BFI's 53rd annual London Film Festival, which runs until the 29th, and kicked off spectacularly with the world premiere of *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, as transposed in the style of Wes Anderson and his usual band of collaborators. Jason Schwartzman voices Fox's frustrated son, Ash, determined to prove himself after the arrival of his overachieving cousin and Bill Murray takes his turn as Badger, Mr. Fox's woodland lawyer, obviously. Led by Meryl Streep as Mrs. Fox, and Clooney as walkman-wearing, trademark-whistling Mr. Fox, Anderson makes his mark.

Still, even with Wes Anderson's fingerprints all over the film, it retains the heart of a Roald Dahl story – the wry humour, the darker twists, the irrepressible Britishness of it all. This latter quality was all the more impressive, considering the largely American cast (look out for Willem Dafoe's unexpected Deep South take on the cider-guarding Rat) but Anderson wisely casts a few key British actors, such as Brian Cox and Michael Gambon as the farmers terrorising the local animal community, and Jarvis Cocker appears every so often in puppet-form to strum a few songs on the banjo. Gambon's



The old-school puppets are startlingly full of vitality on screen thanks to a cast that is as varied as the animal characters that appear in the film

character in particular is excellent, though this may be also partly due to the impeccable animation.

Originally set to be animated by Henry Selick (of *Nightmare Before Christmas* fame), Selick was forced to drop out in favour of directing *Coraline*. Despite this loss of a great talent, the end product is probably better off. Animated under the capable direction of Mark Gustafson, the film is less burdened by the three distinctive voices of animator, director and story; instead the incredibly well-crafted stop-motion animation provides the perfect vehicle

for Anderson and Dahl's story-telling. The attention paid to the smallest details – individual hairs that move accordingly, animated tears which swell and subside in moments – are some of the things that really set this film higher than so many other animated films. The contrast between detail and the jerky animation gives a wonderful cozy feel to the film. Wes Anderson had said that he'd jumped on the project out of deep respect for Roald Dahl, and the nod towards this great author clearly shows through – especially in one touching – and unmistakably Wes

Anderson-created – scene towards the end ("I'm asking him if he thinks we're in for a hard winter"). It's not for nothing that Dahl's widow joined the cast on stage to open this film – of all the Roald Dahl adaptations, this may well be the one that comes closest to preserving his essence.

This film has come out right in the middle of a flurry of truly brilliant "family films", all transcending a genre that has become a staple of cinema these days. Following Pixar's breathtaking *Up*, it's difficult to give a full five stars to *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, but whilst it

does not entirely blow you away like the former, this long-awaited screen version of Roald Dahl's classic is highly entertaining, visually beautiful and captivating. *Fantastic Mr. Fox*, like *Up* and like what Spike Jonze's *Where The Wild Things Are* promises to be when it comes out this December, further raises the bar for all future family films. It maintains a strong standard of humour, action and poignancy, making it an excellent animation debut from auteurist Wes Anderson and a tremendous way to begin BFI's new season of bringing great cinema to London.

A new 'indie' must-see

Sabrina Castiglione

This is not a fairytale. If anything, this film is refreshingly real. Every year the BFI London Film Festival showcases the best in new movies worldwide, and *Paper Heart*, a quirky exploration slash faux documentary of that much-attested emotion (love, what else?), is both funny and heart-warming. Not heart-warming in the crappy chick-flick ugly-girl-turns-supermodel-lives-happily-ever-after sense, but in a more genuine, relatable, 'Hey! This could actually happen' way (quickly followed by the 'Damn! Why am I single?' less heart-warming, more depressing way). And despite the fact the word 'love' is mentioned 78,389 times in the film (or thereabouts) it succeeds in never reaching that sickening stage where you just want to stab the actors' eyes out. I think even the more masculine of *felix's* readers would be able to survive to the end of the film. A great deal of the charm of this movie is due to its humour. It isn't what you would expect from a standard American comedy, it's very visual, often very subtle, almost –

dare I say it – British; think the geekiness of *The IT Crowd* crossed with the awkwardness of *The Inbetweeners* (or the other way around).

The film follows Charlyne Yi, who plays a fictional version of herself and leads the documentary on her quest to find out about love, the one subject she just can't get her head around and can't bring herself to believe in. Her character is surprisingly normal and uncliché, albeit slightly irritating. For once, the star of a movie isn't someone who is beautiful in that tired, artificial, Hollywood kind of way – not even in a hot Asian way.

Michael Cera also stars, playing his usual pants-too-high-and-too-short self. He comes into the film as the documentary takes a turn – instead of focusing on external stories, it follows the two characters' blossoming romance (which mirrors their rumoured off-screen relationship).

Through the second half of the film, we watch the two main characters trying to make a go of things whilst struggling with the strain of being constantly in front of the camera and the difficulties that arise when one person

just refuses to fall in love.

If there's a criticism to be made it's that this film screams indie-flick; indie music, indie actors, indie look-at-how-unusual-I-am. Come on, love, it's a film, you could at least put some make-up on. Sure enough, a budget of \$1 million and a 9 week shooting time is impressive for any film these days but there's no need to make quite so much of a point of it. Would it have killed them to hold the camera still? That said, inter-cut with stick-puppet theatre scenes and an amalgamation of cameos from famous names (Seth Rogen and David Krumholtz to name but two), the fictional love story sits beautifully between the genuine interviews of real people about their – often unconventional – views on love, be they redneck bikers, bar sluts, Las Vegas wedding chapel chaplains (dressed as Elvis), or even children. From the scientific to the spiritual, all manner of real-life views are explored, held together by this scripted story of two awkward, gangly people finding awkward, gangly lo- well. Something like love.

It's well worth giving this film a



Yes, this is definitely an indie movie - just look at those spectacles

chance; it's not quite a documentary, it's not quite a rom-com, but it's entertaining to the end. *Paper Heart* showcases stories from many people

of varied backgrounds, and if this collection of oddballs can find some form of love, hell, there's even hope for us at Imperial.

Hangman

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A Beginner's Guide to being 'Cool' at Imperial

If you're too cool to be 'reading', here's a hint... it's not that hard

Anonymous Hangman Editor

Tired of being a loser? Here are some top tips for de-geeking yourself and 'bringing on the cool!'

Tip 1: NEVER use the phrase 'bringing on the cool!'

Tip 2: SKIP LECTURES. Nothing shouts 'cool' louder than outright laziness. Make sure your absence is noted by everyone. This may involve turning up to the end of the lecture and shouting, 'SORRY I'M LATE. I WAS BUSY NOT GIVING A SHIT ABOUT THIS COURSE!' Then walk straight back out

Tip 3: (FOR THE GUYS) Don't moan about the male-to-female ratio. This does not bother you! You actually came to Imperial for a challenge. You're tired of scoring so much pussy and your dick needs a holiday. Then look and your manhood and say, 'not much of a holiday is it boy?'

Tip 4: (FOR THE GIRLS) Avoid guys that talk to their manhood.

Tip 5: (FOR THE GUYS) Join the rugby team - the epitome of 'coolness'. If catching a ball and running into people is your ideal sport, then rugby is for you! Girls simply love loud obnoxious oafs with a narrow vocabulary of 'tits' and 'beer'.

Tip 6: (FOR THE GIRLS) Don't join the rugby team

Tip 7: Start Smoking. Anything detrimental to your health is 'cool'. This includes running into walls and AIDS.

Tip 8: Try to subtly divert conversation towards your Daddy's annual income. Example: "So what sort of music are you into?" "Oh right, yeah, he earns two and a half million a year"

Tip 9: On a night out, people love to know if you're drunk, so make sure you tell them every fucking minute!

Then tell them that you love drinking and that you're always the life and soul of the party and that no-one gets as drunk as you. If they still don't believe you, bring a breath-a-liser or blood-testing kit. They NEED to know that you're drunk.

Tip 10: If you're watching a film in your common room, or just with a group of friends, alert them when a funny bit is coming up. It's your job to tell them that it's funny and prepare them for the gag. They'll really appreciate this because they probably would have missed it otherwise.

Tip 11: Maintain a collection of skin-tight attire, preferably in a selection of matt colours. Combine this with carrying your protein shake in one of those ultra-cool shakers! Remember to stretch those calves...

Tip 12: When reading *felix*, skip straight to 'Hangman', read the first article and never pick up *felix* again.



The X-Factor: it's a sadist's wet dream

Anonymous Hangman Editor

When I tell people at Imperial that I watch the X factor, they contort their faces in disgust and then 'tut' condescendingly. I sometimes think they'd look less horrified if I told them that I thought that holocaust didn't happen (Great icebreaker by the way).

You have to remember that most Imperial students sit on top of the class pyramid and shout to the commoners below, "Dance for me plebians and sniff my organic shit! That smell is descended from lords. LORDS!"

There is a strict criteria for middle-class television viewing; if Jeremy Paxman or Stephen Fry aren't on the credits then it's working-class. Considering the fact that Simon Cowell is neither Jeremy Paxman, or Stephen Fry, we can conclude that the X-factor is nothing more than brain-numbing, blue-collar garbage.

Well, you know what? Fuck you! Behind the garish and contrived apparel is a dark and sinister feast that feeds sadistic twats like myself.

I love to watch people fail and that's what makes reality TV so enjoyable. Whilst the neanderthal majority of the X factor's viewers clap and drool over the pretty flashing lights and Cheryl Cole's breasts, I lick the tears of misery right off Rachel's stupid face as she gets told, for a second week running, that no-one likes her.

We're all bastards really. We take great pleasure in other's misfortunes. It's blissful schadenfreude. We've been told, since the day that we learnt to point and laugh, that we should stop staring and keep our thoughts to ourselves. If staring was socially acceptable then we'd all be much happier. No-one likes to force themselves to turn their eyes away from the limbless pillow-of-a-man as he tries to get his wheelchair through the doors of HMV with nothing but his chin, but we've been conditioned to accept freakshows in the street as commonplace.

Well thank God for the X-factor! The show that's let us laugh at our rejects of society since 2004.

Chumps vs Geeks: Round 1

"So chump, late for lectures, eh? Feeling tired, eh? Didn't get to bed early, eh? Talking in lectures, eh? Didn't do the problem sheet, EH? Not paying attention, EH? DON'T UNDERSTAND A FUCKING THING, EH?!?!?! See you on the blogosphere CHUMP"



Oh no! Chump got OWNED!!!

A night in with the girlfriend

8:05 - Shit! She's here, clear internet history and throw bedroom mess into the wardrobe.

8:10 - Let her in, think of excuse for why you took so long, "Uh I was taking a dump" NO! Not that!!!

8:12 - Explain that you WOULD cook but that you just feel like pizza tonight.

8:13 - Use girlfriend's debit card to pay for pizza

8:30 - "Oh yeh that's really interesting", THANK GOD, the pizza's here.

8:42 - Head upstairs, quickly use your finger to clean your teeth.

8:44 - Go through the motions... I HATE foreplay, it's just gunk really.

8:55 - YES, penetration! WOOO!

8:55:20 - FAIL. Go downstairs, grab kitchen knife and kill yourself.

11 reasons why we hate the football team

1. Mustapher Botchway
2. Peter New
3. Thomas Fryatt
4. David Hayes
5. Patrick McMullan
6. Dionigi Benincasa
7. Samuel Rickards
8. Alexandre de Figueiredo
9. Matthieu Vallin
10. William Swain (nice website bro)
11. Leslie Eshun



union.ic.ac.uk/acc/football

Damn mail strike, my stab vest doesn't come till Tuesday - Hangman Ed

FASHION

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Pretty Woman

Kawai Wong Fashion Editor

I saw a black mini dress in French Elle – full central front zip, thin straps, clingy and low cut. French sexiness at the price of €9.99? Yes, please.

Last night I wore it to a bar on the Old Brompton Road, adjacent to the Chanel boutique. Oh boy. Calling it a fashion faux pas would be an understatement.

The reality was closer to a fashion catastrophe. I am busty. Instead of wearing a pair of Converse to tone down the look, like French Elle, I wore a pair of block-heel sandals. I was the Pretty Woman of the night...

Don't believe everything the magazine says. The "It" look is arbitrary until you try it on (simple solution: look in the mirror - twice!).

As you can see, there is not much in this issue – except for Hilary. I remember my first encounter with her. It was the Giles Deacon show at the V&A earlier in the summer. I had a rucksack on my back, holding a camera and a stand, and on my forehead were drops of sweat. I spotted Hilary chatting to a few people. I dashed over and didn't hesitate to reach out my hand to shake hers. If you had seen me – an eager, sweaty Bridget Jones running towards you, you would have pushed your friends towards me and run off to call security.

Anyway, Hilary shook my hand with a smile. I told her "I'm a huge fan..." and she gave me her card. She told me that she'd been off sick for a week but asked me to phone her assistant nonetheless. I've framed Hilary's card on my fridge door. She is a legend!

Next week we talk country style – the bigger and better trend that can no longer be ignored; Anshie Patel takes us on a trip to the country where she will tell you the prerequisites of country-style chic. Also there will be a shopping feature for people of all different shapes and sizes.

Thank you for reading about my pathetic life, until next time.

The friendliest face in fashion

Kawai Wong talks to Hilary Alexander, the award winning fashion director of the *Daily Telegraph* about archaeology, travel and being a "friendly" fashionista

For a person who holds such high office, she is amazingly down to earth. Coming out from the turnstile, she gave us a little wave and apologised that she was a little late. She is not wearing the bronze spiky tribal necklace you almost always see on her, but she's still very much the Etro girl you'd expect her to be. The love she gets from fashionistas all around the world is down to this simple ethos, "I love my job. I love meeting people. I just feel... really lucky to be in the position that I'm in."

That position is the fashion top job at the *Daily Telegraph*. The two-time British Fashion Journalist of the year has her own fashion TV show – Hilary&Co, and also a quintessential space in the blogosphere. All this wouldn't have happened if she had gone and picked up a fossil brush first. "I wanted to be an archaeologist but my father wasn't going to support me through another 4 years of university. One day he rang a local newspaper in New Zealand and got me a job. I'd been there less than a week – and I knew journalism was absolutely something I wanted to do."

She wasn't a fashion journalist until she was half way across the globe. After working in New Zealand and briefly in Australia, it was in Hong Kong that fashion kicked in. "I did Fashion and Features in Hong Kong for 4 years. I would go out to local factories and I'd see these labels – Christian Dior, Calvin Klein, Yohji Yamamoto. Everybody. They make everything there from lingerie, ready-to-wear to knit wear collections." A bit like treasure finding indeed. And the fun fuelled Hilary's interest in reporting fashion.

Factory visits may be a thing of the past as hundreds of invites flood her desk every year. New talent as well as the magazine regulars all want her presence. Hilary admits that choosing between many young designers' shows is a tough decision, "I keep my ear to the ground. People say 'check this so and so out'. And I try to check them out if they've got a website. I also go to all sorts of student graduate fashion weeks, CSM or the RCA. I also go to the NewGen shows during London Fashion Week."

Out of all the well established young talent in the previous season, Hilary enjoyed Mark Fast, Mary Katrantzou and William Tempest's debut shows the most. Catching Hilary's eye is all

about having a new perspective, "Mary was particularly talented. I first saw her dresses at the LFW exhibition about a year ago. Her designs were dresses printed with huge necklaces. It was fantastic." When Hilary sees something she likes, she tries to help the designers out – putting them in touch with people or referring them to a PR company. "Whatever I can do really, I'll write about them in a blog or in the newspaper."

Higher up the ladder, established fashion houses are incredibly extravagant. In a BBC documentary, *The Secret World of Haute Couture*, Margy Kinmonth visited Lagerfeld during a fitting for his upcoming Chanel show. When she returned to her hotel after the interview, bags of Chanel gifts were waiting for her at the check-in desk, as a "thank you" for her visit to Chanel. Does this generosity extend to other high-fashion events? "I usually get a few bunches of flowers. I always get flowers from Galliano and Lagerfeld. Occasionally I get some perfume or skin care products from Chanel."

Fashion recycles; the trend from the '80s gets a little facelift – the fur gets a dye and the hemline gets a snip – et voila, the 2010 hip look. "Going to fashion shows are a bit like going to the theatre. Even if I'm not particularly excited by the clothes there will be something. The shoes, the accessories..."

Three years ago in 2006, the Balmain girls' silhouette was almost exactly the same as the following years. It has always been about the rock, the studs and the sequined mini dress. In 2009, Balmain has become a phenomenon – Madonna wore their mini dress in her video, Rihanna, Beyonce, Victoria Beckham, Kate Moss and Jennifer Connelly were all spotted in Balmain's

"Fashion needs to cause controversy from time to time"

sequined dresses or strong shoulder jackets. "What Christophe Decarnin (the Head of House) did was like an earthquake. An added shoulder pad here, more braid, more crystals there, and the dresses become more elaborate. Carine Roitfeld and her daughter started wearing Balmain's pieces. All models liked Balmain's clothes as well.



Clockwise from top: Hilary Alexander clutching a Chanel goody bag in Paris; Anna Wintour, Desiree Rogers and Hilary Alexander at Thakoon in New York; Hilary clutching her Doobydoll; Rihanna, Carine Roitfeld and Beyonce all donning Balmain

Christophe became a catalyst for excitement. And this is Paris, people are always looking for something new. All these little differences that have made the impact the fashion house needed."

