



felix

The award-winning student newspaper of Imperial College

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Green Week 2009

A 4 page feature focusing on being green this week, pages 21 - 24



This week....

Green science: butterflies, pollution and re-wilding



Science, Pages 8-10

Business debate: money and environment



Business, Page 11

Eco-technology: can it save the planet?



Technology, Page 27

Fashion: the green LudGateway



Fashion, Pages 30-31



Chopped?

As Sir Roy Anderson exits under questionable circumstances, Sir Keith O'Nions is lined up as Acting Rector, page 3



May Harlington remain green

Joanna Cai News Reporter

Imperial's Harlington Sports Ground played host to a surprise celebratory gathering on Thursday 12th when Sir Roy Anderson visited to honour and thank some special members of staff.

These staff members at Harlington have collectively cumulated over 100 years of service at the Ground: Mick Reynolds (Grounds Manager); Phil Ramsdale (Grounds Supervisor); Keith Cooper (Assistant Groundsman) and Anne Reynolds (Pavillion Supervisor), who is Mick's wife.

They were all presented with "Harlington 100" tankards and enjoyed flutes of champagne as they cast their minds back to a particular Rugby season in which Sir Roy himself took up the sport at Imperial.

Mick, who is the longest server at the Ground, told us: "Working here I see a lot of new faces and it's very nice to see some old faces too; Sir Roy, for instance. His first Rugby season was mine too." Sir Roy added: "My first visit here was as a student in 1965, for rugby trials, and it's great to be back.

"From my personal experience I know sports are a very important part of life at the College. We've got an excellent record for sports facilities here and that's due to our dedicated and experienced sports staff".

The Harlington Ground consists of ten football pitches, three rugby pitches and a floodlit hockey AstroTurf, amongst other training grounds and gym facilities. It acts as the evergreen home turf for the Queens Park Rangers FC, who took over from Chelsea in July 2005, and Imperial students benefit from access to the QPR's coaches.

A number of production and broadcasting companies have also used the grounds to film TV ads and do photo-shoots. Clients have included the BBC



Imperial Medics battle Imperial College at Harlington Sports Ground every year

(Football World Cup ads), Umbro, Adidas and The Guardian.

It was previously feared that the Ground, located near Heathrow Airport, would fall victim to the plans to build a third runway which would have seen the whole area and its neighbouring village of Sipson wiped off the map.

After the airport operator BAA announced plans to expand Heathrow, over a decade ago, protestors from 'Camp for Climate Change' took over Harlington and set-up what they called a "temporary eco-village". This dramatic show of opposition against the destruction of Harlington Sports Ground, and also against the overall environmental damage caused by

aviation, took place in August 2007.

For the moment, it would seem that the Heathrow expansion plans have come to a halt as BAA has decided not to submit its planning application for the third runway until after the general election.

If the Conservatives were to form the next government, it is very likely that a third runway would not be built at all, as the Conservatives have made their opposition to the Heathrow expansion very clear.

Either way, Conservative or Labour, let us hope that the Harlington Sports Ground will be the base of many more green and great university memories to come.

The world beyond College walls



China

American President Barack Obama was in Beijing and Shanghai this week, as part of his Asian tour encompassing Japan, South Korea, Singapore and China.

He held two hours of talks with his Chinese counterpart Mr. Hu Jintao, in Beijing's Great Hall of the People. The two leaders agreed to work together to tackle some of the world's problems, including climate change, North Korea's nuclear program, and the economy.

Mr. Obama urged a reluctant China to let the yuan rise in value, at a time when the US dollar is hitting a new low against other currencies. President Hu emphasized the need to avoid trade protectionism – a thinly veiled reference to the US's recent imposition of import tariffs on Chinese tyres and steel pipes. Both countries agreed that a strong commitment to fighting climate change is necessary at the Copenhagen meeting, which will gather the world's leaders this December in an attempt to tackle the issue.

Earlier, Mr. Obama was in Shanghai for a question and answer session with Chinese students. When asked what he thought about China's Great Firewall (i.e. the censoring of media by the central government), Mr. Obama replied that he supported freedom expression everywhere. Ironically, the session was only broadcast in Shanghai.



Italy

The United Nations global food summit was held in Rome, assembling leaders from all over the world.

The UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, said in his opening speech that the world production will have to increase by 70% to satisfy the demand of 9.1 billion people in 2050, and stressed that meeting this challenge was linked to solving the problems of climate change. Many experts worry that many of the world's least developed countries will suffer devastating famines before then.

