



felix

The award-winning student newspaper of Imperial College

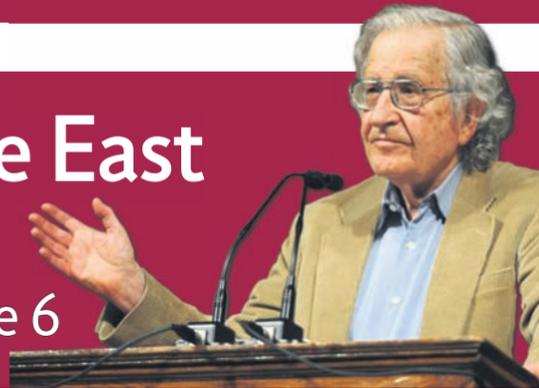
Guardian Student Newspaper of the Year

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Noam Chomsky talks Middle East

The great political philosopher talks to Imperial PPS and London students, see page 6



This week....

Facing the annual enemy: flu!



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Hush! A quiet affair at the Royal Albert Hall



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Japanese cinema surprise: Love Exposure Review



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Eating out: Sake No Hana restaurant review



Food, Page 27



Nutt sacked

Prof. David Nutt fired for criticising the government's deaf ears, see pages 6 & 7

Riposte

CGCU and RCSU respond to the claims made against them in last week's issue, see pages 4 & 5





Class of 2010 Councillors elected

Afonso Campos reports on a new team to attend Council this year

Last Friday saw the announcement of the Central Union election results. The newly elected students are now full members of Council. For those unfamiliar with the concept, Council is the sovereign policy-making body for our Union; it is a place that tends to encourage democracy and civilised discussion (for the most part) on issues that affect students. The newly elected members have as their duty to represent the views of the student constituents of their Faculty and do so at monthly meetings.

According to an email sent out by Mark Chamberlain, last year's Medic President and this year's Council Chair, the elections were not without hiccups. In said e-mail, an allusion was made to the fact that there were indeed



The new councillors will be joining Union President Ashley Brown and Council Chair Mark Chamberlain. Pastel shirt and ICU lanyard compulsory

Faculty of Engineering Undergraduate Councillors

Edward O Hare
He-in Cheong
Apostolia Matraki
Rikki Norris

Faculty of Medicine Undergraduate Councillors

Richard Hewitt
Alexander Walls
Agneish Dutta

Faculty of Natural Sciences Undergraduate Councillors

Hannah Short

Graduate School of Engineering and Physical Sciences Postgraduate Councillors

RON

Graduate School of Life Sciences and Medicine Postgraduate Councillor

RON

Non-Faculty Councillor

RON

International Officer

Matthew Fitch

Student Trustee

Deep Shah

issues that needed to be looked into by saying that "complaints have been dealt with." *felix* is unaware of what issues there were.

As usual, there are some positions that remain yet to be filled; six in total this year. The Non-Faculty position, oftentimes taken up by the current *felix* editor has not been filled either. It is understandable as this position is not open to a very great number of students. You can still stand for election in any of these empty Councillor positions. Refer to the table on the left to see exactly what roles are still vacant. There is further information on Council and the roles you can run for on <http://www.imperialcollegeunion.org/representation>. To stand, email the Council Chair your small manifesto as soon as possible, stating why you would make a good representative and come along to the next Council

meeting.

If you have any issues that you would like to see raised in Council, you are welcome to attend and make your voice heard. The meetings are open to all members of Imperial College Union and everyone has a say. If you feel particularly strongly about an issue, you may also write a paper and see it debated and voted upon. It is suggested you approach one of your Faculty councillors (list in the box on the left) and speak to them about your paper. So you have an idea, in the past, Council has discussed varied issues such as the Beer Tax, the twinning of Imperial College Union with other universities in Gaza and as recently as this week, the status of mitigating circumstances for students sitting exams.

Alternatively, you can just come along and watch the evening's antics. It can be fun and there's tea and coffee.

The world beyond College walls

Afghanistan

Hamid Karzai has been declared president of Afghanistan after officials scrapped the second round of voting.

The second round, which was due to be held on November 7th, would have seen Hamid Karzai pitted against his main rival, Abdullah Abdullah, but the latter withdrew from the race earlier this week. The first round saw Mr Karzai come in with just under the 50% of the votes required to avoid a run-off, whilst his opponent obtained just under a third of the votes. Hundreds of thousands of ballots were discounted because of fraud allegations during the marred elections. Indeed, Hamid Karzai lost a third of his votes between the first and final counts. A day into his new five-year term, the President vowed to battle corruption, and to lead an inclusive government. He also renewed his call for the Taliban fighters to put down their arms, but they quickly replied that they would continue their fight against the 'puppet government'. Mr Karzai's pledge to root out corruption from his own government will be closely watched by his American allies, as President Obama is considering sending 40,000 more troops to fight in the country.

Europe

A consortium of 12 European companies has launched a sustainable energy initiative to source European energy from the Sahara desert.

The Desertec Industrial Initiative will start with a solar power project based in North Africa which is expected to meet 15% of Europe's energy needs by 2050. It will require \$400bn (£240) in investment, which will be provided by companies including Deutsche Bank, Siemens, and E.ON. The consortium will be based in Munich, where one of the initiative's founders, Munich Re, is based. Throughout North Africa and the Middle East, vast arrays of solar-thermal plants, which direct the sun's light to heat water, will produce energy throughout the day (and night). The super-heated water will drive steam turbines to generate electricity. A network of hi-tech cables which limit conductive loss will then transmit the electricity back to Europe across the Mediterranean. Desertec has stressed that some of the power generated by the Sahara solar fields will also be used to power North African countries directly.



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South East Asia

The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) hosted a summit last week which also included some of the regions heavy-weights, China and Japan.

South-East Asian countries are either rapidly recovering from the recent economic crisis or have avoided it altogether. But the financial mess brought on by America has certainly succeeded in renewing talk of a free-trade zone that would link the world's most dynamic economies. Japan's Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama has said that such a zone should have a single currency and 'lead the world'. Over the past decade, ASEAN has made much progress in reducing tariffs, particularly on manufactured goods, but has so far avoided reforming trade regulation on farm imports. Intra-East Asian trade flows rose to 42% of total trade in 2008, up from 32% in 1990, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and there is scope for further improvement.

All this talk of economic rapprochement is nothing new, and to some observers seems to be nothing more than a distant vision. Indeed, political disputes within the region are as hot as ever, particularly between Thailand, where the summit took place, and neighbouring Cambodia.

The two countries' armies have clashed several times over a disputed temple at the border.

By Raphael Houdmont, International Editor

Drug Chief sacked by Home Secretary

James Goldsack reports on Professor David Nutt's departure and the future for Science and the Government

Last Friday, the UK's chief drugs adviser was sacked by Home Secretary Alan Johnson after criticizing government policies.

David Nutt, Professor of Neuropsychopharmacology at Imperial College and Chair of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD), criticised the decision to reclassify cannabis to Class B from C.

Public concern over the increase in availability of skunk and the possible links to mental illness led the ACMD to investigate the dangers of all forms of cannabis in 2007-08.

The row over cannabis classification flared up again last week as Prof Nutt used a lecture at King's College, London, to question the "artificial" separation of alcohol and tobacco from illegal drugs.

David Nutt said that according to the scientific evidence, smoking cannabis created only a "relatively small risk" of psychotic illness.

In a letter to Prof Nutt, Alan Johnson wrote: "I cannot have public confusion between scientific advice and policy and have therefore lost confidence in your ability to advise me as chair of the ACMD. I would therefore ask you to step down from the Council with immediate effect."

"This is not about Prof Nutt's views, which I respect though I don't agree with them," said Mr Johnson.

In his reply, Prof Nutt said he was

"disappointed" by Alan Johnson's view adding "whilst I accept that there is a distinction between scientific advice and government policy there is clearly a degree of overlap. If scientists are not allowed to engage in the debate it undermines a major source of carefully considered and evidence-based advice."

Despite his sacking, Professor Nutt stands by the evidence and his belief that cannabis should not be a Class B drug based upon its effects.

He described his sacking as a "serious challenge to the value of science in relation to the government".

"I am disappointed because, to be honest, all I was trying to do was help. I wasn't challenging the government," said the former chief drugs advisor. "It would be much simpler if they took that advice rather than getting tangled up in other sorts of messages which frankly do confuse the public."

Professor Nutt, a highly respected leading addiction expert said he was not prepared to "mislead" the public about the effects of drugs to convey a "message" on behalf of the government instead of presenting the facts.

Phil Willis MP, chairman of the science and technology select committee, said he would write to the Home Secretary to ask for clarification as to why Prof David Nutt had been sacked "at a time when independent scientific advice to government is essential". "It is disturbing if an independent scien-



Professor David Nutt has been sacked as Chair of the ACMD for speaking out

tist should be removed for reporting sound scientific advice."

Shadow Home Secretary Chris Grayling said Prof Nutt's sacking was "inevitable" after his "latest ill-judged contribution to the debate".

However, Liberal Democrat Home Affairs Spokesman Chris Huhne said sacking the advisor was "disgraceful". He continued: "what is the point of

having independent scientific advice if as soon as you get some advice that you don't like, you sack the person who has given it to you?"

According to Mr Huhne, the government may as well have a "committee of tabloid newspaper editors to advise on drugs policy".

Former chief executive of the Medical Research Council and professor of

neuroscience at Oxford University, Prof Colin Blakemore, said that independent advisors should be expected to voice concerns if their advice is rejected.

"I worry that the dismissal of Prof Nutt will discourage academic and clinical experts from offering their knowledge and time to help the government in the future," he said.

Earlier this week two other senior scientific members of the ACMD resigned. Marion Walker, clinical director of Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust's substance misuse service and member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, and Dr Les King, part-time advisor to the Department of Health and senior chemist on the ACMD both resigned over the treatment of Prof Nutt. Dr King said, "There is an extremely angry feeling among most council members."

Other senior scientific advisors to the Home Office are "horrified" by the sacking of Prof Nutt and Mr Johnson faces the prospect of "collective action" over the affair. The government's chief scientific advisor, Professor John Beddington said, "the scientific evidence [on cannabis effects and harm] is absolutely clear cut. I would agree with it."

Prof Nutt has claimed to have the financial backing to set up a new council to investigate drugs if the current ACMD disbands. As it stands, the Council is contravening its statutory requirements, as there is no pharmacist on the board.



Governmental Ignorance

James Goldsack Politics Editor

The sacking of ACMD Chair Professor David Nutt is an outrage. Scientists must be independent and report the facts honestly and without repression.

Even before the ACMD had released its findings into cannabis, the government had decided to reclassify the drug to Class B. That was a ridiculous move, making the Council superfluous and undermining scientific evidence.

Just like any other illness, drug abuse should be a public health issue, not criminal. Harm reduction is the most important objective, not criminalising the vast number of people using illegal substances recreationally.

There is the argument that increasing the classification of a substance sends out a message

that drugs are bad. Surely then every drug should be Class A. This undermines the classification system.

The point of the classification system is to inform the public on how harmful substances are. It should be a scale built upon truth and evidence, not second-guessing and attempts to "warn" people of dangers that are not even there.

Jacqui Smith defended her decision to ignore the ACMD's recommendation for cannabis to remain a Class C substance by claiming that the debate has shifted due to the introduction of skunk. However, it is exactly this type of cannabis that the ACMD investigated and what prompted the report initially.

Is it not obvious that Prof Nutt and the ACMD are more informed of the evidence than any politician? Not to Alan Johnson,

who disagrees with Prof Nutt's view on cannabis despite his expertise and time spent studying the drug.

Ann Widdecombe, writing in the Guardian, claims that there is a united scientific view that "drugs are harmless". This is complete nonsense, drugs are harmful but to differing degrees, not all can be lumped in Class A.

The public need the truth, we should not be hidden from it by politicians who want nothing more than to be re-elected by the tabloid-reading electorate.

Alan Johnson has shown his true colours, disregarding scientific and expert advice just as his predecessor Jacqui Smith did.

Science is important for educating the public and government. Independence is necessary for scientific advisors to ensure free thought.

Reinstate Professor Nutt.



Science Dismissed

Brigette Atkins Science Editor

Politicians have a long history of "cherry-picking" science. One of Winston Churchill's lesser known quotations that science should be "on tap but not on top" is as prevalent today as in post-war Britain. The sacking of Professor Nutt shows the government dismissing scientific recommendation in favour of acting on public pressure. In doing so, they undermine the value of science and are punishing a man for exercising his freedom of speech.

Perhaps where Professor Nutt overstepped the line with the government is confusing 'evidence', which cannot be disputed with 'advice' which may be ignored. Science is only one of many factors which need to be taken into account to give the full picture; we cannot ignore

social and political aspects.

However, dismissing a man for expressing views which conflict with the body he advises is outrageous. Whether Nutt is right to claim that alcohol and tobacco are more damaging than LSD and ecstasy – and the research would suggest he is – is not so much the issue as the expectation on scientists to deliver facts without opinion.

Nutt's view that the government were giving mixed messages about the harm of drugs to the public is one of the main reasons Gordon Brown backed the decision to sack the advisor – along with the opinion he was acting irresponsibly by downplaying the risks associated with certain substances. Yet no one can deny that the U-turn in cannabis classification is a prime example of such a mixed message. Cannabis was reclassified back

to class B largely due to public concern but also because of rise in the popularity of 'skunk'. 'Skunk' typically contains three times the amount of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) as cannabis resin in addition to a decreased concentration of cannabidiol (CBD) – thought by some to reduce the effects of THC and so make the drug less potent.

The drugs classification system in Britain is very subjective and is heavily dominated by public opinion. From a purely medical standpoint mushrooms, LSD and ecstasy should all be graded as class B at the very most. Putting them in class A with heroin and other strong opiates merely serves to mock the whole classification system.

In this country, we all have the right to free speech; scientists should not be excluded from this privilege.

FACULTY UNIONS RESPOND



AS BOTH THE RCSU AND CGCU COME UNDER PRESSURE IN LAST WEEK'S ISSUE, THE TWO FACULTY UNIONS RESPOND TO **FELIX** TO THE CLAIMS MADE AGAINST THEM CONCERNING THEIR FORMAL BALLS

In last week's issue of *felix*, the finances and administration of Imperial College's two Faculty Union's were scrutinized.

The Royal College of Science (RCSU) and City and Guilds College Union (CGCU) were placed under the magnifying glass as their spending on their formal events was questioned. Both formal balls held by each Faculty Union lost a significant amount of money, but it was the CGCU's Masquerade Ball that saw a fiasco come to light in the following week.

Since then, the news feature published in *felix* has naturally caused some murmurs of commotion within the RCSU and CGCU.

This week, both Faculty Unions have decided to respond to the claims made against them. The confident RCSU President Katya-yani Vyas has issued an honest response to *felix*, which looks further to explain the situation she finds the RCSU currently in. The full statement can be read to the immediate right.

Two responses from the Engineers have been lodged with *felix* this week. CGCU Welfare Officer Alice Rowlands has taken the responsibility and stepped forward to reply on behalf of the rest of the CGCU Committee.

An eleventh hour response from CGCU President Kirsty Patterson, who chose not to speak to *felix* when the original claims were made against her, has submitted the poem 'If' by Rudyard Kipling. She admitted that it said "things more eloquently" than her own response at present. These responses can be read on page 5.



RCSU President Katya-yani Vyas was under pressure last week, but has issued an honest statement on behalf of her committee (see left)

A response from RCSU President, Katya-yani Vyas

I was contemplating this article for about a day before I began writing, mentally switching my style and approach, attempting to churn out key phrases and generally putting a lot more thought into it than I probably should have (especially considering I was ambling around my department from lecture to lecture at the time).

I came to the conclusion, after many painful hours, that my previous attempts at dreaming up a formal response filled with intricate arguments and carrying a defensive tone was essentially going to be counter-productive. Instead I have chosen to respond from the niche that I, along with all of you, occupy. I am writing firstly as a student, a third year physics student to be precise. Therefore you can be guaranteed of my frankness and sincerity when discussing the issues facing us as a Faculty Union.

The duties of the RCSU committee begin in the summer, meaning myself and members of our team were on campus nearly every day in August and September. The Union, worryingly, became more familiar to me than my own home and talk of plans for the year dominated the majority of my conversations, but I digress...

Having two major events in the first few weeks meant a flurry of activity in the lead up to the start of term. Publicity for the aptly named 'Welcome to the RCSU' was our main concern during Fresher's fair, I am almost certain our Publicity Officer would have strangled me had I requested one more flyer. Ultimately we held a very successful comedy night which bodes well for the next two shows this term.

Well, that is probably quite enough pre-amble. It is no secret that the real issue here is the financial maelstrom following the Autumn Ball and the Masquerade Ball held by the RCSU and CGCU respectively, and the article in last week's *felix* that reported on it. As President of the RCSU, I can only be held accountable for the actions of my own union so I would first like to offer an apol-

ogy to anyone who did not enjoy themselves at our events and indeed to anyone who did not hear about them.

In the interview I gave to Mr Campos last week I made it clear that we do not run social events to make a profit, just as we do not provide careers talks or welfare sessions to make a profit. We have a duty to our students to make our services affordable without compromising their quality. As a Faculty Union we have developed enormously in the last few years under the astute leadership of my predecessors, in particular Jennifer Morgan and David Charles, without whom the current foundations for a successful future would not have been laid.

"I feel that any issues I had with how the article was written are now irrelevant and that we need to focus on moving forward."

When I arrived at Imperial I had absolutely no awareness of the RCSU, we have come a long way since then and every committee member has worked incredibly hard to ensure our steady progress. We will continue to improve and grow stronger as long as we have the support of the students we represent.

Perhaps I should now address some of the issues brought to my attention by the article in question. There were some questions raised over Mr Campos' suitability in writing the article considering he currently holds the position of Science Challenge Chair and is therefore a member of the RCSU committee. My opinion is that the article was written fairly and without bias, I sincerely hope that the our engineering counterparts do not feel hard done by in this respect. In addition, I do not believe any disrespect was meant towards the students who have contributed countless hours of

their time to the RCSU and I would like to offer my personal thanks to these people. I will continue to champion the old adage; 'I do not agree with what you have to say but will defend to the death your right to say it,' and feel that any issues I had with how the article was written are now irrelevant and that we need to focus on moving forward.

So, on to the points raised by Mr Campos regarding where our money would be better spent. In terms of welfare we are pioneering two separate welfare schemes this year, both of which you will hear about in due course (I wouldn't want to ruin the surprise). There will be a number of sponsored career talks and education based seminars as well as our usual array of social events in the coming months. I will leave the shameless advertising at that (or the Editor will charge me for this article). I hope that my point is making itself clear amongst the rambling (forgive me, I have a tendency of delivering impassioned monologues). We are working hard to acquire your trust and provide you with as many different events and services as possible. Fundamentally our aim is to allow you to get the most you can out of your experience as a student. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Imperial and it is my (and the rest of the committee's) intention, that you also do.

I should probably conclude soon so I will end on this note, that we are always welcome to suggestions and are looking to continuously improve. I implore you to get in touch with me (rcsu.president@imperial.ac.uk) if you have ideas as to how we can provide a better event or think that we are coming up short in a particular area.

Essentially, every single one of us has a say in the actions of our student's union so I urge you, as a student and not an FU president, to get involved and believe in our potential. Perhaps if you do we will avoid another article in *felix* this year and I won't teeter on the verge of a breakdown or contemplate strangling a certain Editor. In the mean time, I will strive to bring out the best in the RCSU. and hopefully build a union we can be proud of.

THE CGCU



A POETIC RIPOSTE

CGCU Welfare Officer Alice Rowlands responds

The majority of the CGCU committee and I were surprised to read the article in *felix* 1442, regarding the CGCU Masquerade Ball and, more specifically, allegations that the CGCU committee are 'pointing fingers' at our President, Miss Kirsty Patterson.

Though we acknowledge that the ball lost more money than we could be comfortable with, we feel the night ran smoothly and was a success, enjoyed by those who attended. With hindsight it could be said booking such a high-profile, expensive band was overly ambitious. However, as far as CGCU have been informed, the losses quoted in *felix* are almost twice as high as the actual figures.

I feel the article itself was a needlessly personal attack on Miss Patterson and appears to have been based on the views or mis-quotes of one member of the CGCU committee, sabbatical officers who have not consulted us, or Miss Patterson, who have leaked confidential information to the media, while being too cowardly to put their names to the quotes they gave.

Mr Steve Long (CGCU Vice President- Activities) agreed that last week's article was a misrepresentation of the views of the majority of the CGCU exec, saying: "The report of the breakdown of the CGCU committee and dissatisfaction with our President in last week's *felix* was way off the mark. I wish that more of my comments were included in the article, as this would have suggested the contrary. For the record, I believe we have the strongest guilds committee in years. There is a lot of "new blood" with experience from different areas of college life and this has brought a new lease of life to the CGCU. The proof can be seen in the fantastic turn out to our events, the "Imperial Engineers" T-shirts being worn around the campus, and the feeling of belonging to the City and Guilds College Union that has been fostered in the last few weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of CGCU for their hard graft recently to create this environment and to thank our President, Kirsty Patterson. Guilds is strong this year, long may it continue!"

Mr Dan Lundy (CGCU Chairman) echoed Mr Long's comments, saying the ball: "will serve to encourage freshers and older students to take a more active role within the CGCU in the future, it was one of the best IC events I have attended to date."

With regards to the comments made by Mr Norris, our VPFS, these sentiments are not reflected by the rest of the committee. With any group of people there will be disagreements and falling outs, particularly when we are striving to do the best job possible for CGCU, alongside

studying for our degree and other commitments. Following discussions all parties have agreed to continue to work together in a professional manner.

Miss Patterson disputes Mr Norris's allegations that he was unhappy with booking New Young Pony Club for the Masquerade Ball. I am unable to substantiate either's claims, however I would suggest that if there was a disagreement between Mr Norris and Miss Patterson, which was unable to be resolved by the two parties, the rest of the committee, or the DPFS should have been involved. In my opinion, central union Sabbatical Officers should provide more support when such large scale, and high budget, events are being planned.

"The CGCU exec did not receive the level of support promised by central Union sabbatical officers."

Upon reading last week's *felix*, Mr Weetman (former Guildsheet Editor) contacted me to say he was mis-quoted in order to sensationalise the piece, while reason for resigning the position of Guildsheet editor was ignored. Mr Weetman wished to clarify; the pressures of his degree mean he is unable to effectively fulfil the role of editor, but he will remain a Guildsheet contributor, albeit in a lesser role.

The CGCU exec were happy with the service provided by ICU on the evening; we never intended to make a profit on dinner sales, so any allegations of over-pricing should be directed at central union rather than CGCU.

Prior to that evening however, the CGCU exec did not receive the level of support promised by central union sabbatical officers. ICU President, Ashley Brown, promised in his manifesto to support clubs and faculty unions in running events in the union building. In direct contradiction, ICU Deputy President, Finance & Services, Danny Hill, told CGCU: "Central Union is not here to help publicise Faculty Union events", when asked to help with the Masquerade Ball.

Another major point of Mr Brown's manifesto was reducing the price of entry to the union, if you just want to go for a drink. As a member of his campaign team, I was therefore extremely surprised to be paying £6 entry to the union on the first Wednesday of term and more on the Friday. Though at the time Mr Brown was confident that, as it was Freshers' Week, "they'd just pay it", he later conceded "the problem [with Faculty Union ticket sales] is that we [Central Union] have bankrupted the freshers with Freshers' Week."

The President's poem

Miss Patterson has decided to issue a formal response in the form of a poem that she "says things rather more elegantly" than her own words.

'If' by Rudyard Kipling

If you can keep your head when all about you

Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or, being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;

If you can dream - and not make dreams your master;
If you can think - and not make thoughts your aim;
If you can meet with triumph and disaster
And treat those two imposters just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools;

If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on";

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with kings - nor lose the common touch;
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run -
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And - which is more - you'll be a Man my son!



Chomsky on the Palestinian Region

World-renowned Political Philosopher and Linguist on his last tour of Britain

Feature Report by
Sina Ataherian, James Lees, Vicki Masding

On Thursday 29th October, one of the greatest political philosophers of our time, Professor Noam Chomsky, came to London for possibly the last time to present a talk on Palestine and the region in the Obama era. The event had been organised by Imperial College Political Philosophy Society in conjunction with Palestinian societies from across London universities, and *felix* was lucky enough to attend.

Professor Chomsky began his talk by discussing the Iranian situation, in particular given current concerns over its nuclear program. He was clearly concerned about the reaction of Western governments and media, which he characterised as 'fear-mongering.'

The focus of this part of the talk was that Iran poses no significant threat to Western interests, both in general and specifically with the nuclear issue. He further noted the danger of ignoring what he viewed as more immediate concerns over Israel and India by keeping attention exclusively on Iran.

Professor Chomsky continued the theme started by Tariq Ali in his introductory speech, who had reminded the audience of Iran's role in stabilising the conditions of Iraq and Afghanistan. He cautioned against negative sentiments towards, and approached praising, Iran as a nation whilst distinguishing between it and its current government.

He focused his blame for such sentiments squarely on the media and warned that it could clear the way for additional sanctions, including military. Having written extensively throughout his career about the excessively cosy relationship between Big Government and its Big Media, as he sees it, this was a natural argument for him to make.

According to Chomsky, since 2007 the media has been set on a policy of demonising Iran, "the most ominous issue of today". Front-page headlines were about Iran defying the world community and seeking to acquire nuclear weapons, and relating to whether

te US and Israel should attack.

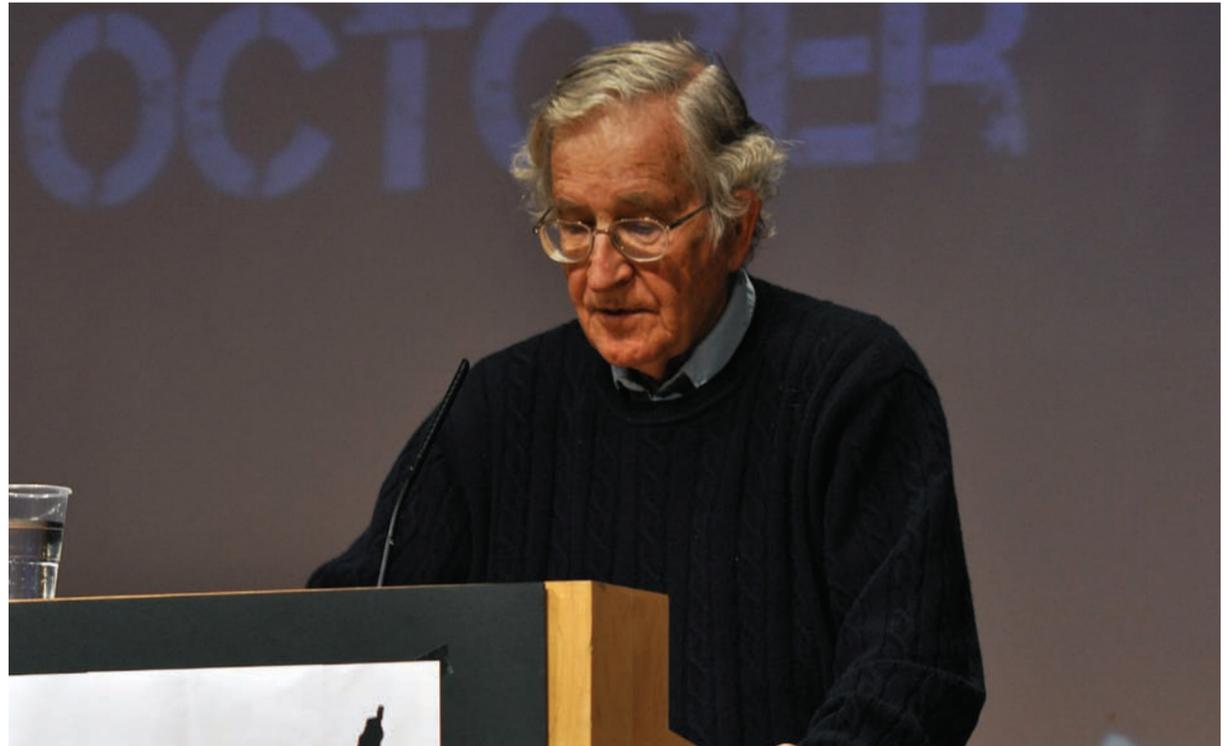
Chomsky accuses the Government-led media of shifting the general population towards fear of Iran, whilst not reporting on almost scandalous behaviour such as Israel not signing up to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and Obama making clear to them that it didn't apply to them.

A week before being inaugurated, Obama was saying that Iran was going to be a problem despite reports from US intelligence saying that Iran had stopped its nuclear proliferation in 2003. This was hardly reported in the media and the only answer from the White House as to why they were ignoring this intelligence information, according to Chomsky, was that they didn't like the intelligence estimates which they were rejecting.

Another example of this apparent hushing-up of unfavourable stories which Professor Chomsky brought up is the apparent scandal around Palestinian offshore gas. According to reports, the Palestinian Authority granted exploration rights in 1999 to 60% of Palestinian offshore gas reserves to British Gas and a partner company. However, since the election of the Hamas government, Israel has taken control of the gas reserves.

There was talk of Tony Blair's involvement in dealings with BG regarding a possible deal to pump gas to Egypt, in that he halted these proceedings on behalf of Israel. Later, despite a proposed agreement that would see a one billion dollar profit go to Palestinians in exchange for gas, it was then stated that Palestinians would only be "paid in goods and services" as Israel wanted to ensure that "no money go to the Hamas-controlled government".

EMG, a key gas supply company signed a deal with the Israeli Electric Company (IEC) to supply gas to Israel for 15 years, but refused sales of natural gas to a number of private gas consumer companies despite them being willing to pay more. This would mean the IEC would oligopolise the natural gas market and supplies to Israel. As



Professor Noam Chomsky lecturing at the event. Photos by Chris Hopper of Imperial Political Philosophy Society

such, a consortium of smaller gas companies have re-opened negotiations with BG as a possible gas supplier for Israel. It has been noted that the relationship between Tony Blair and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has contributed to the increasingly favourable dialogue between Israel and BG.