The only big difference between 2006 and now is the price of a Balmain style jacket. While you might have had to fork out £3000 to exhibit the runway style in 2006, these days Topshop or Primark are not afraid to supply a replica from just £18. About this, Hilary simply said, "I will never spend £3000 on a jacket, never." Fashion is ephemeral and style is timeless, and Hilary has style in abundance, "I'm trend aware, but I don't slavishly follow the catwalk. I try to interpret [the current trend] and, say, if a suit makes me happy, I try to communicate that to my readers – I want people to like and enjoy fashion."

Making people enjoy fashion and feel happy in themselves seems to be Hilary's mission. She created *Ask Hilary*, a section in the newspaper where she sorts out all kinds of fashion dilemmas for her readers. "It's also definitely not about the need to be a size zero or to fit into these jeans or the need to get into these shoes."

In June, Vogue's Editor-in-Chief, Alexandra Shulman issued a letter to designers, including Versace and Prada,

amongst others, urging them to stop sending "minuscule garments" for their photoshoots. Whilst sample sizes continue to linger around the 2-4 region, designers like Christopher Kane and Lagerfeld have since created looks for Beth Ditto. Is there a contradiction somewhere?

"I think fashion needs to cause controversy from time to time. It's about creating something different to get everybody talking. 'Oh gosh, she's a size 22'. But if you go back through the paintings at the turn of the twentieth century, like the art nouveau movement – many paintings or sketches were of women who were quite voluptuous. It just hasn't been done recently. To be honest, it's all about rising to the challenge. I think it was very brave for Karl to dress Beth Ditto."

Time was up for us. Hilary's assistant Olivia strolled past and cheerfully reminded us of the time. The 'Devil Wears Prada' myth of the demanding boss and the poor assistant is not true here. Hilary is not that kind of boss. She is someone who genuinely loves fashion for all the right reasons and she is someone who rises above the surreal hype of fashion. For these reasons she never loses her place in the fashion ranks.

Agent Provocateur's tasty new menu

Agent Provocateur, founder, Serena Ree's, has her mind set on something exciting – cakes. She has co-founded Cocomaya, the newest (and hippest) confectionary shop of the moment. Women of London have a new place to go and indulge. Cocomaya can be found at 12 Connaught Street, W2.

PPQ to design stylish swimcaps

Schweppes and PPQ have set up the "Get Britain Swimming" campaign. Clothing line PPQ have designed a collection of four swimming caps based on four British traditions- Punk, Fifties, Royal and Rockabilly. These designs are available only on eBay. All proceeds go to the swimming trust.

Ely Kishimoto to design for high street giant Anthropologie

Ely Kishimoto is set to design his capsule collection in line with the new Anthropologies store opening in London, in order to attract the eclectic London shopper. Already one of the most popular shops in its home country of America, Anthropologie,

the big sister of the ever popular Urban Outfitters, will soon arrive on London's Regent Street.

New face of Rimmel announced

Georgia Jagger – one of Mick Jagger's daughters – will join Kate Moss and Lily Cole as Rimmel's new spokeswoman.

News Strip

Gabby Gentilcore

Fashion Reporter

It's not where you started,
it's where you're going that matters.
Just another day at the office for a
high performer.

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WANTED: One tribe, one people, one dream, one eco-paradise

This is *not* a how-to-survive-on-a-desert-island-eco-sustainability-project guide. **Dylan Lowe** reports on his one-week stay on *Tribewanted*, and how he learnt to live life to its fullest. And greenest.

Sickle as it was, the moon still dazzled the waters with a good dose of lustre. The crackle of firewood harmonised with its scent – at least when I wasn't prodding the bonfire to revive the flames, only to be retorted with blasts of smoke. My eyes were welling, and droplets rolling down the cheeks fast. I shielded my face from view.

It wasn't that I was eager to salvage my dignity, or prove not to be a wimp. It was because I genuinely felt like shedding a tear or two.

That moment conveniently amplified my disliking for leaving.

I sought solace in my fellow tribe members – only a week ago we were scattered beings, linked no more than some six-degree of separation. Their names are now scrawled all over this book I purchased earlier from the tribal market. This book, written by the co-founder of *Tribewanted*, Ben Keene, depicts the author's personal journey in establishing the desert island community.

Final requests for songs were spent, the kava in the *tanoa* running thin. With electricity running scarce – we had very little sunlight for the entire weekend – we abandoned the *Grand Bure* and scattered for our driftwood-made beds. I never quite made it to mine – staggering towards the beach I found my spot, overlooking the third largest reef in the world, on the hammock.

They say a session on the hammock can cure anything; it was my ideal remedy for all kava-related discomforts after all. But then, can it heal a heartbreak?

I didn't, at the time, spare a thought on that. Under the sweet, gentle sway,



The *Grand Bure*, centre of all things social and kava

dawn seemed like a gazillion years away.

If the name *Tribewanted* rings a bell, chances are that you have seen the block letters smeared across the pages of the *Metro*, or numerous other newspapers, back in 2006. This tourism experiment-cum-paradise is the brainchild of two young entrepreneurs and avid travellers, Ben Keene and Mark James Bowness, who dreamt of linking an online social

network with a real-life island community – people would meet online, participate with decision-making processes such as electing a monthly on-island chief, before paying to visit the island, named Vorovoro, in person and help build a sustainable village with the local indigenous community as well as having the adventure of a lifetime.

Better summed up in Ben's own words: "MySpace with a real space, Facebook with a real face".

Three years have passed by since negotiating a land lease deal with local chief and landowner, the revered Tui Mali. Has *Tribewanted* lived up to its expectations? When a devastating fire, super-cyclone, military coup and online scandals have all ravaged the island but failed to deter it from being the success story it is today, perhaps it has.

And so, as the conch sounded to mark *Tribewanted's* third anniversary on Vorovoro, Tui Mali graciously

bestowed his approval on a five-year extension to the original lease. What was designed as a three-year social experiment project has now a much-longer future to look forward to.

Vorovoro Island itself is located off the coast of Vanua Levu, the second largest island of Fiji and northeast of Viti Levu, the political centre of the Pacific nation. This 200-acre island is home to the indigenous Fijians, many of whom now live, work and play alongside visiting members and the management team.

And, not so coincidentally, the island I had opted to spend a week on.

One could not claim to have struggled to fit in. Even though, upon arrival, my fellow island residents and tribe members seemed to be an inner circle to infiltrate – they do know each other a lot more than I do – not knowing anyone was not a valid excuse for feeling alienated on Vorovoro. I was swiftly reminded that, from the individuals who unloaded my rucksacks, the unfamiliar smiling faces quizzing me for names and origins, to our monthly chief Charlotte who gave us a tour around the island, and even Ben Keene himself who I had the pleasure to meet, absolutely everyone had been in my position once, daunted as I was, and gawked blankly into the great unknown.

Then interactions would spark, either by the roaring flames or with kava in your gut – or both – and your status as a complete stranger shamelessly stripped away.

This sense of community isn't just something *Tribewanted* advocates: more importantly, it was the foundation stones the island 'tribe' was built upon.



Don't let the President of the Hammock Society catch you exercising...



Map of Vorovoro, made entirely out of island resources



But this community doesn't end at the fine line in the sand, as Tui Mali put it, that separates us foreigners from the Fijians. When I could say *bula* (hello) and *yadra sia* (good morning) to every single person sauntering down the streets of Labasa – town and transit point between Vorovoro and the rest of Fiji – I had no doubt that Fijians are amongst the friendliest people on our increasingly frigid planet. But to actually belong to a family that cast aside their differences of language, skin colour, etiquettes and habits, was a privilege I hadn't found anywhere else.

And though my patchy Fijian could use some polishing – I could always attend a culture class on-island and learn useful phrases and songs – I gradually incorporated my lifestyle with the Fijian ways of life. My sense of urgency vanished overnight, I worked as I saw fit even though I would never refuse a request for help; the line *sega na lega* (no worries) became my catchphrase, and I would never accept a *bilo* with less than a 'high tide' of kava brimming in the coconut shell. And I couldn't see another way to end an evening than sensing the drum on the touch of my fingertips, rocking to the beat, and feeling belittled by the natural musical talents of those surrounding me.

It was as though Vorovoro breathed and lived in a separate existence to the rest of the world. It was twisted logic. It was a collective bunch of people coming together, all bearing in mind that a little bit of fun is what we need to introduce to our lives, harsh and unforgiving as they are. Think *Lord of the Flies*, or *The Beach*, minus island politics, armed marijuana farmers and sexual complications.

When Chez, a fellow tribe member, had found a frog lounging in her bed, an 'investigation' was swiftly launched and a 'trial' scheduled – apparently the activity of 'frog-bombing' was such a rife prank-related phenomenon that Tui Mali himself outlawed it. Whatever the outcome of the trial turned out to be – unfortunately I missed the occasion as it took place on my day of departure – there wouldn't be any serious punishment. On Vorovoro, deliverance of bureaucracy and justice could only be served with a light-hearted attitude.

Madness, did you say? You have yet to hear about the 'string-man challenge', where Pete the string-man had

opted to spend 24-hours in a hammock; the 50-odd school children who ransacked our island with mischief and laughter; the two hours and twelve minutes record time for Amy the Iron Maiden to swim around the island and sprint across the four peaks of Vorovoro. It was this very madness that brought out the best of our personalities, our perceptions to challenges.

Meet Oliver, the five-year-old youngest of the Cahill family hailing from Indiana. He would wield a machete with more proficiency than I do, or any of my peers. He would tread, barefoot, on ground so jagged that I could only replicate such a feat with a girly squeal.

Or meet Epeli – more affectionately known as Pupu – who recently celebrated his seventieth but continued to shame thirty-year-olds with his strength and chainsaw skills. He was the man who coined the phrase that achieved legendary status on the island: "nothing [is] hard in this world". He certainly didn't find it hard to conceal his pain, as I discovered when the Fijian told me vividly over grog how he managed to accidentally drive several nails through the flesh of his palm.

But it wasn't all insanity on the island – there were pressing issues that the community was attempting to address and deal with. Like the rising of sea level, or alterations in climate patterns – we had an extraordinarily wet

dry season this summer – or shortages in food supplies if we persisted in our consumerist ways. All reflected vibrantly by the deterioration of the sceneries we had grown to adore, and would pain us to see destroyed and devoured by our greed.

Not only had Vorovoro converted my lifestyle, it was where my love affair for the environment had truly begun. Not the radical kind, but that of admiration for the power of nature and awareness of what we are doing to our planet.

With blades of the wind turbine swishing above our heads, solar panels basking and harvesting under the sun, biodiesel engines grinding and reeking, it wasn't difficult to envision a community of total self-sustainability. And with the village – including the Grand *Bure*, dormitories, kitchen, compost toilets – entirely built by the hands of tribe members past and present, piglets and chickens raised and ready for slaughter, veg patches adorned with produce, the 'dream' didn't seem the least unrealistic to me.

What about the luxury and conveniences I should have experienced when I embark on this 'holiday package'? Well, creating convenience and moving away from traditional lifestyles aren't necessarily advancement, or evolution; rather, we are forgetting the smidgens of wisdom that had allowed our ancestors to coexist with their environment. It is this real-

isation that set apart my other travel experiences from the week spent on Vorovoro.

But the dream doesn't necessarily end on Vorovoro.

As the children descended upon the shores, they were instructed to help pick up rubbish on sections of beach where much junk had been washed up. Though it wasn't so much about the costless manual labour – I did however suspect it was a motivation – gearing their curiosity towards recycling and waste management was the one thing we tried to achieve on the day. The future generation of Fijians were now gathered on Vorovoro, and it was our duty to inspire and educate those who would spread *Tribewanted's* legacy throughout the country, if not the South Pacific or the rest of the world.

And with Vorovoro treated by many as test ground for fusing sustainability technology with the old ways of living, who knows where this legacy would take us?

Isa Lei expresses one's remorse on the subject of departure. I had been

struck by the sentimentality of the song when lined up on the beach, saying my goodbyes to the departing members. Stepping back from the scene as the final *moce* (goodbye) was cried out, I attempted to comprehend the poignant metaphor it represented – I had just gazed into the bridge between life and death. The tribe had been blissfully oblivious of the unknown that lie beyond those shores – but what would happen when it was time to leave?

The thought reflected bluntly on my perception of the matter: should I shun death with utmost fright, or should I treat it as yet another adventure?

And now, arousing cradled in the comforts of the hammock and morning breeze, it was time to pack and ready myself for my share of *Isa Lei*.

Confession: I failed. I disembarked some seven days ago with the determination to not get too involved with the island's affairs, to save myself the heartbreak. I distanced myself from ongoing projects, sought not to engage with people or develop any intimate relationships, and concealed my true personality in order to achieve isolation. How wrong was I. Not solely for the reason that it denied all of my laws and ethics of travelling, but for so naively believing that my remoteness can win against the captivation that was Vorovoro Island and its inhabitants.

They say Vorovoro is one of the hardest places on Earth for goodbyes. Final words aside, all I could do was fighting back the tears. As the engines fired up, motorboat scoring a trail of foam against the waters, I took a glimpse behind my shoulder. The island had diminished into the horizon – inevitably I began to feel 'homesick'. Vorovoro had now become the place where I had left behind a shard of my heart and – I cursed under my breath as realisation kicked in – my only pair of board shorts.

Ben uttered something about the island being my home, and that I am always welcome to return. One day perhaps?



Presenting a *sevusevu* – a bunch of kava roots – to local chief Tui Mali



Me and the fellow tribe members

A week's stay on *Tribewanted*: Vorovoro costs £200, which includes food, accommodation and transfers to and from the island. Visit *Tribewanted's* website (<http://www.tribewanted.com>) for more details on Vorovoro and the project, or sign up for free to become an online tribe member.



Goodbye Vista, hello 7

Microsoft launches its latest and greatest hope to unseat XP from your desktop but will it succeed? **Simon Worthington** reports

As you read these very words, a digital revolution is occurring. All over the world, people young and old are waking up to a new era of user-centricity and unparalleled performance. Ok, ok, before this turns into a nauseating torrent of Microsoft marketing babble (or even worse, another Launch Party video) let's cut to the chase: Windows 7 is here, so let's get the lowdown on what it means for me and you.

To the untrained eye, Windows 7 will, for many people, be very reminiscent of Vista. There are still lots of shiny Aero Glass and transparency effects, and the core features like Windows Explorer and the Start menu remain mainly unchanged. However, there have been numerous more subtle changes that could take people a little while to get used to. The first is the new taskbar which is pretty much a complete rip-off of Apple's dock. It uses big, glossy icons to represent programs instead of the little rectangles we're used to. It does this regardless of whether or not they're open or not, providing a place to 'pin' favourite programs in place of the now-removed Quick Launch bar. They've also added several new features under the "Windows Aero" banner, including the ability to snap windows to the edges of the screen and a big button to briefly hide all the Windows to see what's on the desktop. All of this is shuffling around the features we've all actually had for ages, but presenting them in a fresh and more user-friendly way.

Windows 7 isn't just an old dog with new tricks however, the majority of changes that those crazy Microsoft developers have put into the new version



have been under the hood, providing a myriad of performance-related improvements. In benchmark tests on the Windows 7 release candidate it consistently out-performs Vista at pretty much everything, and in some cases it even does better than XP. It is usable sooner on boot, shuts down quicker and uses fewer system resources. In fact it does everything you've always been able to do (and more) and it's had a bit of liposuction to boot. A lot of commentators suspect that Windows 7 will quickly become the platform of choice for hardcore PC gamers instead of XP, finally delivering the goods to elitists where Vista so sluggishly failed.

This isn't just good news for those of us with beefy tower computers though. Windows 7 has also been designed with laptops, netbooks and tablets in mind, so anyone upgrading should see a considerable performance increase on lower-end systems over Vista. It

may not even matter if your laptop is a few years out of date, as the system requirements for Windows 7 have only changed very slightly since Vista, requiring only slightly more memory and a very slightly faster processor. The graphics requirements remain unchanged and the amount of disk space you'll need has in fact dropped by several gigabytes. Performance increases like this could breathe a new lease of life into old laptops and save the user quite a bit of money as previously stumbling hardware gains a spring in its step from Windows 7.

Speaking of money, you'd expect to have to pay through the nose for the new version as is usual with new Microsoft releases. If you were anyone but a student you'd be right, with the retail Ultimate edition of Windows 7 weighing in at a whopping £299.99. There is a way for students to get it for considerably less however, and I'm not talking about BitTorrent. Everyone with an "ac.uk" email address (that's everyone at Imperial) can take advantage of the "Ultimate Steal" offer which allows us to get the Home Premium version for the low, low price of £30. For more information, check out:

<http://www.microsoft.com/uk/education/studentoffer>

Windows 7 is set to become the new operating system of the moment for the PC world. Whether you're ready or not, odd's are that it'll start appearing on Imperial computers in the future, so even though there are a few changes that might take a while to get used to, in the long run, making the jump is something that is inevitable.



Well you could be forgiven for thinking this is a Windows week with Microsoft launching the much heralded Windows 7 onto the unsuspecting public. Us Brits even managed to get it early for a change, due to the bloody postal strikes. Simon's got a great article for you on that to your left along with a down right fantastic deal for students.

Microsoft also had some leaks of the mobile variety this week. After the decidedly lackluster launch of Windows Mobile 6.5, some leaked mock-up comparison shots of WM6.5 and 7 surfaced. Instead of the same old 'Windows 95' style interface we've come to expect, WM7 looked downright touch friendly. Microsoft best be pushing hard to get the seventh iteration of its mobile operating system out of the door asap, otherwise it might just find that the market space it once had has been swallowed up by Android.

Apple of course couldn't let Microsoft take all the limelight this week, entering the press with a refresh of their consumer level computers. First up we had a 'new' iMac, which to be honest isn't all that new except for bigger screens and some Core i7 love. What Apple thinks it's playing at with no Blu-Ray support in a \$2000 machine is anyone's guess.

The little brother of the Mac world also got some love with a spec bump and the release of a Mac Mini Server, which is something people have been using Mac Mini's for, ever since they first released them. The white poly-

carbonate MacBook also got a kick in the pants with bumped specs, an integrated '7 hour' battery and an LED backlight. Why anyone would buy one of these over the marginally more expensive 13" MacBook Pro is beyond me, but I guess there must be some.

After a suit from the owners of the Mighty Mouse patent, Apple went ahead and changed their whole mouse design concept. The Magic Mouse, yet another crappy name, dispenses with things like buttons and scroll wheels/balls and moves everything to multi-touch. Normal mousing is still performed by moving the thing, but scrolling and clicking are done through the touch sensitive surface. Ok, the Mighty Mouse wasn't a great mouse for any extended use but is this thing any better? It doesn't even feature rechargeable batteries. I guess well have to see what the public's reaction to it is.

Finland this week pushed forward a law to make broadband internet access a human right. What this will mean for the whole 'disconnect the file sharers' movement to tackle piracy is anyone's guess. For more on the subject Feroz has got a spiffing article for you over on the right.

Also this week Ben, our very own *felix* photographer, takes a look at the new drool worthy Canon 1D Mk VI, a must read for anyone interested in DSLRs. The 1D is something that most of us wish we could buy but simply can't afford it. If however you're the kind of person with an enormous trust fund and a penchant for photography, hit me up at the usual address.

Weekly Wrap-up: A quick guide to the best of the rest you might have missed

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

This week Spotify announced a deal with 3 to bundle it's music subscription service in with mobile phone contracts. In a move that essentially locks customers into a two year subscription with Spotify, 3 users will get all you can eat music in a similar fashion to what Spotify has made available on the desktop. Spotify is not the first to offer music subscriptions as part of a mobile phone contract. Both Vodafone and Nokia have similar services, but Spotify's brand for music and availability on the desktop might make this a winner. Spotify is also looking to push the service out to many platforms and carriers after starting with the UK's most open-minded network 3.

More mobile news this week from Samsung who introduced the Samsung Blue 'eco-phone'. The outer shell of the not unattractive handset is made from recycled plastic bottles. Shame about all that silicon and metals in the circuit

boards but it's a start right?

DVD-Jon is back again this week with an update to his iTunes replacement DoubleTwist. The update re-enables iPhone syncing, which, with the recent announcement that DoubleTwist is going to get an Amazon MP3 store integration, makes it a worthy competitor to, what at least on Windows, is a rather unwieldy piece of software.



Being a Windows week, Microsoft couldn't get everything right and in this case had its grimy mitts on Firefox. The Windows Presentation Foundation plugin was pushed upon

unsuspecting users without even a little bit of warning, resulting in Firefox blocking the plugin assuming it was malware. Microsoft threw up a hissy-fit when Google announced Chrome Frame an add in for IE saying it was a security risk yet they do the exact same thing to your Firefox installation.

Microsoft's Hotmail was also in the spotlight this week for blacklisting the NHS for 7 days. For the second time addresses ending in nhs.uk were blocked by Microsoft resulting in many patients and candidates failing to receive important emails and documents. As the world's third largest employer, the NHS has a lot of addresses, which play an important role in both patient care and administration. If you haven't already, maybe it's time to make something else other than the aging Hotmail your primary email account.

The WiFi alliance this week announced the WiFi Direct certification, which in effect replicates the direct connection facility that Bluetooth al-

ready provides but with much higher bandwidths. Think of it as a beefed up ad-hoc wireless profile with easier and faster direct connections between devices. What this will mean for the up and coming BT 3.0 standard is anyone's guess, but for now, low power devices that use BT are unlikely to be



upgraded with WiFi Direct.

This week, Google announced the Street View Trike, showing that there's nowhere to hide from Street View.

Armed with pedal power the Trike can go where the Street View cars can't and photograph even more of the country. Mind you, the Trike riders better keep their wits about them, riding around with thousands of pounds worth of camera equipment attached.

WolframAlpha, the computational engine, released an iPhone app this week. How much for the convenience of not going to the iPhone optimised site? An extortionate £30! I say thanks but no thanks. The only useful thing I've managed to get out of WolframAlpha has been the amount of vitamin C contained in a lightyear³ of strawberries. OK, not that useful.

Dell unleashed the new, anorexic Adamo XPS to the world this week coinciding with the Windows 7 launch. Measuring in at a positively wafer like 0.39" thick and using a 'heat-sensing strip' to automatically open the lid, this epitome of indulgence can be had for a cool \$2000. Just don't expect it to encode that YouTube video of you farting in your mates face whilst he's passed out drunk in HD too quick OK?

Who cares about 3-D? I want a 1D MkVI

Ben Smith *felix* Photographer

This week, Canon announced their new flagship DSLR, an update to the infamous 1D, the EOS-1D Mark IV. Sporting a 16.1MP APS-H CMOS sensor (a departure from the previous 1D's full frame) capable of 10fps and backed up with the latest Dual DIGIC 4 processing engines. Canon is aiming its latest and greatest squarely at the demanding sport, journalism and paparazzi (aka the professional stalker market).

Headline features include a whopping ISO 102,400 (making stalking possible in complete darkness), Full HD 1080p movie mode (so you can capture your victim's movements in crystal clear HD), 100% frame coverage (a feature shared by the new EOS-7D) and a new 45-point TTL autofocus. The package is as with all previous 1Ds, encased in Canon's pro-standard rubber-sealed magnesium alloy body, which means it can take a knock or two and won't crumple into a mess when it gets knocked out of your hands by some pissed off celebrity/footballer/ex-girlfriend.

Building on the 1D's three previous iterations (and their s and N variants), Canon have listened to the cries of the pro photographer. The result is a the new AF system (with 39 of the 45 points being cross type at f/2.8), full feature customization, the ability to add copyright data to images straight out of the camera and Canon's new spot AF feature – a precise pinpoint focus mechanism.

Following the 1D's generational slimming program the Mk IV weighs in at a svelte 1.1kg, which compared to the Mk I at 1.6kg is a marked improvement. The 1D Mk VI also bests its current competition from Nikon, the flagship D3s, which weighs 1.2kg. Canon has also made some subtle ergonomic changes which should improve an already excellent grip with the proven



'elephant's arse effect' texture covering the main portion of the vertical and horizontal grips making even the sweatiest palms stick to it like glue.

From an aesthetic point of view the only thing that could be a miss is the fact that without the rather small 'Mark IV' text you'd struggle to tell it apart from the Mk III, but in this photographer's opinion that's not such a bad thing. An interesting feature is the ability to configure the Autofocus points separately for landscape and portrait orientations allowing for super-fast framing switching, which should cater well to those suffering from paranoid composure indecisiveness.

In line with most other recent DSLRs, the Mk IV supports full HD 1080p recording at 30, 25 and cinematic 24fps along with 720p at 60 and 50 fps. As we've seen in the past HD video shot with the kind of quality lens that's

often attached to a DSLR really stands out from even the better consumer HD video cameras. Canon have also given the user full manual exposure whilst video recording meaning that the 1D moves still cameras one step closer to offering a serious challenge to dedicated pro video cameras. The lack of proper autofocus during recording however means that amateurs will struggle (and fill YouTube with videos of out-of-focus pets in a matter of days), but in the hands of someone who knows what they're doing you'll see some really fantastic video come out of a 1D and it certainly 1-ups the Nikon D3s.

So if you've got a spare four and a half grand for the body only (yes that's £4500) and a passing interest in photography or fancy yourself an amateur paparazzi, it might be worth checking this one out.

Fancy some Nooky?

Samuel Gibbs *Technology Editor*

This week has been a good week for eBook readers. Barnes & Noble, an American book store, has taken the fight to Amazon with its newly announced nook eBook reader. Heralded as 'the most advanced eBook reader' the nook sure does have some stand out features.

First up it's packing Android (yes, you heard right, Google's open-source mobile operating system). Whether it'll be able to run Android apps is however not known, but chances are that some enterprising hacker will put together something for it even if Barnes & Noble don't.

Secondly, it's got two screens. The now standard 6" diagonal, 16-level gray scale, E-ink display, is backed up rather unusually by a secondary colour touchscreen LCD below.

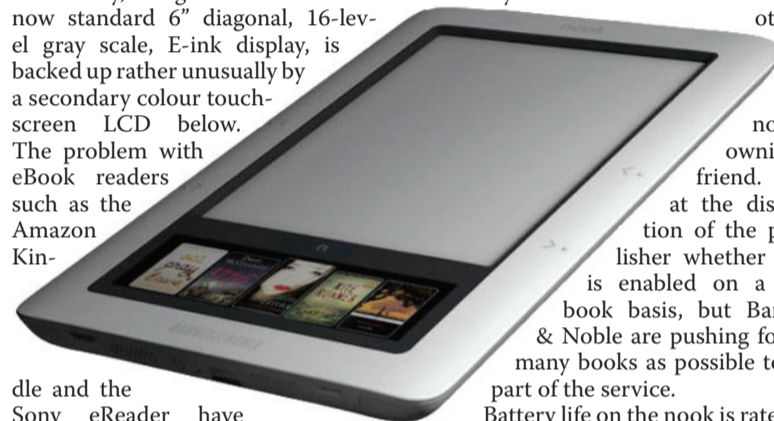
The problem with eBook readers such as the Amazon Kindle

and the Sony eReader have been that, quite frankly, their user interface sucks. The technology behind E-ink displays which produce high contrast and low power consumption also produce a tediously slow refresh rate. This means that anything moving like a UI is frustrating to use on an E-ink display. That's where Barnes & Noble hope the nook secondary capacitive touchscreen comes in. Navigation, selection and all operations are in theory, a lot easier on a LCD touchscreen, even if it is just a small strip at the bottom.

For storage the nook features 2Gb of memory built in, plus a microSD card slot for expansion, so there's plenty of space for all your books. Competing directly with Amazon's Kindle, the nook has GSM based 3G wireless for access to the Barnes & Noble book

store for on the go book purchasing and downloads. WiFi is also available on the nook although it'll be limited to only working in Barnes & Noble stores on launch. On the bright side Barnes & Noble will offer book browsing on the nook inside their brick and mortar stores, via WiFi, that will allow you to 'stream the book'. This will give you access to the whole book as long as you stay in the confines of the store. It's an attempt by to replicate the experience of browsing and buying paper books in brick and mortar book stores, something that a lot of readers feel that's sorely lacking with eBook readers.

To further simulate the physical book experience, B&N have built in book 'lending', a feature by which you can lend any LendMe branded book to another



nook owning friend. It's at the discretion of the publisher whether this is enabled on a per book basis, but Barnes & Noble are pushing for as many books as possible to be part of the service.

Battery life on the nook is rated at 10 days of reading with the wireless off with a full charge reached in 3.5 hours. The nook also plays mp3s with a built in mono speaker or headphones jack. On the format front, the nook supports various documents and image formats including ePub and PDFs. For a majority of people PDF support will be a boon especially for those looking to read text books or papers in digital format, something Amazon tried to capture with its Kindle DX.

All in all the Barnes & Noble nook promises to be a major step forward in eBook reader usability and with a \$259 price tag it might even be affordable. Whether it will make it over to the UK is anyone's guess, but with Amazon pushing their 'International' Kindle in the run up to Christmas, it wouldn't be too far fetched for the nook to follow suit.

Broadband internet access to become human right for forward thinking Finns

Feroz Salam *Technology Reporter*

Last week, Finnish lawmakers passed a law that entitles all Finnish citizens to 1Mbps broadband. The law, which comes into force in July 2010, is part of a broader Finnish broadband policy that should eventually see 100 Mbps internet being a legal right by 2015. This comes at a time when a growing number of mainland European countries have begun classifying internet access as a human right, meaning that it is the responsibility of each country's government to provide internet access to all its citizens. The situation in the United Kingdom, however, is rather dire.

As Imperial students, we are used to exceptionally fast internet by UK

standards. On a wireless network in the library, you can get speeds up to 20 Mbps. A wired connection in residences on the South Kensington campus reaches speeds of ~95Mbps. Yet the situation just a block away from campus is very different. A recent survey of global broadband quality placed the UK 25th out of 66 countries surveyed with UK broadband qualified as 'meeting the needs for today' and nothing more. South Korea, the leader in the

"UK placed 25th out of 66 countries for broadband"

survey, along with other Far East Asian and Scandinavian countries, is already promising all its citizens 1 Gbps internet by 2012. The Digital Britain Report 2009, presented to Parliament, only aims to achieve 2 Mbps countrywide internet by 2012, 500 times slower than Korea and 50 times slower than what Finland is aiming for only three years later.

Broadband accessibility isn't just about speeds, however. Basic modern internet delivery infrastructure hasn't been created yet in the UK. Apart from Virgin who are pioneering their optical fibre network, all truly futureproof broadband options in the UK are still under construction. The situation is set to improve in the near future, but there is a long way to go before we catch up to the likes of South Korea.

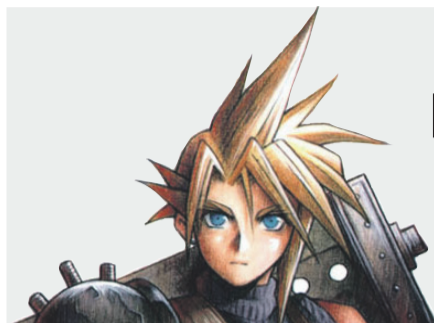
"South Korea promising all citizens 1 Gbps internet by 2012"

BT received the go-ahead for its new optical fibre network this March, the construction of which will only be completed in 2012. In the meanwhile, most of the UK remains connected using traditional copper cable or 3G mobile networks.

Fast and reliable internet access isn't just an issue of how fast you can stream movies. Countries with good internet infrastructure have been able to sell themselves to investors whose

profit margins depend upon quick information transfer. The London stock exchange is planning a major systems overhaul to cut transaction times from 2.7 ms to 0.4 ms, which is a good indicator of how important speed is with respect to technology. Positioning the UK as a leading country in terms of broadband proliferation could attract a sizeable amount of investment. Of course a useful by-product might be the next time you move, the wait for your broadband line might be a little less. I'm currently pinching my neighbour's WiFi signal while I wait till BT decides to activate my home connection.

Britain lags behind in the connected world but will it effect the economy?



Halo oh-that's not-bad-DST

Michael Cook Games Editor

So, I didn't get a beta invite to APB's preview session, which opened last week. Bit of a pisser, really, as I was looking forward to seeing the 2010 MMO. I'm fairly certain it's going to be a big launch next year; the merging of the GTA concept with the MMO ideal has the potential to be huge, as well as extending our idea of what an MMO can actually be.

Actually, combined with The Old Republic, the Star Wars MMO that claims to be story-led, the year ahead looks like it could be a landmark one for online gaming. With APB transforming how we think about competition, quests and ranking, and TOR using Bioware's significant track record for narrative to try and drag the singleplayer experience into the online world, we might finally see the WoW model breaking up and fading away.

It'd be good, because while games like Champions Online show that the basic WoW format has a lot of variety to give, if we don't start to innovate soon there's a worry we might stagnate and be stuck like this for another ten years. WoW is all well and good, but games like EVE Online show that we've not really begun to explore what online communities can do when they're given a game world to live in.