To credit the Daily Mail, as Chomsky himself did on another matter, an article published by David Rose writes that "Blair's Middle East-focused business career has been a triumph" alongside the statement "No prime minister in modern times would have dreamt of exploiting his position in the way Mr Blair has done". His involvement has clearly come into controversy.

The attitude of the United States, as shown through its foreign policy, which has often been described as American Imperialism, was a major subject of the

talk. Chomsky has frequently said that one reason for discussing and criticising US foreign policy as much as he does is because he himself is American, and as a result feels he has a degree of responsibility for his country's actions. However, on this occasion the focus was centred on his belief that US foreign policy is the only foreign policy which truly matters, now it is the only superpower.

This was further emphasised by Tariq Ali who said he had been asked to make a few remarks on British foreign policy "But it doesn't exist." He provided by far the best quote of the day, a quote from an ex-UK Ambassador to the US, Sir Antony Maher's memoirs who had been told by Tony Blair's chief of staff, Jonathan Powell, "Your main task is to find the arsehole of the White House and remain there."

Their point is that whenever the international community should be getting involved in a situation through the UN, the only vote that matters is that of the United States. In UN Security Council meetings, the US is far and away the largest user of the Right to Veto a decision.

Chomsky made the point that in various cases at a vote of the UN General Assembly, there had been 4 votes against the motion, or in effect, 1 vote: that of the US. This is largely because the only one of those countries that will be listened to is the US, and also because they are all effectively under the control of the US.

Of course the Nobel Peace Prize has just been won by President Obama, but from the very start with the first speaker of the day, Gilbert Achcar, the tone was set by pointing out all the 'war-mongering' people who have been presented with the award including Theodore Roosevelt (1906) and

Woodrow Wilson (1919); and of course the Nobel prizes are named after the inventor of dynamite. The implication was that the inauguration of the great Obama will not signal the end of war and is unlikely to solve the situation in the Palestine region.

The most original point of the night was Professor Chomsky's assertion, made in passing whilst discussing the merits of a Two-State Solution, that "of course even better would be a Zero-State Solution." He capitalised on the unique difficulties of the Israel-Palestine conflict to counter the most frequent rebuttal to his anarchist arguments.

He repeatedly proclaimed that in this case it would be "no more utopian" than either the one or two state solutions currently on the table. Interestingly, he reminded the audience that for most of history, for instance under the Ottomans, "[the State] leaving them alone" was precisely the method used to overcome the challenge of sovereignty over such disparate religious groups.

The thrust of this argument is that the logical source of the conflict can be fully explained by the simultaneous presence of mutually exclusive statist claims by both Israelis and Palestinians. The argument goes that like all States, they seek geographic monopolies on violence and so cannot possibly both be satisfied. Professor Chomsky belongs to the camp that would favour no such monopolies over two, established within the 1948 and 1967 borders, respectively.

Essentially, this position calls for a transfer of sovereignty to individuals, such that there is no coercion left over whose exact form to fight. Critics would question how such a 'free state' could guarantee its own security from foreign and domestic threats, run an effective legal system or do any of



Left to right: Tariq Ali, Gilbert Achcar and Noam Chomsky answering questions from the audience on a range of topics.

the other things that are commonly viewed as being achievable solely by government. Sadly, Professor Chomsky chose not to delve further into this point on this occasion.

Other efforts that could and are being made to aid the situation in the region, or rather to subdue Israel, include BDS. Initiated in July 2005, BDS is an international economic campaign to boycott Israeli goods, supported by the PSC, Palestinian Solidarity Campaign. There are a number of points to this campaign: recognise the rights of Arab-Palestinians to full equality, the right of Palestinian refugees to return and to end Israel's occupation of all Arab lands.

The boycotting extended to that of an academic boycott: refusal to interact with Israeli universities, in particular those situated in the West Bank as they are seen as being involved with the occupation of Palestinian territories and against UN resolutions. This is, however, controversial and discussions are taking place with a view to boycotting institutions while maintaining dialogue with individuals.

Other boycott examples include: some UK churches have withdrawn corporate investment from Israel; urging people to boycott new Intel processors manufactured in Israel; divesting in companies that specifically benefit Israel – drawing comparisons with the South African Apartheid in which similar divestment took place. A campaign of cultural, academic and sporting boycotting is being encouraged.

Moreover, the instigation of sanctions would result in increased pressure on the economy which could

cause Israel to implement international law to give rights to the Palestinian people.

The point of South African Apartheid was further elaborated upon by Chomsky: a comparison was made between the modern-day situation in Palestine and Apartheid South Africa. Moshe Dayan, the Israeli military and political leader, said in 1967 Palestinians will "continue to live like dogs, and whoever wishes may leave." A quote Chomsky brought up many times.

In South Africa, he points out, the Apartheid regime had to look after the black workers, to some extent at least, as they relied on them for labour. The case was similar with Israel's attitude to the Palestinians in the '60s, however now with immigrants from other poor parts of the world now available to carry out the undesirable work, the Israeli attitude, Chomsky alleges, is now much more in line with Dayan's sentiments.

One question posed to Chomsky by a Palestinian student, enquired about the right of return for Palestinian refugees. UN Resolution 194 states "that the refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbors should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date". However, as this is a General Assembly agreement, it is not binding by international law and as such no repatriation has taken place.

Moreover, the wording of the agreement is subject to interpretation as the refugees in question could encompass Arab-Palestinians and Jews that fled persecution; where the Arab-Palestinians may be deemed non-peaceful due to their involvement in the start of the



Writer and activist Gilbert Achcar introducing the topic to be discussed and the speakers, Tariq Ali and Noam Chomsky.

Israeli War of Independence in 1948-49. This would eliminate their right of return based on the assumption that they would not "live at peace".

Another point mentioned was whether any such agreement would include only those who are first-generation refugees or whether it would entitle descendants of the original refugees to the right of return, of which the matter is unresolved. The original number of displaced Palestinians was approximately 750 000 and if the descendants of refugees were granted the right of return this would lead to a possible influx of around four million peo-

ple. Yasser Arafat (2002) highlighted that if very large numbers of refugees were to return to Israel, it would be inconsistent with Israel remaining a state with a Jewish majority.

Professor Chomsky is admired even by most of his academic adversaries for his exemplary intellectual honesty and integrity. This made his frequent use of quotes from highly dubious sources as though they were universally respected experts particularly disappointing.

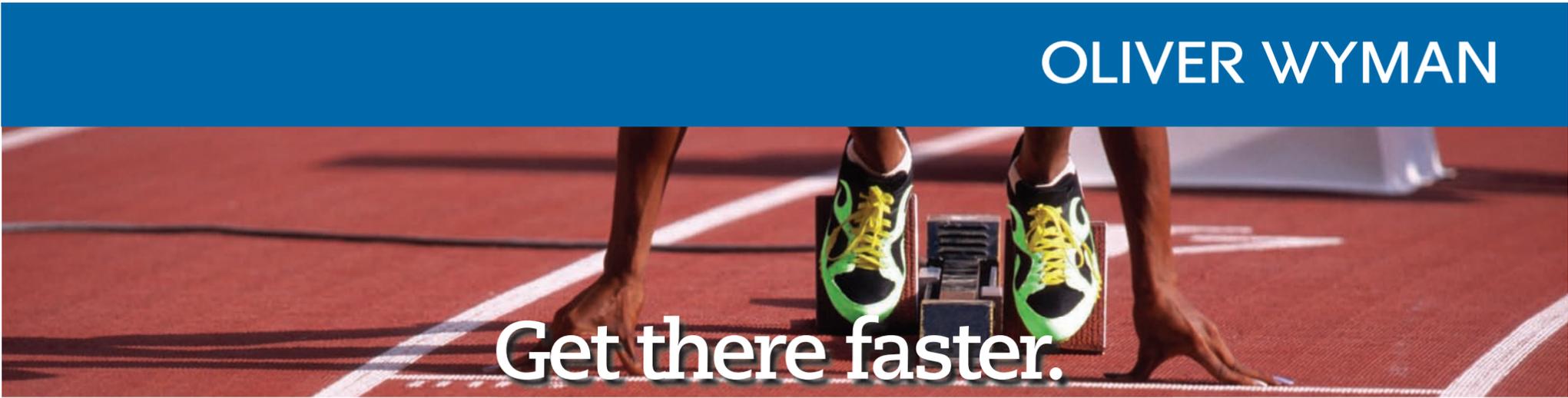
Akin to this were various comparisons he made that were clearly aimed at the emotional rather than rational side of the debate. On the similarities

between Zionism and Apartheid he made a considerable effort to justify his position. On his linking of Israelis to capitalists and Palestinians to socialists he did not.

He went so far as to argue that working for a fixed income was worse than being a slave and suggested that this was analogous to the plight of Palestinians.

Overall the main point to take away from the talk was that Israel won't change its policy towards Palestine so long as it is supported by the US and the EU and the situation won't improve until Israel changes its policy.

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I don't look like this anymore. Honestly, it was over a year ago

Ravi Pall Comment Editor

It's been a long time coming; I finally have a chance to write a comment piece. It's not for the lack of trying, but more due to the fact that week after week, we here at *felix* have been "snowed under" with the opinions, thoughts, and bizarre ramblings of Imperial College's finest most enthusiastic young writers. When I say enthusiastic I mean those who put the effort in to writing a comment piece, then go through the whole ordeal of emailing it to comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Now after finally shoving enough contributions into the seemingly never-ending, well, we call it an 'Inbox'; I have selfishly claimed this space as my

own. It's like playing king of the hill, but only I get to cheat. Please keep sending your comment pieces in though, I won't do this often. Anyway it appears I am the one rambling now.

This week I would like to tell you that life is generally shit. Everything seems to be good, I've made it to third year, I've done well enough to stay on the four year course, I have a beautiful girlfriend, great friends, a nice flat to live in and a job. What's more, I'm turning 21 in three weeks.

On paper, life is great!! In reality, too many tutorials, too many lectures and too much time in labs means that I have no time to spend with my girlfriend and friends. And to make it

worse, everybody is in the same position – nobody has any time for each other, nobody wants to go out and party anymore. Even when I decide to have some time off and chill out for an evening, I have nobody to spend it with – even my flatmate is too busy and he's just a SAC monkey!!

Remember when we were in first year? We were all in halls, we could be bothered to go out, there was no such thing as 'I've got too much work to do' being an excuse for not heading off to Soho on a night out, or wasting a day being drunk in the union. These were good times, memorable times. However it seems these times are long gone, into the distance. I'm not try-

ing to tell you to enjoy your first year at university, you should know that already. This rant is more like a pre warning of how intense things get as you progress through the years. More of your friends fail and drop out, some go abroad, some graduate. It seems like your social life is thinning by the second. Well that might be a slight exaggeration, but the point none the less is to make the best of what you have got. Unless you like working every second of the day this is a bad thing.

If you think about it, you're probably in a similar situation (first years exempt). When was the last time you met loads of new people. Called them up for a night out, and acted like you

were a Fresher again? Exactly, you've been in the same crowd for years now and wouldn't it be nice to diversify? As good as it gets these days is a house party, which are fun, but not the same as living in halls, right? Hells no biatches! Get out of the hole you've dug for yourselves and DO act like a Fresher again. Go to Cheapskates on a wednesday, or Fabric in the early hours of the morning. Why do you need your current friends to have fun? Make new ones while you're there. 'The more the merrier' I believe the saying goes. What I'm trying to say here is don't let it get you down, keep doing whatever you want to do, not what you're expected to do. You only die once.

Angry Geek is all over Dick Prick Nick Griffin



"Nick Griffin is an asshole. Everyone knows that, so don't panic if we're all not down there with the anti-fascism protesters."



Alright, look, I know Question Time was a while back but I've been in hospital with a hernia since I watched it, because I exploded with laughter so frequently my internal organs began to vibrate at high frequency. I passed out around the time that David Dimbleby pleaded to the audience that he "didn't want the show to be about the BNP", as he sat next to the party's leader, a prominent black arts scholar, and three tossers looking to score cheap political points. Thankfully my girlfriend was around to call an ambulance before I bled out to the sound of Nick Griffin

farting out another comment about the Ice Age.

So cut me some slack, alright? It has been a hard week. I've had to watch serious television for six hours a day to recover from it all, and watching that many episodes of *The Wire* will do anyone's head in. We all love depressing television, guys, but if I wanted to slash my wrists I'd have spent the money on something sharper than a DVD case.

Now, that means I wasn't around last week to comfort you all while Abdul Hannan declared that a new world order was partitioning society into "the white guys" and "diffrent people". But it's okay, I'm here now, so let's start

from the beginning – no-one is engineering anything in this country. The last thing we engineered properly was the Channel Tunnel, and even that has been set alight a few times. Nothing large-scale ever gets engineered in this country, because the system works. And by 'the system', I am of course talking about the fact that most people are too bloody stupid to pay attention to anything, racially charged or not.

I know it can feel uncomfortable, sometimes, to see parties like the BNP on television giving their spiel. And worse still, to hear people who are in power, people who are taken seriously, saying other things that are similarly

misguided. But you have to understand that this has happened before, and will happen again, based on whichever social or ethnic group is currently in the firing line. It's not pretty, but it does pass.

How can we help? We can help by being the calm voices of reason. We can help by not panicking. We can help by making jokes about Nick Griffin's entertainingly simple view of the history of this country. We are the young adults of this country, and we are scientists. We're supposed to be the people who are speaking clearly, cutting through the bullshit and stating the facts. It would help everyone if

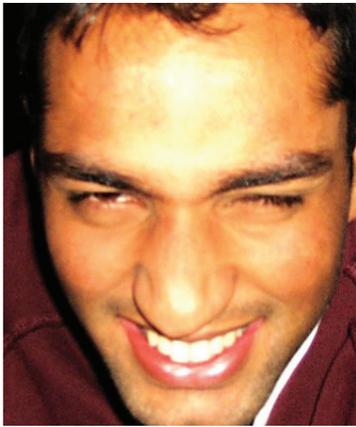
we took a step or two back, looked at how ridiculous the situation really is, and then got involved again.

Nick Griffin is an asshole. Everyone knows that, so don't panic if we're all not down there with the anti-fascism protesters. Some of us are just lazy, others just can't think up witty enough slogans (not that that stops most people – the 'Dick' Griffin line was about as funny as a BNP's after-dinner speech). Everyone knows. And as for the rest of the political parties – this is a stupid country. Not a racist one. So kick back, and enjoy the hilarity of watching people get very, very worked up about all this. It'll all be over by Election Day.

Want to write for comment? email comment.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Your Opinions, Thoughts and Ramblings in 750 Words

Jaideep Desai's confession: I ♥ the Union



"I probably wouldn't get a second look if I strolled in wearing a Borat mankini, in fact I think it has been done."



Do I like the union? Everyone at Imperial has heard the same comment about the union, "it...is...shit".

Throughout my first year it was all I heard, and in a bid to look "cool" in front of a bunch of strangers, I would agree, and maybe even spread the word. I started saying the union was shit before I had even been there.

Over my time I have found it as something of a conversation starter, almost a pick-up line. All girls in the union love a man who hates the union.

It's a common topic among everyone who visits, and it sort of unifies us as a group. Maybe that's why people say it so much. However my fresher days are over. Now in 2nd year I find myself a tad older and wiser and am willing to voice my true opinion about the bar at the back end of Beit quad. I LOVE IT!!! I literally cannot think of anywhere else I would like to go out more, and it's not followed by a 'lol' so yes, I really am serious.

Everyone always focuses on the negative points, like how ridiculously heavy the stools in Da Vinci's are, the

permanent smell of vomit in the union bar, or the pints of piss courtesy of the rugby team.

But what about the positives? The union doesn't care about my type of shoes or if I'm wearing a hoody, I probably wouldn't get a second look if I strolled in wearing a Borat mankini, in fact I think it has been done. In the union you really can do almost anything short of murder and not get kicked out.

Where else can you get service with a smile after having just thrown up your guts on Beit lawn? Now dBs' dance floor gets a lot of bad press, however

I haven't seen many better. There is nothing more annoying than a packed dance floor, and dBs is never packed. I always find space to swing my arms in some ridiculous fashion and call it a form of dancing. And so what if the music isn't great, if you're sober enough to notice, you're not drunk enough to be in dBs.

I could go on all day: you never have to queue to get in, the cloakroom is free, and they have the quickest most hygienic hand driers in the world. On top of all of this, it's pretty cheap. Really, where else can you go on a

Wednesday night where it is not only acceptable to do condom pints, but encouraged? How can you hate a place that serves your beer in a plastic skiff so once you're done you can throw it back in the faces of the bar staff that served you? Then later at the end of a long night, there's no issue getting home, if I'm feeling paralytic there's a direct night bus that takes me to my front door, and I can walk it if I'm feeling active.

So, no one would've thought it, but the best night out in London town is the Imperial College Union.

Gilead Amit and the global war on tourism



"Soon their weapons of mass distraction will be eradicated, and ordinary people will go about their daily lives without fear of disruption."



A few years ago, following the atrocities committed by foreign citizens on American soil, President George W. Bush declared a global war on tourism. Tourism and tourists, he claimed in his distinctively chirpy Texan accent, needed to be stopped at whatever cost. Whether hiding behind Lonely Planet guidebooks in cheap hotels or skulking in queues for discount theatre tickets, tourists had to be identified, disarmed and eliminated.

In an unparalleled act of unity, virtually the entire Western world responded to this clarion call for peace and security. As a result, the last few years have seen life become increasingly difficult for rogue tourists hell-bent on overturning our normal way of life. Increased security at airports, tighter control over entry visas and a tougher economic climate have all contributed to preventing the scourge of international tourism from rearing its ugly head. Soon even the silly hats, 'I Love London' T-shirts, unnecessarily large cameras and loud

voices that constitute the most powerful weapons of mass distraction will be eradicated, and ordinary people will be able to go about their daily lives without fear of disruption.

As a reformed tourist myself, I understand all too well the appalling conditions that drive perfectly ordinary people to strap themselves into a seatbelt and leave their baggage unattended in the hold of a transnational airliner. Their actions may seem disgusting and repellent to us, but we must be tolerant, and strive to remember that it is simply not their fault. Their vile and reprehensible activities are motivated by a genuine feeling of desperation, expressed through the only means of communication they feel is open to them.

If we are to put an end to this menace, we have to act with delicacy, professionalism and caution. And what better example to follow than that of London's very own Metropolitan police force? The London Met's counter-tourism program has been exceptionally effective, with its four-stage slogan for re-

ducing the spread of the tourism virus: 'catch it, kill it, bin there, done that'.

It is a testament to the gravity of the threat involved that all branches of government and industry have contributed to seeking out these unwelcome visitors to our shores. No single body, however, has done more to help in the identification of tourists than the Royal Mint. Centuries of experience have resulted in the manufacture of the most confusing set of circulating coinage known to man, and the ingenious practice of pricing everyday items at such arbitrary figures as £7.28 or £3.43. This forces the uninitiated to deal with overflowing handfuls of loose change which they are then unable to identify. All that the rest of us then have to do is keep our ears peeled for anyone who walks down the road making a noise like a gypsy tambourinist falling down a hill.

Even British Airways has in part atoned for its role in facilitating the influx of tourists by financing the construction of a giant detention and isolation facility on London's South Bank.

Known as the 'London Eye', the giant circular structure serves as a centre where suspected tourists can be kept off the streets in a closely monitored environment for half an hour at a time. Once they emerge, dizzy and mildly disoriented, it is a comparatively easy task to push them into the raging waters of the River Thames.

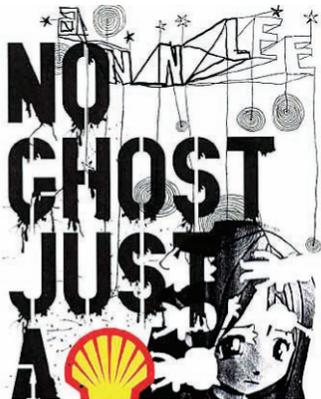
But perhaps the most impressive precaution employed by the city of London is Madame Tussaud's. Behind the story of this feeble waxworks we see the true power of marketing, a brute force capable of transforming a pointless and vapid attraction into one of the city's most visited sites. But why? What is the purpose of dragging foreigners to such a hideously vulgar waste of time? The answer is simple. Once used to display the remains of executed French nobles, it has now regained its original purpose as a final destination for unwanted foreigners. The innate ability of Londoners to respond to a crisis situation means that standard policy has long been to slyly direct all potential tourists towards the

Baker Street area. The brightly-coloured labyrinth of the London Tube map has greatly facilitated this subtle shepherding, as after ten minutes underground not even the keenest orienteer has any idea where the hell they are, where they're going, or what fresh air used to taste like.

Once a tourist arrives at Madame Tussaud's, after expecting to find himself at Harrods or the Millenium Dome, he is quietly and discreetly shown into the cellars, melted down, and recast into the latest mould of Nick Griffin or Susan Boyle. This way the museum is able to cut down on its wax consumption, and can continue to provide among the most realistic dummies in the world.

All that is now left to do, of course, is to combat the horrors of British tourism exported abroad. The shutting down of the renowned British tourism training camps and a crackdown on the infamous and devastating tactic of binge drinking will surely go a long way to making tomorrow's world a safer and less gaudy place. We can but hope.

Mariash Notelling already knows better



"I feel ... ashamed of some of my "acquaintances", as I now like to call them, who need to take pregnancy or STI tests"



I LIKE ROUGH SEX. Yes I bet I've got your attention now. If you are stupid enough to read this just because of the opening line then you are probably a sexually deprived male Imperial student (of which there are many due to the male: female ratio) or you are one of the slutty female freshers who are really keen (if you have not done so already) on losing their virginity.

Is it me or is *felix* and the majority of the student population of Imperial obsessed with sex? "Where's the weirdest place you've had sex?" Urghh it makes me feel sick! Is that really what life revolves around? Do you really become more interesting and are you really living life to the full if you fuck regularly? Yes, fuck –not make love. Because

making love is something deeper, but in my experience the males I've come across here are not interested in that. Most just want one night stands and those that pretend that they don't are really just keeping a girlfriend so that they can get regular fucks. They are not interested in what music you're into or what you did over summer, they just want an arse to squeeze and then just forget about it until next time.

I'm also disgusted with the recent intake of fresher girls that wear tops with tits falling out or dresses that reveal thongs! Get some class! Don't get me wrong, I love dressing up and revealing a bit of flesh, but everything in moderation. I am no nun. I am not a female scientist only devoted to her studies and the latest issue of Chemistry

World. I believe physical relationships can be great fun when they are with the right person. BUT that does not mean I give in to horny Imperial males on the prowl. I have some respect for myself and I am not ashamed to say that I am still a virgin. Yes a virgin. I am proud that I haven't given in because I am simply waiting for the right person. Sex is not the way to start a relationship. It should be brought into a relationship as a token of love and trust. And how on earth are you meant to trust someone after a week or two, after meeting them at Fresher's Week? Many of my friends have followed this trend as they got caught up in the whirlwind of London uni life. But no honey –no way- not me! I'm starting to feel really ashamed of some of my "acquaintanc-

es", as I now like to call them, who need to take pregnancy or STI tests. If you were in a stable relationship, planning properly and actually not drunk off your face most of the time when you had sex then you wouldn't have this problem!

Oh yes that brings me onto alcohol. Why is the idea of a good night: one that is a total piss up? Let me assure you that I like alcohol. But I do not drink to get pissed. I have never lost control. I may have drunk too much at times, but I did not set out to do this. I like the taste of alcohol. I agree –a drink does relax you and being Italian and all... Well, red wine is in my blood. But it annoys me when I hear: "last night was amazing... tons of alcohol... woke up on the common room floor...went to Hyde

Park during the night...can't remember the rest..." WOW aren't you cool?! It's a pity I can't even try to be just like you!

I apologise to any males that I may have offended during the voice of my humble opinion. I know that there are some decent blokes out there at Imperial –after all - probability distributions approach the x axis, but never quite reach it. You must be somewhere in the tail of the Gaussian. Shame really –isn't it? But don't try and contact me –I'm not interested. I'm too busy trying to convince my demonstrators that my recent laboratory work is one of a kind and actually deserves the Nobel prize. I'm not going to bother apologising to any promiscuous girls I may have offended –just 'cause you should know better.

Rhys Davies lives with a plant... Weird?



"In Plant's opinion, my life is very complicated. And it's not hard to see why; university, lectures, medicine, food, rent..."



I'm excited. Now calm down, there's no need for the hose yet. As a second year, I have recently moved in with some lazy, messy and slightly anaemic individuals. They are otherwise known as housemates and they are kings among men.

We're still very much in the honeymoon period. The green shoots of democracy as everyone is assigned a shelf in the fridge. The beloved selection of a stiff Caerphilly cheese from the dairy aisle in Sainsburys. The furious wrath at waking to find a discarded wrapper and nothing more, with the obligatory witch-hunt. Secretly identifying the culprit and the furtive thrill of revenge; drinking the last of their milk in the middle of the night – and the cold sweat of terror as you realise that wasn't milk at all and had no business in the fridge to start with. It's a veritable cornucopia of emotion.

But in addition to these strange faces

that I must get used to outside the sober light of day, there is one other occupant of the house. One that I couldn't be happier to be sharing a room with.

His name is Plant. He is a houseplant. I first met Plant in the gardening section at the B&Q back home, so, like me, he's a true Welshman. Admittedly, he'll never play rugby in the Six Nations but he has a quiet charm. Plant sits at a mighty half-metre tall, in his white melamine pot, his endearingly droopy leaves a sign of his relaxed, open nature.

What I like about Plant is that he doesn't judge. I can come home in the foulest of moods, vent at him to geothermal proportions, practically screaming. And when I finish, lungs bleeding, he just nods along with the air conditioning. Others might mistake him as blasé or apathetic, but they miss the warm glow of gentle sympathy that suffuses the room afterwards.

In Plant's opinion, my life is very complicated. And it's not hard to see why; university, lectures, medicine, food, rent, bills, friends, keeping fit, eating healthy, sleep and – here it gets really complicated – girls. And, of course, the general head-scratchings of life, the universe and everything. It's as knotty as a pair of snakes, just married, honeymooning in a box of Christmas lights. Although, in fairness, Plant finds anything with legs complicated. Movement? – He baulks – 'Tis madness! So I have his pity. Plant is a simple thing, with simple pleasures. Recumbent in his plastic palace, he is free to spend the day musing over matters that really matter, like "Why is water wet?"

But Plant is more than just a stem to cry on after a bad day. On the occasions that I am caught studying in my room, Plant is a fine conversationalist to help those long hours fly by. He often tries to engage me by discussing his

latest philosophical ponderings but my feeble human mind can barely keep up with him at the best of times, let alone when it's trying to focus on adrenoceptors and cerebral arteries. We also have a good chat every week when I decide to water him. More often than not, we end up talking about the weather, which we both have a vested interest in.

What's more, as a housemate, Plant is exemplary. Unlike some, he never contemplates kitchen theft and skulduggery; he is always swift and efficient in the bathroom, and doesn't leave potting soil in the bottom of the shower; and he is always on time with the rent. I don't ask where he gets the money from – some things are best left unknown.

You might be wondering by now, due to my hagiographic prose, why I didn't just move into a greenhouse? Valid question, and I must admit, though

Plant is an outstanding individual and a true friend, he is still a houseplant. Now, don't mistake me for some kind of bigot. I'm the last person to judge someone based on the colour of their stem. But Plant is a plant, and I am – contrary to popular belief – a man. Our friendship may have done much to strengthen plant-human relations but there are some differences that are too vast to be bridged by goodwill and MiracleGro.

The lack of opposable thumbs poses a particular problem. Though I enjoy the alien sensation of winning at Halo, it is a hollow victory. Plant holds little interest in video games, or in going out. It's as if he were rooted to the spot. It's a real shame because he does appreciate a good pint of Guinness. But these are relatively minor complaints that I can ignore most of the time...

...But when he gets drunk, he does like to spoon.



Your weekly business news round-up

UK opposition parties criticise the slow recovery from recession, Lord Sugar denies it exists and suggests we do the same, Intel gets prosecuted – again, gold marches on, and Shanghai may be getting a Disneyland

UK will recover slower than US

This week a row has been growing over the perceived slowness of the UK's prophesied economic recovery. Treasury minister Liam Byrne claimed that Shadow Chancellor George Osborne had made a "complete clown of himself" for suggesting that the Government's plan to end the recession had "failed". Criticism has also been coming, as always, from the Lib Dems who saw "stark contrast" between the performances of the UK and US economies.

Mr Byrne made three arguments in favour of his government's interventionism. His first was that US politicians and their advisors had "said the stimulus was vital". His second point was that some countries that implemented stimulus packages had seen their economies' key indicators pick up. He argued that these "show one thing above all - that economic stimulus has worked." Finally he pointed out that Barack Obama (in so many words) supported economic stimulus as a tool to hasten economic recovery.

Lib Dem Treasury spokesman Vince Cable has been broadly supportive of the government's policies but has challenged the effectiveness of their implementation. He has additionally called for the financial sector to be shrunk, relative to the overall size of the economy. He also wants consumer and business loans to become more accessible, and personal debt to go down. His proposals have some credibility because of his partial prediction of the financial crisis.

Mr Osborne was the only politician to oppose quantitative easing and bank

bail-outs but has, without formally retracting his position, increasingly shied away from discussing his earlier proposals, on account of public opinion being strongly hostile towards them. He has however been reminding voters of the Prime Minister's earlier claims and his role in shaping the UK economy in the eleven years before the start of recession. "Gordon Brown's claim that we were 'best placed' now lies in tatters" said Mr Osborne, arguing that "we need credit and confidence to get the British economy moving again."