Talking of potential, I revisited the

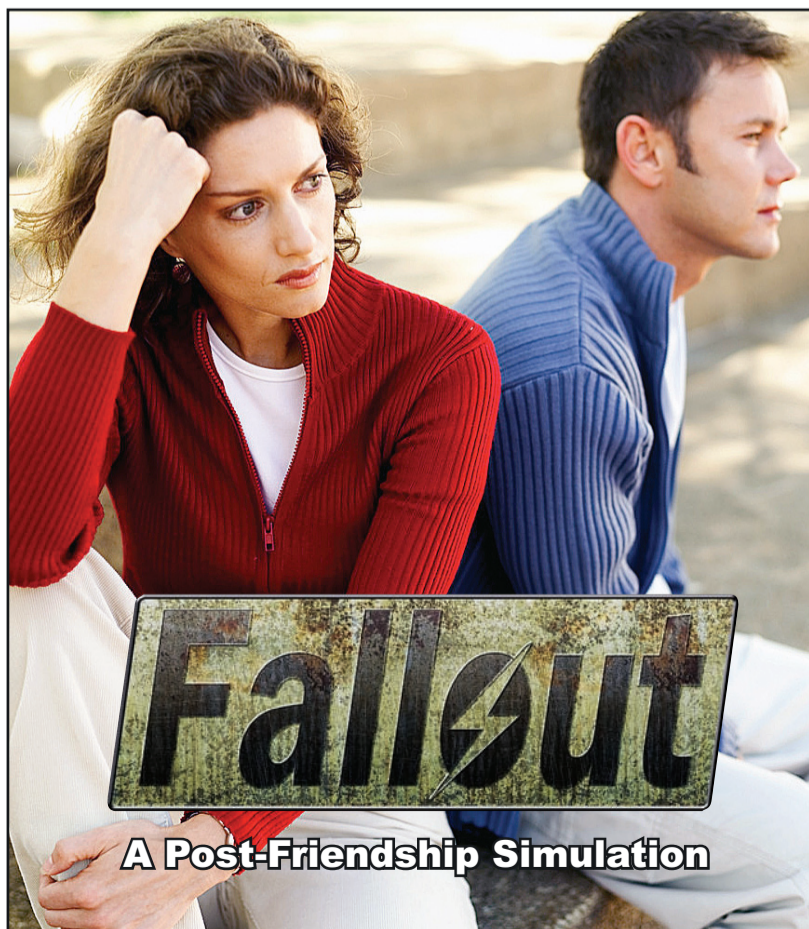
archive of the Experimental Gameplay Project the other day, hoping to catch up on their back catalogue. It's still going strong - the idea is that a bunch of developers create games, on their own, in less than seven days. They pick a theme each month, and release their efforts as they announce the next month's theme. Played World of Goo? Canabalt? Crayon Physics Deluxe? The EGP is where it all began.

There's a fierce sense of creativity here, in every game submitted. There's something about tight deadlines that gives a sense of freedom to proceedings, and that's what creates this amazing idea, realised in a short space of time so as to expose the idea without getting it smothered with 'additional features'.

It's exciting to play what they've got on offer there (you can get involved yourself, too) with some stellar ideas appearing out of nothing in a very short space of time. But I can't help wanting to get involved myself. Any Felix readers taken part in the project? Any Felix readers interested in doing so? Get in touch with us - games.felix@imperial.ac.uk. I'd love to hear from you.

This week we continue with our review of the decade, have a Batman faceoff, and more. Enjoy the issue, and if you got an APB invite - don't tell me.

Classics-that-never-were: No. 1



Ten Long Years - 2001

Max Payne, Grand Theft Auto III and some game called Halo. A quiet year, then - join us as we continue on our trip through the last decade

Ah, 2001. It was a very good year (but not, as we shall see, as good as 2002). We're back on the reminiscence road, tracking our way to the present day and reflecting on the years that made us the gamers we are today. Aww. Ain't that nice?

Let's kick off with probably the most

dary game series began - again - with the launch of **Grand Theft Auto III**. The game which changed millions of gamers. *Adam*, for one:

"GTAAIII made me an explorer, in a way that no previous game could. Blazing around Liberty City pounding past stunt jumps and stuffing hidden packages in my pockets kept me going 'til I

tempt to wring money from the players. Halo was poised to become an online hit, serving huge numbers of players and setting it up for an inevitable sequel a few years later.

The humble Gamecube had a good Christmas showing, too - **Pikmin** and **Smash Bros.** both made an appearance, although **the Gamecube launch** still seems lackluster when compared to the Xbox's strong showing back in that year. The Gamecube's strongest offerings were still to come, however.

And lest we forget, 2001 was a Peter Molyneux year. In what was to be his last cock-up before he finally made **Fable**, **Black and White** was released to great aplomb in the press, prompting **Andrew** to experience the following:

"I bought into the hype for this game entirely, as well I might, being 13. I was gleeful as I got my baby giant ape, astonished at the building-destructo-physics, frustrated by the gesture recognition, bemused as to why my creature was becoming evil and filthy despite me only teaching him water-giving miracles, and gave up partway through the second island because I was bored as FUCK. Didn't play it after a week."

Conan had a different experience, though, so maybe we're being too hard on Pete:

"I find it to be a strangely pleasant game to play. Almost relaxing. It's just a shame the game itself wasn't up to much despite all the hype and **Black and White** is the one and only case PC Gamer ever admitted that they had praised a game far too highly to my knowledge."

Then again, it's pretty difficult to be too hard on Molyneux.

Next week we visit 2002, and the birth of online console gaming proper, the defection of Rare, and the best platformer ever devised finally gets released. Want to get your thoughts in this section?

Wordsplosion us at games.felix@imperial.ac.uk, and we'll throw you in next week's banter.



Max bloody loves my editorials. Look at him. Glued to the page so he is

bizarre story of the year - **Uri Geller suing Nintendo**. Apparently he claimed that a Pokemon character was made to look like him. Wishful thinking on his part, I guess.

On the releases front, though, 2001 was a serious year. **Red Faction** hit the PlayStation 2 with the promise of destructible environments and a new age of technology in gaming, a promise it would wait nine years to fulfil properly in **Red Faction: Guerilla**.

"**Max Payne** is such a classic. Maybe it wouldn't stand up to today's standards but when I first played it, and last played it, it blew me away." *Owyn* says. "Forget the

action - which is immense - it's all about the story, presentation and atmosphere for me. It effortlessly created an interesting and dark world that you always wanted to know more about, and delve deeper into. Love that game."

Max Payne wasn't the only hit that came out of Rockstar that year, however. This was the year that a legen-

dary city better than the real one I lived in."

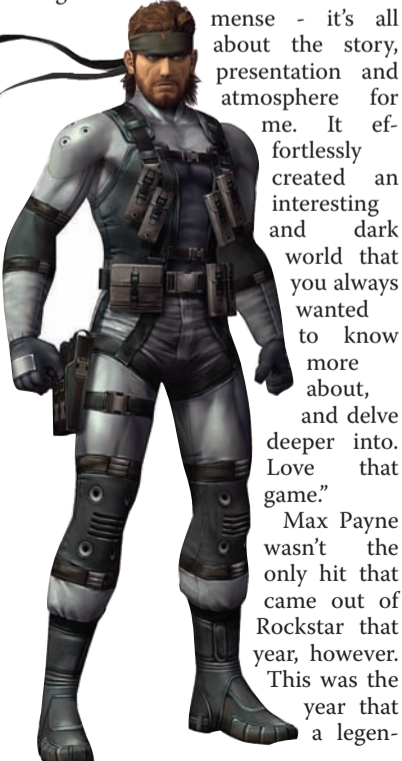
It also sold a metric fucktonne of games, and secured Rockstar for the next decade (or two).

It's a mixed year for the PlayStation 2. Blockbuster titles like **Devil May Cry** hit and become major selling points, whilst niche, 'art' games like **Ico** supplemented the console's attack on the Dreamcast with beauty and superior design. With Japan receiving **Final Fantasy X** (we'd receive it the following year), it was an extremely good year for Sony, one of the defining twelve month periods for the console itself.

What's interesting, as we look back at the last ten years, is to watch the rise of Activision, now part of the largest publisher around, ActiBlizzard. In 2001 **Activision purchased Treyarch**, who would later go on to develop the **Call of Duty** franchise that was a key part in their rise to power.

In the latter part of the year, **Metal Gear Solid 2** and **Halo** released, sparking a furious Christmas as the **Xbox hits stores**. Both MGS2 and Halo were defining moments for gamers, as the graphical promise of the next generation games began to show in the big-name games being released. **Metal Gear Solid 2's** intricately detailed scenes looked beautifully cinematic at every turn, while the first-person emphasis on Halo enhanced the large-scale sci-fi warfare and made it all the more visceral.

Halo, in particular, represents for many the beginning of a whole new type of gaming - online multiplayer. Xbox LIVE (which at this point was still 12 months away) was to blow the PlayStation2 system out of the water soon after its launch, requiring far less setup and investment than Sony's at-



The Versus Round - Arkham Asylum

The latest part of the Batman saga is out, but is bat-tastic or a joker? Adam Omar and Nick Virago fight it out

Let's start with the positives. The voice acting is spot on. Most of the main cast of Batman: The Animated Series is present, and they do a good job. Special mention goes to Mark 'Luke Skywalker' Hamill, who plays the Joker. His cackling voice spews such wonderful lines as "Tell me Bats, what are you really scared of? Failing to save this cesspool of a city? Not finding the commissioner in time? ME! In a thong??"

The art direction and sense of style and atmosphere are amazing, and thankfully they mimic the cartoon and the comics more than the recent movies. The game engine, however, is crap. No matter how many bloom and fog effects they smear on the screen, the graphics never look good (from a technical point of view); it's sort of like a Vauxhall with red paint and a Ferrari badge. True to its console roots, textures are low-res and repeated ad infinitum. No matter how high you turn up the resolution, it'll look crap without lots of anti-aliasing on and it'll run crap unless PhysX is turned off. PhysX doesn't really add anything anyway besides cloth-ier cloth and cobweb-ier cobwebs and foggier fog.

Now we get to the meat (or rather,

"...left click, left click, left click..."

the rotting maggot ridden carrion) of the game, the gameplay. You will spend a large portion of your time in Arkham Asylum running down look-alike corridors and beating up groups of thugs. This is where things fall apart. One button is used as an all-purpose attack button. You cannot control exactly what he does; you can merely point in the rough direction of an enemy and click. It looks impressive in game, with Batman twirling and flipping like a true master, but all the player will have to do is left click, left click, left click. Right-clicking activates your counter move, which you only press when you see a blue sign, quick-time-event style. You have absolutely no control over what Batman actually does, only whether or not he does it. There is such a large difference between your control inputs and what actually happens in the game; you might as well sit on the mouse and let your buttocks play the game. The cherry on the proverbial excrement cake is the unskippable slow-motion scene you have to sit through each time you kill the last enemy in a group.

The combat, although horrible, isn't nearly as infuriating as the 'Detective Mode'. The detective mode lets you see through walls and makes evidence and important items glow bright orange. It also highlights nearby enemies, and displays such useless in-

formation as: '2 hostiles detected, 1 unarmed, 1 armed.' Yeah no shit, Sherlock. As if I needed to press a button to get that bit of information, as opposed to, you know, simply counting the number of enemies on screen and having a look at whether or not they've got weapons? Once in a while the player will have to use the 'evidence scanner' portion of the detective mode. The evidence scanner is basically like a bad point and click adventure game - scan every pixel till you find the object that glows. Not exactly prime detective work.

A word about physics. I find it perplexing that this game completely wasted many many good physics-y opportunities. More development time should have gone to the grappling hook, rather than the cape.

Other gripes include the Riddler collectibles strewn about the game world - obviously a cheap way to extend game time, though they do break the immersion somewhat.

The checkpoint save system is always a bad idea, no matter what game it's in. It's especially annoying here since checkpoints aren't where you expect them to be, e.g. the start of each level not being a checkpoint. Also, a flock of black bats appear and fly towards the top left corner of the screen every time you gain experience. All this experience you get is used to purchase ability and equipment upgrades, which seems a bit odd, since it's essentially Batman paying himself for his own stuff. Also, the batarang infinite ammo and auto-aim removes any need for skill.

Batman Arkham Asylum is an utter disappointment. There's a sense throughout the game that it could have been so much better, if only it hadn't been designed to cater to the lowest common primordial ooze denominator. The grime at the bottom of your bathtub could play it. The game is just too easy, and far too auto-

It really is the equivalent of watching a Batman movie while randomly clicking away on your mouse



There are two types of great game. There are games which innovate, but stumble. Games like the flawed ARMA 2, a game riddled with gigantic, fun-ruining bugs, which is still great because it communicates its vision of large-scale, beautifully-realised warfare. Then there are games that refine. Games that take a template, a well-established style, and build it from the ground up, fixing the problems, enhancing the good bits, polishing and sanding down a genre. Step forward Batman: Arkham Asylum, the latest beautiful refinement of the third person action adventure.

The aim here was clearly to sew together the good bits of being Batman and chop off the bad. Combat is a great example - it eschews fiddle button combinations, instead preferring to keep both eyes and brain locked to the screen, asking you to choose the next target. This removes the need to memorise a keyboard layout, and instead neatly emphasises the need to keep an eye out for threats. You're Batman. You know how to do a reverse-up-

percut-ollie-crotchgrab. So you don't need to worry about it - instead, you're watching to see who's got a gun, who's running to alert the others, who's getting ready to lunge in with a kick. You know, superhero stuff. Stuff that makes your chest bulge and your biceps break out of that smelly, unwashed t-shirt.

This is the key - WWBD? If Batman would do it, add it in. That's fun. If he wouldn't, chuck it. Because the odds are that those things are gamey and dull.

So stealth, say, isn't a case of alarms and view cones and countdowns and snore, snore, snore. You're the fucking Batman, right? Death shadow? Angel of darkness? You grapple into the shadows, and you're gone. To a gamer, that sounds like an easy way out, oversimplifying the game mechanics. But the goons are still there, the puzzles are still unsolved, the objectives incomplete. And ultimately, you're still very weak, and very prone to Bullet In The Face syndrome. No, the grapple-tastic freedom doesn't make the game too easy. It just makes you a bit more like Batman. Are you noticing the pattern that's forming here?

"Tight" and "Solid" are the words you'll hear describing this game. It's finessed, polished, the graphics are well-rounded without demanding you upgrade the old box in the corner. The UIs give you exactly the information you need - no more, no less. That takes careful design. The voice acting is well-directed, full of life and yet not overused and annoying. It's an elegant balancing act of a game, and a joy to



play as a result. And it's not a classic, alright. Let's get that straight. Batman isn't going into the history books here no matter what talk you hear of 'Game of the Year'. Because Batman doesn't innovate, it's happy just to do a job and do it well. The hublike layout of the eponymous asylum is straight out of a mid-nineties platformer, and there are boss fights which - yes, Dara - require you to do something three times before victory. It's true. But being content with doing a good job isn't a bad thing.

It all gels together so well, it all connects up in such a beautiful way, and it

"...you are the goddamn Batman..."

wants you to play it. It does. It remembers that challenge in games shouldn't be like an end-of-term exam, but like a kickabout in Hyde Park with some mates. You're having fun, while displaying a skill. You're not performing strict instructions under the threat of punishment. You're mucking around. You want to lure twelve goons into an epic fist-fight? Do it! Or pick them off one by one and hear them scream and get paranoid. Smear exploding glue on the walls. Do what you want.

It's a toybox, through and through, and that's a good thing. The challenge modes, for instance, are all about getting better at the balletic combat - not about the memory, but about the feeling. About being the powerhouse, the iron-clad motherbitch without needing to fiddle around with a gamepad or look up the best moves online.

It can feel a little counterproductive at times, but Batman's sense of freedom and character is a strength, not a weakness. The game is a linear thing, and some elements are laughably last-year. But it sets out to do one thing - deliver on the license. And after a string of terrible, terrible games that are supposed to support a franchise of some kind, Batman is the first one in a long, long time that actually manages to convey the material it's based on.

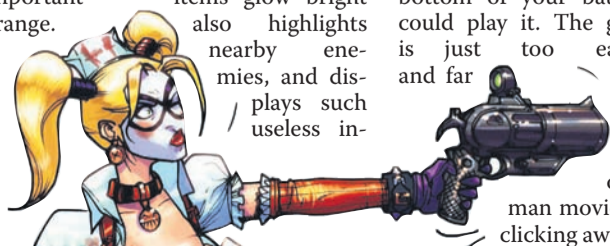
When I first played Batman, I was initially put off. It seemed overblown, and I'm always hesitant when people start declaring something to be *this good*.

But Batman really *is* special.

Opinionated bastard?

Write for Versus - simply smash your keyboard angrily in the general direction of

games.felix@imperial.ac.uk





What's next on the list?

You've all finished with Freshers' Week, and now nobody knows what to do, right? Wrong. Well, **Charlotte Morris** does anyway

Ok guys so Freshers Week is over and we've had a little bit of time to nurse the hangover and get back 'on it'. And there's not that much going on at the Union at the moment so we're not quite sure what to do with ourselves around London, right?

You've been told about Vodka Island at Tiger Tiger and OnAnon and no doubt you've all been to Cheapskates by now, but we can probably do without them most of the time. Don't get me wrong, all of those nights (mostly run by a company called Rough Hill – check their website if you're into that kind of thing) can be a good night out, except you have to get stupidly drunk and/or dressed up like an idiot to have fun and fit in at those places. But London has so much more!

I thought I'd put together a few of my favourite clubs and bars around London for you to see what you think. Also, for when you're just in the mood to go out but you're not sure what you fancy – Time Out London is a brilliant website for club listings.

Otherwise, check *felix* every week and we should have some things to interest you!

Club NME @ KoKo
Mornington Crescent
Fridays, £5, £4 NUS before midnight

KoKo is probably the one club in Camden that everybody has heard of. With its dramatic, theatre-style interior and bands playing every week, KoKo can be a great place to spend your Friday nights. Although the impression of grandeur created by the decor can also be reflected in the drinks prices (and the taxi price if you can't handle the bus home), Club NME is the closest thing KoKo has to a real 'student night'. They have a pretty wide range of live bands playing at KoKo, although the majority fit quite nicely into the 'indie' bracket. This Friday 23rd they have Bleach, The Drums playing as live bands, and they always have a couple of DJs on afterwards – this week there's a DJ set from Ou Est Le Swimming Pool and Brainlove Records!

Bite @ Punk
Tottenham Court Road
Fridays, £5, £3 NUS/flyer

Another one of my favourite indie haunts, Bite at Punk on a Monday is always good fun. Playing all kinds of electro-indie and pop, this club is tucked away just off Oxford Street. The club itself is quite small (in comparison to the others I've put together on this page). Drinks prices are fairly reason-



Get down to Matter and join the masses in dancing like there's no tomorrow!

able on a Monday night, personally I wouldn't like to pay the entry price and drinks prices for the other nights that Punk put on!!

This night is run by the same people who put on a similar night at King's College Union, called After Skool Club. On a Saturday night it's £7 entry and supposedly a pretty good night!

Matter
North Greenwich
Prices vary, usually around £15

I had never been to the O2 arena, or the Millenium Dome – far too far across London for not really anything interesting. Matter is worth it. Its actually quite fun to have a stroll alongside the Thames as the sun comes up at 6am, as you're on the way to the Tube station to get the train with those very disapproving commuters.

They have different events throughout the year – they even had a Freshers' event where Faithless did a live set.

The next big thing not to be missed at matter is Hospitality on 6th November, with acts including High Contrast, London Elektricity and Beardyman (if you get a chance to see Beardyman – he's awesome, we saw him at Bestival!!). See their website for more details, but basically they have the best events for drum & bass, house and techno. They run alongside the well-known club Fabric in organising freshers' events so look out for them, especially if you live in halls!!

I guess you can see from the clubs I've chosen to tell you about, that my music taste lies between indie-electro and drum & bass, but don't let that put you off. There are plenty of clubs around London which cater for different genres of music. I've been to a night called Voodoo which moves around to different clubs (when I went it was at Electrowerks, Angel) and they play mostly metal, punk and ska – always a good night out, playing everything from Alexisonfire to Nine Inch Nails to The Specials.

And there are plenty of nights out around Camden that play that kind of music. Purple Turtle in Camden is a good one for live music and Underworld generally plays rock music (albeit a bit cheesy) along with some indie and some metal.

If you're looking for a particularly cheap night out, head to Shoreditch, where places usually allow free entry. Drinks prices usually compensate for this but you don't have to get 'smashed'. Clubs to look out for in Shoreditch include Electricity Showrooms, Hoxton Pony and T-bar, which are all around Old Street and Liverpool Street. Most of these places also finish quite early (around 1-2am) so, although there usually is dancing, they probably fall in the 'bar' category as opposed to 'clubs'. They're also generally better to go to on a weekend!!

There are always the 'gay nights' too – Popstarz at The Den (formerly The End) and G-A-Y Late, where you can sing and dance along to all the cheesiest pop songs, from Girls Aloud to Britney!

A blast to the past, with roller-skates!

Ed Knock gets his lycra on and gets rolling



Roller-disco @ Renaissance Rooms
Vauxhall
Thursdays, £10, £5 NUS

3 am on a night bus, your eyelids are heavy and you are sure you just sat on some fresh chewing gum conveniently placed on the seat by the last passenger. It's been your 3rd night at Tiger Tiger that month and as your best mate slumps across your chest murmuring something about On Anon on Thursday you think: "Is this the only nightlife London has to offer? Terrible music, vomit inducing drinks deals and sticky floors, can there be something different?" If this has ever run through your head during a moment of impending sobriety then let me introduce you to Renaissance Rooms.

Located in Vauxhall, this club contains a perfectly reconstructed 70's style Roller Disco! Leg-warmers and spandex are a must for this fun and energetic night out. The interior of the club is simple with a two tier skate rink in the centre and two bars lining each side. The music is naturally Motown, funk and other 70's classics mixed in with some early house and a few modern chart hits. Don't worry if this doesn't sound like your style though, once you slip your neon tights into the skates, you feel immediately transported back 30 years and you will soon be showing your skills on the dance floor.

"But I can't skate!" I hear you scream. This is not a major problem, roller skating is similar to ice skating but much simpler and only after half an hour you should soon pick up enough to have a good time. The protocol on the skating rink/dance floor is again similar to

ice skating and the club operates a one way system to avoid collisions. However the atmosphere is very relaxed and you mingle at the edge to chat or show some moves on your skates.

Renaissance Rooms is the perfect place to go with good friends or maybe take a girl on a date as opposed to ice skating.

The best news is that on Thursdays it operates a student night, £5 entry and free skate hire from 8pm till 12am (this is a bargain when you consider how much ice skating costs). Drinks are standard London prices with few offers but this is not the place where you want to get drunk. It's a safe option if you still want a good night out but fancy giving your liver a rest. The Club is also open on a Friday and Saturday night, where entry prices rise to £15 but it stays open till 2am.

I accidentally stumbled across Renaissance Rooms with a group of friends one night whilst desperately searching for somewhere to go in Vauxhall. Dressed for a night out in a fashionable West End club we looked slightly out of place amongst the bright neon attire of fellow clubbers/skaters. However we strapped on our wheels and were soon flying around the circuit to the rhythms of The Supremes, If this still doesn't sound like your idea of a good night out then I will point you in the direction of one of my friends who plays rugby for Saracens and is what most would call a 'Lad' but even he was enjoying the carnage of a tipsy roller disco.

Renaissance Rooms is situated minutes away from Vauxhall Station and is easy to get to from anywhere in West London with Tube links and many night buses. So throw off your dancing shoes and put on your roller skates; then get your funk on!



Get involved!

So you've read what I've got to say, what have you been up to on your nights out around London? Whether it's a bar or a club and you thought it was amazing or pretty rubbish, let us know!!

Email me at: clubs.felix@imperial.ac.uk

If you're lucky, it might end up in *felix*!

WELFARE FEATURE



Paper trails: that morning after feeling

David Stewart woke up and everything felt fairly normal, then came that impending feeling of doom down below

It is that time of year that a lot of drinking takes place. When you factor in the vindaloo on top of the pints, cocktails and/or glue-sniffing, you will need to take care of your body the day after your bender, as it will be delicate.

Your first priority must be sanitation. To that end (ahem), I have prepared the following points to help you with the weeks ahead.

1. When nature calls, you will often have very little warning, and time will be of the essence. Make sure you know in advance where the nearest toilets are to your room and any lecture theatres. Give priority to those facilities where the impact of your activities will be less on others. Loos which have fewer cubicles or that are less popular are preferable.

2. Try to estimate when you are going to need to expel the excesses of the previous night. Make sure friends are warned so they can be elsewhere. Be discreet: if you are leaving behind a hazardous environment and someone appears to be about to enter it, stop them and say 'Brünhilde wants you on line two.' They will know what it means.

3. Take reading material. This will keep you occupied in the event that you must spend longer than you intended. Also, given that you may have

gone to bed only a few hours before, you do not want to fall asleep and wake up with Maintenance breaking into the cubicle to find you splayed out on the floor with your underwear round your legs, dribbling.

4. Toilet paper. It is very important that you invest in decent material. Since you will probably need to make several unpleasant visits a day, using the freely provided material can easily render your backside raw, possibly even bleeding. Naturally this is exacerbated if you had a plate of Madras or a kebab with too much chilli sauce the previous night. Below I have reviewed a few options which you may like to consider.

Lastly, you must check supplies, and make sure not to get caught out by finding that you have been left with nothing but cardboard. If this situation does arise, here are your options:

a) call for help;
b) soak the cardboard from the roll in the cistern of the toilet until it splits into sheets: if you're frugal with it, you may be able to get by with just this;

c) Sit on the floor and pull yourself forwards along the floor with the balls of your feet like a dog with an itchy anus. Turn back every few seconds to see when the brown streak has run out.

(N.B. The last of these is really very disgusting. Don't actually do it.)



It looks nice there, but I bet your burning bumhole tells a different story

What does your backside deserve?

SAINSBURY'S 100% Recycled Paper. (In 6/12/Rainforest size packs)

This paper is for those passionate about green issues, but not so much that they wipe with dock leaves. May contain splinters. Not recommended when in extremis.

ANDREX, LUXURY QUILTED TOILET TISSUE (6 pack)

While not as soft as wiping yourself on the brown-furred puppy with which it is advertised, its softness quotient is still high. A very nice paper.

JOHNSON & JOHNSON, BABY WIPES (Tubs of 200 sheets)

A trip down memory lane and particularly useful for the more messy encounters. Have some of these on hand should you require help, if still drunk the next day -- your friends will thank you for it.

PLENTY, KITCHEN ROLL

Often a last resort when nothing else is available. As the advert says, this is extremely absorbent, and so useful for those days where little food has been ingested. Be careful of seepage. We do not recommend that you wring these out for reuse.

READING MATERIAL

See point 3. (left), I recommend anything by Dan Brown.

KITCHEN SCRAPS

Typically consisting of orange rind, potato peelings, mouldy celery, yoghurt pots, etc. These are the economical choice. If using, try to select large fruit and vegetable matter to avoid getting your hands dirty. Rims of yoghurt pots can be particularly helpful.

LIDL, BUDGET LOO ROLL

Frankly, you may as well just use a handful of road grit.





Freshers leave London for the outdoors

On a weekend full of firsts, **Thea Powell** climbs Snowdon as her first mountain, with 32 others... and a frog

Having had random introductions to people and 'roll call' outside Beit, 33 people (1 minibus, 2 cars and one ultimate disco bus) set off on the long drive to "The Hut", roughly 230 miles away in Snowdonia, Wales (IF you take the shortest route – which we didn't) – ETA 1am Saturday.

As a third year biologist my time is almost up at Imperial. But as a fresher to the club, and with the only thing to go on being a very busy 40-minute intro meeting (there was free pizza and wine), I didn't know what to expect from the Fellwanderers. My £30 in, bag packed, and phone signal rapidly declining, I decided to expect the least; that way things could only get better!

The usual motorway fun was accompanied by an impromptu trip to a random family's toilet in their Travelodge room. After having bought huge amounts of chips in the vain hope that these would fuel us over the next 48 hours, we arrived about 1:30am to a cold, beautiful, starry night.

33 people made easy work of unpacking, and before long people had sorted their beds (including a long line of all girls – nice work for Imperial!). By 3 or 4am the talk had died down and heavy breathing filled the hut's two floors and the 5 tents outside (free pizza obviously has a certain pull).



It turns out bears will eat anything except extremely spicy cheesy pasta. Freshers are far less picky.

After two (early but sleepy) games of Werewolf (complete with accents), we all finally climbed into various things we summarised as beds.

Sunday – and the 'dawn chorus' of cutlery alarm clocks harshly woke us to a cloudy day. With aching muscles, we packed and gorged on much better porridge. The washing up (myself particularly enjoying the burnt layer of porridge) and roof packing were steadily finished, and the last of those chips (with old vinegar and new cheese) made a dubious second breakfast. Within three hours we were nearing Ncicht and the clouds on a much wetter, muddier, greener climb.

New views of beautiful lakes kept us happy, as well as bogs (particularly keen on Rachel), and our new addition Snowdon the frog, who I propose as official fresher trip mascot. Having had first lunch earlier we were now amongst the clouds, mountains and valleys and members in the group quickly became Lord of the Rings characters – complete with white Shadowfax parked patiently. The summit was the exact opposite of Saturday with visibility low, wet trousers, soggy feet and drenched fringes. It's true that in the UK you get wet, but it won't kill you (and you might even get walking-boot-heated swimming pools).

After a rocky, steep, weight-distributing descent, the rain stopped and we began to see what we had just climbed up looming behind us. Back with disco bus and Shadowfax, the warm clothes, different shoes (poor Peter!) and booming Jolene, the satisfaction of the walking was made even better. In the two days we had walked over 31km and ascended over 1700m.

Before we know it, we're speeding home and I'm writing this on the M-whatever in the dark, looking forward to a pub dinner. I'll leave the awesome street and roof dancing outside Beit at 11.30pm to 'Wonderwall' and 'Jolene' to be re-enacted one day. There are no words.

In my last year I am obviously going to be in the library a depressing amount. A new silver lining to this is that with dozens of new friends and LOTS of lactate in legs, the Fellwanderers are exactly what you would expect from the first impression.

I would encourage anyone and everyone to get involved in this society. For these reasons (and the amazing UK countryside), I am hooked. I hope the other freshers are too – roll on Lake District!



What happens when CivEng and Physics students try to defy gravity.

By 8am on Saturday we were up and ready to go, consuming the thickest concrete-porridge for breakfast (a la Jim) to drive our ascent up Snowdon, a huge (in-my-lack-of-experience) 1085 meters! The sun was shining (big grins) and, with what felt like the perfect outdoor-loving atmosphere, the group split into two and we were off!

As conversation covered travel, music, food and photos (all those things that we basically don't have money for), our feet began to make headway. After only a few hours we had already reached a beautiful ridge, with old mining sites, mountains and few humans as a rewarding view. Below the shining blue sky (again – yay!) and far above the sea, I and the other 'freshers' looked up – and up – to the summit, which we were told was only another hour away.

As a true lover of travel and nature, and as a third year, I have a few things to admit. This was only my second trip with any Imperial club. This was my first full mountain climb. This was my first trip to Wales (hangs head in shame).

The combination of sun and altitude produced a very confusing hot-cold mash and the steep incline left me panting and regretting a pre-gym-training-trip. This said, this was fast becoming a fantastic experience for me. I hope everyone there felt the same!

Some pushes up steep bits left me panting and feeling a little daunted, but every biscuit, mint cake and photo stop made it all worth it. Most stops for me consisted of taking

photos, taking far more time than I usually do in London. All us newbies were sweat drenched and smiling.

First (and only) lunch was placed just below the summit, which was surprisingly busy (silly train), and complete with Pimms for a lucky few. The 1085m summit and banner photo was ceremoniously recorded, and people who had known each other less than 12 hours found they already had so much in common.

Back at the hut, the cutting of huge amounts of onions (Rachel and I got quite emotional) and the exposure of Jim's huge stiff sausage (seriously – ask Alex for details) meant the dinner vat was steadily filling. Expecting the least? No need. Hot showers, tea, a fire, pub opportunities and all the cheesy pasta (with the largest amount of pepper I've ever tasted) you could eat, the evening was in full swing. With all this, and a dessert of margarine-biscuit-caramel-condensed-milk-banoffee pie (complete with mystery), the standards for future trips had defiantly been set.

Your Club or Society Here.

Description of your awesome trip or event here.

There are 346 clubs and societies at Imperial. Want your club to be in *felix*?

Send us a description of a trip, event, tour or social

with some good pictures and everyone will know about it.

Email clubs.felix@imperial.ac.uk



One more PotMed leads to thousands more Medical Students

Umar Chaudhry and Jana Kossaibati show us how a logistical nightmare becomes an application saviour

Walking through the doors of the Sir Alexander Fleming Building for the first time three years ago seemed to be as nerve-racking as my university medical interview. Thankfully, both turned out to be OK. However, actually helping to organise this year's PotMed was one hell of an experience; sweating from head to toe on the night prior to the event doesn't really do justice to how I was actually feeling. Luckily it turned out to be nothing short of fantastic!

So I guess it seems that the more I worry, the better an event is likely to be. (Maybe I should cash in on my ability to become nervous...). But, on Sunday 27th September 2009 at 7:15am, I entered SAF for the umpteenth time as a 3rd year medic. Seeing two potential medics already seated (having arrived a good two hours before the show was about to start), it really did put things into perspective. (Wait, have I already mentioned how successful the event actually was?) Track back 48 hours when committee members were up until 6am finalising the details to be sent out to all the 'PotMed-ers'. Or go back a further week when Muslim Medics' pens were being bought and two thousand sheets were being printed. Or even a further 4 months when the room bookings were being made. On the day, everything just seemed to flow.

So, PotMed 2009 was the fourth of its kind. Just like its predecessors, it is an annual event hosted by ICSMU Muslim Medics society aimed at giving potential medical students a taste of the gruelling application process and university life in general.

The motto is simple: an event by medical students for potential medical students. The one difference this time round was the sheer number of applicants - almost 150 more than the previous year! An amazing 250 pre-medical students turned up on the day, each looking to learn different things about the application process.

Having been registered and shoved into the lecture theatre by 9am, they

were told to spend the next 4 hours in there, just to get a flavour of actual university life. Opening speeches by the president and the adjudicator were followed by talks about life at various medical schools such as Leicester University, King's College and Queen Mary's.

These were followed by brief talks about personal statements, communication skills, ethics and how to shine in interviews. It was great to see so many of the students eagerly taking notes throughout the morning, something that will no doubt be replaced by sleeping when they are finally medical students! The highlight of the morning session was definitely the keynote speech delivered by none other than Professor Karim Meeran. He described his path to success and the basic 'do's and 'don't's of applying to medicine.