Ironically these latest spats has been catalyzed by figures showing the US recovering faster than the UK, which are themselves highly suspicious. Even on the Federal Government's dubious numbers, unemployment continues to rise – although TARPisians like to argue that the rate of increase (or some higher order derivative depending on the month) of unemployment is falling.

In the financial markets, speculation is strong and growing that the nominal gap between asset and real economic performance is being caused by government-pumped money. Evidence supporting this view includes the unprecedentedly high ratio between the scale of the recovery and the depth of the initial correction.

This creates a dilemma. There will probably be an eventual withdrawal of liquidity in order to reduce the risk of excessive inflation. But this will cause another painful market correction, potentially sparking another round of printing. These concerns have caused the surge in currencies traditionally viewed as risky to continue this week, as the doubts rise about the USD's safe-haven status.



Clockwise from top left: George Osborne, Vince Cable, the wrong Liam Byrne, Treasury minister Liam Byrne

Lord Sugar addresses concerns

Alan Sugar, of *The Apprentice* fame, made controversial comments on Tuesday that seemed to imply that small businesses hit hard by the recession should not be complaining. "I can honestly say a lot of problems you hear from people who are moaning are from companies I wouldn't lend a penny to," said Lord Sugar, who has recently become the government's enterprise advisor. "They are bust and they don't need the bank - they need an insolvency practitioner," he added.

The Federation of Small Businesses defended small firms struggling to survive under current conditions by claiming that small businesses "live in the real world, not Disney World, and they lie at the heart of our economy"; adding that "they are not moaners and the fact is they are working hard in difficult times and they need help from our banks." Lord Sugar's criticisms of the 'moaners' comes amidst his calls for people to stop discussing the recession. When asked about how the UK can get out of it, he argued "ah £\$%^&* can we get off this bloody recession kick once

and for all? I don't think we're in one now, okay?"

He has even been blaming the current state of the economy on its coverage, adding, "I think it's about time the media really assisted a little bit [by] not talking about the recession." Lord Sugar offered small enterprises more conciliatory words by claiming that they do not need to be told that times are tough. "It's the businessman, err, or

the businesswoman, who has to run their business, and adapt to the climate that they are in at the moment." The Lib Dem's business spokesman John Thurso warned the Prime Minister not to "allow Lord Sugar's celebrity to distract him from the absolutely desperate message this sends." Showing the full force of his party's wit he added, "if he cannot get this, the Prime Minister must tell him 'you're fired'."



Intel has been naughty again

Just months after paying the EU almost £1bn, Intel faces yet another lawsuit. This time it has been filed by New York's Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, following a two year investigation. Presumably soon-to-be-Governor Cuomo is accusing Intel of "illegal threats... bribery and coercion." The alleged victims are manufacturers of personal computers who Intel apparently tried to intimidate into buying its chips instead of those made by its rivals. This would have been a novel marketing strategy, but its effectiveness is doubtful given the size of most PC manufacturers.

Intel responded that the lawsuit was "just plain wrong...consumers, who have consistently benefited from lower prices and increased innovation, are not being served by the decision to file a case now." The details of the case are even more bizarre. Intel's super-awesome plans to dominate its market were undone by its staff mentioning them in emails. The 'bribery and coercion' turn out to have been cash-back offers. The 'illegal threats' were to withdraw these offers if the manufacturers switched suppliers.

India buys IMF gold

Gold prices have hit an all time high of \$1095.05 for an ounce on the London market, after the Indian Central Bank purchased 200 tonnes of the precious metal from the International Monetary Fund. The purchase is the latest of many moves made in recent years by emerging market governments to diversify out of the US dollar.

Shanghai to get Disneyland

After more than a decade of planning and negotiations, Disney has announced that it will be opening Shanghai Disneyland in 2014.

The new park will be built at an estimated cost of £2.2bn and will be China's second Disneyland. There are concerns it may be competing with the other one already operating in Hong Kong. China already has 5,000 locations selling official Disney merchandise. This will be the fourth Disneyland outside the US, after Tokyo, Paris and Hong Kong.



Disgraced stem cell researcher sentenced for bioethics violation

Woo-Suk Hwang, the South Korean cloning pioneer faces a two year suspended sentence but is cleared of fraud

Eliot Barford Science Reporter

Last Monday, disgraced South Korean stem cell researcher Woo-Suk Hwang was sentenced to two years in jail, suspended, convicted of violating bioethics law and embezzlement though cleared of fraud. Supporters are overjoyed that he escaped actual jail time but others in the community aren't so pleased. How did the man once titled Supreme Scientist find himself narrowly escaping gruel meals, as his case tore apart Korean nationalism? And where do mass human egg donations and the Russian mafia fit into it all?

Four years ago Hwang was a national hero, but one of humble origins: born during war into rural poverty, the value of cattle spurred him to enter veterinarian research. His earliest noted achievement was the production of Korea's first IVF cow in 1993, followed in 1999 by its first cloned cow and in 2002 by cloned pigs. In 2003, he produced a cow resistant to BSE. Such accomplishments garnered him an impressive reputation, with one caveat: not one of them was supported by a peer-reviewed journal article.

By 2004 he was running a huge and intensely driven lab: it's said that he got into the lab at 6:00am and laboured right through until midnight, always the first and last there out of 125 people. No wonder his marital life was strained. Nonetheless, the publication of excellent work seemed inevitable. That year the team released a paper in *Science* that changed the face of embryonic stem cell (ESC) research, purporting to have created the first cloned human embryos using somatic cell nuclear transfer (SCNT). SCNT involves inserting the nucleus of a somatic (body) cell into an empty egg cell. It's notoriously difficult to execute, and labs outside Korea failed mainly because they couldn't acquire enough



It is thought the judge was lenient on sentencing Woo-Suk Hwang (above) to allow him a chance to repair his reputation as an outstanding scientist

eggs – the success rate is tiny. Creating Dolly the sheep took 277 eggs, while Hwang claimed success with 242.

In 2005, the Hwang lab released a second groundbreaking paper, this time cloning 11 embryos using just 185 eggs. The community was astounded; Hwang's status soared. Two months later he became the first to clone a dog: Snuppy, an (adorable) Afghan Hound. Before long he was raised to the dizzy heights of Supreme Scientist and appointed head of the World Stem Cell Hub.

But even before the second paper, questions had been brewing. A May 2004 article in *Nature* first queried the team's egg sources, catching onto widespread rumours among Korea's young researchers. On 11th November 2005, Gerald Schatten, an American co-author on the 2005 paper, informed *Science* that he was no longer collaborating with Hwang, believing he had acquired eggs inappropriately. On the 21st, Sung-Il Roh, a fertility expert who supplied Hwang with eggs, admitted some of them were paid for. The next day, a probing TV programme called PD Notebook aired a show accusing Hwang of taking eggs from members

of his lab, implying he had coerced them. Such practices were illegal under new bioethics law as well as unacceptable internationally.

Suddenly, two days later Hwang called a press conference and confessed both to paying for eggs and taking them from members of his group. Accordingly, he resigned most of his positions, but promised to continue research.

Yet his fall from grace wasn't over. Word got out that the producers of PD Notebook had run tests on Hwang's stem cell lines, showing some were not actually derived from the tissues he claimed they were. Hwang's considerable support in Korea erupted in response, organising huge drives for women to pledge their eggs directly for his research and causing the indefinite cancellation of PD Notebook.

However, within days Hwang's institution, Seoul National University (SNU), announced an investigation. Schatten requested his name be removed from the 2005 paper. Then, without warning, Roh declared 9 of the 11 cell lines to be fabricated. Hwang denied falsifying results but promised

to retract the paper and validate it immediately, stubbornly blaming its errors on his team. SNU quickly rebutted him with its preliminary finding that none of the cell lines were clones of patient tissues. PD Notebook's second programme was allowed to air and *Science* officially retracted the paper. In January 2006, the SNU investigation's final conclusions were announced: neither the 2004 nor 2005 paper was scientifically valid.

Hwang maintained he could clone human embryos within six months, but never did. Subsequently, a bioethics committee confirmed Hwang forced egg donations from his staff – in fact he went through 2221 eggs attempting to clone humans, not 427. Only in March 2006 did he finally admit forcing his subordinates to forge results. Until that time he insisted his colleagues must have been to blame. Swiftly, his ESC research license was revoked and SNU fired him. In May his arduous trial began, investigating charges of violating bioethics law, embezzling 2.8 billion won (US\$3 million) and fraudulently using false data to apply for research funding. The case has since dragged on for 40 months through 60 witness testimonies and 43 judicial hearings.

Hwang's embezzlement is perhaps more astounding than his forgeries. He laundered government cash through relative's bank accounts and spent it on eggs, donations to politicians and gifts for his wife. Most bizarrely, he actually cited dealings with the Russian mafia as part of his defence: he had tried to purchase mammoth remains on the black market in the hopes of cloning an extinct beast. Unable to get receipts for those transactions, he couldn't prove he

hadn't stolen the money.

How did Hwang escape the fraud charge after so many lies? The defence argued that the companies who funded him weren't defrauded because they hadn't expected any direct financial reward.

What is the result of this sorry story? The effects on scientific process have been profound, with ethical assessment and peer review practices updated and tagalong co-authorship like Schatten's looked upon less fondly. Ironically, an

\$3million (US)

The amount Woo-Suk Hwang is charged with embezzling during the course of his stem cell research

independent group concluded in 2007 that Hwang's fake cloned embryos were in fact world-first human parthenogenetic embryos (those developed from unfertilised eggs), a considerable achievement in itself.

Who can say what Woo-Suk Hwang's motivations were? Even his harshest critics agree on his talent, but opinion is divided on his nature – over-keen researcher or devious manipulator. To this day no one has conclusively derived a cloned human embryo. Some have speculated that the judge was lenient to allow him a chance to repair his reputation – perhaps Woo-Suk Hwang has a few more surprises up his sleeve.

43 hearings

The case has dragged on for 40 months and gone through 60 witness testimonies

2221

The actual number of eggs used in an attempt to clone the first human, not the 427 initially claimed



Snuppy (right) pictured with the three-year old donor Afghan whose skin cells, taken from the ear, were supposedly used to clone him



Success for Imperial at annual iGEM competition

Imperial team finishes 4th overall and wins the award for best manufacturing project with "The E.ncapsulator"

Nathan Ley Science Editor

The iGEM competition (international genetically engineered machine competition) is an annual event which this year took place at MIT between the 31st October and 2nd November. 112 teams from universities all over the world partook in the competition, and so 4th can be considered a fantastic achievement. The team consisted of undergraduates from Bioengineering and Life sciences, and they were: Dineka Khurmi, David Roche, Kun Xue, Royah Vaezi, James Field Tianyi Wang, Nuri Purswani Ramchandi and Charles Fracchia.

Preparation for the iGEM competi-

tion is intense and is a commitment not undertaken lightly. The team is recruited before Christmas and preparation involves a summer long UROP placement to push the project along.

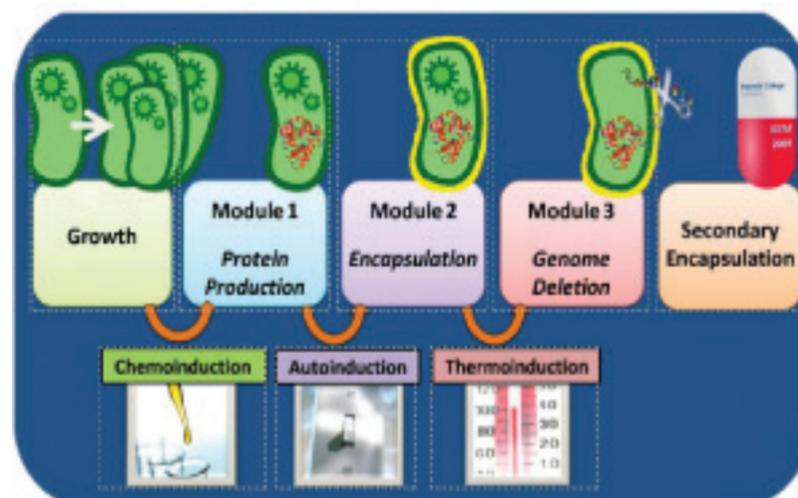
This year's project was titled "The E.ncapsulator", a platform through which therapeutics can be reliably targeted to the intestine, an attractive area of research for commercial pill development by pharmaceutical companies.

The project description on the website claims "The inspiration behind The E.ncapsulator was the inherent difficulty in delivering protein pharmaceuticals to the gut. Due to the delicate nature of proteins and the highly

acidic environment present in the stomach"

In an email sent out to life sciences undergraduate students the life sciences iGEM advisors, Paul Freemont and Geoff Baldwin, said "This is a fantastic achievement given the growing size of the competition and illustrates yet again what great undergraduate students we have at Imperial". I would like to echo these sentiments with those of my own and say that these students are a credit to our university and deserve infinite praise.

Right: The mechanism behind "The E.ncapsulator" which came 4th out of 112 entries at the event



FACING THE ANNUAL ENEMY

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR AGAIN AND **SHUPAULA DASS** IS DECLARING WAR ON THE FLU VIRUS

When we think of war, images of guns, blood, guts and soldiers shouting 'Yes Sir!' usually ensue. History is full of it, man against man. However, there's a non human enemy whom mankind has been battling against for hundreds of years. Also, brace yourself- it can turn you to its side with little more than a sneeze. Of course, it's the flu (for those of you believing this article would be about Predator-sorry.)

Humans are involved in an evolutionary war with the flu. The first recognized pandemic started in Asia in 1580 and reached Europe within six months. The worst pandemic in history was the 1918 Spanish flu, which totted up a fatality count of at least 20 million. But these are all old statistics; should we still be concerned about the seasonal phenomenon?

Yes. The modern day influenza is as wily as ever, killing hundreds of thousands every year. Sometimes referred to as RNA viruses, it can be split into three genera; Influenza A, B and C. A virus can only survive by replicating within living cells. As they have short generation times and high mutation rates, the flu can evolve quickly to avoid our defence systems. Natural selection allows for those viruses that survive to adapt quickly and successfully replicate, increasing their numbers.

Imagine a production line of the flu virus inside our bodies. For argu-

ments sake, there are 10, each one slightly genetically different from the next by one base pair. Five of those are killed off by our immune systems kicking in straight away. Warning bells sound, a fever follows, they die, and we survive. That is round 1 and there are still 5 remaining. We then go to the doctor who prescribes us some drugs that help kill off 3 of these mutant strains. End of round 2 and still there are 2 remaining mutants. It is these 2 that have survived through natural selection, adapted to our defenses and evolved. It is possible for

The first pandemic started in Asia in 1580 ... should we still be concerned about the seasonal phenomenon?

these viruses to mix with other strains and survive.

The swine flu has been such a character. The strain of H1N1 belongs to the flu genus A. Upon analysis it was found to be composed of four different types of flu: North American swine and avian influenza, human influenza and Asian/European swine influenza. This potent mongrel virus has a 'take

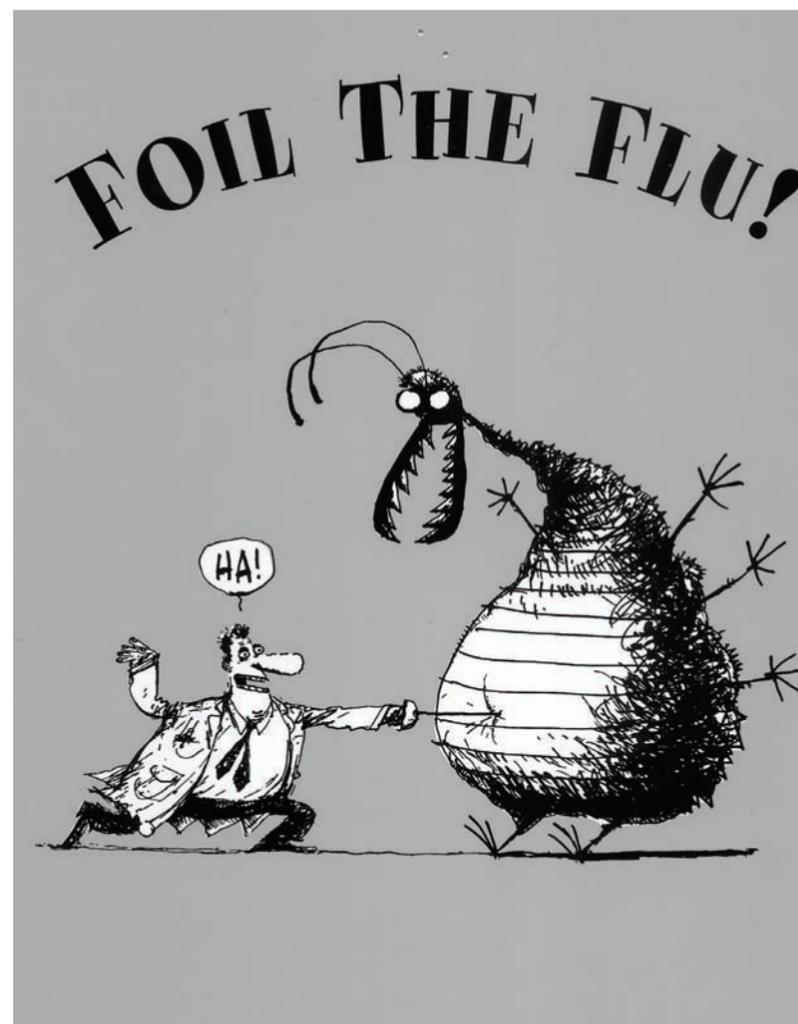
no prisoners' policy. As we enter the winter months, the incidence of swine flu has almost doubled to 53,000. The head of flu planning at the NHS has stated that the health service should 'be prepared'.

Sir Liam Donaldson, the government's chief medical officer, says the projected total deaths for this winter has dropped from 19,000 to 1,000. This is less than the seasonal flu which has an estimated fatality of 6,000 to 8,000.

Luckily for us, we have a few tricks up our sleeves too to counter-attack swine and common flu. We are able to adapt and survive just like our viral enemies. Vaccinations are a vital weapon in this evolutionary arms race. Parrying their attacks year after year, with deaths, human immune systems are still able to outwit their opponents. Annually scientists toil in labs to predict the evolution of the next prominent flu strain and develop an effective vaccine that will minimize casualties.

There are ways that the public can impede the spread of flu. For example, keeping distance from infected people, sneezing and coughing into tissues, washing hands thoroughly and avoiding touching your nose, eyes and mouth.

Unfortunately there is no estimate to how long this arms race will continue or how fatal it will be. As Napoleon once said, 'victory belongs to the most persevering' or just those that avoid bestiality.



Forget 'catch it, bin it, kill it', the Imperial College fencing teams have it covered

Interfaithing across Imperial College

felix meets some members of the new Imperial College Interfaith team to find out what this new movement is all about! We talk about why this society will soon play such a prominent part of university life

Felix: Hi guys, nice to meet you all. I understand this is a new initiative and that your first event is called UniFaith: Road to Dialogue. What does UniFaith mean?

Andrew: Hi Felix! Well, when we came together to decide a name for the launch event, we were struggling to find a short, punchy and diverse title that encompasses the depth of our initiative. But our searching was satisfied once we came up with UniFaith. The "Uni-" denotes the UNifying aim of our initiative – to unite all faiths behind common aims they endorse, but which faithful individuals may forget to exercise.

Yousuf: These common aims are morality and humanity – the betterment of society. Of course the "Uni-" suffix can also represent university and universal, manifesting the student, and all-encompassing nature of Imperial Interfaith.

Felix: But there are already so many faith societies at Imperial College, why is it that you have created an interfaith society? Surely faith societies can co-exist already?

Yousuf: You're right, of course; faith societies can and do co-exist. But whilst the union faith societies have a crucial role in taking up the influx of freshers and cultivating their religious identity and beliefs, we as faithful individuals may sometimes lose sight of the bigger picture and forget that there are people of other faiths in this world too! Sometimes, we see people passing through university, wonderfully engrossed in their faithful practices, yet completely failing to interact with other faiths around them. This can be a very sad situation, because you end up losing out on dialogue – one of the most fruitful opportunities of university life.

May: By having an interfaith forum at Imperial, we can ensure that there is much interaction, and of the appropriate and respectable nature, between different faith groups on campus... People may ask why but the answer's simple: so that we can finish our journey in university as learned and open-minded ambassadors

of the world, whilst maintaining our respective identities.

Andrew: In fact, to their credit, the newly formed interfaith committee consists of individual representatives from each faith society. This way, all faiths are adequately represented on the committee, giving each faith society an equal taste of the interfaith experience.

Felix: Interfaith dialogue can be seen to be a confusing thing. Many times people are afraid of being converted, being challenged about their beliefs or of interfaith attempting to create a new religion altogether. How will Imperial College interfaith combat these misconceptions?

Andrew: This movement is nothing to do with conversion or challenging each other or creating any form of new religion! It's about the unification of society, about learning to understand and accept other beliefs and practices – using dialogue and discussion as the means to achieve this.

Yousuf: The variety of backgrounds at university should not allow us to lose the identity of our faiths and principles. Therefore, the first aim of interfaith is the acknowledgment of the different faiths, and the respect for individuals that have made a choice in life to believe how the world works in a certain way. Objective and polite discussion, which is the modus operandus at our events, can always prevent faithful people from losing their identity.

May: I would go so far as to say interfaith strengthens one's own beliefs! Learning about the similarities and differences between yours and other faiths actually plays a role in reinforcing your own beliefs, simply because you increase your understanding of why you believe in what you believe. And of course, through gaining closeness to God's creation, your brothers and sisters in humanity, you increase your closeness for their creator.

Felix: In light of the recent fiasco with the BNP's appearance on Question

Time, how do you think your initiative fits in with the model of Britain today?

Andrew: I like to think that university is a microcosmic representation of the rest of the world. And the way we organise things at university, is the way would like to shape the world and how we fit into it. Quite clearly, the ICI sets out to include people of all backgrounds in a diverse Britain by respecting their identities, recognising the ability for living together in peace, whilst still being able to encounter objective discussion.

Yousuf: We believe that diversity is a driving force for unity. It's a little daft to suggest that the inhabitants of an area can only be of one particular race or one particular background, and to base one's sole principle upon this ludicrous notion. 150 years ago, it was rare to see people from different 8 faiths living together. But now whilst it is a reality, we hope to make the most of it and reap only benefits from its existence.

Felix: So what are the main goals of the initiative?

Andrew: There are a number of goals we aim to achieve through this forum. One goal is to facilitate unity between the faiths on campus behind common aims and objectives where possible. This mainly arises from recognizing the similar traits and principles between all faiths, and as a result making a bigger impact on the campus, and eventually the world, to create a positive change towards a greater good.

Yousuf: Another important aim is to encourage dialogue and further the knowledge of each other about different faiths. This enables us to understand and accept differences, as well as highlight similarities. It'll help us to understand why other faiths practice and behave the way they do, and will give scope for us to agree to disagree in an objective and ethical manner. Of course in some cases I'm sure we'll learn that our beliefs are in fact in harmony.

May: The launch event especially will give people the opportunity to learn the details of different faiths from the practitioners of that faith, or from the "horse's mouth", rather than from other unreliable sources. In fact, active dialogue with the members of a certain faith will only serve to remove any possible misconceptions and potential source of prejudice.

Felix: Sometimes within a discussion, we find we don't always have the answers to certain issues, either due to lack of knowledge or insight. Will this be problematic in interfaith discussion?

Yousuf: Without an initiative like Imperial Interfaith, it can potentially, yes, because people may get confused or emotional, and the discussion may turn into something quite ugly. But our group facilitates appropriate "ethics of discussion" so that nobody is at fault to say "actually, I don't have an answer to that question" or "I would need to read up more to get back to you on that one."

Andrew: Yousuf's right – in fact sometimes, the conclusion of a discussion may be that it is inconclusive... But by no means does it mean that it was done in vain! In contrast, we often find that the pathway of the discussion and the development of thought and understanding is an invaluable gift to walk away with.

Felix: What other events do Imperial College Interfaith have planned?

Yousuf: Well, there are a few things in the pipeline. A long term aim still remains to be combining the talents of this university's faith societies in an Interfaith Charity Week. I mean, imagine the amount of money we could raise if we could utilise the collective talents of the students responsible for say East Meets West, Mega Malai, ISoc Charity Week to name but a few... All of these endeavours have raised hundreds of thousands of pounds for charity and all have spawned from different faiths societies – imagine what would happen

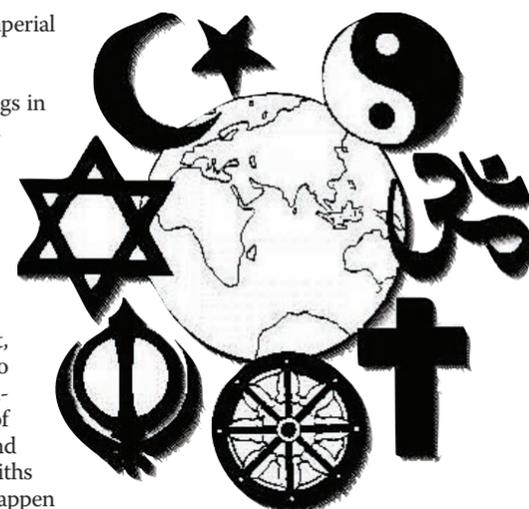
if we pooled all of these talents? The fundraising for charity could be incredible... And think about what a message it sends out – a united community, working together, for the benefit of their brothers and sisters in humanity!

Andrew: Of course, in the near future we have events too... They may include a dialogue in the incredible location of the Bedouin tent pitched outside at St Ethelberga's Centre for Reconciliation in the City, interfaith sports tournaments, visits to other local places of worship, and a sacred object tour of the V&A museum in South Kensington.

May: Other exciting events include dialogues on more controversial topics like gender role, and events where members can discuss and share articles of faith such as different scriptures.

Felix: Finally, what about people of no faith? Are they still included in this initiative?

Andrew: Of course. In fact, it is perfect for a person with no faith. ICI provides a great opportunity to learn about any faith for the first time, from first hand sources and in as much depth as you want – without feeling pressurised into believing in any of them!



Interfaith Co-ordinator – Mohammedabbas Khaki

It has long been a dream of mine to find a platform whereby our community can be united; where we can celebrate our similarities, understand and accept our differences, and unite under the common bond of humanity.



Interfaith Co-ordinator – Yousuf Salmasi

I've spent my years at Imperial involved in faith and cultural societies. I think that our quest becomes far more fruitful and accelerated once we acknowledge diversity and interact with those from so many other belief backgrounds.

Ahlul Bayt Society
Bahá'í Society
Buddhist Society
Catholic Society
Christian Union
Every Nation Christian Society
Hindu Society
Islamic Society
Jain Society
'Live and let Live'
Jewish Society
Sikh Society

Sara Maki
Jean-philippe Aoussou
Bryan Chia
Nicholas Church
Nathan Sherwood
Jonathon Wright
Harsita Patel
Obadah Ghannam
Amar Shah:
(Mahavir Swami)
Yoni Weiner
Govindpal Singh Kooner

UniFaith

ROAD TO DIALOGUE

SAF Building
Imperial College Road
SW7 2AZ

Monday 16 November 2009

6.30pm

A series of insights from eight different faiths given by prominent speakers, chaplains and institutional leaders, followed by an opportunity for interfaith discussion in an informal format. Refreshments served.

Guest Speaker
Sir Roy Anderson
Imperial College Rector

Eight Faiths, represented by:

BAHA'I

Barney Leith

BUDDHISM

Bugoda Seelawimala

CHRISTIANITY

Br Mariesan

HINDUISM

Jay Lakhani

ISLAM

Monawar Hussain

JAINISM

Prafulaben Shah

JUDAISM

Gavin Broder

SIKHISM

Manvir Singh



Pop Life: I'm a material girl

Caz Knight Arts Editor

First of all, a huge thanks are owed to all the arts felix writers who have contributed to this section already this term after only a month. I am in my fourth year of working for felix and never before have I seen so much enthusiasm and interest to contribute. So much so that many articles have to wait an issue to be put in on account of the limited space!

I have also been pleasantly surprised by the quality of the writing and depth of insight especially from people who have professed to knowing nothing about art and who claim to have never written before. Please keep it coming.

As Rosie said last week, autumn is definitely the hottest time of the cultural year with far too many plays and galleries to fit into the busy schedules of two masters students.

Over the course of last weekend Rosie and I used our press privileges to take in two separate exhibitions at the Tate Modern, only after delving into the darkness inside a huge steel box. Polish artist Miroslaw Balka's *How It*

Is consumes the TM's turbine hall with its presence and makes for an at first eerie and then extremely fun experience, albeit lasting under 5 minutes.

Next to each other on the fourth floor are *Pop Life: Art in a Material World* and *Pure Beauty*, a retrospective of John Baldessari's work. After strolling serenely and unmolested by tourists through the latter, the former's bustling and heady mix of pounding music, wall floor and ceiling colour and separate 'adults only' section (read: the Jeff Koon porn room) is a stark contrast and feels more like a chinese shopping mall at times. For those who haven't experienced the People's Republic, this means bright lights, abrasive volume levels and enough flashing lights and colour to induce epilepsy.

Completely different to any exhibition I'd ever experienced, I cherished our brief visit for its originality and its ability to drive home the banal commercialism that pervades various forms of art today.

Watch this space next Friday for those reviews and enjoy this week's!

Cosy in the Cocoon

Aspiring physicist **Rox Middleton** and mathematician **Matthew Colvin** find themselves taken with Biology

The Natural History Museum means a great big dinosaur. We all know that. Well hold onto your fossils amigo, because there's a new exhibition in town that's set to change this, well, muddled interpretation. We were lucky enough to take a tour around the Museum's newly opened Darwin Centre and its ominous sounding 'Cocoon' – actually a beautiful feat of architecture with an intriguing purpose to boot. Looking a little like the Gherkin crossed with some sort of monstrous egg, it's as if you're entering a Bond Villain's secret lair – all clinical white walls and masses of laboratory space. But this new building wasn't made with the intent of destruction, but instead preservation.