Jana:

You may be wondering what the committee was doing whilst the students were in the lecture theatre. Truth be told, not very much. However we all hung around nervously, shuffling sheets here, adjusting badges there, as we prepared ourselves for the stampede of hungry 17 and 18-year-olds that were to engulf the SAF foyer. And so at 1pm it began; volunteers were being organised and interview rooms were set up. Lunches were served, doctors (for interviews) were dressed in gowns and questions by students were being cheerfully answered.

These same students needed to know where to go in the maze that is the SAF building, but all was not lost as they had a handy floor plan to follow. Somehow at 2pm everything was ready. Ethics seminars had case reports prepared and were raring to go. The Personal Statement Clinic had sufficient volunteers to match the demand of over-eager students. Tours left on time and... I guess that's all I'm going to say about the tours.

The fourth rotation, the mock interviews, was the one everyone was really anxious about. We were working to a very tight schedule and if eve-

rything didn't run like clockwork we would have had an almighty disaster. Sadly, no fireworks ensued. Everyone was where they were meant to be at the correct time and if any problems were encountered, the SAF maps and timetables were again at hand to solve whatever it was that needed solving.

This was the case for the best part of 3 hours, and by 5pm everyone had had enough.

Being heaved into the lecture theatre for the last time, prizes were awarded for the best mock interview performances and closing remarks were offered. The day finally came to a close.

At this point, I would very much like to thank all the volunteers that turned up on the day. Your commitment and desire to help those entering the world of medicine cannot be appreciated enough. We would also like to thank the Union for their contribution and guidance throughout the organisation of the event.

Super-organized as we were, feedback forms were provided for the attendees to fill in. Here are some of the comments we received:

Year 13 students:

"Just a short note to say thank you to the whole team - PotMed was awesome! There were a lot of things I would never have picked up on or lines that I wouldn't have thought of unless I went to something like this... Also the students running it made it all the more interesting and gave a more real view of what med life might be like... Yes it was intense but never boring and I left with so much to work on and



You too could be getting this situation horribly wrong sooner than you think

improve. I found PotMed fantastic for interview preparation especially.

"Thank you to all the Muslim Medics, you are all inspirational! PotMed 2009 was great, not only enjoyable but also very educational. Also got to meet some ace people! So I am sure I am speaking for everyone when I say a huge thank you to MM."

Gap year student:

"Thank you very much for allowing me to take part in this year's PotMed. It was eye opening, and I have learnt a lot about the course of medicine. I thank you and your friends, for putting this on. It was truly a great experience; I witnessed a community

amongst you."

Umar and Jana:

Reflecting on the event as a whole, ultimately the most important thing was whether or not the students benefited from the event. A vast majority of students did seem to think so. Hopefully, they can use the guidance they received that day to secure a place in medical school, which was our ultimate goal.

Proceeds will be going to charity and we hope that the Muslim Medics society can continue and build upon this event to help even more medical students reach their potential in years to come.



Medical students always enjoy leaving the SAF

THE INTER-UNI TRADING GAME

Thursday 29th Oct
1800
Business School LT3

Trade equities and commodities on a virtual learning platform against the brightest and most ambitious teams at Imperial.

Finalists will compete against teams from Oxford, Cambridge, LSE and Warwick at RBS headquarters for the ultimate prize.

More details to follow at www.icfinancesociety.com

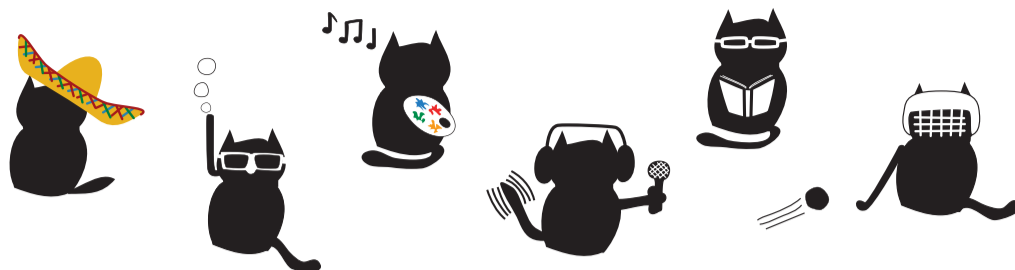


What's on...

Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editors – Lily Topham & Rachel D'oliveiro

whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Mon 26th Oct

Autumn Assassins Game

- From today until one man/woman stands!
- £2, sign up by buying Assassins Guild membership online

PhySoc Wall-E Film Night

- 6:15pm, Blackett LT2
- Free with free popcorn!

Afro-Caribbean Soc Film Night

- 6:30pm, Huxley LT308
- Free (members), £2 (non-members)

Medsin Explained

- 6:30-8pm, SAF LT1
- Find out all about Medsin and how to get involved. Free snacks and drinks!

Friends of MSF Nandos Night

- 7pm, Nandos Gloucester Road
- To confirm a place email: ebc07@ic.ac.uk



Tues 27th Oct

Christian Union Impact

- “Wake, Eat, Work, Drink, Sleep – Why doesn't life ever satisfy me?”
- 12 noon, Union Dining Hall
- Discussion lunch open to all students. Free!

Hindu Soc - Ujaali

- 7-11pm, Great Hall, Sherfield
- An extraordinary evening of Rassa Garba and Dandiya. Live Music by 'Strings'!
- £8 (members), £10 (non-members)
- Tickets from SAF at lunchtimes

Chocolate Soc – “A Chocolate Affair”

- Blackett 8th Floor Common Room
- Free (members), £3 (non-members)
- Quality chocolate provided, coupled with lots of chocolate cakes....

To Do....

- 1) Bake Cake
- 2) Make Halloween costume....
- 3) Email whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk (Club name & event, time, place, price, pics...) **by end of Tues 27th.**

Weds 28th Oct

Snooker Club – 9-ball Pool Team Trials

- 12:45pm, meet at entrance to Beit Quad
- Free (members), £2 (non-members)

Afro-Caribbean Soc Games Night

- 6pm, SAF LT G34
- Free for all!

Outdoor Club – Brick Lane Curry Night

- 7:30-11pm
- Meet outside Beit Quad (tube to Brick Lane)
- Less than £10 for a meal, bring own drinks...
- Contact: outdoor@imperial.ac.uk



Fri 30th Oct

PhySoc Lecture

- “Antimatter: Angel or Demon?” given by Professor Frank Close OBE, Oxford University
- 1pm, Blackett LT1

Afro-Caribbean Soc CHOP CHOP

- 6-10pm, Union Concert Hall
- £4 (members), £7 (non-members)
- A celebration of Afro-Caribbean culture with food, music and presentations!



Thurs 29th Oct

The Big Chill

- Doors 7:30pm, Performances from 8pm
- Reynolds Bar, Charing Cross Campus
- ICSM Light Opera Society presents an evening of jazz and acoustic music
- £4 with free nibbles

Hangman

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

A Beginner's Guide to being 'Cool' at Imperial

If you're too cool to be 'reading', here's a hint... it's not that hard

Anonymous Hangman Editor

Tired of being a loser? Here are some top tips for de-geeking yourself and 'bringing on the cool!'

Tip 1: NEVER use the phrase 'bringing on the cool!'

Tip 2: SKIP LECTURES. Nothing shouts 'cool' louder than outright laziness. Make sure your absence is noted by everyone. This may involve turning up to the end of the lecture and shouting, 'SORRY I'M LATE. I WAS BUSY NOT GIVING A SHIT ABOUT THIS COURSE!' Then walk straight back out

Tip 3: (FOR THE GUYS) Don't moan about the male-to-female ratio. This does not bother you! You actually came to Imperial for a challenge. You're tired of scoring so much pussy and your dick needs a holiday. Then look and your manhood and say, 'not much of a holiday is it boy?'

Tip 4: (FOR THE GIRLS) Avoid guys that talk to their manhood.

Tip 5: (FOR THE GUYS) Join the rugby team - the epitome of 'coolness'. If catching a ball and running into people is your ideal sport, then rugby is for you! Girls simply love loud obnoxious oafs with a narrow vocabulary of 'tits' and 'beer'.

Tip 6: (FOR THE GIRLS) Don't join the rugby team

Tip 7: Start Smoking. Anything detrimental to your health is 'cool'. This includes running into walls and AIDS.

Tip 8: Try to subtly divert conversation towards your Daddy's annual income. Example: "So what sort of music are you into?" "Oh right, yeah, he earns two and a half million a year"

Tip 9: On a night out, people love to know if you're drunk, so make sure you tell them every fucking minute!

Then tell them that you love drinking and that you're always the life and soul of the party and that no-one gets as drunk as you. If they still don't believe you, bring a breath-a-liser or blood-testing kit. They NEED to know that you're drunk.

Tip 10: If you're watching a film in your common room, or just with a group of friends, alert them when a funny bit is coming up. It's your job to tell them that it's funny and prepare them for the gag. They'll really appreciate this because they probably would have missed it otherwise.

Tip 11: Maintain a collection of skin-tight attire, preferably in a selection of matt colours. Combine this with carrying your protein shake in one of those ultra-cool shakers! Remember to stretch those calves...

Tip 12: When reading *felix*, skip straight to 'Hangman', read the first article and never pick up *felix* again.



The X-Factor: it's a sadist's wet dream

Anonymous Hangman Editor

When I tell people at Imperial that I watch the X factor, they contort their faces in disgust and then 'tut' condescendingly. I sometimes think they'd look less horrified if I told them that I thought that holocaust didn't happen (Great icebreaker by the way).

You have to remember that most Imperial students sit on top of the class pyramid and shout to the commoners below, "Dance for me plebians and sniff my organic shit! That smell is descended from lords. LORDS!"

There is a strict criteria for middle-class television viewing; if Jeremy Paxman or Stephen Fry aren't on the credits then it's working-class. Considering the fact that Simon Cowell is neither Jeremy Paxman, or Stephen Fry, we can conclude that the X-factor is nothing more than brain-numbing, blue-collar garbage.

Well, you know what? Fuck you! Behind the garish and contrived apparel is a dark and sinister feast that feeds sadistic twats like myself.

I love to watch people fail and that's what makes reality TV so enjoyable. Whilst the neanderthal majority of the X factor's viewers clap and drool over the pretty flashing lights and Cheryl Cole's breasts, I lick the tears of misery right off Rachel's stupid face as she gets told, for a second week running, that no-one likes her.

We're all bastards really. We take great pleasure in other's misfortunes. It's blissful schadenfreude. We've been told, since the day that we learnt to point and laugh, that we should stop staring and keep our thoughts to ourselves. If staring was socially acceptable then we'd all be much happier. No-one likes to force themselves to turn their eyes away from the limbless pillow-of-a-man as he tries to get his wheelchair through the doors of HMV with nothing but his chin, but we've been conditioned to accept freakshows in the street as commonplace.

Well thank God for the X-factor! The show that's let us laugh at our rejects of society since 2004.

Chumps vs Geeks: Round 1

"So chump, late for lectures, eh? Feeling tired, eh? Didn't get to bed early, eh? Talking in lectures, eh? Didn't do the problem sheet, EH? Not paying attention, EH? DON'T UNDERSTAND A FUCKING THING, EH?!?!?! See you on the blogosphere CHUMP"



Oh no! Chump got OWNED!!!

A night in with the girlfriend

8:05 - Shit! She's here, clear internet history and throw bedroom mess into the wardrobe.

8:10 - Let her in, think of excuse for why you took so long, "Uh I was taking a dump" NO! Not that!!!

8:12 - Explain that you WOULD cook but that you just feel like pizza tonight.

8:13 - Use girlfriend's debit card to pay for pizza

8:30 - "Oh yeh that's really interesting", THANK GOD, the pizza's here.

8:42 - Head upstairs, quickly use your finger to clean your teeth.

8:44 - Go through the motions... I HATE foreplay, it's just gunk really.

8:55 - YES, penetration! WOOO!

8:55:20 - FAIL. Go downstairs, grab kitchen knife and kill yourself.

11 reasons why we hate the football team

1. Mustapher Botchway
2. Peter New
3. Thomas Fryatt
4. David Hayes
5. Patrick McMullan
6. Dionigi Benincasa
7. Samuel Rickards
8. Alexandre de Figueiredo
9. Matthieu Vallin
10. William Swain (nice website bro)
11. Leslie Eshun

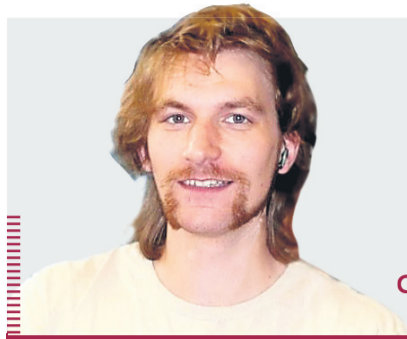


union.ic.ac.uk/acc/football

Damn mail strike, my stab vest doesn't come till Tuesday - Hangman Ed

COFFEE BREAK

Coffee Break Editor Charlie Murdoch
coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Bloody Union Fun Police

Charlie Murdoch Coffee Break Editor

I can't believe how suddenly I have turned into an old bastard. This is my final year at Imperial College, and looking back I have to say I've had a lot of fun. From being found handcuffed, smashed off my nut at 4am in Tesco trying to buy an iceberg lettuce, to befriending some of the best people possible, I've probably done it all. Yet seeing this year's intake of solely 90s births makes me feel a bit over the hill- and I'm only 21. However at the same time it is amazing to see so many freshers getting involved this year. Observing the hockey club, the group of boys and girls is the best since I was a fresher!

I'm sure that all you freshers have been told this so many times before, but I shall re-iterate. At Imperial you have to work your balls off, or vaginal passage if you are of the female variety. As a result you are going to have to let off some steam, i.e. distract yourself to forget about that project deadline or the shite mark in last week's test. Without this distraction, I can assure you that in no time you will burn out, turn in to a nervous wreck and people will avoid you. I certainly will. Impe-

rial knows this; why else is there such a huge (over 300) range of clubs and societies? In fact, Imperial has the biggest number of clubs and societies of any university. Why else is there a free gym? Why else is the Union continually improving its facilities?

I balance my time between working on my degree (which always comes first), dealing with the ACC, playing hockey and then extreme laddish behaviour- something that DPFS Jenny Wilson is not impressed with. I think that private study and my social life sees a 50:50 split in time. Over the summer I work for a race team, if you have 2 hours to change a steering rack, you take 2 hours. If you've only 30 minutes, you bolt the fucker on in 30 and don't bother to shine the spanner. It's the same with work. If you have a day to write your essay, you procrastinate for half of it, if you only have half the time, you knuckle down and bash it out. The end result is the same.

Basically freshers, what I am trying to say is don't let work get in the way of having a great time, but don't neglect work. Balance your time. Remember you are only a student once.

Stuff Imperial students like:

4. felix:

Lets not beat about the bush, we all love this humble newspaper. Not only does it offer great journalism (award winning at that), it is also free. It's known throughout most of the scientific world as the best material for soaking up beer which has been spilt on the table on a Friday evening. You do not know this, but we actually print 15,000 copies each week, of which 5000 are

solely used for the purpose of beer removal. They say that it's the news sections that provide the best beer soakage to area ratio.

Moving away from beer, and into a more factual world, this paper has produced multiple student journalists of the year, and we do all of this for you- and what do we get in return? Zero. Not even a small hug and a kiss. I am very sad.



You gotta bloody love it!

**WE STILL NEED A
PUZZLES GURU!!**

COME TO FELIX, BEIT WEST WING

Quote of the Week

Washington Irving: "There is a sacredness in tears. They are not the mark of weakness, but of power. They speak more eloquently than ten thousand tongues. They are messengers of overwhelming grief...and unspeakable love."

FUCWIT League Table

Teams:

Harry Potter Trio	19 Points
The Tough Brets	9 Points
I Hate Medic scum	5 Points

Individuals:

Bethan Matthews	24 Points
Matthew Colvin	13 Points
Herens Tibaut	12 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, 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 sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk. Go!

Graphic Dingbats

These are the best. Even if I may say so myself. Last week's winner was **Jane O'Rook**, who correctly identified Iggy Pop- *The Passenger* and Bruce Springsteen- *Dancing in the Dark*. Well done.