The Cocoon is home to an enormous collection of British botanical and insect specimens, housed in massive environment-controlled storage. Built for the Natural History Museum's 20 million plant and insect species, the top few floors of the building are open to the public as a fascinating exhibition detailing the everyday life of scientists who work at the museum collecting, preserving and identifying. Each floor

also looks directly into the labs and offices where the real work takes place.

The beautiful exhibits of specimens for which the museum is known really come into their own here. In the big white spaces even the most mundane offerings of nature are gorgeous and easy to examine closely. There are also a few tantalising tidbits of information about some displays but they definitely leave you wanting much more detail. Fortunately help is at hand in the form of a nifty little swipe card feature, allowing you to collect information on various aspects of the exhibition that you would like to research further back online at home (though it remains to be seen whether detailed information on Welsh Groundsel will take priority over Facebook any time soon). Something that also sets this place apart from other exhibitions is the vast amount of interactivity. Many, many touch screens can be found, offering detailed yet concise information about myriad aspects of the Cocoon.

Of course, with this interactivity being hugely responsive, we found that the majority of screens and films were soon stopped by children (and adults) mashing their fists onto the tables.



This interrupted the fascinating cyber-happenings; all very irritating – but there's plenty to look at so you can take your time and watch something else; or alternatively bring along a threatening weapon.

If you're reading this and thinking that it definitely isn't your cup of tea – or kettle of fish, or whatever – a rethink is highly recommended. This isn't just of interest for biologists, it could be of interest to anyone. If drawers of insects or butterflies aren't your thing, then the depth of detail into what keeps a museum running might well be. And anyway, if it kept an aspiring physicist and mathematician interested for about 45 minutes, then there's simply no reason why you wouldn't have a good time either!

Very painful youths in twenties Vienna

Looking for a pretentious night out? Look no further than the existential *Pains of Youth*, says Rox Middleton

This is a play about students who spend a lot of time together, work hard, like to get drunk and talk about the Big Questions and become infatuated with each other in various combinations. While expressing their respective feelings about said Big Questions, they also take themselves incredibly seriously. I don't know whether that sounds like something you could relate to.

So it's supposedly about students like you. Well, maybe. These are medical students after all. It's also set in Vienna in 1923 and is pretty damn existentialist, which manifests itself in much talk about the futility of life and suicide. As the title indicates, it attempts to capture the disease of being young, thus is filled with awkwardness and disjointed

dialogue. What with all that, the excellent set and epochs of twelve tone music, it's fantastically atmospheric and intense. These people know how to make a scene, but there are also loads of genuinely funny lines and farcical moments (which no doubt highlight life's absurdity). The awkward young maid (Sian Clifford), who is slowly transformed into a loveably naive prostitute, is especially funny.

Laura Elphinstone and Lydia Wilson's characterisations are also particularly good but personally I thought the prop changes were absolutely brilliant. Modern people in sharp suits carry items onto stage wrapped in enormous sheets of plastic with lots of blue lights and loud, tense music, during which all the characters freeze in the dark. I really have no idea why, except that it is

unspeakably cool, so I'll leave the interpretation to you.

Altogether it's a very enjoyable night out and if you're feeling pretentious yourself, or looking for a play about pretentious young people (inc. urgent self-obsession/earnest sense of futility), this is certainly one for you. For everyone else, I think it's too far removed from the real world. While the misery of youth is overpowering, it is also pointless. Although this is the thrust of the play (existentialist, innit?) it certainly takes its time getting there and meanwhile it might be better all round if they just got a life and thought about someone else for a change.

After the massive cultural upheaval that was swilling about all over Vienna at the time, it's quite likely that these particular ridiculous post-adolescent emotions were far more important than modern ones. However, that doesn't change the fact that they are still boringly self-involved young people. The pains of youth are captured incredibly well by the director but, to be honest, if you're living the dream already you probably don't need to watch a play about it.

Pains of Youth is on at the National Theatre until 21 January 2010
Tickets start at £10



Katie Mitchell's *Pains of Youth* is on at the Cotteslowe theatre at the NT

Fantasy and magic amid natural history

Christopher Self finds himself spellbound by nature at this year's Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition

It was my understanding that wildlife photography involves lots of waiting around, sitting hoping that Mother Nature will smile on you and all the unpredictable little elements will come together to create a nice composition. If that really is what it comes down to I can't imagine the hours, days and years that must have been invested to bring us this year's Natural History Museum Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition. There's probably three medieval cathedrals in that room, that and enough luck to win the national lottery every week and fluke your way through exams all the way to graduation.

That having been said there is absolutely nothing lucky about the sheer quality of the work on display here. For those unaware, the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition is an international showcase for the very best of natural photography. It's run annually by the museum in conjunction with BBC's wildlife magazine and, currently enjoying its 45th year, has long been considered the most prestigious competition of its kind. Winning it really is the ultimate recognition of your talent as a wildlife photographer and this year's entries show every bit of that pedigree.

There are truly breathtaking images here, incredible examples of the split second timings required, and photos of all scales and from all parts of the world. Startling pictures such as that of an ant drinking a raindrop off a marrow, a leopard darting face first down a tree, the light reflections playing off the individual feathers on a greenfinches chest, this list goes on. You could spend hours enjoying just the pictures themselves, but of course that would be only half the magic. Along with

every photograph is a little anecdote written by the photographer about the image and a little bit of background on the animal, or the encounter, or the location. And these charming little tidbits really do add a lot. They give you a sense of the incredible accidental stories you are witnessing unfold. For example, the story of the fighting tigers – in itself an incredible image, captured perfectly. But along with the knowledge that the brawlers are fighting territorially and the loser will never stop returning, because she is fight-

ing her mother, it is transformed into something spectacular.

Wildlife photography often has a touch of the fantastical about it: a magical air, as if looking into a different world, a world more incredible than any fiction. There is no shortage of this in this year's exhibition; the technique of backlighting the images for presentation lends them an added sparkle of enchantment. This, for a small minority of the work, perhaps detracts from its purpose as wildlife photography, allowing them to be separated off into

the realm of fantasy, something I'm not sure is really what was aimed for, particularly in a contest considering the majesty of the natural world and, of course, carrying the implied message that this world really deserves saving from the great modern evils such as climate change. If the images look too cinematic, too make-believe, it is difficult to associate them with real forests and jungles that really do need saving.

This year's winner encapsulates all of these various ideas perfectly. A photo called *The Storybook Wolf*, it depicts an

Iberian grey wolf jumping a fence into Spanish farmland. You really have to see the picture to get a true sense of the magical feel it possesses; it looks as if it's been lifted from the pages of a fairy tale. But this is balanced against the reality of the persecution of these same wolves owing to the effect they have on farmer's livestock, which they hunt when food is scarce. The juxtaposition of the incredible beast against the clearly unnatural elements of the farmland backdrop ensure that the meaning of the image never leaves your mind, even as you admire the enchanted feeling it possesses. Meaning as well as being an incredible picture, it leaves you considering the effect on natural populations when they quite literally collide with human settlement.

The whole thing doesn't take a massive amount of time to look around. You could probably do it over a lunch time if you wanted, and now with a new, greener, sponsor there's no real reason not to go. A brief look at the combined result of all that effort, which in its own way is much more striking and beautiful than those three hypothetical cathedrals ever could have been, it really is well worth the £4.50 entry fee.

As with all NHM special exhibits the entrance to the exhibit is done on timed entry i.e. you book an entrance time and come back then to look around, which you may do for as long as you like.



The winning photograph, *The Storybook Wolf*, by José Luis Rodríguez

The Wildlife Photographer of the Year exhibition now has a greener sponsor: Veolia Environment.

Until 11 April 2010 at the Natural History Museum

Brave Swedes, monsters & blood-shed

As part of four days of events to celebrate Britain's oldest folk legend, Caz Knight attends the British Museum to listen to three agile minds exploring the legacy of Beowulf

Currently on display in the British Library is a manuscript dating back one thousand years. Surviving both Henry VIII's ransacking of the monasteries and a fire in 1731, the three thousand line manuscript has enabled the ancient heroic poem of Beowulf to be passed on through centuries, to still be revered today and cited as one of the most significant works in Anglo-Saxon literature – and all this by chance. No wonder, then, that arguments about its origin, interpretation, significance and descent down generations prevail among literary scholars. Last Tuesday was no exception when an audience at the British Library and presenter Michael Wood joined poet and Nobel Prize winner Seamus Heaney,

children's author Michael Morpurgo and performer Benjamin Bagby in an evening celebrating this Anglo-Saxon epic.

Believed to be set in the 5th century, the poem is set in both Sweden and Denmark. The King of the Geats, Hrothgar, is plagued by Grendel and sees his court at Heorot devoured nightly by the monster. Hearing of his distress, the Swede Beowulf travels to Denmark to rid the King of his menace. Beowulf is successful and slaughters Grendel without weapons but has to face Grendel's mourning mother the following night. Again victorious, Beowulf returns to Sweden only to fight a dragon who has been rudely awoken by a thief in its gold filled lair. Beowulf is fatally wounded and dies a hero's death.

The epic poem would have been immortalised through the decades by "scops", a breed of bardic storytellers in the Oral Tradition. However, there is much controversy about whether the manuscript as it stands in the British Library was written by a contemporary as a satire of the tradition or as a direct 'transcript' of the poem. The precise date that the poem was written down is subject to much speculation but is most likely to have been between the eighth and eleventh centuries, written in the West Saxon and Anglian dialects of Old English – the language in which it would have been performed – using a set poetic meter.

It is the role of scop that Bagby assumes as he performs an excerpt of the poem: the bloodthirsty pillage of Heorot by Grendel. Having no idea

of exactly what the poem would have sounded like one thousand years ago is of no impediment to Bagby who compares the manuscript to a cubist painting: most of the interpretation is up to us! Half spoken and half sung, the meter comes alive through Bagby's deep voice, accompanied by the atmospheric playing of his lyre. Although sounding more Danish than Old English, hearing the poem recited in such a way was mesmerising.

Seamus Heaney and the wonderfully entertaining Michael Morpurgo's readings of their own translations (both translations retain the original meter) were beautiful and hearing them aloud made this medieval world of monsters and heroes all the more tangible. The readings were followed by a discussion amongst the panel in which much

disdain was shown for the 2007 film version starring the gold stocking clad Angelina Jolie as Grendel's mother. So would it be possible to make a genuinely frightening film version of Beowulf? The only way to make it work as a film would be to strip to down to its bare elements: no Hollywood glamour, low budget, black and white, Morpurgo replies to my question.

An event combining such rich discussion brought so much to the enjoyment and appreciation of the legacy – enough to make anyone lament the decline in storytelling today.

To see Bagby's version of Beowulf: bagbybeowulf.com
Go and see the 1000 year old Beowulf manuscript at the British Library, King's Cross, for free

MUSIC

Music Editors Alexandra Ashford, Kadhim Shubber & Luke Turner

music.felix@imperial.ac.uk



I like rap music,
there I said it...

Kadhim Shubber Music Editor

I told you there'd be a website didn't I? Make sure you check it out, www.felixmusic.tk, and remember now you can tell us quickly and easily what you think of the articles by commenting, so let the troll within you free (or you could criticize constructively, whatever that means). Special thanks to our web-editor Christopher Walmsley for all his effort getting the website up. Also we've started a felix music group on last.fm. Every week, last.fm will calculate the general music taste of the Imperial students in the group and from this we'll create a top-40 of the most popular artists/tracks for Imperial. Sign up to last.fm, download the scrobber and join our group last.fm/group/Felix+Music.

Now onto the music: I'm heading back a little this week. 2Pac's double album *All Eyez on Me*, released in 1996, constitutes the epitome of 2Pac's

thug sensibilities. He raps with precision on all the facets of a thug's life: jail, bitches, liquor, weed and death backed up with bumping & grinding G-funk grooves. He's playful and thoughtful, always referring to his own death (not a clue that he's still alive, but a reflection of the reality of his life) and while he raps about being better than his enemies, his deft and smooth lyrical flow proves it.

Even further back in time, *The Last Poets'* debut album titled *The Last Poets*, dating all the way back from the 1970s, derides much of the behaviour that 2Pac would later celebrate. This group of poets and musicians basically created rap music and in doing so laid bare the problems that the black community faced. The fact that exhortations like "Wake up n****ers" weren't heeded make this album all the more poignant.

One to watch - Cosmo Jarvis

Cosmo Jarvis is a puzzle to say the least. The 19 year old is by no means a 'finished piece'. There's too much raw creativity rushing about, leaving too many scuff marks lying around to relate him, or his talent, to polished marble. Truthfully, it's not always fantastic stuff, at times you find yourself wishing a lyric here or there had been tweaked. However, this is completely overshadowed by the powerful and playful imagination behind the charming, thoughtful and unconventional music.

He's puzzling because he seems unafraid to write songs in almost every style imaginable. Some songs mix screaming punk vocals with quick-fire spoken word, while an eclectic mixture of banjo, blues guitar riffs and jazz piano jump in, straight out of nowhere, just when you thought you'd gotten to grips with his music. Sometimes his music has a country-folk sensibility but at other times you wonder if that's not a little bit of reggae creeping in from the periphery. He seems perfectly comfortable dipping in and out of a range of genres and does so with consummate skill and confidence.

Lyricaly, Cosmo Jarvis becomes even more puzzling. He's constantly juxtaposing style, elegantly rhyming one line and then going off-kilter the next. Luckily the music provides a firm backdrop in front of which the thread-like mental state of his characters are displayed through the content and form of his lyrics. He revels in mixed messages like in the chorus of "Sunshine and Dandelions", 'sunshine and dandelions/ severed heads and blood,/ first love on a sunny island/ bodies in the mud'. Also in "Clean My Room"



He's wearing a hoody and not looking at the camera, he must be cool

where the line 'clean my room and dump my girlfriend' warps into 'gonna burn my room and kill my girlfriend'. Definitely puzzling and inarguably intriguing.

It's pretty much impossible to sum up this guy. He's written about 300 songs, his debut album is an 18 track double album, split between songs about pubescent desire (in all its immature glory) and songs about abusive fathers and drunken mothers. He's already written his 2nd album, due for release in 2010 and is working on the

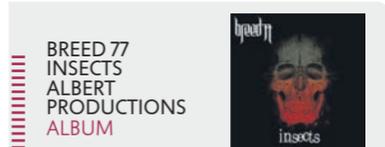
3rd. He's a prodigious talent, raw and unrestricted in subject matter nor style and he even has a bloody sea shanty song about gay pirates who are made to walk the plank for their 'sins'. It's freaking fantastic but unfortunately not on the album. Listen to this, his next project is a short film about a man who takes himself hostage. In short, my head can't deal with the reality of this guy existing. - Kadhim Shubber

The double album "Humasyouhitch & Sonofabitch" is out on the 16th

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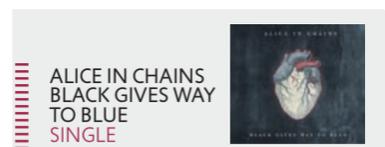
Reviews



Breed 77 are a Gibraltar-born band currently based in the UK who fuse their Pantera-inspired brand of heavy metal with flamenco, resulting in some interesting and genuinely original songs. Aside from the typical endless soloing and soaring choruses, frontman Paul Isola makes the affair atypical by effortlessly switching between English and Spanish, as well as going from all-out growls to graceful singing. Though there's nothing particularly new about the heavy riffs, there's enough diversity in song structure and tempo shifts to keep the average metal lover interested throughout. Plus there's a bitchin' cover of The Cranberries' "Zombie"! -Greg Power



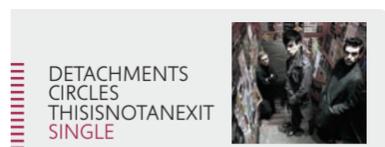
This record sounds like sonic sunshine. Muted guitars, tinkling pianos and crisp melodies meander through the delightful 'Rollerblades' whilst in contrast 'Money box' is an upbeat, ska-like finger to all things materialistic. The lyrics give an edge to these buoyant pop songs with Eliza showing her north London roots in 'Police Car' and 'Go Home'. Comparisons with Regina Spektor and the better bits of Lily Allen could easily be made but there's no formula-driven lyrical nonsense here. Overall it's an enjoyable, Sunday-morning of a record. - Tom Hird



The second single from the AIC album is disappointing if we consider the edgy darkness of the rest of the release. The opening cello piece adds atmosphere but it feels like a throwaway track to secure airplay in the US. Unchallenging, slightly whiny, reminiscent of (dare I say it) Nickelback. Well, it's not that bad.



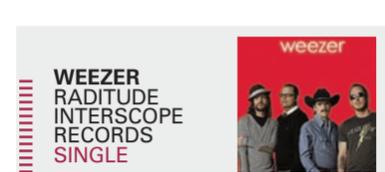
With a reputation that precedes itself, being reported as unlikely to feature in the album, "Who'd Have Known" does feature. The recycled melody appears as the chorus, resembling the M&S advert. It is a rarity where Ms. Allen is not talking about drugs, sex or fame; merely the feeling of blossoming new love. She croons in her signature sickly-sweet voice and that London twang, all of the melodies allow a glimpse into her domestic love-life. Reluctant to allow access to her private life, Ms. Allen has turned this idea of young love on its head by making a video for this song based on the act of kidnap by an obsessive fan. - Joanna Cai



This single oozes power, with a post-punk electric sound that resurfaces memories of Joy Division. Sinister eerie vocals, low-frequency drones and moments of glory. Not light listening, but a band to watch. -Luke Turner



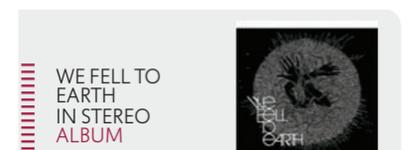
The sound of a young, laid-back band pulling melancholic indie pop from their arses - and they don't care. If they were 'hung up' by a rope around their neck they might have something more to get excited about. Cheer up and take a walk in the park. - Tom Jennings



"(If you're wondering if I want you to) I want you to" is an upbeat single from the latest Weezer album consisting of brash drumming, pleasant melodies and the occasional percussion-led phrase of what can only be described as a nerd's attempt to rap.

It features a playful acoustic guitar theme behind the classic Californian vocals of Rivers Cuomo; and although it probably won't be a golden oldie in years to come, it makes for good enough listening to at the present as your standard Weezer song.

- Joanna Cai



I expected something exciting from an electronic rock band consisting of the recent addition to U.N.K.L.E and a contributor to QOTSA frontman, Josh Homme's stoner-rock Desert Sessions. But the result is bland, generic and in no way exciting. The vocals are soulless, the music is flat, and to be honest the songs are all extremely similar. It quickly becomes apparent that File's new project shares the same flaws attributed to U.N.K.L.E.'s last album. Coincidence? I think not. -Greg Power



It can't be said that this is original, but this electro-folk-pop sound has haunting character. 'Under The Sheets', uses electro sounds in a captivating way that will make you want to listen again, even though it isn't initially appealing. Gentle dream-like vocals over thick synthesizers and hammering drums, a quirky combination despite lack of real instruments. -Luke Turner

tell us what you
think, music.felix@gmail.com

Live



Cannibal Corpse @ KOKO

Eliot Barford heads to Camden for a night of (not) moshing

Last Thursday, Cannibal Corpse brought death metal to Camden. The city's band t-shirt wearing, greasy-locks-flowing metalhead population turned out (I had a Mastodon top on) and though KOKO wasn't sold out, it was bustling inside. There were three supports bands: Trigger the Bloodshed, Annotations of an Autopsy and Dying Fetus. I made sure to get there for the latter because (and please just forget the name) they are one of the most individual extreme metal bands around. Their relentless blasting between catchy choruses had everyone in the mood when they finished. I honestly think "Praise the Lord (Opium of the Masses)" is the most danceable death metal song on record. Yeah, danceable. But we were there for the Corpse, and the Corpse delivered. Everyone

who knows them (and if you've seen Ace Ventura, you've seen Cannibal Corpse) knows what to expect, suffice to say it was insane. They're touring on a new album (Evisceration Plague) but they played a career-spanning setlist, delving back to their debut for "Skull Full of Maggots" while thankfully drawing mostly from classics Tomb of the Mutilated and The Bleeding. The sound was good, but perhaps the staff of the indie-kid nesting site KOKO weren't totally prepared for the relentlessly bass-heavy storm and if you weren't into moshing (and I'm not) you probably ended up further back than you would have liked. Still, the atmosphere had a pleasant camaraderie, and everyone responded to charismatic lead-vocals George "Corpsegrinder" Fisher's banter with enthusiasm. Eventually, curfew came round and

George gave his last words. The crowd pledged their support to death metal with a sea of devil horns and prepared for "Hammer Smashed Face". With the first power chord, the whole room turned into a seething mosh pit, and I allowed myself a frantic dash to the front to adulate the band. It was an uplifting end to a crushing set. I'm not sure Cannibal Corpse are the band to convert new fans to death metal, but there's a reason they've sold well over a million records over twenty years. That night was a true highlight for metal in today's London.

Cannibal Corpse
KOKO
29th October
★★★★☆

Albums that you should know

Gregory Power looks at modern classics that shaped music today

MacKaye has always been something of a pioneer when it comes to the world of music. First, he formed the definitive – albeit short-lived – hardcore punk band Minor Threat in 1980, setting a standard for punk bands the world over with a high quality production album released on MacKaye's own label, Dischord. It's at that time that he involuntarily spawned a movement he described as "Straight Edge"; rejecting the "sex, drugs and rock n' roll" creed of the punk community and openly admitting to the "un-cool" healthy, vegan lifestyle he leads. After Minor Threat's break-up in

1983 due to "musical differences", MacKaye formed the highly influential and critically acclaimed band Fugazi, drawing the name from a Vietnam War acronym meaning "Fucked Up, Got Ambushed, Zipped In". Though preserving politically charged lyrics and a DIY punk ethos, Fugazi expanded their music in new directions, creating an entire sub-genre: post-hardcore. Whilst MacKaye was the main songwriter for the first few records, their long-awaited sixth studio album "The Argument", released in 2001, is the work of four talented musicians at their creative peak. Aside from multi-

ple guest vocalists and close friend Jerry Brusher featuring on a second drum kit/percussions throughout the album, "The Argument" really stands out due to the alchemy between MacKaye's heavy, low-end riffs, Joe Lally's Latin and dub-influenced basslines, and Guy Picciotto's scratchy, high-pitched guitar wails. Not only do the guitars on songs like "Epic Problem" intertwine perfectly, but the vocals constantly complete each other: as MacKaye shouts anthemic lead vocals at the top of the lungs, forcing the listener to shout them back, Picciotto acts as a foil (inspired by hip-hop) favouring a more

Fugazi
'The Argument'
Dischord
2001



subtle, dynamic range of vocals – illustrated by the "Viva viva viva" chorus of the brilliant "Life And Lime". Despite the complex start-stop beats and sudden transitions from gentle guitar chords to all out noise, this is without a doubt Fugazi's most accessible, catchy and melodic album. From the simple post-punk riffs and innate

rambling of "Cashout", all the way to the intricate guitar tapping on "Night-hop", there really is something for everyone here. Sadly, "The Argument" was also Fugazi's last album before their indefinite hiatus in 2002. But the post-hardcore scene spawned by Fugazi still thrives today, and MacKaye remains as prolific as ever.

Friday

- Airborne Toxic Event :: Shepherds Bush Empire :: Rock
- Magnum :: Brixton Academy :: Rock
- Dead Prez :: KOKO Camden :: Political Hip-Hop
- Viking Skull :: The Borderline :: Heavy Metal
- ENL :: 12 Bar Soho :: Indie Rock
- Goldilocks Effect :: Monto Water Rats :: Alternative
- Paul Rodgers :: Hammersmith Apollo :: Blues Rock
- CKY & Special Guests :: Barfly Camden :: Rock / Experimental
- Plump DJs :: Fabric :: Electro
- High Contrast / Beardyman / Ed

Rush / Danny Byrd :: Matter :: Drum And Bass

Saturday

- DMZ (Skeam, Loefah, Coki...) :: The Mass :: Heavy Dubstep
- Roger Sanchez :: Ministry of Sound :: House

Sunday

- Brass Impact :: Tha Half Moon Pub :: Big Band Jazz
- Bloggers Delight :: The Lock Tavern :: Dance / Electro
- Home Grown :: O2 Islington Academy :: American Rock
- Amon Amarth :: KOKO :: Metal

Monday

- Cymbals Eat Guitars :: Rough Trade East :: Experimental Pop
- Just Jack :: Shepherds Bush Empire :: Dancepop Hip-Hop
- Jarvis Cocker :: Village Underground :: Britpop Alternative
- The Cheek :: Cargo :: Pop

Tuesday

- The Flaming Lips & Cymbals Eat Guitars :: The Troxy :: Rock / Indie
- Backstreet Boys :: O2 Arena :: Boyband Homosexual Pop
- Ash :: Corrib Rest :: Pop Rock

Wednesday

- Fionn Regan :: The Luminaire :: Folk
- Hundred Reasons :: Barfly :: Rock
- Shinedown :: HMV Forum :: Hard Rock
- Colin Hay :: Bush Hall :: Acoustic

Thursday

- Muse :: O2 Arena :: Rocky Space Rock
- Biffy Clyro :: Brixton Academy :: Progressive Rock
- Roots Mauva :: The Hospital (Endell Street) :: Dub / Hip-Hop
- The Automatic :: New Slang @ McClusky's :: Indie Rock
- Cosmo Jarvis :: Notting Hill Arts Club :: Indie

LISTINGS::LISTINGS::LISTINGS::LISTINGS::LISTINGS::

Rodrigo Braga Imperial Talent Kitty Magic

Rodrigo Braga is a Brazilian taught-postgraduate in the chemistry department whose experience of paradise in the middle of the Pacific inspired him to write his debut album about the fact that life really ain't so bad. As inspiration goes, that's pretty ace and the easy, beach-living coconut filled world of the Pacific comes flowing out of his melodic soul offerings. The music fills the room and hangs about the air around you, never directly jabbing you in the face but instead creating an atmosphere of tangible warmth. "Eagle Bay" is a prime example of this, washing away your troubled thoughts with a little latin-inspired guitar. He's playing at Belushi's the next two Wednesdays so there's ample opportunity to catch him swooning with his Spanish guitar. His album "Between the Waves" is free to download from his website.



www.rodrigobraga.co.uk

www.myspace.com/kittymagic

To be honest, I didn't think that a bunch of third year Mechanical Engineers could use forks and knives, never mind make music but I stand corrected. Kitty Magic, consisting by Ed Bishop, Tim Sadler, Ben Copping and Erik Forman are an indie-pop band formed earlier this year who have recently released their 1st EP "Avoid 10 Rillington Place" and while their song "Never You Mind" strays dangerously close to The Maccabees before they were good, "Bar Mitzvah Blues" demonstrates the band's energetic talents while "Small Town Trap" is a poignant heart-grabbing tune. The band are ultimately enjoyable and display a talent for song-writing but they hardly represent a re-invention of indie-pop music. That said, they're good enough to bag a gig at The Hoxton Underbelly next Wednesday, so what do I know?

Hush @ The Royal Albert Hall

A performance at the Royal Albert Hall is usually no quiet affair for both artist and audience. This Thursday night saw the absence of crowds of people waiting on the grand staircase leading up to the Royal Albert Hall. Instead, a considerably smaller huddle could be found murmuring with some excitement within the second floor hallways of London's famous concert and performance venue.

The Hush gigs are a revamped series of small, intimate nights in the Edgar Room, which was previously a dining area. Hush invites newly-signed artists to play in front of a mixed crowd that samples each sector of the gig-going demographic.

The latest to be added to London's roster of gig venues is incredibly inviting with its carpeted floors, soft lighting and homely atmosphere. In a room that could pass off as your own living room, the walls are adorned by mounted canvases of musical legends. The Beatles, Pavarotti and James Brown are just a few of the artists silently surveying the young acts on stage.

First on was Jose Vanders; the teenager seemed incredibly overwhelmed and calm at the same time. However, Her personality left more of an impression than her performance; her songs were decidedly samey and hovered around the same subjects.

Jonathan Jeremiah followed Miss. Vanders on stage after a short interval,

but unfortunately left with the crowd with less to talk about. Although enjoyable in an alarmingly background-music way, comparisons were drawn to Kings of Leon, albeit without their attention-catching Southern twang that is so evident throughout their tracks.

Finishing off the night was Alan Pownall. His troubled demeanour settled quite differently from his skinny jeans, cardigan and closely cropped blonde hair. Unlike the previous two artists on stage before him, he turned many a head as he casually stepped onto stage and introduced himself. He produced an impressive serenity in the room with his acoustic guitar and softy-straining voice. Despite a largely satisfying performance, there were



Jose Vanders looks a little bit like a squirrel, no? I'm not being mean, they're cute

only glimmers of anything special that may place him apart from similar artists in the category in which David Gray and John Mayer lay claim to.

The informality of the night were in stark contrast to Imperial College's graduation ceremony held at the Albert Hall the day before. The audience

was split between sitting comfortably on the floor and standing uninhibited at the back thanks to the free cloakroom.

This Hush gig was truly saved by the venue's relaxing and friendly atmosphere. The cheap drink prices probably helped a little bit too. - Dan Wan

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

FILM

Film Editors Zuzanna Blaszcak & Ed Knock

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Lolapocalypse now (+ zombies)

Tim Davies

We geeks love the zombie apocalypse. If you're a person who finds it difficult to interact with the outside world, it becomes less important if the outside world is filled with people who just so happen to want to eat your brains, and your interaction amounts to smashing their head in with a baseball bat. This geek appeal is played on to with great effect in the latest horror comedy flick *Zombieland*.

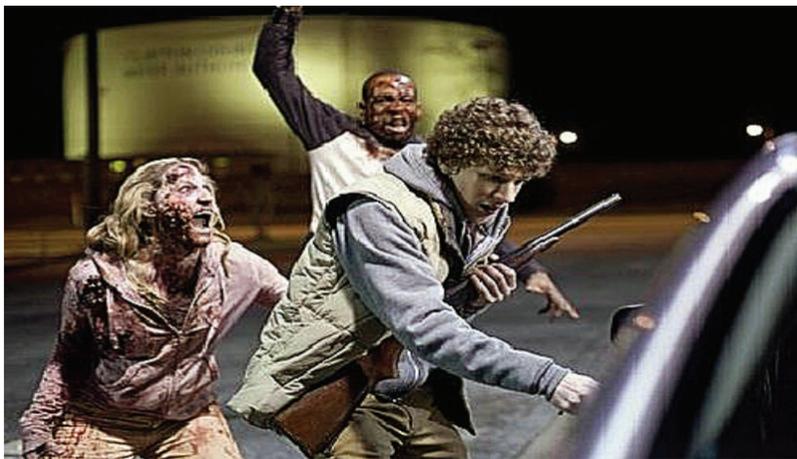
Zombieland tells the story of Columbus (Jesse Eisenberg), who, in his past life was a World-Of-Warcraft-playing mountain-dew-drinking geek, but now he's one of the few people around still capable of speech. His talent for survival is due to a set of "rules" which he follows, ranging from "beware of bathrooms" to "don't be a hero". Columbus begins the movie trying to make the journey from his college campus in Austin Texas, to his family home in Columbus Ohio. Soon enough he hooks up with patriarchal hard man character (Woody Harrelson) and sister pair Wichita (Emma Stone) and Little Rock (Abigail Breslin), and they journey together, albeit with their own separate destinations.

The film is supremely funny. With a great script and brilliant perform-

ances from the main cast. Of particular note is Jesse Eisenberg in his portrayal of the neurotic adolescent lead. One of the scenes in which he shines is a flashback to the moment his hot girl-next-door neighbour bursts through his door in need of comforting. Flash forward to the next morning and she's zombied up and trying to eat him, Eisenberg captures the pubescent awkwardness brilliantly. And yet *Zombieland*'s comic thread is punctuated by poignant moments of emotional intensity. These contrast brilliantly with the light-hearted tone of the rest of the film and allows the viewer to connect

on a deeper level with the characters, whilst never seeming out of place.

With the universal success of *Shaun Of The Dead* bringing horror comedy to the mainstream there have been a raft of new films to the genre, with mixed reception. However *Zombieland* has already become highest grossing zombie film ever, overtaking the remake of *Dawn of The Dead*. And it's not without reason, *Zombieland* is a brilliantly funny take on the zombie apocalypse concept; a great script, great casting and solid direction make this an autumn release well worth checking out.



Probably the most inconvenient time to forget where you put your keys

War children, it's just a shot away in Johnny Mad Dog

Stefan Zeeman

Jean-Stephane Sauvaire's new film *Johnny Mad Dog* is a passionate portrayal of a war stricken African country, told from the perspectives of two children at the front of the War, where rape and murder is commonplace. One of them is a child soldier for the 'death dealers', who calls himself 'Johnny Mad Dog'. The other is Laokole, a girl who has lost everything from the war. Their paths intertwine throughout the tale, as the war comes to a climax.

The film is based on a book by Emmanuel Dongola, who escaped the Congo in 1997 when civil war broke out. The film is startling and brutally violent from start to finish, as the drug fuelled child troops are sent to murder and pillage under the command of General Never Die.

Johnny Mad Dog is the leader of the small boys unit, and carves a path of savage violence throughout the country. His second in command, 'No Good Advice' is younger and even more sadistic than *Johnny Mad Dog*, and is completely void of any human-like emotions or qualities. Along with the rest of the unit, they are a killing machine, following orders blindly from

General Never Die.

The film illustrates the power of the fearless child soldier. Cocaine is rubbed into open wounds to frenzy the troops and to make them forget their hunger and fatigue before combat. The fierceness of the child soldiers is comparable to Fernando Meirelles' brilliant *City of God* (2003), where children with no future are forced into fighting for rival gangs in the slums of Rio de Janeiro.

In the broken world of war, all morals are lost. The self-named *Johnny Mad Dog* claims he has forgotten his original name – and most likely all compassion and ethics that came with it. The encounters between Laokole and *Johnny Mad Dog* show a more human side to *Johnny*, as the captivating story unfolds.

The film is shot in a twitchy handheld camera style (the latest fashion in cinematography), which some people may find disorientating, but does give the viewer a more down-to-earth look at the characters.

The soundtrack emphasises the coldness of an already gut-twisting tale. After the chilling final scene, you are left with Billie Holiday's haunting song 'Strange Fruit' alongside distressing images of war that will leave you speechless.

Priests, Perverts and Passion

The wierd and wonderful Japan through the eyes of Sion Sono

Ed Knock Film Editor

I mention Japanese cinema, you think *The Ring*, *Godzilla* and anime. True, the films of Miyazaki and co. have been delighting us for years and J-horror recently hit mainstream western theatres, however look beneath the bright colours or dark

shadows and we find another side to Japanese films. With the recent spate of manufactured 'indie' films rolled off the hollywood production line (*Little Miss Sunshine*, *Juno* etc.) it's refreshing to watch a genuine alternative film and it is of no surprise to me that it came from Japan.

Love Exposure takes all types of genres from Japan's rich film heritage; the

period dramas of Kurosawa are combined with the Yakuza films of Fukasaku (*Battle Royale*), mixed with elements of Christian guilt, revenge and an underlying theme of romance with a subtle slice of dark comedy. This film will make you laugh, weep and cringe and at four hours long I was never once bored.

Directed by avant-garde poet/controversial filmmaker Sion Sono, *Love Exposure* is based around protagonist Yu in his search for his true love. When Yu's beloved mother dies, his devout Catholic father Tetsu decides to become a priest. After a brief affair with a parishioner, Tetsu begins to force his guilt upon Yu by making him confess his sins every day. Soon Yu finds himself deliberately committing sins to confess to his father and finds that the ultimate way to upset him is to become a 'hentai' or pervert.

It's not long before Yu is addicted to sin and trains in the art of 'tosatu', using his newly learnt ninja skills to take up-skirt photos of girl's underwear (fortunately it seems that every girl in Tokyo wears really short skirts) until he finds the panties of his true love! Enter Yoko- fierce, beautiful but man hating, who finds herself accidentally attracted to 'Miss Scorpion' who is Yu dressed in drag as a dare from his friends. Unfortunately for Yu, Yoko finds him repulsive and brands him a pervert. Whilst in the background lurks the mysterious Koike and a creepy cult whose



true intentions are revealed as the film progresses.

The majority of the film is shot in close up and medium shots giving it a slightly documentary feel, including faded 'home movie' style footage for the purpose of flashbacks. Sion Sono's sense of pace is almost incredible, after starting the film with a gentle coming-of-age (however twisted) parable he kick starts the second half with unlimited energy maintaining your attention right till the end credits. The cast assembled are mostly newcomers but pull off very polished performances with utmost sincerity, even when debating the ethics of perverts. The soundtrack is an odd mix of western classical (Ravel's Bolero), pop punk and electro which somehow perfectly compliments the film.

Although Sono has amalgamated his nation's iconic genres together he also draws on some Western inspiration too. The themes of crossdressing and mis-identity continues Japanese directors' love of Shakespeare (Kurosawa's epic *Ran* was an adaptation of *King Lear*) and it's impossible not to notice the resemblance of Koike and her gang to Alex and his Droogs from Kubrick's *A Clockwork Orange*.

So what has Sono produced? A film of extraordinary storytelling which is surprisingly accessible considering its running time. It gained great reviews on the festival circuit (it won the Calgary award at Berlin) and now joins the growing ranks of alternative Japanese and East Asian films which blow any of the 'cutting-edge indie cinema' from America out of the water.





X'mas Dream

Kawai Wong Fashion Editor

I've embarked on a journey to find an outfit that will break the bank (it's Christmas!), and make me look like a diva. I can only take advice from Carine Roitfeld or Franca Sozzani - mix it, match it, rock it and never forget to romanticise it.

Mark Fast = Clothesgasm. I'm completely smitten with this skirt. Totally romantic, totally 20s glam.

Next - rock and roll. Adding safety pins to my cotton biker jacket is something I tried to do, but this has failed to yield any success so far. How do these crazy Moschino ateliers do it? Straight and neat?

Next - fetish. How about a pair of 12-inch, totally unwearable, but totally fabulous shoes from Alexander McQueen's SS10 RTW? I don't care if the pair snap my feet in half, I don't care if they are more expensive than bailing out 10 banks- they are worth it.

Completing the look, I'll go for 3.1 Phillip Lim's studded gloves. Keeps me warm, keeps me edgy.

Lastly, a clutch bound by brass butchers chainmail by Made Her Think. Skirt, £540. Jacket, £1705. Gloves, £325. Clutch, \$1250. Shoes? Priceless. And Santa - Mastercard is hardly even money!



From top: Mark Fast; 3.1 Phillip Lim; Made Her Think; Moschino; McQueen.

An upcoming superstar



Kawai Wong Fashion Editor

The 28 year old MA graduate from Central St. Martins, Mark Fast, is definitely a star to watch. His designs have redefined the meaning of sexiness; his clingy numbers feature strategically placed holes that give a new meaning to subtlety.

Arguably difficult to wear, his creations are strangely addictive. Every dress is made by the designer from the start. Mark only works from the body which contributes to the signature fitted silhouette. In Mark's own words, his designs are for "a woman who knows exactly what she wants. She takes risks". When he said she takes risks, he meant it. In his first show in London Fashion Week last season,

"Last season, some of his dresses barely covered the models' derrière"

some of his dresses barely covered the models' backsides.

Mark Fast's fame has been rapidly rising over the last six months. His debut minimalist knit creations have quickly appeared in publications such as The New York Times and Vogue. A few dresses from his first debut show have since found homes in Kristen Stewart and Ellen Page's wardrobe. Mark's dresses did not stay long on Browns' shelves - his last season's sassy, barely-there woven pieces quickly sold out within a week.

But Mark Fast's designs will soon be available to everyone. Following the footsteps of fellow designers such as Giles Deacon, Mark has secured a deal with Topshop to make his pieces available to the masses. According to Grazia, Mark's collection will launch in February 2010.

Mark's spring-summer 2010 col-

lection have used Swarovski crystals, pearls, feathers and leather to maximise dimensions. The feathers give a more feminine touch to his typically detonatable dresses. The beads certainly give a somewhat 1920s touch to the modernist collection, which also featured a dress beautifully decorated with conically folded fabric.

Besides the clothes, Mark Fast caused controversy over the use of three size 14 models on his recent catwalk. His stylist walked out three days before the show, quoting "creative differences over the use of larger sized models". Mark's managing director, Amanda May, told the Telegraph that "we wanted women to know they don't have to be a size zero to wear a Mark Fast dress - curvier women can look even better in one". It is however undeniable that it can be a game of Truth or Dare for a curvier girl to step out in a typical Mark Fast dress, since his designs can be quite revealing and curve hugging. Some people argue that the use of size 0 and size 14 models only - with no variation in between - is a publicity stunt. But his move has surely opened the doors for plus-size models on the catwalk. Definitely a gesture welcomed by the fashion world.



Clockwise from top: Mark Fast with two models at his studio; one of the plus size models that graced Mark's catwalk this season; a floor length frock from last season; this season's dresses are more decorated, as seen here featuring conical folds.

News Strip

Gabby Gentilcore

Fashion Reporter

Britain's own CDFA Fund

The British Fashion Council, in collaboration with Vogue has launched a £200,000 fund to help young British talent. Alexandra Shulman, editor of British Vogue, promises financial and business support to designers who are based here.

Karolina Kurkova is a new mum

Congratulations to supermodel and previous VH1 Model of the Year, Karolina Kurkova, who gave birth to a healthy baby boy last week.

The best Scottish designer

Deryck Walker has won the Designer of the Year award for the second year running at the Scottish style awards. Founder of the Scottish style awards, Mary McGowne, said that the awards "very much represented the face of modern Scotland." Sophie Ellis-Bextor hosted the evening.

H&M Jimmy Choo collection unveiled

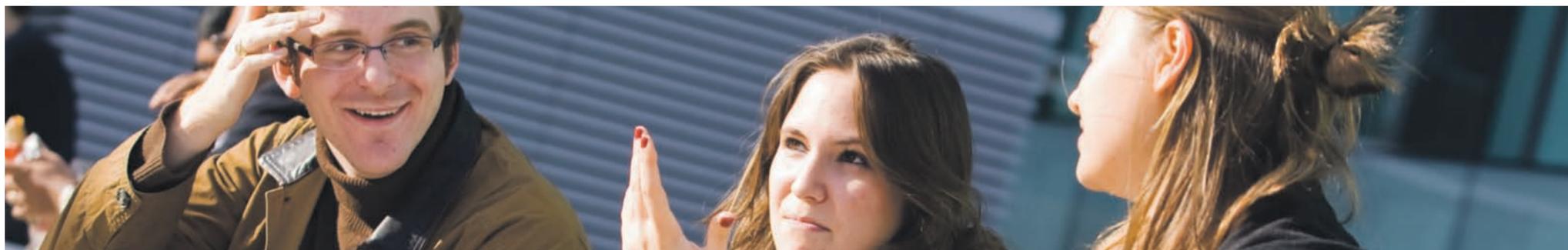
The collection was unveiled earlier this week featuring clothes, shoes, accessories and bags for both men and women. The most expensive item is priced at £179.99 for a pair of thigh-high boots or a black leather tote. The collection will launch in the UK on the 14th November.

Barbie's Christian Louboutin

After making his signature peep-toes in hot pink to commemorate Barbie's 50th birthday, Louboutin is also set to customise three dolls. Each doll will come with four pairs of Barbie sized louboutins, complete with their own shoe boxes.

COOL WALL





Sexual Health Advice

There are loads of myths about sexually transmitted infections (STIs) which range from the totally ridiculous to worrying truths. It is fair to say the risk you take when you have unprotected sex is more hassle than it is worth. This isn't a warning to abstain from sex; it should be a personal choice. However, it makes sense to carry a condom around with you and use it the next time you get lucky. The worry of pregnancy is a stress that no student needs. However, even if you or your partner are on the pill you can still catch a range of infections. So get yourself both checked out if you haven't already.

Needless to say, if you are experiencing any symptoms it is really important to have a check up soon. This can be done at your local GUM (Genito-Urinary Medicine) Clinic. These clinics can offer you advice about contraception, do regular screenings (if you have no symptoms) or do specific tests (if you are experiencing symptoms). If you are sexually active and have had unprotected sex it is really important that you schedule one in, even if it is just for peace of mind. Symptoms of sexually transmitted infections include:

- A change in the normal discharge from the vagina
- Discharge from the penis
- Sores or blisters near the vagina, penis or anus
- Rash or irritation around the vagina, penis or anus
- A burning feeling when peeing
- Pain during sex

The closest GUM Clinic to Imperial is:

The John Hunter Clinic
St Stephen's Centre
369 Fulham Road
London SW10 9NH
Tel: 020 8846 6699

This clinic provides an appointment only service which you can book either online or over the telephone. However, there are some situations in which you can obtain an emergency appointment such as needing the morning after pill or requiring attention following a sexual assault.

John Hunter Clinic

	Clinic Opening Times	Telephone Results Line Opening Hours
Monday	08.00 - 16.15	10.00 - 11.00
Tuesday	08.00 - 19.00	10.00 - 11.00
Wednesday	12.30 - 19.30	
Thursday	08.00 - 16.15	10.00 - 11.00
Friday	08.00 - 16.15	10.00 - 11.00

They also run a new walk-in sexual health clinic, which requires no appointment. It is held every Tuesday between 5pm and 7pm and operates on a first-come, first-served basis. You can also book a slot in advance by texting between 9am and 3pm on the day of the clinic you wish to attend and you will be texted back a slot.

TEXT: 'JHC slot' to 07786202243

What will happen during your appointment will vary depending on why you are attending. Sometimes you might just need advice or to give a urine sample or prescriptions. Other times will require an examination- this may be external or it could be an internal swab. This is dependent on what your concerns are and whether you are experiencing symptoms. Results are usually sent to you via text within a week but you might have to have a follow-up appointment depending on the results.

All consultations are completely confidential, but if you don't feel comfortable going to your local clinic there are many options in London and near your home. To find your closest one, go to www.fpa.org and click on 'find a clinic'. You can then type in your postcode or address.

Did you know that:

- As many as 70% of women and 50% of men who have an STI don't have any symptoms?
- The number of Chlamydia cases in people under 25 has risen by over 200% in the last 10 years? This disease is mostly symptomless but can lead to infertility in women.
- Some STIs can lead to diseases such as cancer (HPV) and central nervous system disorders (syphilis)?

John James

Deputy President (Welfare)

dpwelfare@imperial.ac.uk

- You can catch some STIs through oral sex?

There are loads of places to get information and advice about sexual health, both within Imperial and from external organisations.

Come along to one of our information stalls during the week for more information and to pick up loads of free condoms or contact one of the people listed below:

John James

Deputy President (Welfare)
dpwelfare@imperial.ac.uk

Nigel Cooke

Student Adviser
advice@imperial.ac.uk

Imperial College Health Centre

healthcentre@imperial.ac.uk
020 7584 6301 (24hrs)

Family Planning Association

www.fpa.org.uk

British Pregnancy Advisory Service

(for advice on abortion)
www.bpas.org

Terrence Higgins Trust

(currently organising free Chlamydia testing for under 25s)
www.tht.org.uk

Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance Week

We'll be running a stall in the JCR everyday handing out condoms and information on safe sex. On Tuesday Night there will be a quiz where you can win an iPod if you answer the most correct questions. On Wednesday and Friday we'll be running Chlamydia screening and also as part of Sports Night there will be a team of condom fairies!



Eurosceptic

Michael Cook Games Editor

I managed to make it to the Eurogamer Expo last weekend, and jolly good it was too. I didn't go last year, but I was given a tour by *felix* stalwart and sexy gentleman Tomo Roberts; stalking members of the games industry, mistaking every game in the exhibition for *Mass Effect 2*, and generally breaking everything we touched. What did we get our hands on? Well, lots of things, but I honestly couldn't tell you anything more from the three or four minutes I got with each that you wouldn't be able to garner from YouTube. *Mass Effect 2* - very similar to *Mass Effect 1*. *Left4Dead2* - pretty fun, I guess. *Dragon Age* - bewildering, but Mr. Roberts spent half an hour glued to it so I can only assume that's good too.

This is the problem with exhibitions like this - they don't tell you an awful lot. That's why they frequently become more about the periphery, about seeing all the other stuff around it. Valve's Chet Faliszek was around the *Left4Dead2* stand chatting to gamers. People from nVidia were trying to convince gamers to spend £350 on making their monitors wobble a bit in 3D, and of course the Developer Sessions, where developers talked about their games. Among the high-profile talks that your fearless correspondent missed entirely included Splash Damage, who demonstrated their new FPS *Brink*, and nVidia who were further

trying to impress people with silly glasses and layered Batmen.

However, I did manage to claw back some journalistic respectability by attending David Cage's talk on *Heavy Rain*, his new game coming to the PS3 soon. It's supposed to genuinely tell a story, in much the same way that his earlier work *Fahrenheit* aimed to. He was very frank in admitting mistakes he had made in *Fahrenheit* ("I need to make the story last for more than two thirds of the game...") but also adamant that it was an important stepping stone in his path to narrative-driven gaming.

He's an enormously interesting man, and *Heavy Rain* is a fascinating game. It's quite clear from the short demo he gave that it's not all it's cracked up to be - the complex, looping gameplay showed an audio repeat or two, and it's not like you can do whatever you want. But he also made some great points. When asked whether he was trying to encourage people to play the game many times to see everything, he replied, "Actually, I'd kinda like it if they played the game just once. Because life's a bit like that, you don't get to see everything."

Cage later defended his attempt to convey love, sadness and depression through his games, saying that Hollywood was not all action and comedy movies.

It's exciting stuff. If only I had a PlayStation 3. Look out for *Heavy Rain* when it comes out next year, and enjoy this issue.

Ten Long Years - 2003

The space is smaller, but the games are still good. Next year, hooo!

Wow. So we lost half our column space, huh? I guess news is more important or some bullshit.

Anyway, let's not dwell and instead move swiftly on through the decade. 2003! Games! Andrew, quickly, tell us about *Knights of the Old Republic!*

"Loved this game. Still do. Very accessible RPG, and I think the first one I really got into (all those AD&D ones passed me by, shamefully). The fact that it was all fully voiced (though with a bit of a cheat due to the sheer number of aliens in the game) layered the polish on to a very solid game with an intriguing storyline."

Hmm. Okay. That sounded pretty sane though, anyone want to go a bit crazy for me? Hent?

"The first Bioware game that didn't actively penalise you for being evil, so naturally I was all over that. It started out kind of limp with petty extortion and the like, but soon ramped up to slave trading and dicing an insane guy into kibbles as he hid inside a storage locker"

Excellent. This was a pretty good year all-round for being evil, what with *Republic* and *Deus Ex: Invisible War* being released. Although both weren't treated with such high regard as *KotOR*:

"*Invisible War* is a bad game because it's central premise - the idea of providing the player with a choice of how to complete an ob-

jective - is woefully implemented. No matter how much you piss off any of the factions, they will still come back cap in hand asking you to kindly go and murder someone or blow up something or steal something-or-other. So you never feel like you're fighting for one particular faction or like you're part of a particular cause or ideology, you just feel like an uninterested freelancer. This and the story was bollocks."

Away from the shop shelves, big things happened. Valve released Steam, the successor to their WON service, now the behemoth digital distribution service on the PC platform.

Soul Calibur 2 hit many platforms this year, an important game in the beat 'em up genre, providing a contrast to the Tekken-alikes that were becoming more and more popular.

"SC2 was the only beat 'em up I ever played that felt satisfying to master. The fighting styles it offered blended in the way

that they should, animated themselves in a way that made sense visually. It made you feel powerful."

The Gamecube also picked up another landmark this year, with *Wind Waker's* release finally bringing Zelda into the latest console generation. The new visual style was stunning, even if the departure from *Ocarina* was difficult for some players to accept.

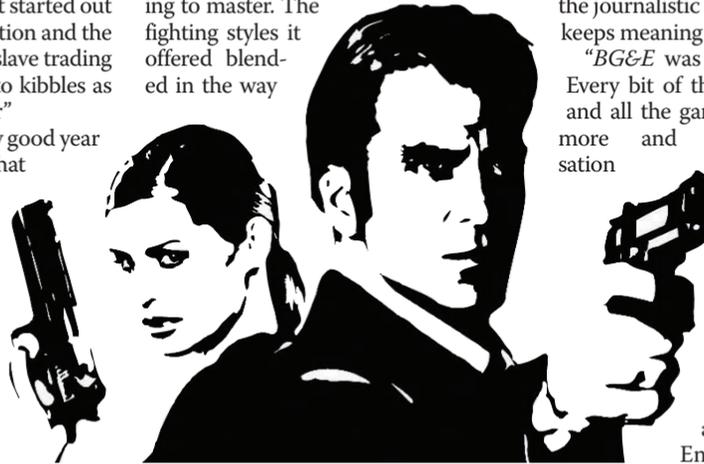
"*Wind Waker* wasn't a game that immediately grabbed you. It took some time to get into, it didn't fire up enthusiasm from the start. But it was still a fantastic game. The music, the feeling of open space, was unlike anything GC had seen before."

It was a good year for sequels, too, with *Homeworld 2*, *Jak 2* and *Max Payne 2* all making their way to gamers in the second half of the year. But the real gem lurking in the list of Christmas releases is the unassuming *Beyond Good And Evil*, the journalistic platformer that everyone keeps meaning to play.

"BG&E was such a gorgeous game. Every bit of that world was just right, and all the gameplay tricks just added more and more to the characterisation

- photographing animals for biological catalogues, inventing stuff for Pey' to use. It was all amazing, and it's a shame it probably won't see a sequel.

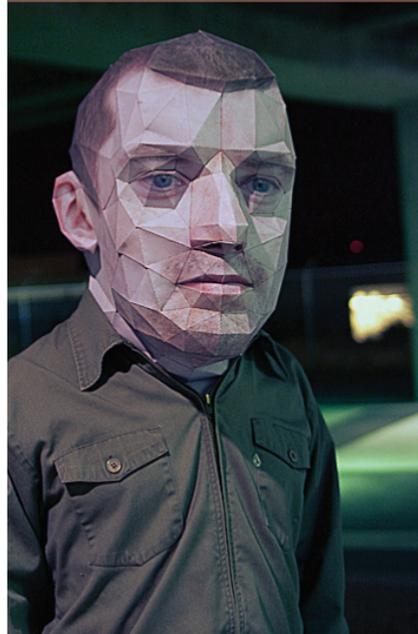
Next year - *Half-Life 2*, *World of Warcraft* and *Rome: Total War*. Enough said.



In Pictures - The Week In News: Valve like reader tabasco, Fallout MMO and more

Papercraft Mode

3D modeller Eric Testroete creates copy of his head in paper, only larger, for game-style Big Head Mode.



Saxton Hale Responds

Readers of the Team Fortress 2 website who responded to a fake product catalogue received especially-created comics from Valve as a reward.

IGF 2010 Opens

The list of entries to the 2010 Independent Games Festival has been announced. FINALISTS AND WINNERS

2010 IGF Main Competition
Entries 1 - 50 of 30

7 Nights
The Pixel Pimpz
Fight for your life in true 3D. Alone in an abandoned house, barricade yourself and block windows. Stockpile guns and, if undead, can you survive 7 arrives?

"7 Nights" shows that a quality shooter can be deployed on the about 7 MB.

This is also the first videogame and tested while on public transport (S4S & S77), on a £750 2009 and hit playable beta on shaders, post-processing and

78641
G2 Storm
Saluon!! G2 Storm is now pro classic Esperanto-language action time in Language English!!!

You are frying pan face in which several occasion. Do thing!! H the button on the planet mood simulation. Also and then plus

It is of the game wrote in the Hello he says. It is which pro Esperanto writer! This is game are taking position of destiny. This is the last time you will have think incorrect. Playing win. See the trickster!!! He is

The outing source Canada who have then discover Ethiopian. You take us word for it. Him Pa...

A New Zero

Fallout MMO

Legal proceedings have forced Interplay to release concept art for their Fallout MMO in order to prove it is in production.

The Versus Round - *Left4Dead2* Demo

It might just be the demo, but that hasn't stopped Nick Virago and Jack Warren from feeling strongly about it

A bloody marvel. It's a marvel really, that such a thing was possible. In just one short year we've seen an engine overhaul, an AI redesign, community support and the small matter of five campaigns, dozens of new weapons, a new game mode and a gnome. A lot has been added to *Left4Dead2*. It's the sort of upgrade that perhaps isn't breaking any new ground, but is surely cementing value as a world leader in fast, innovative, iterative development.

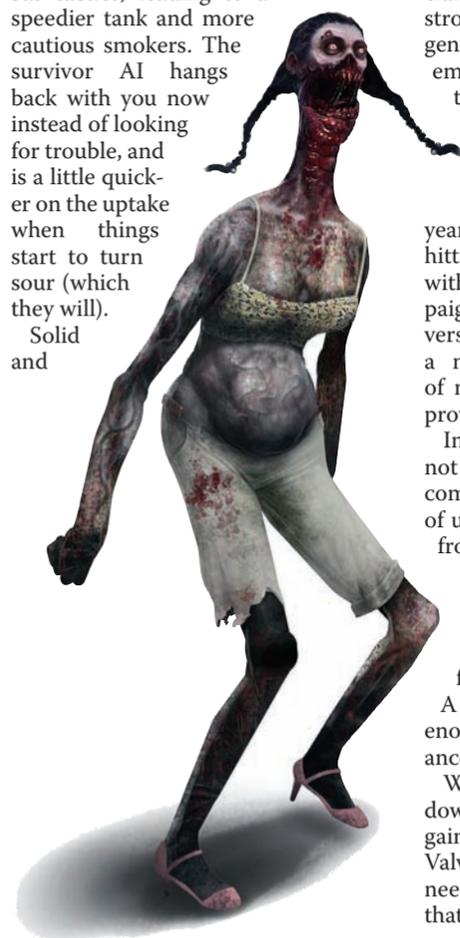
What did we need from a sequel, first and foremost? We needed new content for one. So the new campaigns not only provide more playing time than the original, but also firmly place the priority on unique experiences for each campaign. The 'uncommon commons' and melee weapons are special to each of the movies, sure, but what I'm really talking about here are the variable

"In a year. That's impressive."

weather effects on Hard Rain. How some campaigns are cyclic paths while others are about fighting through to an end point. How Hard Rain's sugar cane plantations attract a higher number of witches, whilst the daylight of The Parish affects the zombie eyesight. It's about providing new content, yes, but also *different* content.

So you've got your new content. But you need the gameplay itself to move forwards too, right? So the AI infected have learnt from human players' versus tactics, leading to a speedier tank and more cautious smokers. The survivor AI hangs back with you now instead of looking for trouble, and is a little quicker on the uptake when things start to turn sour (which they will).

Solid and



improved. That's what you need, and that's what *Left4Dead2* is. Everything that characterises this gaming series is here - the dry humour, the surreal pop culture references, the gleeful enjoyment of chaos. All this has been worked on to be faster, fuller and contrasted. The good bits stand out now, they're pushed forwards and made bigger and celebrated. Key moments, high points in games with your friends are recognised, celebrated, and given to you more frequently. The boring parts of the original are torn out and replaced with more exciting variants - gauntlet runs to stop closet camping, spitters to keep you moving. Jockeys to make you giggle.

But this is Valve. So what do you get, on top of that? Well you get more, don't you? Of course. So let's keep the existing Survival and Versus modes, and let's add Scavenger, a superb blend of the aforementioned two modes, and add that in for short bursts of competitive play. Then for those who mostly play campaign, there's a Realism mode that switches off glows, makes special infected stronger, and generally emphasises teamwork.