1 Places which Ben E King wishes one to rest

■ By me
■ Not by me

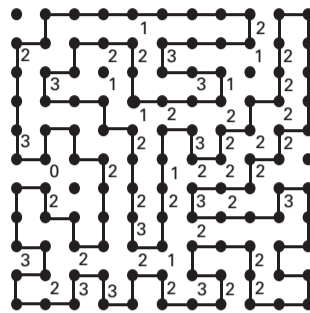
2 TRACY CHAPMAN: THIS IS YOUR LIFE

Sing
 Triple jump
 Footballer
 A high performance car
 Prime Minister

Slitherlink 1,441

●	●	●	●	●	1	●	●	●	2	●
●	2	●	●	2	2	3	●	●	1	2
●	●	3	●	1	●	●	3	1	●	2
●	●	●	●	●	1	2	●	2	●	2
●	3	●	●	●	2	●	3	2	2	2
●	●	0	●	2	●	1	2	2	2	●
●	●	2	●	●	2	2	3	2	●	3
●	●	●	●	●	3	2	●	●	●	●
●	3	●	2	●	2	1	●	●	2	●
●	●	2	3	3	●	2	3	2	2	●

Solution 1440

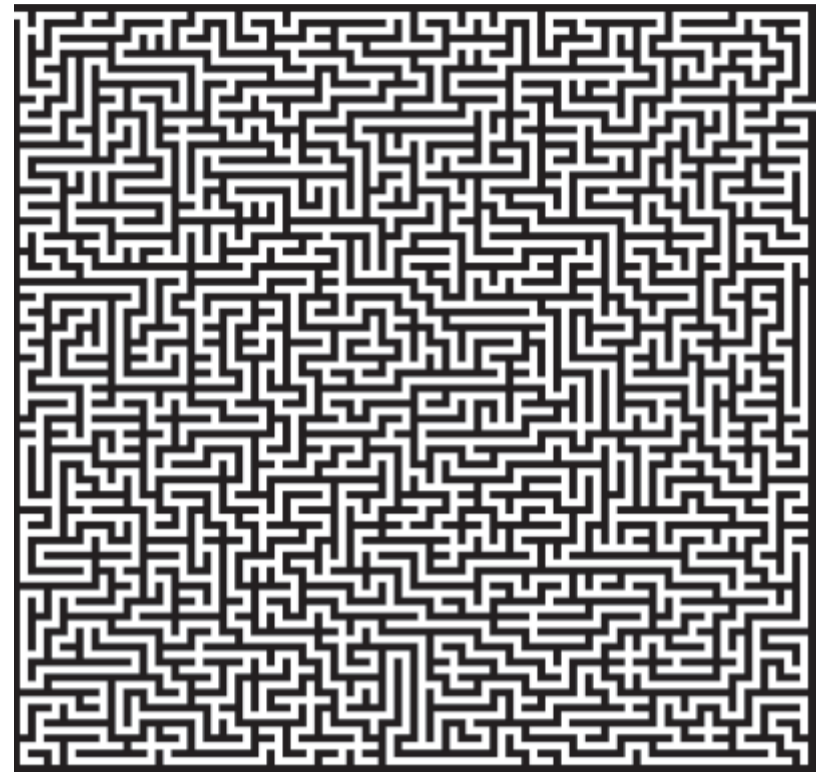


WE STILL NEED PEOPLE TO SET THESE PUZZLES OUT. THERE WILL NOT BE ONE NEXT WEEK. PLEASE HELP US!!!

How to play:

It's quite simple, all numbers are in a cell and must be surrounded with a corresponding number of 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.

Mentalist Maze



Wordoku 1,440

E	M	B			L	R		
			B	K	I			
		K			M			
L	E	C						B
			L					
R								

Scribble box

Solution:

	R	F	E	N				
A	R	N	T	E	S			
E	P	F		A				
N	A	P	F	R	O	T		
A	R	O	S	N	R	R		

Going underground

So, all the Arsenal was the com... te... alphabet is assigned a tion for last w... sc... 1-26 (see table) and... it a... together for... as a little closer... have to... done to Ian Fulton... the Underground... that is hidden each week to su... a.felix@imperial.ac.uk

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

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

So which London tube station sums to 71?

-	-	-	-	-	-	=	71
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----

felix needs you. We need someone to create these puzzles each week. If you think you can, or just want to get involved we need to hear from you!!!

felix Lovestruck

07726 799 424



Seen that special person? Maybe the one? Want to see them again?

Text **Lovestruck** to get a free union lunch together!

"Hot, Miserable girl in my Japanese class. Cheer the fuck up. It'll go in easier if you smile."
Japanese boy

"Dear beauty i saw working at the union, and in physics. If you blow my trumpet i'll beat your love drum."
Alaric

"Me: gym obsessed physicist. You: girl i never called back after 1 night stand. Round 2 of the gun show?"
Fames Jairley

"Dear hungry honey. I saw your ad and i knew it was you. What a plan we had, what a glorious plan. How

about that lunch?"
Randy 'n' Ravenous

"You, using Gilson pipettes in the SAF on Thursday lunchtime. I saw you through the windows to your lab. It's not so precise, but I'll let you touch my P200."
SAF Monkey

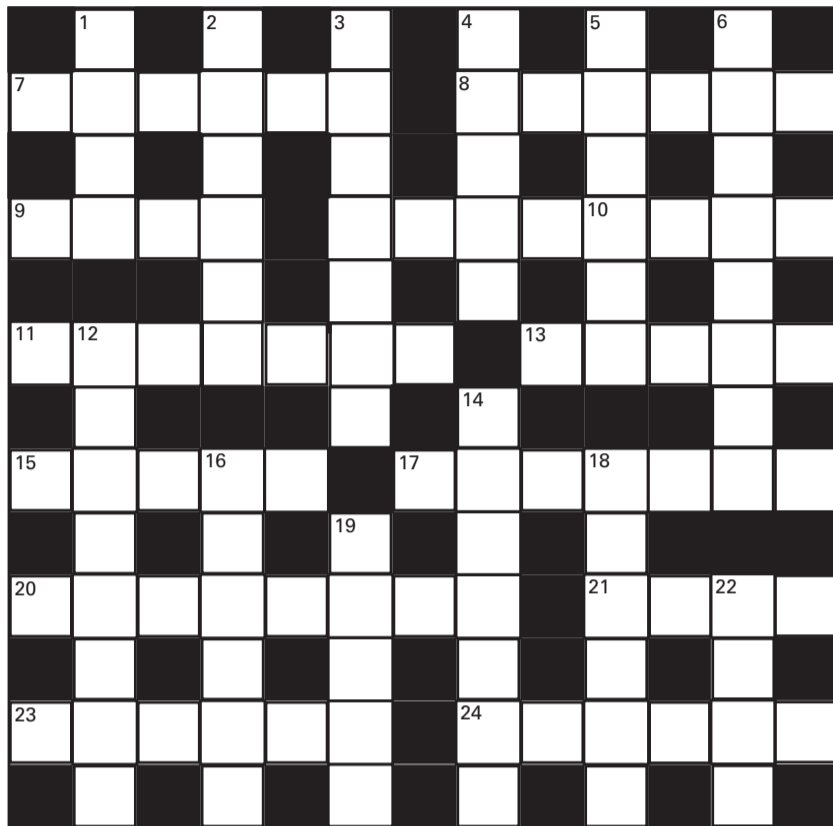
"I always sit near you in lectures. I find your exotic features captivating. I know I must be popular as i've been year rep 2 years running, but i'm afraid to admit my feelings as I fear rejection. Please let me know if you feel the same."
X, 2nd year Physicist

"You were carrying a lab rat through Biochem on Wednesday. I'm pretty animal too. Carry me to your laboratory and do experiments of me. MEOW"
Lab Rat

"We need to share our love over chicken and bacon baguettes. I see you eat them every day. Your second choice is always BLT. Mine too. Can I be your third?"
I had one today

"Darling, you bring the anal beads, I'll bring the plastic sheets. I'm waiting for you."
Rubbing my beads

A quickie (crossword) 1,441



ACROSS

- 7 Crown around the sun - Mexican beer (6)
 8 Distance from origin (6)
 9 Help the ____ (4)
 10 Taped ear (anag.) (4,4)
 11 A gaggle of Messiah-betrayers (7)
 13 Former Russian monarchists (5)
 15 What do you call a man with a spade in his head? (5)
 17 Strikes (ball) in mid-air (7)
 20 Lurking in a forlorn, pathetic sort-of-way (8)
 21 What do you call a man dug from the ground? (4)
 23 Passe (3-3)
 24 Layne, Rimmer, or Schwarzenegger (6)

DOWN

- 1 What do you call a man with a spade in his head? (4)
 2 What do you call a deer with no eyes? (2,4)
 3 What do you find at the ends of armies? (7)
 4 Foam (5)
 5 Loves (6)

- 6 What do you call a camel with 3 humps? (8)
 12 Doubtful (8)
 14 What do you call a man without a spade in his head? (7)
 16 Dirty (6)
 18 Wolf-like (6)
 19 " " - Big, crap, wobbly pink Pokemon (5)
 22 Bathroom mineral powder (4)
 17 Pertaining to singing groups (6)
 18 Intentional malice (5)
 21 One's "peepers" (4)

Solution 1440



Scribble box

Well done to all out all out entrants last week. Answers are beginning to come in thick and fast, so make sure that you get your answer in as soon as you have it completed. So when you are all done and dusted answers should be sent into sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk. Remember that the winner of FUCWIT at the end of the year win iPods.

Crossword by Peter Logg

Torro-scopes! Horoscopes, now with 30% more bull

Guaranteed to make you vomit or your money back! (Only applies to people of Native American descent)



Aquarius

Gratz fresher, you finally popped your cherry this week, well you think you did anyway. Why is there blood in your shit?

Let's take a look at this situation: You met her in a club down in old Soho, her name is Lola, she has an 8 inch penis shoved up your arse. Don't pretend you're not enjoying it, wipe those tears away and ask for a fucking reach around.



Pisces

After your first sexual encounter, you feel rather perky. Bouncing down the road you take a shortcut through a graveyard.

Oh you randy twat, wanking is just not good enough for you anymore is it? Yes, grab that shovel, dig up a nice fresh corpse and skull fuck it til the maggots are turned to mash. She was someone's granny you twisted cunt.



Aries

Everyone knows that Caligula liked his sisters a bit too much, but did you know he asked his physician to cut a vagina in below

his balls? Now where did the kitchen scissors go, a couple of good thrusts should do it. It's not working but you're loving the blood and pain, oh fuck it, you can't have both at the same anyway. Cut your dick off and ram it up behind. Lovely.



Taurus

Today you will smoke your first spliff. You naughty naughty fresher, don't you know that marajuana is illegal? Well now

you've broken the law you're up for anything, I suggest heroin. It's a very traditional drug, enjoyed by Victorians in fact, there's just one small side effect - it's a little bit addictive. No worse than smoking then, go for it mate!



Gemini

One for the girls: Your test just turned blue. Its your own stupid fault, have you never heard of moderation? Just because this is the

first time you've ever got any cock doesn't mean you have to shag every horny spotty freak here. Now I don't want your fucked up offspring adding to this already overcrowded planet so watch out, I'm coming for you with a coat hanger...



Cancer

So you joined the rugby team last week. Have you been enjoying smashing poon? If that means virtually getting raped

every time you're in a ruck then I'm happy for you. Let's be honest, drinking a pint of vomit and stripping off at every available moment is probably not your idea of fun but at least your 'in' with the lads.



Leo

This week, you'll get so fucking hammered at a posh do, you end up pulling your sister. Why your sister is there, you have no

idea. But suddenly she reminds you of your mum, and then your dad, and oh look, you've got a hard-on. At least your children will be normal. Not. She's quite fit but she's still your sister. Sort them out before Monday, I'm telling you now.



Virgo

I'm telling you, get some help. Still haven't? Well, I'll tell you what happens if you don't. You end up taking her back to your parents'

house, and well, you're both definitely going inside. The only decision is now; which bedroom? You choose your room, because your sister's a frigid bitch and doesn't keep condoms. Not frigid after tonight. More like a fridge. She's fat. Fat as.



Libra

Well, your kids would be mutated, then mutilated. I'm sure some fucker would catch wind of your brother-sister

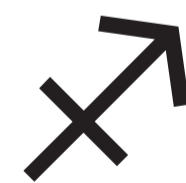
parenthood thing, and just take a jackhammer to your children. So don't have them in the first place, would my advice. Mate, go put your dick into something else. Even if its a piece of fruit. Maybe you can have watermelon babies.



Scorpio

Wow mate, those clothes are the height of fashion: shapeless jeans, a baggy striped hoody and where the fuck did you get those shoes? I've

seen better footwear on a tramp! Please keep your oversized rucksack out of my face whilst tramping around campus with your face in your feet. I hate your haircut too, did your mummy do it? With a bowl? in fact, I just hate you.



Sagittarius

I hate your clothes too, did Topman throw up on you? I see you strut around in your skinny jeans and printed t-shirts with album

covers on. You like Joy Division? So do I mate but I don't feel the need to thrust that fact in everyone's face. I want to pull that stupid fringe off your perfectly styled hair and shove your winklepickers where the sun don't shine.



Capricorn

A batch of rather angry horoscopes this week dont 'cha think? Hey, I can't help how the stars read! Maybe I shouldn't have got the astrology

chart from 4chan.com. If you don't know what 4chan is then I recommend not going there. However if you have enjoyed reading these then it's well worth a visit. Afterwards, we can sit in a corner and brood about how much we hate everyone. Pint?

Aunty McPickle, your very own agony aunt, is very happy to answer any questions. But not yours.

Dear Aunty Mc Pickle,

I wanted to know what your thoughts are about the way I masturbate. What I like to do with my foreskin is inflate it. If you don't know what I mean by inflate, the foreskin can be filled with air or liquid, making it stretch and become a small balloon. The way that best satisfies me is when I use any source of a high pressure jet of water.

What I sometimes do is place my foreskin in front of a pool jet, which causes it to quickly balloon and become very full and arousing. Sometimes I think I might make it explode. I sometimes use air compressors too, but they can be dangerous if the air leaks up the urethra. The last way is with a shower head, the jet of water is strong enough to tightly pack the foreskin with water, then I let the stream hit the bloated foreskin, it feels awfully great.

Is this normal and more importantly is this healthy?

An adventurous Andy,

Dear Andy,

It sounds like your experimenting is paying off, but just be careful you don't go too far. I once heard a story about a poor guy, having sex for the first time and his foreskin exploded! This unfortunate accident just goes to show that the foreskin is no toy! Also be wary of infections, as nasties can get trapped in there. Oh and I really wouldn't tell any prospective girlfriends about your tinkering, it might seem a little strange.

Yours, Aunty McPickle xxx

Dear Aunty McPickle,

I am a fresher and am spending the year in Wilson House. One night last week, after a particularly heavy night, I decided to have a shower to keep myself fresh. However to my great dismay I accidentally mistook an innocent fart for something far more sinister. I realised my error by the audible sound of it crashing to the ground. Since then, I have tried to block out this humiliating memory but am reminded by a conspicuous brown stain. It's ridiculously stubborn and is now being noticed by my neighbours. What should I do?

Will Meldred



Hi Will,

Okay, so I think you should invest in some cleaning products and make your way to the stain in the dead of night. It has to be removable and if not, maybe you should just accept it. I'm sure your neighbours will become accustomed to it soon and it can serve as a friendly reminder of a night out. Also be careful to not blurt the story out in the Union, as this kind of thing spreads like wild fire.

Aunty Mc Pickle xxx

Dear Aunty Mc Pickle,

I need to confess a bodily function, which appears to be totally out of

my control. I seem to be unable to have intercourse, without letting out ear-piercing, glass shattering queefs. There are certain positions that seem to cause me to queef more loudly than others. And it was very shocking the first time I did it. They keep coming out, and even while he is going down on me IN HIS FACE! He has been good about them, as he laughs, but it dispels the mood. It just becomes comical, and I don't feel sexy anymore. But I get really embarrassed, because they are really loud, sound amazingly like farts, and are totally uncontrollable. Sometimes we just ignore them. Is there any solution?

Sandy

Dear Sandy,

Oh dear... a queef is caused by air that is forced up into the vagina through hard and rigorous thrusting.

The position that tends to cause optimum queefing is the missionary position, so maybe try to avoid this. Also if the vagina is really wet, it can produce more queefs so try to cut down on lube.

Also maybe you could put on some really loud music in an attempt to mask the sounds.

Hope this helps.

Aunty McPickle xxx

RAG climbs the Queen's Tower

Wow, I can't wait to graduate! No, not because I want to leave Imperial behind, but rather because Commemoration Day looks mental. This year, RAG manned the cloakrooms on top of giving our traditional Queen's Tower tours. It was a wonderful day, and what I found immense was how many freshers came to help out! A big thank you to everyone who took time off to help!

On another point, I bear good news, everyone! Due to the immensely positive

feedback we got from the LOST event, we'll be extending the sign-ups for an extra week! That means that if you didn't get a chance to sign-up this week, don't worry, there's still time. We will however only have a restricted number of places on the bus (which will be the biggest one we can book), so make sure to meet us at the JCR, 13:00-14:00 anytime next week (26th-30th October).

For anyone who has no idea what I'm talking about, LOST is RAG's first major event of the year. It can be summed up quite nicely:

1. You get put on a bus, blindfolded.
2. You get driven to a mystery location.
3. You make your way back to the Union, without spending ANY money.

There's really not much more to it! The teams will be groups of either two or three, with at least one guy in each team. All this is happening on Saturday, 28th November, which happens to coincide with a massive Union night, during which everyone can share their adventures.

Did I mention that there are prizes? No? Well the person who raises the most

money, the person or team wearing the wackiest costume, as well as the team that takes the craziest mode of transportation will get some great rewards.

Anyway to find out more, make sure

you drop by the JCR at lunchtime next week, and if you feel like getting LOST for our chosen charity Barnardos is something you'd be up for, swing by with your team.