A game that just one year ago was hitting shelves with four campaigns and two versus is now a behemoth, with a mode for everyone, swathes of new content and a vastly improved base game.

In a year. A year. How is that not impressive? How can anyone complain about rushed releases of unfair money-grabbing? Even from the demo, it's clear just how much has been added to what has already been picked as one of the best 360 games around, and the finest online game of 2009.

A lot has been added. More than enough to ensure a repeat performance in 2010.

When the demo comes online, download and remember - you've gained a lot, and in just twelve months. Valve has done it again, and all you need to do to appreciate that is to keep that sense of perspective in mind.



Since this has been a hot potato for some time now, it's probably a good idea to point out, early on, the following: I enjoyed *Left4Dead* immensely. I ridiculed the boycott of *Left4Dead2* and I still think it's a stupid idea. I was looking forward to this demo very much. Which is a shame, because it's utterly terrible. And if this turns out to be representative of the game itself, I'm going to sorely regret pre-ordering.

Where to start? Perhaps with the original game itself. *Left4Dead* was a great, great balance of maturity and humour, of a quietly depressing tone with light-hearted chuckles. I spent night after night for a good few months after release playing Versus, soaking up every bit of the *L4D* canon, but it's all tied down to a base of death, depression and loneliness. Bit too emo? Maybe. But *Left4Dead's* atmosphere was right. The night, the concrete, the emptiness. It all fitted together.

Left4Dead2 is gaudy, to say the least. New Orleans is a bright, colourful and cheerful place, I get that, but that means you have to ask yourself why it's the setting for the sequel to such a dark and rich game. It's certainly a change, and maybe that's what Valve were seeking. But I can't help but feel it wasn't the right change to make. It doesn't feel like a sequel to *Left4Dead*. It doesn't fit together.

Okay, now we've got the petty whiny art shit out of the way, let's get down to the details. Valve make simple games. Pared down. Refined. They make games where the rules fit on the back of a matchbox yet actually becoming an expert at the game takes years. Five weapons. Four specials. That's it. Not so any more. Do you want pistols or a melee weapon? Which melee weapon? Do you want first aid or a defibrillator? Automatic sniper rifle? Shotgun? Silenced weapons, for Christ's sake? And in the distance, is that a spitter or a female boomer? Is that a witch? Or is that a which? Or... too late.

"Choice" is the watchword, and choice has increased tenfold. But with that choice comes an increase in complexity too, and a loss of the elegance that made the game so good in the first place. During the demo you'll switch between different shotgun types, pis-



tols, back and forth from SMG to rifle, never really knowing which one is the best or whether the silencer even does anything. This isn't how it was supposed to be. This wasn't the code to which their other games were built, this isn't the way of the company that rigorously tests every change and addition with a wide group of gamers. This isn't fitting together.

Sometimes it's not even that the embellishments made things worse. It's that they just were utterly, emptily useless. The gore is entirely over the top, for one thing, and is so disconnected

"It just doesn't feel like a sequel."

from the reality of the player's actions that it becomes a rather unspectacular and bewildering sideshow, with zombies arbitrarily dissolving into red mist all around you. Wade in with melee and the screen becomes coated with red - all well and good for people who like chuckling and high bodycounts, but not so good for people who actually like to see the game they're playing.

All in all, *Left4Dead2* feels unfinished. The team got together and listed everything they wanted to add to a sequel. If they'd taken only half of those ideas through to the final game, it would've been in far better shape. As it stands, it feels like a bad mod - too much added in without really refining what was there, what the vision was. We can only hope the demo is the weaker part of the game.

Too late for me, though. No refunds online. Just... regrets...



Opinionated bastard?

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

games.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Dropbox is your friend

Student priced cloud sync and storage no one should be without

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

Cloud storage is all the rage these days, with connection speeds steadily increasing and online storage ever decreasing in cost. One day it's likely that most of our data will be stored in the cloud in one form or another. We've been accessing our email for decades via webmail interfaces like Hotmail, Yahoo! mail and Gmail before it was described as 'the cloud' and services like Xmarks use server storage for cloud based sync. So it shouldn't come as a shock to you that many companies offer storage solutions, some better than others, quite a lot for the very student friendly price of free.

Dropbox is one of the better online storage and file sync solutions available at the moment. Its service is built around a very simple idea, sync a folder full of files between any computer you happen to use and online.

The service itself consists of a client that runs as a service on your computer, syncing any files that are contained within a 'Dropbox' folder on your computer. The location of that folder can be user determined but anything within that folder is automatically transferred to your own personal piece of cloud storage provided by Dropbox. Once the file is uploaded it can then be downloaded onto any computer whether it's a PC, a Mac or even Linux that you set up sync with, seamlessly and in the background. If you need access to that file on the road your entire Dropbox can be accessed via a browser on the Dropbox website or even via a free iPhone app.

Dropbox's simple solution essentially provides three services in one. First off you've got file sync, which means you can easily transfer files between computers as long as you have an internet connection. You've also got access to those files where ever you happen to be via a browser, including your mo-



bile devices, allowing you to keep your files with you even on other people's computers. The third attribute Dropbox provides might be something you wouldn't immediately think about, backup. Dropbox syncs all your files in your Dropbox to the cloud meaning you've always got a copy of the files stored online, but you've also got a copy of those files synced to any computer you happen to have set up. In total this means that not only have you got online backup but you've got multiple local backups too. So should your laptop get pinched, your house burn down, or an act of god swallows Imperial up in a freak Earthquake, you'll at least have one or more of those backups available to you.

Dropbox also has one more trick up its sleeve that sets it apart from the rest of the cloud storage pack and that's a public folder within your Dropbox. Here you can place files you'd like to share with other people and with a simple right click you've got a shareable link that you can send to whoever

you want to be able to download that file. If they've got a Dropbox themselves and their on your local network the software is smart enough to route the file transfer via the local network meaning that you get great connection speeds for anyone who's local to you.

Dropbox has both free and subscription services. The free service starts off at 2GB of storage space, with no nags or any other annoyances. Should you need more storage you can buy 50GB of storage for \$9.99 a month (about £6 in today's money) or a whole 100GB for \$19.99 (£12) a month.

You can even top up your 2GB of free space to a maximum of 3GB by getting your friends to sign up via referrals in 250MB chunks.

So if you're looking for a service that you can use from anywhere with an internet connection, to both store and sync your files safely and securely, even within college, then check out Dropbox at www.getdropbox.com and grab some fantastic, free storage that simply works.



Orange with rage

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

Orange incurred the wrath of the UK tech establishment this week with their announcement of their upcoming iPhone price plans. Being a whole 36p cheaper over a 24 month plan, Orange isn't really going to ignite a price war with O2, instead they'll likely rely on their better coverage and 3G bandwidth to win people over. Ok, fine, no price war like we all wanted, but I can't say I'm suprised. What I, and a load of the UK tech press were suprised at is the absolute abuse of the word 'Unlimited' by Orange. Unlimited, well you know what it means, but unfortunately Orange obviously doesn't. Contained within their 'fair' use policy there's a stipulation that the bandwidth cap is actually 750MB. I don't know about you but when I buy an Unlimited plan, I expect to get unlimited service, not some meagre download limit. Now, Orange claim that the average iPhone user doesn't use more than 200MB a month and so 750MB is more than enough. Problem is, I doubt they base that figure on actual iPhone usage figures. 200MB per month may well be accurate for much less data-centric devices but for the iPhone, that's a rather poultry amount. Considering that the iPhone boasts streaming music apps, access to YouTube, BBC iPlayer and fully fledged web browsing, even their supposed plentiful cap of 750MB is small fry.

To make matters worse, a quick look in Orange's Terms and Conditions shows that they prohibit the use of streaming apps such as Spotify and social networking sites such as Facebook. Now I don't know about you but what's the good of an iPhone that you can't use the Apps that make it what it is? Now don't get me wrong, I under-

stand that Orange need some sort of fair use policy to protect their network from abuse, but limiting the device by blocking what it's naturally geared up to do is ludicrous.

More Apple news this week in the form of a supposed iPhone 4th generation part leak. China Ontrade, an electronics wholesaler, claims that it has leaked shots of the next-generation iPhone midboard (the bit that everything screws into inside the phone). Ok, so it's not a spy shot, or anything that indicates a radical redesign, and it's literally 8 months early from Apple's usual device generational turn-over. But last time China Ontrade ousted a supposed iPhone part they were dead on and one month later the iPhone 3GS appeared. Does this mean that Apple's going to break with it's yearly refresh cycle and release a new iPhone model in the next few months? With my contract up for renewal in January next year I hope so, but I wouldn't get your hopes up. Apple's highly unlikely to do such a thing, but never say never.

Twitter has unleashed lists to the general twitter populous this week enabling people to set up, maintain and follow lists of people and their tweets. It gives you the convenience of mass follows and means that you can follow people's tweets without following them directly. If you're not a twitter user this probably means nothing to you, but Lists have become the new follower count with people competing to be on as many lists as possible.

Talking of Twitter, how about a mobile device that does nothing but access and post to Twitter? Well that's all the TwitterPeek does. For the princely some of \$200 without a monthly fee, you can access Twitter from anywhere. Hmm, I'll stick with my iPhone thanks.

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

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

After the buzz of Android 2.0 last week, this week's news has been a little more unconventional than most. For starters the Rise of the Machines steadily ploughs on. We've got MIT researchers working on a program called ClearView that will create 'immortal and invulnerable' programs. In simple terms, it automatically patches programs that experience errors or vulnerabilities. Great idea to stop hackers and viruses from causing havoc but think about this: A computer program that can heal itself and can't be damaged by humans. Skynet anyone?

Lockheed Martin have been in the news this week too with another deathbot. Their next generation UAV the Sabre Warrior Drone, which looks

like a cross between something out of Batman and Star Wars, is a 46 foot long killing machine. With a wingspan of some 36 feet and 22,000 pounds of thrust it can handle 2000 pounds of ordinance to destroy any puny building you might be hiding in.

Skynet can give as well as take away. The latest bomb sniffing robot takes the form of an unmanned helicopter codenamed Yellow Jacket. This little beauty is tasked with the unenviable job of searching out for IEDs and roadside bombs by detecting and locating their electromagnetic emissions. Travelling by road is currently one of the most dangerous activities in Afghanistan due to the roadside bombs. If Yellow Jacket can give soldiers a scanned clear path, then I'm all for it.

An autonomous Audi TTS also made an appearance this week. Built by Stan-

dord to compete in the Pikes Peak International Hill Climb, a race that takes its competitors over 20Km, through 156 turns and up a 1423m climb on gravel and paved roads, the TTS is packed full of GPS, sensors and a complicated guidance system. It will be an impressive feat to see the car navigate all the twisty turns and reach the finish line and would make Darpa's Urban Challenge look a little like child's play.



In entertainment news, the BBC this week announced that it's iPlayer VOD service is coming to FreeSat starting this month in a closed beta. It's good news for all those with FreeSat boxes and if it's successful, will probably mark a move to integrate the service with FreeView HD boxes later in 2010. All currently available FreeSat+ boxes are capable of receiving iPlayer with a software update thanks to in-built ethernet ports, which were made mandatory at the beginning of the FreeSat+ specification.

The Beatles continue their extremely laboured migration to digital distribution. Having made it onto Beatles RockBand and with re-mastered and original CDs already available, the Beatles have now made available their 14 stereo tracks on an Apple shaped USB flash drive. The odd looking thing car-

ries copies of the tracks in both FLAC and MP3 formats and is equipped with a custom made Flash player and a load of extra video and photo related artwork. Great for collectors I suppose but for those who just want to buy the Beatles music from their favourite digital download store, still no luck.



Nvidia confirmed this week that Intel won't be supporting USB3 until 2011 with its chipsets. This senseless delay will mean that USB3 probably won't hit off till late 2011. LightPeak anyone?



FOOD

Food Editors Chris Sim & Holly Cumbers

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Restaurant Review: Sake No Hana

@ 23 St. James's Street, London, SW1A 1HA. Asian restaurateur Mr. Yau continues to impress at his latest instalment, where **Chris Sim** carried out some investigative eating that didn't squeeze his wallet too much.

A broken set of escalators. Not exactly the sort of welcome you'd expect from Alan Yau's latest upscale Asian offering. As you clunk your way up those stationary metal stairs strange thoughts momentarily hover in your mind: 'Perhaps this is intentional? Are they making me work for my meal?' Such odd ponderings quickly disappear when you arrive at your desired destination, whose high ceilings and modern Japanese wooden décor are a pleasure to the eye. New thoughts now enter, uttering 'Looks like tonight's going to cost me a bit.'

Fortunately the last point wasn't too much of a worry for myself and a fellow diner, for we had used a Toptable offer, though this did mean we had to eat a little earlier than our appetites desired. As one would expect from such a chic establishment, a friendly waiter guided us promptly to a rather spacious yet low-lying table and seating arrangement where we were instructed to take off our shoes. I quite liked this little Japanese touch, not really because it made it seem more 'authentic', but rather because it made my feet feel that bit cosier.

With my feet made to feel at home my eyes now turned to the menu. Pretty comprehensive coverage of sushi, sashimi and tempura was evident alongside some more inventive touches in the grilled and starters section. With this restaurant review in mind I thought I should try to have a snippet of most areas.

Overall, I guess the food was hit and



My good friend the soft shell crab, complete with crispy exterior, sweetly soft interior and light wasabi-laden salad. Affordable when you use an online deal.

miss. Let's start with the misses. I'll begin with our much loved friend, assorted tempura. Crispy the batter was, but not as fluffy and fragrant as you'd expect from such a restaurant. And the prawns... Well, they weren't the giant ones I was hoping for. Another slight disappointment was the grilled yellow tail cheek with yuzu sauce. The combination of firm, fleshy fish with the slightly citrusy and bitter sauce should, in principle, have worked harmoniously together. But here the let down was that the fish was ever so slightly overcooked. Whilst these dishes were decent shots on goal, you might expect them to hit a tad closer to the target. Harsh critiquing you may think, but

remember how much you're dishing out for these delicacies.

But there were a few hits, and in my book they were pretty big ones. Still hovering in my memory is the delightful dragon roll, whose glorious blend of sweet eel, juicy tempura prawn and wonderfully rich avocado was beautifully brought together with perfectly cooked rice and indulgent little eggs of flying fish, otherwise known as tobiko caviar. Another dish which still makes me smile was an otherwise ordinary watercress salad brought to life with the presence of one of my favourite ocean dwelling creatures, soft shell crab. The slightly crispy outside of the crab, combined with its unctuously

sweet and fleshy centre, was married beautifully with light salad leaves dressed in slightly acidic overtones and a light wasabi sauce. Dessert wasn't too bad either, a selection of ice creams and sorbets that let you leave with a happily entertained palette. The acidic sweetness of blueberry sorbet cleansed my palette between diving in for little mouthfuls of two classic Japanese ice creams: the flavours of earthily sweet black sesame and refreshing yet intense green tea.

I must say I was pleasantly surprised by the portion size – prior to my arrival I had been fearing minute bites on oversized plates. So to conclude, whilst the food's consistency was akin to that

of a mid-tabled Premiership football team, I guess what you're really paying for is top-notch ambience. The modern, classy Japanese façade, combined with the spaciousness of the room and dim mood lighting, act in unison to create an atmosphere that can only really be described by that fusion of two words, chillaxed.

Food: 7.0
Value: 6.5
Service: 8.5
Ambience: 9

Overall: 7.5/10

"Oh yeah, I have to cook for myself now...to the microwave!"

Josh Pear

If like me you're a fresher, the above title might be slightly familiar. For most, being a fresher means numerous nights of drinking and ready meals. Of course I'm with everyone on that first part, but what about the ready meals?

I'm guessing, but I think that at least half of us have had a good few nights where we simply can't be bothered, and would rather wait 5 minutes for that glorious ping from the microwave.

So, picture this if you will. You've had lectures all day and stop by at the supermarket on the way home. Option a) is to go for numerous ingredients, which granted do cost a few quid more, to create your very own culinary masterpiece. Alternatively, you could go for option b) and get a few of those special offer tomato penne pasta ready meals. Unfortunately, for most it's been the latter for at least once in fresherhood.

So, 6:30pm has rolled around and it's feeding time. Into the empty kitchen to watch a plastic dish spin in a white box

for 5 minutes, only to burn your mouth on something which is stodgy and has gained its entire flavour from salt. And I'm not joking about that last part, read the label!

I'm not trying to nag like your mum. Instead, I'm offering some friendly advice, the reason being that I was in that position in fresher's week. Trust me, the alternative is so much better. I found this out when I decided to invite some friends over, to see what they thought of my attempt at spaghetti bolognese. They bought the alcohol, and I got the food. It was great, I made something which tasted good and I could enjoy in the company of friends. I've added the recipe at the bottom of this page for you to try out. If you're still thinking you really can't cook, don't worry. It's hard to go wrong, you just cook the mince and chuck everything into the pan.

Cooking for yourself means that you will inevitably make way too much food. It becomes an excuse to be sociable and to drag people out of their rooms to have some of your Thai green

chicken curry. If you still haven't met everyone on your floor on the drinking nights, it's a good way to simply knock on doors. So, it's now time to re-examine the two scenarios. Option 1: Stab the plastic lid, watch the dish for five minutes and eat alone. Option 2: Be creative for a change and cook something which is very simple to make. Get friends round to get slightly drunk whilst making it, and finally have a good time.

Best of all is that when you do make too much food, you can always freeze it and eat it tomorrow! Spaghetti Bolognese is the perfect example.

The recipe that I give is more than enough to feed four and still have enough left over to make a very simple lasagne tomorrow night.

Ok, bottom line is that you can pick whichever option suits you best. Yes, there are nights when you are in a complete rush because your 3000 word essay is due tomorrow and you've only written 150 words. Despite this, on most other occasions the experiences really can be incomparable.

Have a go, and enjoy it!

Recipe for Spaghetti Bolognese (Student Style)

Serves: 4

Ingredients:

1kg of lean minced beef (The more expensive does actually equal nicer mince)
2 x tbsps olive oil
2 x 400g tins of chopped tomatoes
1 x diced red onion
2 x peeled and crushed garlic cloves (or 1 tsp garlic powder)
2 x large glasses of red wine (A cheap bottle is fine)
6 x tomatoes
1 x 800g Spaghetti (Dried is ok, but fresh is much better)
1 x 200g pack of button mushrooms
1 x beef stock cube
1 x tbsps tomato puree
2 x tsp of mixed herbs (Dried is fine)
2 x tsp oregano (Dried is fine)
A small block of parmesan cheese to grate over the top

Method:

Put a little olive oil into a large saucepan and put on a high heat. Add all the mince into the pan along with the diced onions, and break up the mince with a wooden spoon. Don't put the garlic in yet as it burns. Once the onions have softened and browned, reduce the heat or the meat will turn grey. Gently cook the mince for about ten minutes and add a stock cube. Use the wooden spoon to mix everything together. Add one large glass of red wine, along with the herbs if you want them. Allow the red wine to reduce as it burns off the alcohol. Add both tins of chopped tomatoes and add the mushrooms (chopped in half). Also add the garlic, the other glass of red wine, and the tomato puree. Stir well and allow everything to reduce down. Add salt and pepper at this stage, but do keep tasting as you go along! Simmer for a further 30 minutes or so. Cook the spaghetti as instructed on the pack and serve.



Next station, a spot for remembrance

Dylan Lowe Travel Editor

Remember the bus journeys that drive you insane with boredom? Before being blessed with a *Blackberry* with internet access, I had them too. And, as much as a travel extraordinaire/freak I am, I hated them too.

So resorting to Britain's second favourite pastime, I allowed my head to knock back and gaze into constellations of "esure.com" and "D'n't t@ke 't out on our staff".

This scenario fitted neatly with one of my most treasured mottos of travelling: "go in with little to zero expectations, come out with absolute satisfaction." Despite the mundane contents of most bus advertisements, one particular poster did captivate a glint of sentimentality.

The header simply reads: "Beyond the call of duty in WWI".

It goes on further:

"Within 48 hours of the outbreak of war, London buses and their crews began moving troops to and from the war zone. In a few weeks, more than 300 London buses - each with a volunteer driver - were being used at the Western Front in France and Belgium."

Though it served as an advert for the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden, the poster fulfilled its purpose as a subtle reminder of the unspoken heroes of the First World War. The plea went on to suggest that, as we don our poppies and pipe down for the two-minute silence at 11am this Sunday, we should spare a thought on the drivers, the no-less valiant individuals, who played a vital part in the British war effort.

Indeed, with perilous conditions on the continent inflicted by shell exchange and landmines, their voyages may well have been their last.

What drives people to travel? Disregard that of leisure travelling - such isn't what I seek to consider this time round. For this particular editorial I want to explore the form of 'travel' that is driven by a sense of duty, a sense of moral obligation.

Understandably, many of you live away from home. I for one have familial duties to meet, albeit having to grudgingly endure the 23,000 air miles and on-flight screeching-babies on a yearly basis. But why on Earth would I put myself through

the torment - and guilt on my colossal carbon footprint - when I can simply stay in London? Perhaps the motivation lies with my obligation - and sometimes genuine wish - to see my parents.

This is the darker side of the travelling world, which we all have a fair share of. This is the mode of travel that leaves us entrapped in a bleak timeframe, feet fixed on the ground or bottom on the seat, minus the glamour and anticipation of the abnormality we experience when we go on holiday.

I suspect this is why we, as a society, tend to avoid the word 'travel' when depicting our laborious endeavour to reach a destination that lacks a ski slope or the odd palm tree. Similarly, my loyal *felix* readers, this is why whereupon finding the travel section you expect to find anecdotes of 'travels' based in exotic, far-away locations.

As much as we wish to shun it, travelling is inevitably incorporated into our normal day lives. It is *human* to travel. Whether it is the duty to oneself to 'travel' to the local groceries, the duty to 'travel' to college to attend lectures, or obligation to mates to 'travel' to attend a farewell party, obligation to parents to 'travel' home, or even obligation to Dan Wan to 'travel' to Beit in order to complete laying-out the travel page, the message is synonymous: despite our efforts to beautify 'travel', it is not entirely a luxury.

However do not regard it with shame. Because, as with the examples above, by travelling our satisfaction with the result, and the smile that blossoms from the lips of friends and parents - and possibly our revered Editor-in-chief if I am lucky - from sheer happiness outweighs the labour. Even the process itself, though not entirely enjoyable, can have us brimming with pride.

Just like those bus drivers in WWI who had their courage awarded by an array of medals, and their loved ones who only had memories to cling onto in the aftermath of the war.

And so I urge you, proud fellow British citizens, to don your poppies and conduct your two-minute silence on Sunday, November 8th, and spare a thought for the servicemen who themselves 'travelled' to an uncertain, yet glorious, fate.



Travel at your own risk

Fleur Thomas dissects the atrocity that is India's traffic system



If you are a reasonably well off Indian, you will never walk. The distance and the danger of the road are immaterial, you will not do so out of principle. Even if your destination is only two blocks away, you will jump onto your scooter, or into your air-conditioned car and drive there. If you are foreign and you are walking, you will be asked whether you want a ride on the auto at least once every ten metres. Apparently the mere notion of wanting to walk is strange. Why exert yourself if you can avoid it?

Scooters dominate the roads. This is because any idiot can drive them - or so they think - they are small and can worm their way through the traffic jams. Often you will see the entire family all perched precariously on one scooter. If you get hit by a car or a truck when you are on one of those, it is cheaper for the driver to run you over properly and pay the fine than for them to cover your medical expenses. Often they will just drive away after they hit you, risking neither - that is precisely what happened to a friend of mine. The windows of the cars tend to be tinted, which can mean that they can hardly see you. With cars, the general rule of thumb is the bigger the better. Most cars belonging to important civil servants are monster jeeps with little flags poking out behind bars that can and will kill you if you collide with them.

If you don't have a car available, you can get an auto. Riding in an auto means that you are sitting at a height that matches exactly with that of the exhaust of buses and trucks. The auto driver will complain about the traffic every day and will cite this as a reason to rip you off, even though there is traffic every day. They will rip you off if you look even remotely foreign. At peak times they will refuse to take you, because they are heading in another direction, or because you won't pay a minimal sum to get home.

Patience is required - often when you ask them to turn on the meter, they will either say no outright, or they will claim that it is broken. You will notice huge variations in meter rates in different autos, which can lead one to speculate as to how this is possible. Otherwise you fix a price and they take you. Once you are

there and you have no change, they might say that they don't have change either. They are usually lying and simply want your note. If they are particularly rude, they will take your note and you have to stand in front of the auto to stop them from driving away. If they are not lying, they will ask around for you.

It is important to ask the auto driver whether he knows where he is going, because otherwise he might get lost. In fact, it is better if you know how to get there as, otherwise, they might drive in circles and charge you by the kilometre. If you picked a particularly macho driver, he may blame you for getting lost - even though he said he knew how to get there - and then get aggressive.

It is best to pick an older driver, as he is still alive having driven for twenty years. He is likely to know where he is going and he is less laden with testosterone.

The drive will invariably involve close encounters, slaloming and sudden brakes; but as with all things there are exceptions. Mine was when there was a lot of traffic and I found myself in an auto stuck between a huge truck carrying petrol and another auto with gas canisters - I thought I was going to die. Sometimes they drive right behind trucks that are carrying - and often leaking - some kind of transparent fluid. You would hope it is water, but often it isn't. Often when they

drop you somewhere, they will do a quick U-turn and drop you off on the other side of the road. This involves driving several hundred metres in the wrong lane, while the traffic policeman - who is too busy looking pretty - overlooks.

Bus drivers are taken by those who find autos too expensive. There are two doors - the front one for ladies, the back for men. The ladies are given more seats but it is still very crowded and you will most likely be standing. Sometimes men will use the front door when they are in a hurry, but they will usually move to the back. Occasionally they will stay to harass women. They generally squeeze at least one extra person onto the bench, so you become intimately acquainted with several people all at once. The doors of the bus are always open, even while driving and when it is completely full, people are pouring out of the doors. People are to the bus as excess fat is to over-tight trousers.

Before coming to India, I had never seen the phrase 'catching a bus' taken so literally. Although the buses go ever so slowly and the engine really does complain about the slightest slope, they cannot be easily stopped. My friend mentioned this guy who was trying to cross the road and found himself in front of a bus that couldn't stop. He then had no choice other than to lie flat on the road to avoid being killed.



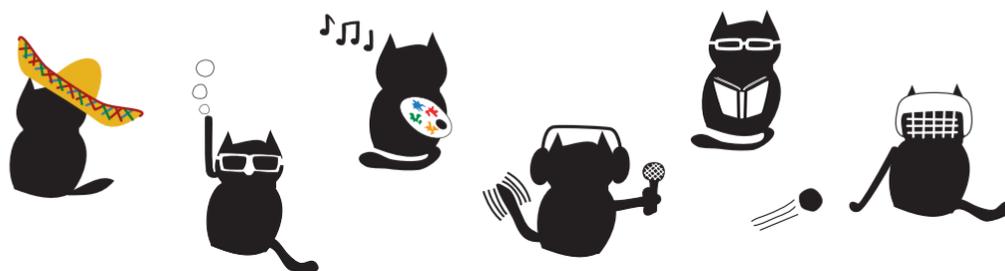
You can complain to any of the following officers, but they'll be much happier to just take your bribe

What's on...

Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editors – Lily Topham & Rachel D'oliveiro

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Mon 9th Nov

CSSA and PPS
 – Classics Series 1 – Separation of Power, by Greg Artus, (free)
 – 6pm, Elec Eng room 509

Physoc Film Night – The Dark Knight (Free!)
 – 6:15pm, Blackett LT2
 – Free popcorn!

Chrstian Medical Fellowship Film Night
 – 6pm, SAF G34 (free)
 – Watch and discuss 'Lars and the Real Girl'
 – Free popcorn!



Tues 10th Nov

KnitSock SHAG Week Special
 – Learn to knit a willy warmer...no previous knitting experience needed!
 – 5pm, Union Bar, Free
 – All materials (and cake) provided!

Friends of MSF Film Screening
 – 7pm, Huxley 140
 – Triage: A film about Dr James Orbinski's work in the field and as president of MSF
 – Free food from Pret..

Ahlul Bayt – Muslim Heritage Conference
 – 6:15pm, Huxley Clore LT (free)
 – Hear three unparalleled expert speakers explore Engineering and Science, and the medieval Islamic world's forgotten history.



Weds 11th Nov

LawSoc Trip to the Old Bailey
 – 1pm, meet outside Central Criminal Court
 – £3.50 members, £6.50 non-members
 – Listen to a talk about the Old Bailey plus the chance to sit in on criminal cases in the afternoon!



Thurs 12th Nov

PASS – Love Literally Promotion
 – 12pm - 2pm, Sherfield Foyer
 – Find out more about this project and donate books to support libraries in China.

Model UN – China and Taiwan Simulation
 – 6-7.30pm, Read LT, Sherfield
 – Free for all!

Fri 13th Nov

PASS – Love Literally Promotion (2nd day...)
 – 12pm - 2pm, Sherfield Foyer
 – Find out more about this project and donate books to support libraries in China.



To Do...

- 1) Find knitting needles.
- 2) Feed the mouse....
- 3) Email whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk (Club name & event, time, place, price, pics...) **by end of Tues 10th Nov.**

(PS: Sorry about last week everyone...ask Dan...)



Sinfonietta, Big Band and Choir unite

Three societies join forces in a huge musical tour to Berlin with **Hannah Short**, and the odd marathon runner



The Big Band perform in Kunstfabrik Schlot, in underground Berlin

I would have to say that my prevailing memory of Choir, Sinfonietta Orchestra and Big Band's summer tour is of Currywurst. Never before have 130 of the finest musical folk Imperial has to offer consumed so much sausage, ketchup and curry powder. Of course, our week-long tour to Berlin this September was not made up exclusively of lazing around stuffing our faces – oh no! We succeeded in squeezing seven fantastic performances into our busy schedule.

Past and current students and staff converged in the BaxPax hostel in central Berlin on Tuesday, 15th September, waiting expectantly to see what the trip might throw their way. Being in such vast quantity (and such high spirits), we wasted no time in making the hostel our own, pitying the other guests and making good use of the bar. Despite the 1 Euro fine for late attendance at the 09:00 rehearsal the next morning there were a good few squinting Sinfonietta members making their way out of the door at 09:30 on the Wednesday. While the Choir and Big Band slept in,

the Orchestra set to work perfecting Humperdinck's "Hansel and Gretel," Sibelius' 2nd Symphony, Tchaikovsky's 6th Symphony and Delius' "Norwegian Songs" in one of the Humbolt University's buildings. A few hours later, it was all change; Sinfonietta was free to explore one of the most diverse cities in Europe and the Choir took to practicing their mix of Fauré, Handel, Howell, Rutter and Parry with gusto. Big Band took up the last slot of the day in our rehearsal venue and blasted out some exasperatingly catchy jazz hits to the German students milling around the courtyard. That evening, the majority of the tourists found themselves in an Oktoberfest bar somewhere along Oranienburger Strasse, Berlin's central red-light boulevard, trying desperately to avoid catching the eye of any of the prostitutes. Those big boys and girls who made it to twelve o'clock were rewarded with a visit to an artist's squat in the bombed-out department store, bristling with graffiti, behind the hostel.

As a city, Berlin has everything a large group of students might need

to entertain themselves for a week. We dutifully took our dose of culture, climbing the Reichstag and joining the free walking tour, only to discover to our delight that Germany is actually fascinating! One bright morning, some very dedicated culture addicts made the hour-long trek to find the celebrated East Side Gallery. Upon arriving at their destination and being unable to locate said gallery, they were informed that the vast stretch of painstakingly decorated remnants of the Berlin Wall that they had passed was, in fact, it. Other excursions were more successful; Berlin's zoo boasts the largest number of species of any zoo in the world and the street markets, the largest variety of tat.

The Thursday evening was the first of our string of gigs. Big Band played two sets in the Pfefferberg Sommergarten to uproarious applause and some interesting limb-flailing loosely based on dancing. It emerged that two of our number had been masking Latin-dance prowess sufficient to cause the rest of us to wonder what we had done to deserve multiple left feet.

Big Band produced some unbelievable solos throughout their classic set of Jazz, Funk and Latin from the likes of Buddy Rich, Gordon Goodwin and Frank Sinatra. Of course, as we can always expect from our Jazz pros, it was all flawless but I think they just might have outdone themselves with their jaw-dropping arrangement of Pat Metheny's "The First Circle."

The next evening, it was the Orchestra's turn to impress. The venue was the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, affectionately known to the public as "the lipstick and the powder-puff," owing to its freakish cosmetic exterior – the sort of architecture that would make your great aunt swab her brow with a hanky. The waffled, blue glass, octagonal church-cum-concert hall provided a remarkable venue for some equally remarkable playing. Getting an audience in Berlin is always a challenge, particularly when the Berlin Philharmonic is playing the same evening, but with a concerted effort to hand out all 600 flyers the auditorium was packed. The high calibre performing continued well into the early morning with an illuminating karaoke session back in the hostel. It was discovered that John Lennon had

'All of a sudden, bellowing "when I think about you, I touch myself," the night before didn't seem like such a good idea for our singing soloist.'

somehow infiltrated our group when he took the stage and made everyone cry with his beautiful singing.

Sinfonietta's second concert was the following day. All of a sudden, bellowing "when I think about you, I touch myself," the night before didn't seem like such a good idea for our singing soloist. Nevertheless, the show did go on. The Marienkirche was lined with scaffolding, the audience sat facing the walls and there were a few last minute glitches in the lower wind section but

Sinfonietta's second and final concert proved to be one of the best yet. Needless to say, the bar lucky enough to receive our business post-concert saw its entire spirits store run dry. A sickening number of sectional shots were ordered, showcasing the phenomenal endurance of the musicians' livers.

Sunday was witness to the return of Big Band. Twice. Throughout the entire week, two worryingly-talented string players had been abstaining, mummifying themselves with tubi-grip and carb-loading in preparation for the Berlin Marathon. Give the biggest of hands to Eluned Smith and Eugene Chang who both completed the 42 (and a bit) kilometres on that particularly hot Sunday morning. Extra points go to Eugene for being sufficiently deranged to have completed the course the day before, on roller blades. Big Band had a spot at the 40km mark and heralded 40,000 runners with ear-popping jazz whilst the spectators were soon exhausted from all the clapping and whistling in the scorching German sun. Simultaneously, the Choir and a select group of strings were putting the finishing touches to their concert programme in the Auenkirche that evening. At five o'clock the rest of the group, and some very fortunate Berliners, listened to Handel's Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened and other stunning pieces in absolute rapture. After a few hours break, Big Band warmed up again. This time the venue was an underground jazz club north of the hostel called Kunstfabrik Schlot. Naturally, none of us found the name remotely amusing.

All too soon our little jaunt had come to an end. The final day saw the choir perform their second concert, this time in the beautiful Zionskirche, followed by the end-of-tour meal in a nearby microbrewery. Prizes were presented to those whose contribution to the tour had been particularly noted. Tears were shed for those who wouldn't be returning to Imperial and we all reflected upon what a tremendous year it had been for music at Imperial College. Will this year be as great? Will next summer's tour be quite as rampagous? Only time will tell. I have a sneaking suspicion 09/10 is going to be a whole lot of fun.

LawSoc is back and YOU should join! says Mevani Jagodage

With the appointment of the new LawSoc committee, things are looking up. The President, Angela, Treasurer, Rhodri and Secretary, Max, have worked hard to bring together a packed year of events for those interested in a career in Law. Their dedicated work will ensure you get the up-to-date information about Law. Even though Imperial does not offer a course in Law, the Society will

help if you are considering a conversion after you graduate, or even if you are just interested in law.

I, myself, am a member of LawSoc with a keen interest in Law and the first event of the year was a great success. A fellow Imperial alumnus, Andrew Moir, from the law firm, Herbert Smith, returned here to give an 'Introduction to Law' talk on Friday, 16th October. He gave a deep, inspiring insight into his career in Law after he had graduated from Imperial. Having stud-

ied Physics here, he went on to qualify in Intellectual Property Law and is now a successful solicitor advocate.

Aside from the talks and seminars this term, I am particularly looking forward to the trip to the Old Bailey in November. Touring the Old Bailey will allow you to see barristers in action. An experience not to be missed! In addition, the 'Negotiation Workshop' with the prestigious magic circle firm, Allen and Overy, in December will be a notable opportunity. Networking

with other prospective lawyers and law firms is an essential part in pursuing Law in the future and there will be many occasions throughout the year in which you can do so. Allen and Overy are sponsoring LawSoc so be prepared to meet with partners and alumni over the coming year.

So why choose Law? Law is an exciting career path, which extends across many academic fields – from criminal and insurance, to medical and patent law, as well as many more. Law firms

are constantly looking to recruit students from a Science background, with some even paying for you to do your conversion course! Getting into Law can be challenging but an Imperial degree gives you the upper hand. If you take the average law firm, the majority of solicitors did not do a Law degree, and come from a wide range of disciplines.

If you are interested, come along to the IC LawSoc events. Contact us at lawsoc@ic.ac.uk

SPORTS NIGHT

free entry!

EVERY WEDNESDAY

20:00 - 02:00

Fosters,
Blackthorn &
John Smith's

£1.50
a pint



imperialcollegeunion.org

imperial
college
union

Hangman

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Beginner's Guide to Starting an Empire

So you're cool, you're politically correct...why not take over the world? It's the next logical step

Anonymous Hangman Editor

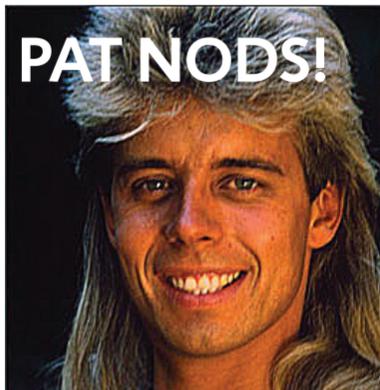
You're probably quite bored of hearing about the recession and how you're never going to get a job. Well the obvious answer to all of our financial problems is to start an empire. However, this is not as easy as it sounds!

Before you hop on a plane and start colonising China, you have to remember that it has sort of already been colonised. Stealing a country is a fine art and Hangman is here to give you the basics to global domination

STEP 1 - Before you run off on your raping and plundering escapade, you need permission from the Queen. Send her a quick wall post on facebook, e.g

'Heyyy Lizbo! Howz u? jst wndering if u wer up 4 invadin France nxt week LOL! wb xox'

If you receive a reply, she will probably ask you to make a formal presentation to a *Dragon's Den* style panel consisting of Helen Mirren, David Attenborough and Pat Sharp from Fun House. If Pat gives you the executive nod - you're away!



STEP 2 - You need a boat. None of this modern, metal 'Ooh look at me I'm so shiny' shit! You need a good old-fashioned fuck-off Galleon! Arm it with fuck-off cannons, fuck-off sails and a tiny little fuck-off crew's nest!

Give it an intimidating name, such as 'Uber Pwnage', 'Harold Shipman' or 'Clive'. We've overlooked the British tradition here of naming them after our beloved wenches. That's because the only female name that you don't want storming towards you is the SS Beth Ditto and that's sadly already been taken.

STEP 3 - Get a parrot and a ruff - Ruffs are fucking amazing! Admittedly not very piratey, but you're a pirate with class. A classy pirate with a fuck-off ruff! That's right you're a fucking pirate with a fuck-off ruff!

STEP 4 - Round up your crew. Lace up your boots and kick down the door of your local tavern. Make sure you're wearing your ruff at this point. The common landlubbers will see your fuck-off ruff and drool all over the floor. They should sign up in a matter of picoseconds.

STEP 5 - You now have a crew and a Galleon called Clive. The next step, possibly the most important step, is to ensure the safety of your ruff. Only you, the Captain, are allowed to wear a ruff and this may put strain on vessel-relationships. If tension rises and you fear a mutiny, allow them to stroke or caress your ruff for a very short period of time, under strict supervision. Make sure they wear ruff-friendly gloves. You may want to buy a safe for your ruff.

STEP 6 - Invade France. This is like a tutorial skirmish on any standard real-time strategy game. Consider this

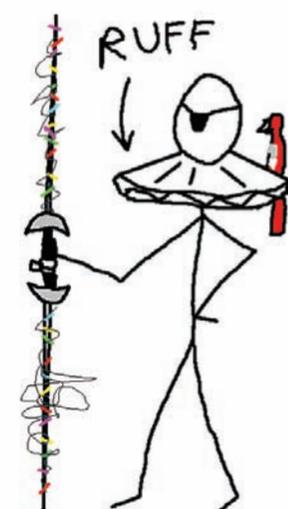
a training exercise for your crew. It should be a short battle, with no casualties on your side. As soon as they wave the white flag, plant your own on top of the Eiffel Tower. This is the official procedure for claiming France as your own, as legislated in the *Penguin 'Pirates handbook 2009'*. Congratulations, you now own France. Although it may seem exciting to have successfully captured a country, remember that France is just the shit-stain on the great white underpants that is Europe!

STEP 7 - Find India. You've heard about it, but you don't really know where it is. The best methodical approach is to sail arbitrarily in any direction and to name the first place you land at as India.

Remember, it won't be as easy as France! Hangman's tip is to sellotape two cutlasses together and coil it with multi-coloured christmas tree lights until you're wielding the deadliest weapon man has seen. Them Indians won't know what's hit them!

STEP 8 - The Slave Trade - Being a leader isn't easy. You should, by now, have control of a great many countries and their people. (Although you may

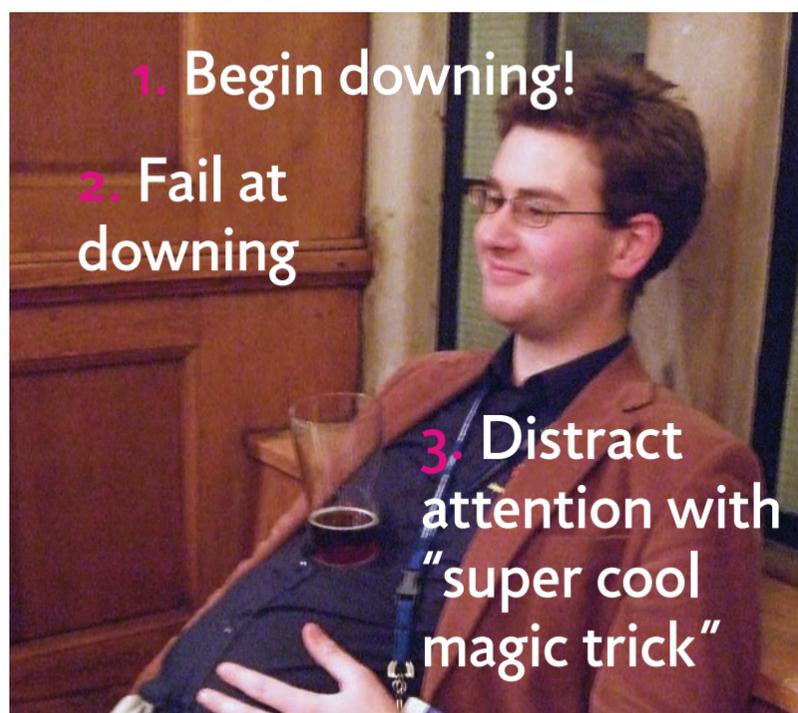
have called them *all* India) The final step is how to keep your people happy and make some money in the process. The slave trade has been out of fashion for some time now, mainly due to the recession, but with your new empire you have the chance to provide jobs, and affordable slaves, en masse.



Congratulations. You now have successful control of an Empire, a flourishing slave trade and a ruff! Easy.

Hangman's fool proof guide to downing!

as shown by John James



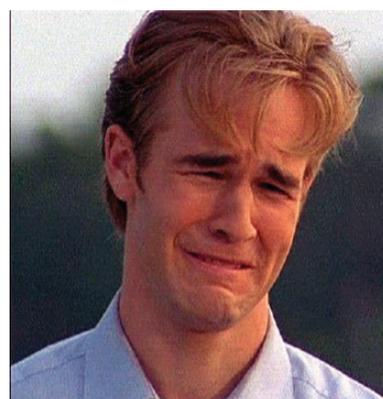
DISCLAIMER

If you have been affected by any of the topics raised in this issue of Hangman, or any previous issues, feel free to send your thoughts and opinions to

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Here at Hangman we endeavour to only ever use reliable sources and provide you with hard fact.

"Hangman is the biggest piece of poorly-written shit I have ever read. How can a newspaper, belonging to to one of the world's most respected universities, allow such crass rubbish?" *Hangman*



TWITTER



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87 OMGZ Taliban are being knob-heads again



SexyOsama69 ROFL! We h8 the west. How's the credit crunch? :p



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87 Hey Osie, check out this link to our top secret Government files :D <http://www.yougotrickrolled.com>



SexyOsama69 WTF! Gor you're a tw@ LOL! Totally fell for that. Well gonna bomb a tube train lol



Barack_attack_l33thaxor Hey Osie nd Gor, up 4 sum Halo later? Me and Clinton got global warming summit l8r but cba lol. Guna say i r ill. Gor fails at driving warthog lmao

CAT-NIP

Text in to 07832670472

Email in at catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Drop us a message at felixonline.co.uk



Hilarious-drunken-mate-at-Halloween photos of the week



He's either really likes candles, or he's vomiting into a pumpkin. What a lad, he's even theming his vomiting. Bless the freshers.



20 year old girl + dragon costume (age 5-6) = above. We could lighten up this picture and show you a camel toe. We won't.

Got a picture of your mate being an absolute waste of oxygen? Email your photos to catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Senders must have permission to use for submitted photos and accept full responsibility for them

Should the BNP have free media coverage?

Give them free media coverage - I'd love to watch some alternative comedy for a change.

Anonymous

They're idiots. Giving them free media coverage will show them for who they are. So let them. Question Time showed us that we have nothing to be scared of in Nick Griffin.

Physicist

Harbouring even more support for the BNP throughout the country can only be a bad thing. We can't withhold their right to media coverage other parties receive however. But that's the problem.

Anonymous

NICK GRIFFIN LOOKS LIKE MY MUM :(

Scientist

NEXT WEEK'S CATNIP QUESTION:

REGGAE REGGAE, KETCHUP OR BBQ ON CHIPS? DISCUSS!

EMAIL TO

catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk

FACEBOOK

it on our 'Felix' fan page

TEXT US

on 07832670472

IEF Project Launch Event

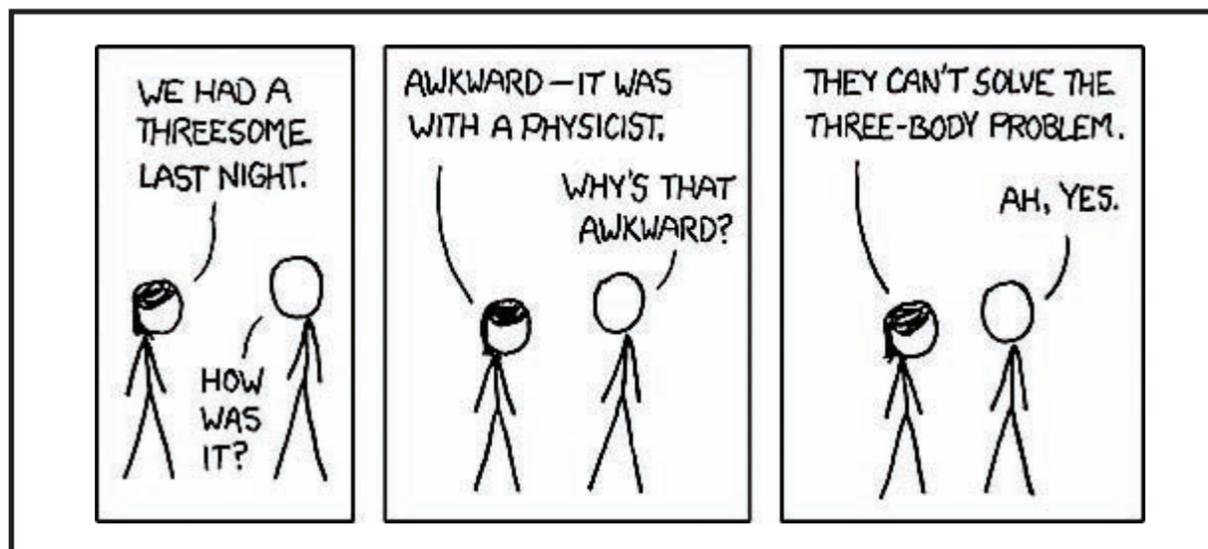
Join the IEF to celebrate the launch of its new project in the Western Sahara. Help us to provide Saharawi children with much needed resources and healthcare, by opening your hearts and your cheque books under the stunning architecture of Imperial College Business School. Special guests include the Rector of Imperial College London Sir Roy Anderson, world famous surgeon Sir Magdi Yacoub, Jeremy Corbyn MP, prolific musician Aziza Brahim and renowned author Dr Yahia Zoubir. Buy your tickets online now at:

www.justgiving.com/ieftickets

details and info

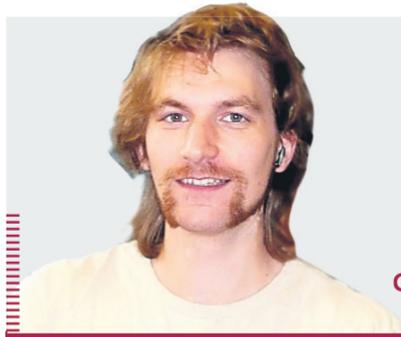
Wednesday 11th November
6:30pm - 9pm
Imperial College Business School
Gold ticket £50
Standard ticket £20
Student ticket £15

xkcd.com



COFFEE BREAK

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



Bloody Union Fun Police

Charlie Murdoch Coffee Break Editor

It would appear that I was a wee bit on the angry side of things last week. I don't apologise, as I was perfectly within my rights. However it appears that a certain person ignored my rant and sent me a snotty e-mail. They will be dealt with in one of the most brutal ways possible.

Anyhoo, I am glad to report that the Union has asked some of its Fun Police to take a bit of a back seat, but they are still there! Yet I do believe that the Union is actually a good place to go. Food wise there is a lot of work to be done, but where else in South Ken can you go to get a cheap drink, and then take it outside to a chill in a (normally) grassy Quadrangle? The other thing is that all the money we spend in the Union comes straight back to us, which is nice, so I spend more.

Well, I think that is enough of Union fun loving for quite sometime, and I will attempt to entertain you on the subject of on goings in my life recently. Humm, well in order of chronological order I tore my foot up falling off a bus. I mean what type of idiot parks his bus up a distance from the kerb that your

brain tells you that you can make it when in reality I had no way of travelling from bus to pavement in one step? But fuck me I was going to try it! I epic failed. Moving on, me and a certain female are giving it another go. I was literally high fiving people on the night bus. That was until I received many strange looks and was forcibly removed. I maintain the real Police tolerate less fun than the Union Fun Police. *(That's a good story but the majority is made up- ed)*. Finally I spent the weekend down at Brands Hatch doing all the mechanics with the race team I work a bit for. We were doing pretty well, got a second in the first race and were looking good for two drivers on the podium in the second. That was until one of our drivers piled flat chat into the side of another who had spun and come to rest in the middle of the track. Luckily neither was hurt, but it took a good 15 minutes to get them both out, the marshals even put screens up round the one car. We were shitting it and the boss went hypersonic with rage, was all a bit if an eye opener, because they are just 17 and 20 and should have been hurt. They were lucky boys indeed.

Stuff Imperial students like:

6. Pubic Transport:

We all love a good bus or tube so packed you actually consider kissing the girl in front of you as the train jolts. No? You haven't even been tempted before? Well I really recommend it. You can also implement a base system if you really want to. This will enable you to explain to your mates the exact nature of the journey to college with relative ease. You can also all try to 'out-

do' each other on trips. So the base system works as follows:

1. Knock in to her
2. Touch her bum
3. Accidentally face plant her
4. Grab a whole handful of boob.

There is a bonus available if you get her number/ she doesn't scream RAPE whilst point horrified at you. To be honest you have to take the rough with the smooth when it comes to tube dating!



Flintoff was sure he nicked a fire engine

This week's best of lol catz



Quote of the Week

Arthur Lewis: "The difference between a drunk and a alcoholic is that a drunk doesn't have to attend all those meetings."

Wordoku 1,443

E		G	D			N	
S				G			R
	R		N			O	
		D		O			R
G			E		U		O
	E			D		G	
		E			G		U
N				E			S
	U				D	E	G

Solution 1442

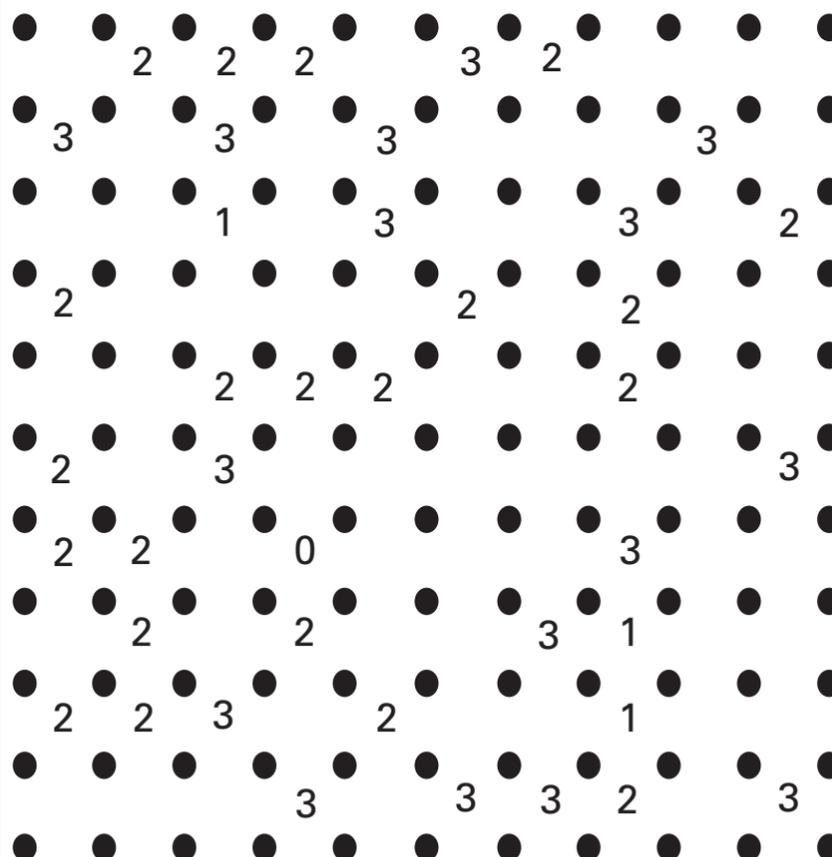
B	O	K	T	Y	D	N	I	R
N	R	Y	K	O	I	T	B	D
D	I	T	B	N	R	K	O	Y
R	N	O	D	B	T	Y	K	I
K	T	I	O	R	Y	D	N	B
Y	D	B	N	I	K	R	T	O
O	Y	D	I	T	N	B	R	K
T	B	R	Y	K	O	I	D	N
I	K	N	R	D	B	O	Y	T

How to play:

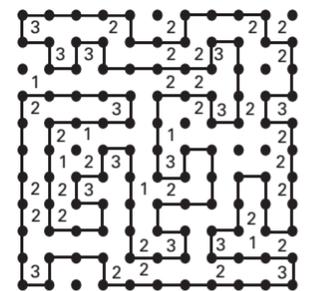
Wordoku is identical to Sudoku; we've just replaced numbers with letters. Complete the puzzle and then send the whole grid to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk. You will not get credit for just the word alone. It's not an anagram.

Scribble box

Slitherlink 1,443



Solution 1442



Slitherlink was hotly contested last week, with many answers filling our mailbox. And for this we thank you, however we commend **Matthew Kelvin's** brilliant (and winning) attempt. Well done.

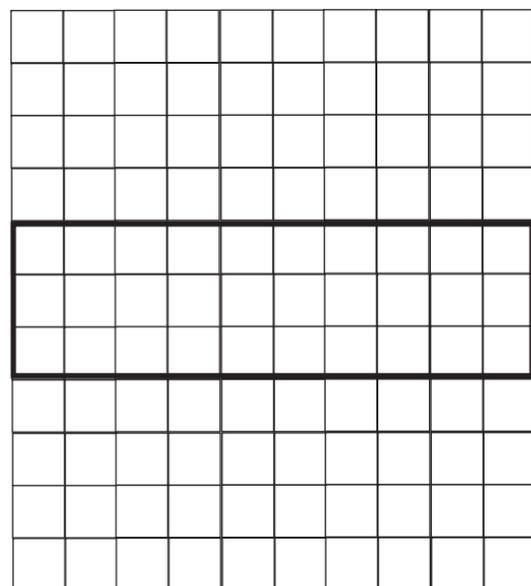
How to play:

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.

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk

COFFEE BREAK

Intersection 1,443

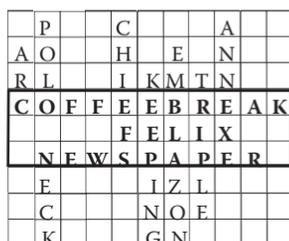


How to play:

Solve the clues (given in order: top-to-bottom & left-to-right) and fit the answers into the grid. Only letters contributing to the horizontal answers (and blank spaces) may occupy the middle section. Not all columns contain a vertical answer. There are no empty rows or columns in the solution.

Below is an example of what a solved grid might look like.

Send your solutions to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Horizontal:

- 1) (An epigynous) fruit (9)
- 2) More senior than commander (7)
- 3) Authoritative or official decision (6)

Vertical:

- 1) Top of head (5)
- 2) Capital of Lebanon (6)
- 3) A muscle (5)
- 4) German mathematician - '___' strip (6)
- 5) To make bigger (8)
- 6) Short refreshing sleep (5,3)

FUCWIT League Table

Teams:

- Harry Potter Trio 29 Points
- The Tough Brets 19 Points
- I Hate Medic scum 9 Points

Individuals:

- Matthew Colvin 32 Points
- Bethan Matthews 24 Points
- Herens Tibaut 12 Points

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

So you get points for doing the puzzles and at the end of the year, the winning team and the winning individual will win an iPod nano!

5 points for the 1st correct answers for all puzzles on these pages, 4 points for 2nd, 3 points for 3rd, 2 points for 4th and 1 point for 5th. Double points will be awarded for cryptic crossword answers.

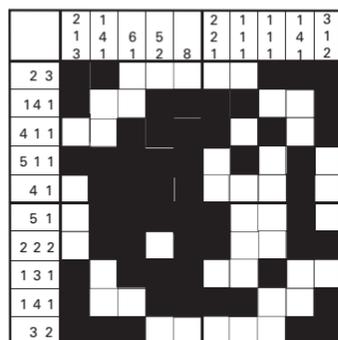
Now then FUCWITs, answers to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk. Go!

Nonogram 1,443

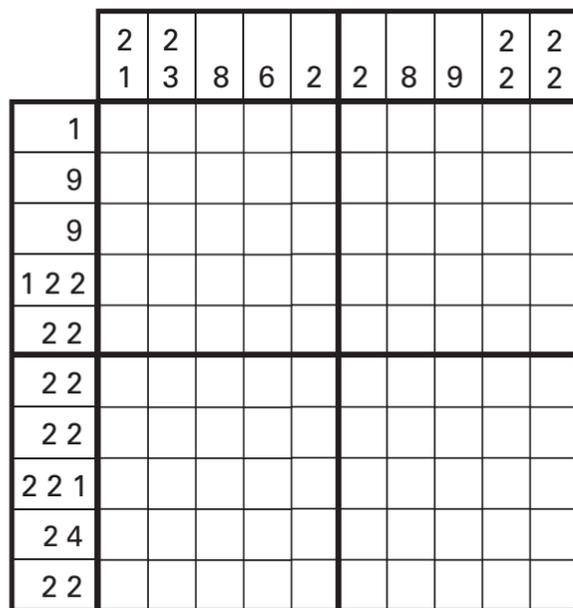
How to play:

The numbers represent the size and order of blocks in each column and row. There must be at least one space between each block. See last week's solution below for more help.