ANDY PANDA



ANDYPANDA.CO.UK



Riding and Polo at Polo Nationals

Continued From Back Page

breathed a sigh of relief when the air horn went with the score still nil-nil. The tension was not over though as, in need of a result, we went to a tiebreaker, a race to get the ball from one end of the pitch to the other between the two teams. With the crowd in full voice the two teams set off, level pegging down the whole pitch, finally though Imperial's consistent hitting began to show working well supporting one another as a team and managing to accelerate away from Cambridge in the second half of the pitch to take a narrow victory.

Not to be outdone, the Novices got set up for their first chukka of the day; another grudge match against the Royal Veterinary College. This time round myself, Rosie and Trish knew we were against opponents we could dominate in the chukka and we used every inch of advantage we could. Muscling our way towards the goal line we scored our first, trickling the ball over the line in a rather uninspiring mêlée of sticks and ponies' legs. A few frustrated fouls from RVC crept in culminating in one player getting sucked in to a high hook

metres from their goal mouth and awarding us the option of a spot hit or a 30 yard penalty. We took the spot hit without hesitation and calmly put the ball between the posts with just a slight jitter of nerves as it went worryingly close to the near post.

With a satisfying 2-0 win under our belts, and the Beginners having a good result too, we were all looking forwards to our last Saturday matches. But perhaps we shouldn't have been so eager. Despite playing visibly their best polo of the tournament so far, the beginners weren't able to hang onto St Andrews and in one of the most physical matches we've ever played the Novices lost out 1-0 to Nottingham as well. The good play in both matches left us with plenty of positives though and we headed for the Saturday night party in high spirits. The girls made good use of the chocolate fountain and the guys (rather wisely) avoided partaking in the pole dancing lessons that were being given to drunken organisers.

Fortunately this year we didn't have to be up at 9am on Sunday and so those of us that were feeling slightly the worse for wear had plenty of time to recover before their final chukkas of



Imperial College Riding and Polo Club doing what they do best in Bury

the tournament. The Beginners were up first; the fight for 11th and 12th place against Royal Holloway. Again they played some of their best polo of the tournament, both teams far

more flowing than their initial scrappy chukkas, but again the hunt for a goal proved fruitless and a slightly disappointing 0-0 draw and narrow loss on the tiebreaker.

Conversely it felt like the Novices were getting even more physical and fast in their 7th-8th playoff against Oxford Brookes. After a series of ride-offs, hooks and big defensive shots though a slight miscommunication put Rosie in an impossible 2 on 1 in front of the goal mouth and despite covering off one of the opponents she was unable to do anything to stop the easy tap in that put Oxford Brookes 1-0 up. Play continued from the centre and finally we looked to be starting to hold our own, one big hit and we looked to be in with a break that might turn the tide, but the air horn ironically chose that moment to sound and play finished to the anguished cries of Imperial supporters from the sidelines, wanting to see the result of the final play.

With only one win a piece and the hunt for a goal in the beginners coming up short for the Beginners it wasn't the result we had wanted, but we all went home happy, if rather tired and sun-burnt and in some cases really rather sick of sleeping in tents. We'd shown a lot of improvement since last year and were now holding our own against some of the tougher teams in the competition and there are high hopes that this year, with some fresh blood and some familiar faces, we might go even further.



FIXTURES & RESULTS



in association with Sports Partnership

Saturday 17th October Football (ULU)

Imperial College Men's 1st 3
Imperial College 2nd 1

Men's 3rd 0
King's College Medicals 2nd 3

Men's 4th 6
King's College Medicals 3rd 3

Men's 5th 1
St Barts 2nd 2

Men's 6th 0
Queen Mary 5th 1

Men's 7th 3
School of Slavonic & East European Studies 1st 1

Sunday 18th October Badminton (ULU)

Mixed 1st 7
Royal Holloway Mixed 1st 2

Monday 19th October Netball (ULU)

Women's 2nd 37
UCL 4th 13

Wednesday 21st October Badminton

Men's 1st 5
University of Portsmouth 1st 3

Basketball

Men's 1st 74
University of Westminster 1st 47

Fencing

Men's 3rd 133
University of Essex 1st 103

Women's 2nd 125
University of Portsmouth 1st 118

Football

Men's 1st 0
St Mary's University College 3rd 3

Men's 2nd 2
Canterbury Christ Church Uni. 2nd 1

Men's 3rd 0
University of East London 1st 1

Women's 1st 0
Royal Holloway 1st 7

ULU

Men's 4s 4
Royal Holloway 4s 1

Men's 5s 1
King's College 4s 6

Men's 6s 1
King's College London 5s 1

Men's 7s 4
Heythrop College 1s 2

Hockey

Men's 2nd 0
UCL 2nd 2

Men's 3rd 2
Royal Veterinary College 1st 1

Men's 4th 0
University of Portsmouth 5th 0

Women's 1st 2
University of Portsmouth 1st 2

Women's 2nd 0
Brunel University West London 3rd 3

Lacrosse

Women's 1st 29
University of Kent 1st 0

Netball

Women's 1st 16
Queen Mary 1st 24

Women's 2nd 59
Buckinghamshire New Uni. 2nd 14

Rugby

Men's 1st 43
St Mary's University College 2nd 7

Men's 2nd 10
University of Essex 1st 15

Squash

Men's 2nd 3
University of Sussex 1st 2

Women's 1st 4
University of Reading 1st 0

Table Tennis

Men's 1st 15
London School of Economics 1st 2

Tennis

Men's 1st 7
King's College London 1st 3

Men's 2nd 4
University of Greenwich Men's 1st 6

Women's 1st 1
University of Portsmouth Women's 1st 9

Saturday 24th October Football (ULU)

Men's 1s ULU vs RoyalHolloway 2s 0
Men's 2s vs St Barts 1s 3

Men's 3s vs King's College 1s 3
Men's 4s vs LSE 4s 0
Men's 6s vs LSE 7s 0

Men's 7s vs St Barts 4s 0

Sunday 25th October Volleyball

Men's 1st vs University of Sussex 1st 16
Men's 1st vs UCL 1st 24

Men's 1st vs University of Reading 1st 59
Women's 1st vs University of Essex 1st 14

Women's 1st vs University of Reading 1st 43
Women's 1st vs UCL 1st 7

Monday 26th October Netball (ULU)

Women's 2s vs St Barts 2s 10
Women's 3s vs St George's Hospital Medical School 3s 15

Squash (ULU)

Imperial College Men's 1s vs Imperial College 2s 3
Men's 3s vs RoyalHolloway 1s 2

Wednesday 28th October Badminton

Men's 1st vs University of Hertfordshire 1st 15
Women's 1st vs University of Hertfordshire 1st 2

Basketball

Women's 1st vs Middlesex University 1st 7

Fencing

Men's 1st vs University of Bristol 1st 4
Women's 1st vs University of Cambridge 1st 6
Women's 2nd vs University of London 1st 3

Football

BUCS Cup

Men's 1st vs Imperial College Medicals 2nd
Men's 2nd vs University of Essex 6th

ULU

Men's 4s vs UCL 5s
Men's 5s vs Royal Holloway 4s
Men's 6s vs St Barts 3s

Golf

Men's 1st vs University of Surrey 1st

Hockey

Men's 1st vs University of Portsmouth 1st
BUCS Cup

Men's 2nd vs Kingston University 1st
Men's 3rd vs University of Portsmouth 2nd

Men's 4th vs UCL 2nd
Women's 1st vs King's College 2nd
Women's 2nd vs Canterbury Christ Church Uni. 1st

Lacrosse

Men's 1st vs University of Brighton 1st

Netball

BUCS Cup

Women's 1st vs St Barts 3rd
Women's 2nd vs University of Portsmouth 3rd

Rugby

Men's 1st vs Imperial College Medicals 1st
BUCS Cup

Men's 3rd vs University of Portsmouth 2nd

Squash

Women's 1st vs University of Sussex 1st
Men's 2nd vs King's College 1st

Table Tennis

Men's 1st vs Middlesex University 1st

Tennis

Men's 1st vs LSE 1st
Women's 1st vs UCL 1st

ICURFC begin season in style

James Petit	Rugby
Imperial Men's 1st XV	2
Oxford Greyhounds 1st XV	0

I.C.U.R.F.C. 1st XV played Buckinghamshire New University in their first league fixture of the season. Bucks have been old rivals to the college and have had a cemented position in the league for many years. The hard work the players put into pre-season shone through as Imperial quickly laid down a 10 point lead. Things soon settled down with the Imperial side dominating possession. This inevitably resulted in more points for the away team. With the score board ticking over Imperial had a 17-0 lead by half time.

The second half proved to be less of a challenge. The home team were exhausted, making it easy to control the game and pile on the pressure. Strong defence produced several turn over tries, which again strengthened Imperial's grip on the game. Special mention goes to Hugh Dingleberry for his amazing defence and the impact he had on every try scored.

The final score was a 41-0 away win, a good platform to build from for league success.

Tries: Carroll (3), Chalke, Johnstone, Harris, Godfrey

Conversions: Godfrey (3)

Imperial Squad: C. O'Rourke, A. Johnstone, A. Tenison-collins, C. Esberger, E. Labinski, T. Zeal, J. Pettit (Capt), C. Cotter, F. Chalke, G. Lane, J. Harris, T. Carroll, D. Godfrey, J. Newton, M. Joachim, M. Franklin, J. Franklin, A. Traynor, H. Jarman, L. Barnett, Hugh Dingleberry.

Imperial Men's 1st XV	2
Oxford Greyhounds 1st XV	0

Wednesday 21st October saw Imperial College put on an impressive display against one of the country's top university Rugby Clubs. St Mary's University College Men's 2nd XV are a team that feed their own 1st XV (frequent winners of the BUCS Cup) and Harlequins Rugby Club.

The Rugby boys were able to mount a staggering 43-7 victory of their local London rivals in the BUCS league. A combination of strong defence and well worked attack meant that Imperial seemed to be able to score from almost any situation. Once again special mention goes to super-sub Hugh Dingleberry for his all-round efforts. He congratulated the players saying that "no one deserved to be singled out from today's efforts. However, the try scorers and man of the match also played well."

Next week Imperial College face Imperial Medicals, who are both the only undefeated teams in the league.

Tries: T. Carroll (6), C. Cotter

Conversions: D. Godfrey (4)

Squad: C. O'Rourke, A. Johnstone, A. Tenison-collins, C. Esberger, E. Labinski, T. Zeal, J. Pettit (C), C. Cotter, F. Chalke, G. Lane, J. Harris, T. Carroll, A. Foley, J. Newton, D. Godfrey, M. Franklin, J. Macdonald, A. Traynor, M. Joachim, H. Jarman, Hugh Dingleberry

Men return to form by conquering London

Rebecca Smith & Pio Monti Tennis

Yes, you heard correct, the men of IC tennis are back in form and they demonstrated it on Wednesday against King's College, winning 7-3. The eager 1st team travelled to Burgess Park, seeking to get back on track after losing their first match of the season.

The afternoon began with two very competitive doubles matches, with the result split between the two teams.

Imperial's Franco-Argentinean duo, comprising of Pio Monti and Pierre Delestrade, took on King's number one doubles pair; who were equally multi-cultural, with a typical lean, powerful, British boy accompanied by a touchy and wise Mauritian veteran.

The Imperial scientists started strongly, hitting clean, laminar shots, which earned them an early break. However, with the Imperial boys getting frustrated with the classy touch of the Mauritian, the Kings pair came back fiercely. The match was tight until 6-6, when King's crucially broke the Imperial serve.

The hammering British boy then produced what was probably the best service game of his life, powering aces, and although the game was brought to deuce, the King's lads were able to conclude on their solid performance and won 8-6.

Avinash Murphy and Adam Gunasekara represented Imperial in the 2nd doubles match. The duo played solidly, holding their serve to win the match 8-5.

With the doubles completed, the singles began. Team captain Pio comfortably won the 1st singles, quickly taking



President Bush didn't just bare all in the *felixSport* interview last week

the match 6-2 6-0. Avinash played 2nd singles, against arguably the strongest player of the Kings squad. A combination of wet conditions and a quality opponent resulted in Avinash losing his match. Fresher Adam played only his second match of the season in the 3rd singles. Adam controlled the match from the beginning, moving his op-

ponent around the court and showing initiative. It took him little time to cash in a 6-0 6-0 victory. Pierre played the 4th singles where he made good use of his baseline game to dominate rallies and finish well at the net, to take the match 6-3 6-1.

After a day of satisfying tennis, the team headed home for a well earned

shower and some rest before hitting the union like the party animals you know they are!

The Men's 2nd Team and the Women's team did not fare so well. The men lost 4-6 to the Greenwich 1st team and the women lost 1-9 to Portsmouth 1st. Better luck next week!

ICBC at Pair's Head of the River 2009

Christina Duffy Rowing

Imperial College Boat Club had six boats finishing in the Top 50 at the Pair's Head of the River Race last weekend.

The 4 kilometre race takes place on the Thames tideway downstream from Chiswick to Hammersmith Bridge on the ebb Tide.

First year Biochemistry student Simon Steele and third year Mechanical Engineering student Adam Seward were the fastest College boat on the day finishing second in the IM2.2x category and 9th overall.

In the elite pair's event Master's students Adam Freeman-Pask and Ole Tietz finished 3rd and 28th overall respectively.

[Other results: Henry Goodier/Leo Carrington 2nd in IM3.2x (17th overall), Alex Gillies/Jamie Kirkwood 13th in IM1.2x, (20th overall), Danny Bellion/Will Todd 10th in IM2.2x (45th overall), Richard Winchester/Andy Gordon 4th in IM3.2x (46th overall)]



Simon Steele and Adam Seward were the fastest IC boat on the day

PICTURE COURTESY OF NICK ABLITT



Polo in the Park

Alex Savell Riding and Polo

By mid June last term, anticipation for Riding and Polo's second trip to the Summer University Polo Nationals had been building for some time. Our teams were picked, our entries were in and everything appeared to be worryingly organised.

Still, after a year or so of polo competitions we were getting used to the, not so very, organised chaos of the nationals. We'd ended up with one of the toughest draws in the division; up against ULU's team, one of the two favourites to win the tournament, and were on paper the severe underdogs. Determinedly though we cantered onto the pitch ready to give everything to turn the tables and claim a strong result, but from the first throw in it was obvious that we were outgunned and our thoughts quickly turned to defence. ULU made break after break, and our initial plans disintegrated into a frantic but dogged rearguard, taking every opportunity to spoil ULU's relentless attack. However, their strongest player (who went on to win the most valuable player award) turned and got away from us several times resulting in a respectable 2-0 defeat against a team that went on to loose on a tiebreaker in the final.

Spirits undiminished we decided to head out for dinner at a local pub,

and promptly got lost. However, we did manage to pick up the last of our players; a very ill Megan who'd shown impressive commitment to drive up from Wales with a pretty violent seeming case of 'Lamb Flu'. Still, it was a good thing she made it when she did as the Beginners were up for their first chukka at 9am.

The Beginners didn't seem quite able to get their heads fully into the game and Nottingham appeared to have a narrow advantage throughout the match and, despite some good breaks and runs from Imperial, Notts did finally manage to eek their way over our line to a narrow 1-0 victory. Cambridge in their traditional blue shirts cantered up to the centre line to oppose us and a scrappy chukka ensued from the word go.

Neither team seemed able to gain the advantage and we watched on with baited breath when each break was met with solid defence and swift changes of possession. Each time one team seemed to get away and head for goal the other managed to get a stick down to hook an opponents or put enough pressure on to cause some other mistake. When you play, the six and a half minute matches seem to last so much longer, but this was the first time I remember watching time slow down so much from the sideline and we all

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Cool start for 1st XI

Mustapher Botchway Sports Editor

ICUAFC's 1st XI have begun their season positive but cautious. After a hard fought victory against the 2nd XI both in a friendly and the ULU Premier League, the team were looking to make a strong start in BUCS. Brunel 4th XI were the first opponents (14 October).

A strong footballing university, Brunel showed their ability to control the play with excellent awareness and good passing. Going one-nil down at half time, Dave 'Robbo' Robinson, a Queen's Park Rangers coach who also coaches the 1st and 2nd XI captain, delivered a resounding team talk along with captain Mustapher Botchway to give the gentlemen the belief to get a

result.

The second half started strongly with IC beginning to show their superior quality to Brunel. Brilliant passing from Dion Benincasa and good teamwork from Nathan Ferrol and Leslie Eshun helped in overcoming the scoreline to go 2-1 up. However, as pandemic in most university football teams, the pressure got the team and with 7 minutes to go the Brunel left winger cut inside his opponent and unleashed a great finish to equalise. The game ended 2-2.

St Mary's University 3rd XI were the second opponents. Though good football was played by IC, the lack of attacking prowess rarely troubled the St Mary's defence. The pacey winger of St Mary's had this spark and created a goal as well as scoring a wonderful solo effort in the second half.

IC's first team are hoping to return to winning ways and start the game of strongly in the next week with the next two games against their biggest external and internal rivals: Royal Holloway and Imperial Medicals.