Solution 1442



Well, Nonogram returned last week, and many of you seemed to enjoy it, even though there was no explanation how to do it! So we put one in. I hope that this makes it easier. Winner was **Kelvin Wong**, another new face. Keep sending solution in and we'll keep on making puzzles.



Going Underground

Last week's winner was **Abhimanyu Chugh** a big well done, it's so nice to hear from new people. There were actually two correct answers, WEST ACTON and STOCKWELL, points were awarded for both.

Each letter in the alphabet is assigned a value, 1-26 (see table) and every word has a value equal to sum of the values of its letters. Scan and send the Underground station that is hidden each week to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk

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

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

So which London tube station sums to 176?

_____ = 176

felix Lovestruck

07726 799 424



Seen that special person? Could be *the one*? Want to see them again?

Text **Lovestruck** to get a free union lunch together!

"To the sexiest guy in 3M MechEng: Want to fit your battery cells in my packaging sometime?"

Ginger honey bunny

"To the northern angry-looking SAC monkey, i want to turn your frown and your torso upside down."

Big Wave Dave

"To ACC chair, i want you ball deep in my ass. love xxx"

Your Mum

"You the curious fresher i met at acc. You'd just beaten the medics and you'd had a bit to drink. I know you were bad in bed but i've got loads of

stuff i could teach you! PS sorry for running"

Goring the Labbie

"Saw you in the EEE toilets my dear Adamo. It was HUGE"

Electrical boy

"To biology boy with bike helmet, I know you feel it too, take me out for a spin, I want to ride you..."

Sexy Stalker

"Your mum is bullshit anonymous."

LoveStruck

"To fresher Dave, you may be mark II but i still want to caress your 36.5"

stick with my love nest."

Stumpy

"I think I want to touch you 4th year Materials blond girl. I look at you in lectures and seriously, what the fuck else am I going to do with this thing?"

Banns En Oh

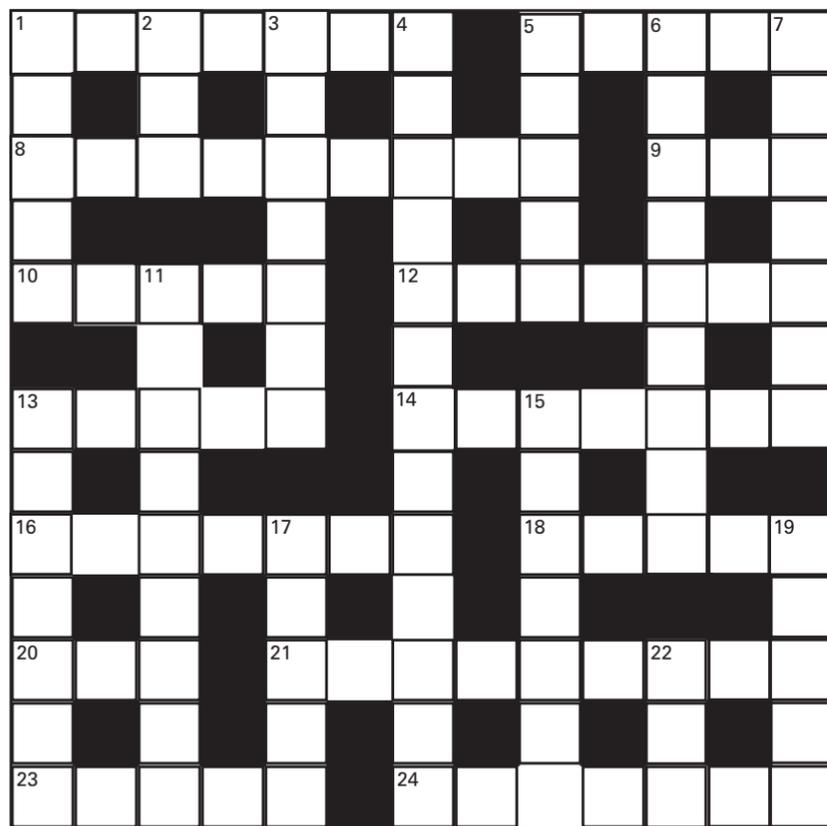
"The grumpy boy in the union last Wednesday at ACC. i found out that your mum was scottish. Want to get her in on the act too?"

Aberdeen Angus

"I was on my period, next week?"

Miss Blobby

A quickie (crossword) 1,443



ACROSS

- 1 Short prose tale (7)
 5 Lanky bird (5)
 8 Where nice ladies may be found, showing us their cans, every day. (4,5)
 9 Can holder (3)
 10 Posh boat (5)
 12 Shetland capital and port - Crew ilk (anag.) (7)
 13 Poetic division (from "La Divinia Commedia")? (5)
 14 Not youngster (7)
 16 Single breast - City on the Avon (7)
 18 Father of modern psychoanalysis (most famous for appearance in "Bill and Ted") (5)
 20 Laboriously haul (3)
 21 May be shortened (9)
 23 Blank verse doesn't... (5)
 24 Boy's underpants, why? (1-6)
- 4 Annual practical joke occasion (5,5,3)
 5 Spread - Stain - Vilify (5)
 6 Medieval dungeon - Elite bout (anag.) (9)
 7 Single testicle - Dealer of broken horses (7)
 11 In a Baldrick-like manner (9)
 13 Single testicle - Shoemaker (7)
 15 Vandal (7)
 17 Severe pang of pain - Agonising struggle (5)
 19 Atkins, F-plan, Weight Watchers, Fat Fighters? (5)
 22 Single buttock - bread roll (3)

DOWN

- 1 Bitingly cold (5)
 2 Celery and potatoes and carrots and that (3)
 3 Allow something to pass - "Jesus, Weej - for the last time I am not

going to suck you off. No, forget about it; just _____, or I am calling the filth. Stick it up your arse!" (3,2,2)

Solution 1442



Scribble box

A nice little quickie for you this week, lots of answers in last week – please keep them coming. Big hand and much admiration to **Matthew Kelvin** for another winning puzzle this week. One more and you get to keep the match ball! As usual wing answers to: sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Crossword by **Peter Logg**

Morrow-scopes! Horoscopes, but now subsequent

Prepare for the ride of your life. Aquarius through to Capricorn. Strap yourself in. Not too tightly though



Aquarius

Sodomy, necrophilia, genital mutilation, paedophilia, bestiality - you've taken the heights of sordidness into the strato-

sphere. 'Gratz mate you've been accepted into the Guinness Book Of Records for 'The most twisted cunt in the world'. How about retiring to the country now? Nah, your not finished, no one's fucked a mummified corpse yet...



Pisces

Well, you touched a little kid did you? Fucking hell, first anal beads, now little kids? I was wondering why you

bought a baby bottle and were cutting off the top and replacing it with a condom. That's fucking disgusting but innovative. The Royal Engineering Society decided they'll give you their top prize for innovative science this week.



Aries

So this guy picks me up and takes a bite out of me. Now I'm a BLT, a pretty bitchin' sandwich if I might say. I look into his

mouth where he's contently chewing a mouthful of me. Eugh! Close your gob you freak, fucking brace-face, I'm going to throw up mayonnaise all over your shitty clothes. I hate being a library cafe sandwich, it's full of horrible losers.



Taurus

Hey Mr Engineer! Enjoying your mega cockfest ball? Checking out the talent I see. Don't even bother trying

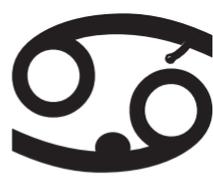
to impress the only good looking girl with your knowledge of fluid mechanics, she does Biology you twat. That leaves you with the obvious dike in the corner, go home now and have a group wank with your bridge building wanker mates.



Gemini

You go to Tescos and buy a sandwich. You join a long and tedious queue for the self-service check-outs. You finally get your

till. You press 'start'. You look for your barcode. FUCK WHERE'S THE BARCODE!? Everyone is staring at you and shaking their head. You never find the barcode. That's because it's your penis in your hand. Dirty pervert.



Cancer

His name is Bobby, ooh ohh, Bobby de Niro, aah aah, he's a lovely person, ooh ooh, and a very good actor, aah aah. But when he's

not acting, it is said he is boring, but I do not believe this, it is you who is boring. Fuck! people have got to get some chat soon. If I hear "you know you're at Imperial when..." once more I'm going to shove a kitten through a wood chipper.



Leo

You made the mistake of asking Osama Bin Laden how he made his halloween costume last week. Turns out it wasn't a costume. The

Taliban are out to get you, with bazookas and everything. They're gonna catch up with you and cause you and your family unfamiliar amounts of misery. You'll cry. Bin Laden doesn't like crying. He gouges out your eyeballs and uses them as his own.



Virgo

So you come home one night and find a girl passed out on your bathroom floor. Your moral conscience plays havoc with you.

Her tights *are* already ripped, but then they *do* smell. Wait a minute, is she dressed as a Michael Jackson? This is far too confusing for you to deal with; where's the heroin? Can't find a vein this time, sonny? Those blue lights were your idea.



Libra

You brand your new invention BabyBlowJobs. You've even got a website. Well done you. You take the BabyBlowJob

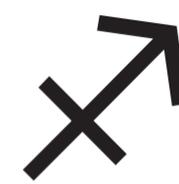
onto Dragon's Den, and Theo Paphitis does not like your invention one bit. "It's just not something I think my kids would enjoy. For that reason, I'm out." Deborah shows some vague interest, but realises you're just a disgusting c*nt.



Scorpio

You spot a bear in the garden, grab a gun and shoot the bear. You call to your son to say it's safe to come down. Another bear roars down the

stairs and you blow it's head off too. Suddenly bears leap out of a police car, you shoot and shoot but there are too many. They knock you down and ask why you're shooting everyone. You realise you're a bear, a fucking hot lady bear too. Kinky.



Sagittarius

I'm sorry but ultimate frisbee is not a sport. I mean, for fucks sake a dog can play it! Please stop spamming my inbox with 20 shitty

emails a day, I don't care if the 'disk doctors' are having wicked party tonight with their crazy drinking games. I only joined the mailing list because I pitied you. Admit it, you want to wear a skirt and play netball with the other gilies.



Capricorn

Thirty minutes till the deadline! Need a printer! All computers are taken up by fuck-ups playing WOW! Smack a fuck-up! Get thrown out

of library! 15 minutes! Use girlfriend's computer! Girlfriend's shagging best mate! Smack best mate! Best mate is harder than you! Best mate fucks you up! Deadline missed! Year failed! Smack small child! Get arrested! Get gaoled! Life Over!!!!!! Pint!

Aunty McPickle is sick of you disgusting people. Eurgh

Dear Aunty McPickle,

One night last week, I met this girl who was super hot and very very keen. We went back to mine and without any encouragement she undressed and said sternly "lets just do it". I could hardly believe my luck and gleefully fell into bed.

She decided to go all deep throat and again I was feeling pretty happy, until she literally started to gag and choke. Before I jump to safety, she was spaghetti-sick all over my groin-al districts. It was terrible. I immediately sent her on her way and have since had a lot of trouble with hunger and sexual arousal.



Usually spaghetti's quite an appealing prospect after a night out, but not when it's spewing out your girlfriend's mouth and onto your pubes

What can I do?

Maximus Lupus

Dear Max,

I would avoid eating spaghetti for a good while. Maybe you should try to get over your trauma by trying expressing it in art. It's a pretty modern concept and sure to ruffle some feathers if the girl in question recognises the mess. Hopefully with time you will dissociate yourself from this horrific memory.

Yours, Aunty McPickle xxx

Dear Aunty McPickle,

I was in ethos the other day on a gym date with this girl I have liked for ages. I was trying to impress her by lifting some hefty weights, when the old man in front of me bent down and farted in my mouth. It literally tasted of macaroni cheese and I had to stop myself from retching. The girl however seemed to read this suppressed retch face as guilty and has since not so much as smiled in my direction. HELP!

Gerhard Guffster

Dear Gerhard,

I hope this wasn't also when the air conditioning was kaputt at ethos? Mmmmm the best thing might be to just move on.

If it really smelt that bad, I doubt she'll be able to forget and explaining it will just further incriminate you.

Sorry.

Aunty McPickle xxx

Dear Aunty McPickle,

I have a problem with Sambuca. I seem to get drunk and then completely forget that I shouldn't drink it. It gives me complete impotence and is obviously pretty embarrassing. What excuse can I give for not drinking it? I hate my life.

Regards,
Spencer

Hi Spencer,

Drinking too much alcohol can affect

your ability to get and maintain an erection (often called 'brewer's droop'). In the longer term, it interferes with the production of testosterone, which can reduce your libido.

I suggest you watch your drinking in general and maybe try to particularly avoid spirits such as Sambuca.

You could just blame it on an intolerance or allergy. If the problem doesn't go away you should consider going to see the GP.

Aunty McPickle xxx

Harass commuters with RAG!

Do you know those really annoying people at Tube stations waving their collection buckets in your face, while asking you for change? Those wacky altruists who expect you to donate some of your hard-earned student loan to a good cause? Well now's your chance to become one of them!

RAG has secured many permits for Tube stations all around London! You go out in groups and harass rich Lon-

doners for their money!

Our confirmed collections include our beloved South Ken Station, as well as around and outside the Emirates Stadium before an Arsenal-Chelsea Match, and includes free food in the hospitality area.

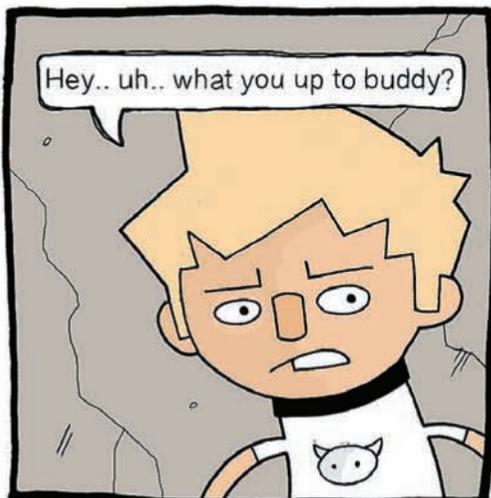
Our collection permits for our other dates last all day, but you all have lives, so if you could spare even two hours, that'd be more than enough.

If you're interested in taking part, email us at rag@ic.ac.uk.



When?	What time?	Where?	Charity	Collectors
Sat, 7th Nov	All day	Marylebone Rail Station	Crisis	6 max
Thurs, 19th Nov	All day	Bond Street Tube	Great Ormond St Hospital	2 max
Sat, 7th Nov	All day	South Kensington Tube	Great Ormond St Hospital	2 max
Sun, 29th Nov	2pm - 4pm	Arsenal Emirates Stadium	Great Ormond St Hospital	The more the merrier!
Sat, 5th Dec	All day	Old Street Tube	Broadway Homelessness & Support	2 max

ANDY PANDA



ANDYPANDA.CO.UK

Silverware at Team Trophy

Continued from Back Page

through the first half of the competition in a similar vein, winning all of their matches and coming out tops.

After a lunch break which involved a lot of impromptu napping, the Direct Elimination (DE) rounds got underway. IC Epee crushed their quarter-final opponents 45-16, then held firm in their semi to win 45-34 and book a place in the final against the LTFC 2nd team.

The foilists had lost Colin for the afternoon, but this didn't stop them. After emulating the epeeists in the quarter-final (45-16), they reversed a deficit to win their semi-final against Wimbledon 43-37 and make sure both Imperial College teams were in their



Imperial Fencers are all smiles after a successful day at the office

respective finals.

The epee final was a hard-fought affair, the Italians and Gilhead never leading by more than a couple of points.

With the score at 43-41 to Imperial College with 15 seconds to go, Colombino dropped two hits and the score was tied at 43-a-piece at the end of regular time.

A minute's extra time followed, with the first person to hit declared winner. After a somewhat messy sequence, Colombino's opponent West managed to score a remise, and it was all over.

A couple of pistes over, the foil final between Imperial and ULU was in full swing. Despite a poor initial bout from the captain, losing 5-1, Gilhead and Shaw produced some fine fencing to catch up and overtake their opponents.

By the time the final bout came round, it was just a question of wrapping things up. Final score: 45-35

Two medals, some good fencing and a whole lot of confidence: IC fencing's hopes are high for this season.



FIXTURES & RESULTS



in association with Sports Partnership

Saturday 31st October Football (ULU)

Men's 1s	UCL 2s
Men's 2s	Royal Holloway 2s
Men's 3s	London South Bank University 1s

Squash

Men's 1st	University of Birmingham 1st
Men's 1st	Loughborough University 1st

Sunday 1st November Rugby (ULU)

Women's 1s	UCL 1s
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Squash

Men's 1st	University of Bristol 1st
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Monday 2nd November Basketball (ULU)

Women's 1s	Goldsmiths 1s
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Netball (ULU)

Reserve Cup	Women's 3s	Imperial College Medicals 3s
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Women's 4s	King's College Medicals 2s
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Squash (ULU)

Men's 4s	UCL 3s
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Water Polo (ULU)

Mixed 1s	Imperial College Medicals Mixed 1s
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Wednesday 4th November Badminton

Men's 1st	LSE 1st	
Men's 2nd	Queen Mary 1st	
Basketball	Men's 1st	London South Bank University 2nd
Fencing	Men's 2nd	University of Portsmouth 1st
	Men's 3rd	City University London 1st
	Women's 2nd	King's College 1st
Football	Men's 1st	University of Chichester 2nd
	Men's 2nd	Canterbury Christ Church Uni. 4th
	Men's 3rd	Universities at Medway 2nd
	Women's 1st	Middlesex University 1st
ULU	Men's 4s	King's College 4s
	Men's 5s	UCL 6s
	Men's 6s	Royal Veterinary College 2s
	Men's 7s	Imperial Medicals 4s
Golf	Men's 1st	LSE 1st

Hockey

Men's 1st	Brunel University West London 1st
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Men's 3rd	Royal Holloway 2nd
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Women's 1st	Brunel University West London 2nd
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Women's 2nd	University of Sussex 2nd
-------------	--------------------------

Netball

Women's 1st	Middlesex University 1st
-------------	--------------------------

Women's 3rd	LSE 3rd
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Rugby

Men's 1st	University of Chichester 1st
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Men's 2nd	Royal Veterinary College 1st
-----------	------------------------------

Men's 3rd	King's College Medicals 2nd
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Squash

Men's 2nd	Brunel University West London 1st
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Men's 4th	University of Reading 2nd
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Table Tennis

Men's 1st	Brunel University West London 1st
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Tennis

Men's 1st	University of Brighton 1st
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Tennis

Men's 2nd	University of Essex 1st
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Women's 1st	Brunel University West London 1st
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Saturday 7th November Football (ULU)

Men's 2s vs SOAS 1s
Men's 3s vs LSE 3s
Men's 4s vs St Barts 2s
Men's 6s vs King's College 5s
Men's 7s vs St George's 3s

Basketball (ULU)

Men's 1s vs Queen Mary 1s

Sunday 8th November Football (ULU)

Women's 1s vs St George's 1s

Lacrosse (ULU)

Mixed 1s vs Royal Holloway Mixed 2s

Rugby (ULU)

Women's 1s vs St George's 1s

Monday 9th November Basketball (ULU)

Women's 1s vs London South Bank University 1s

Netball (ULU)

Women's 2s vs Imperial College Medicals 3s
Women's 3s vs Royal Veterinary College 3s
Women's 4s vs King's College 5s

Tuesday 10th November Squash (ULU)

Women's 1s vs Imperial College Medicals 1s
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Wednesday 11th November Badminton

Men's 1st vs University of Kent 1st
Women's 1st vs University of Chichester 1st

Basketball

Men's 1st vs Canterbury Christ Church University 1st
Women's 1st vs St George's 1st

Fencing

Men's 2nd vs University of Surrey 1st
Men's 3rd vs Queen Mary 1st
Women's 2nd vs City University London 1st

Football

Men's 1st vs University of Surrey Men's 1st
Men's 2nd vs University of Greenwich 3rd
Men's 3rd vs University of the Arts London 3rd
Women's 1st vs Roehampton University 1st
ULU
Men's 7s vs St George's 3s

Hockey

Men's 1st vs St Mary's University College 1st
Men's 2nd vs King's College, London 2nd
Men's 3rd vs University of Reading 4th
Men's 4th vs University of Portsmouth 4th
Women's 1st vs University of Reading 1st
Women's 2nd vs Imperial College Medicals 2nd

ULU

Men's 5s vs Royal School of Mines 1s

Lacrosse

Men's 1st vs Royal Holloway 1st
Women's 1st vs University of Portsmouth 1st

Netball

Women's 1st vs LSE 1st
Women's 2nd vs Roehampton University 2nd
Women's 3rd vs City University London 1st

Rugby

Men's 1st vs University of Portsmouth Men's 1st
Men's 2nd vs UCL 1st
Men's 3rd vs Imperial College Medicals 3rd
Men's 4th vs Anglia Ruskin University 1st
Women's 1st vs Middlesex University 1st

Squash

Men's 1st vs Leeds Metropolitan Carnegie 1st
Men's 2nd vs University of Surrey 1st
Men's 3rd vs City University London 1st
Men's 4th vs University of Surrey 2nd
Women's 1st vs UCL 1st

Table Tennis

Men's 1st vs University of Kent 1st

Tennis

Men's 2nd vs UCL 3rd
Women's 1st vs LSE 1st



Jovan Nedić: Undue Pressure Hinders Performance

Imperial beat the Medics. If you play sport at Imperial, this sentence is not so much of a shock, as the vast majority of our teams regularly beat them; the Football Club don't even put out their 1st team against the Medics at Varsity. What is surprising, is that this headline is now associated with the Rugby 1st team, as shown in last week's issue.

For years we have been trying to get one over the old enemy, yet time and time again we fail to perform and end up getting more and more agitated that we were unable to beat them. First of all, let's just put into context the recent 13-6 win for Imperial. As already mentioned, Imperial have not beaten the Medics for several years now, in fact, the last time the 1st XV beat them was in the Gutteridge Cup Final (ULU Cup) in 2004. That is just before I even started at Imperial, whilst the majority of you were probably learning how to approach and talk to a girl (admittedly, for some of you, this didn't even happen then but probably occurred quite a few years later!).

In recent years, the game has been close, with the last two Varsity encounters both going into extra time - both times, Imperial were in the lead and then lost it at the end. The same can be said for the 2nd and 3rd XV, whose games are just as close (I have to point out that the 3rd team have managed to beat their opposition on one occasion). Even the Old Boys' team had a chance a few weeks ago, and the same thing happened then as it did when they were students; to put it bluntly, they bottled it.

This is the crux of the matter when the Imperial rugby teams play the Medics, their nerves get the better of



Imperial's forward dominance of their own scrums gave the impressive backline time to attack the medics

them. Thanks to live reporting talents of an old club captain, by this I mean regular e-mails during the game, I was able to follow the match from Poitiers in France. Below is the transcript of one of his emails:

"13-6
Godfrey pen...I say it again...they are only in the game cos of the pens. Our boys are looking a bit nervy."

My heart almost sank when I saw that last sentence. The one thing that has let us down time and time again are our nerves, and I was hoping the

same wouldn't happen again. Luckily, they held out to the end and came away as the victors.

The problem we have is a simple one. Whenever Imperial play the Medics, there is a lot of hype, a huge build-up lasting several weeks with people saying such things as "We must beat them" and "This is the only game that matters this season". As a result, a lot of pressure is put on the players to perform and get out of the rut that they have been in for nearly six years, and as we have seen, sometimes nerves get the better of you. This is what I don't

really understand, why is so much hype and expectation put on the games against the medics? Do you think the same amount of pressure was put on the players for this weeks game against Chichester Men's 1st?

Without the pressure to win, players are more relaxed and end up playing to a better standard than if they were nervous. This is the same for any sport; take the Football Club who, like I have already mentioned, don't even put out their 1st team against the Medics at Varsity. Instead, what they do is let the leavers play and the atmosphere is a lot

more relaxed with people having fun. Alternatively, you don't want them to be too relaxed otherwise they won't perform well again. It is finding that balance of being relaxed yet, at the same time, having the desire to beat the opposition that is the key.

I have already heard muttering about Varsity and how the recent win means that things should be a lot better for IC this year. Bollocks! Forget about Varsity, it's four months away! A lot of things can happen in that time. In fact, it would probably be best if the

"Why is so much hype and expectation put on the games against the medics?"

players forgot about the win all together, for now, and focused on each game individually. The one thing that they should take away is confidence. They need to believe that they are good enough to beat any opposition that comes up against them. The same applies to all the other sports, this includes you Netball girls out there who I know have been having the same problem as the rugby club with respect to beating the Medics. Never ever think that your opponent is better than you, otherwise they WILL get the better of you. Be strong and confident in your abilities and everything will work out. And most of all, forget about Varsity.

Girls, Weed, Booze... And a Little bit of Sailing

Continued from Back Page

With this in mind we were expecting to lose the game and finish with a resounding last, but with our first couple of races we saw that each member of the new Imperial Team had the skill to win races, we just needed to work together as a team to get the results.

Large amounts of weed at the first mark gave us our first win against ULU 3rds when Devin Goonewardena aggressively forced a ULU boat right into it, taking them out of the race and giving us a one boat advantage to go on for an easy win.

Our aggressive tactics paid off until we started pushing things too far and our commodore, Gavin MacAulay collided with another boat and received a

penalty for his careless actions.

Our overall position was a respectable 4th out of 6. Unfortunately our clubhouse bar had been drunk dry the previous Wednesday for the Pirate themed Social, so we couldn't celebrate in a fitting manner.

Sunday brought more racing and much more wind. A series of 10 short, fast races took place and an F1 style high scoring system was implemented. Imperial's very own Michelle Ryder came 2nd out of the 12 boats present, sailing well in the challenging conditions.

The Foot proved to be a good warm up for our next event- the Welsh Dragon, where we will have to listen to all the Welsh men moan about the male/sheep ratio.



Imperial Sailors fight for water at the first event of the year: The "Foot Trophy"



Ultimate Frisbee success in Hatfield

Pierre McCarthy Ultimate Frisbee

Last weekend Imperial College's Ultimate Frisbee Team, the discDoctors (dD), went to Hatfield for the Indoor Regionals.

dD1 got off to a good start, comfortably winning their pool, conceding only a handful of points on the way. dD2 and dD3 had a tougher time in the group stages, but fought valiantly against talented opposition.

Later on in the day things started to get interesting.

dD1 were aiming for a top 3 spot to qualify for the Division 1 Nationals, while dD2 and dD3 were looking to win matches against more evenly matched opponents.

dD1 played the Mowhawks, representing the University of Sussex in a very competitive and evenly matched 2 vs 3 game which the Mowhawks went on to win 8-6.

Disappointed about losing for the first time of the day, dD1 came out of the blocks strongly during their next game against the Surrey Scorpions, taking a 5-0 lead.

What followed was a calamity of er-

rors, and an improvement in Surrey's performance, which led to Surrey coming back to 6-6. Fortunately dD1 pulled it out of the bag on sudden death, winning 7-6.

dD2 and dD3 were enjoying themselves more against more evenly matched opponents and won their games to set up a dD2 vs dD3 final for The Spoon.

An enjoyable match produced great performances from the freshers and experienced players, with dD2 sneaking in a couple of extra scores to win.

dD1 then played Surrey Scorpions again in a 3 vs 4 game which would determine whether dD1 would qualify for the Division 1 or Division 2 Nationals.

The Scorpions came out stronger in this tie, and both teams were trading points in another tight game.

After the final buzzer, Surrey had emerged 7-6 victors placing dD1 in fourth.

dD1 are looking forward to proving their worth in the Division 2 Nationals in Manchester in a couple of weeks time. All three discDoctors teams emerged with an award, dD2 winning the Spoon, dD3 winning the prize for Best Spirit of the Game.



Warm up at The Foot

Chris O'Donnell Sailing

The weekend beginning 24th saw the first event of the Sailing Club calendar, and the first event for the new sailing team - The "Foot Trophy". It was hosted by The Castaways, known as Alumni to the non-initiated, from University of London sailing club.

The weekend was split up into team racing on the first day, which for those who don't know, consists of two teams of three boats racing against each other

in a low point scoring system, the team with the lowest points wins the race and the team that wins the most races, wins the event.

The second day was taken up with fleet racing where every man and woman sails for themselves.

Our main competitors were the current ULU teams, who were previous winners of BUSA, the nationwide University team racing league, and the Castaway team, the guys who won it.

Continued on Page 39

Fencers mean business

Indy Leclercq Fencing

The Fencing men's 1sts got their season off to a bright start last Saturday at the London Team Trophy, organised by the University of London Union fencing club.

Open to all fencers in the capital, the field was made up of universities (such as UCL and ULU), and clubs (including The London Thames Fencing Club and Saxon) for a total of 42 teams.

The Imperial foil team emerged victorious and the Epee team lost the final by a single hit after extra time.

Despite not being at their most rested (due to various amounts of Halloween festivities the previous night), the four foilists (Colin Auclair, Ed Collier, Rob Shaw & Indy Leclercq) and three epeeists (Marcello Colombino, Alessandro Costamagna & Ed Gilhead) turned up at the crack of dawn (O.K 0930 GMT) all fired up and ready to win.

The first team is in the premiership

this year, and this was the first chance to test the new teams out before the BUCS matches to be held in December.

Sluggish starts notwithstanding, the top-seeded foilists raced through their poule of four, laying waste to their more modest opponents and taking less than 45 hits over the three matches.

They ended up ranked first after poules, and in good shape for the knockout round. The epeeists got

Continued on Page 38