At the summit, Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe accused Western countries – his 'neo-colonial enemies' – of trying to make Zimbabwe dependent on food imports by pursuing 'ruinous policies'. Many of Zimbabwe's farms are failing after extensive land-redistribution reforms. Meanwhile, Libya's leader Colonel Gaddafi paid 200 glamour girls (who had been selected on criteria such as age, height and beauty), to attend a reception in a plush residential area of Rome. To their surprise, their host, Mr. Gaddafi, gave them a long talk on how to convert to Islam and handed each of them a copy of the Koran.



United States

Last week, the House of Representatives narrowly passed a health care reform bill, the first time in generations that either chamber of Congress has managed to do so.

The Affordable Health Care for America Act garnered 220 votes in favour, and 215 votes against. This was a narrow victory for the democrats, 39 of whom joined the dissenting ranks. A controversial clause limiting subsidized health insurance for abortions was introduced to ensure the support of the more conservative representatives. The Act would make it compulsory, on pain of a fine, for all legal residents to have health insurance, and for all but the smallest firms to provide it for employees or contribute to a federal fund. That would extend coverage to around 36m citizens (the exact number depends on how many will opt just to pay the fine) who are now uninsured. Government subsidies and the creation of a national exchange would make premiums more affordable to smaller firms and poorer individuals. Insurance companies would gain millions of new customers, but they would also face new rules mandating more generous terms.

A similar bill is now being debated in the Senate. If this too passes, the two versions can then be reconciled before being signed into law. Reform is much needed to tackle America's rising health care costs, which now account for a stunning 16% of GDP, and rising.

By Raphael Houdmont, International Editor

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Sir Roy Anderson resigns as Rector

As the Rector drops a bombshell on the College's staff and students this week, **Kadhim Shubber** and **Dan Wan** report on the circumstances surrounding Sir Roy's sudden and hasty exit from Imperial's top job

In a sudden announcement only 16 months after becoming Rector, Sir Roy Anderson has resigned. Despite stating in an email on Monday that he wished to spend more time on research, questions are being asked about the circumstances surrounding his departure.

The decision was announced on Monday in an email sent to students and staff, followed swiftly by an email from Lord John Kerr, Chairman of College Council, in which he publicly accepted the resignation with "deep regret". However, rumours had been circulating before these announcements, with the TimesHigherEducation tweeting on the morning of Friday 13th November: "Big announcement from Imperial College due on Monday. Rumour mill in overdrive..."

Sir Roy recently cancelled his monthly

meeting with Union President Ashley Brown on the 9th November as well as an interview with *felix* on the 2nd November.

On the same day that the Rector cancelled his meeting with the Union President, 9th November, a session of College Council was held. Union President Ashley Brown explained "The President is invited to attend all sessions of College Council except when staffing matters are being discussed, and I wasn't invited to that meeting".

The College have confirmed that the Council were notified on the 2nd November before he officially tendered his resignation on the 9th, when the 'staffing matters' were being discussed at Council. College officials have also stated Head of Departments were notified by Faculty Principals as late as the day before Mon-

day the 16th.

Sir Roy will formally leave his post on the 31st of December and Sir Keith O'Nions will take up the position until a new Rector is found. However, Sir Roy's day-to-day duties at Imperial are expected to be scaled back with the recently appointed Deputy Rector, Professor Stephen Richardson picking up some of the slack. "I do expect to be busy as Sir Roy winds down at the end of this year and prepares to hand over to Sir Keith but being busy is just part of an academic career... and I'm looking forward to getting stuck in" he told *felix*. The promotion of Professor Richardson, reported in last week's *felix*, was seen as a strong hint of Sir Roy's imminent resignation.

The impact of Sir Roy's sudden resignation is likely to become more apparent over the coming weeks but it'll do little to help push forward Imperial's many initiatives. "There's a long list of things that need attention, which is going to be more difficult now. I can't see there being much progress between now and December," says Ashley Brown.

Brown also indicated that he doesn't expect to be dealing with the outgoing Rector, but rather with Prof. Richardson until Sir Keith O'Nions arrives in January. He announced this to Monday's Union Council, stating that it puts the Union in a "weird position" with the upper hierarchy of College. However, College have stated an official line that it is "largely business as usual" with only "some shifts to activities and duties" in the transition period before the Acting Rector arrives.

There seems to be concerning elements of immediacy and reshuffling to

Profiling the Acting Rector

Sir Keith O'Nions' academic record is scattered across the globe; undergraduate degree from Nottingham, PhD from Alberta, and became a Postdoctoral Fellow in Oslo. Other posts he has held is Professor of Geochemistry at Oxford and of Geology at Columbia University in New York.

Other major roles he has held include becoming the Chief Scientific Advisor to the Ministry of Defence, and Director-General of the Research Councils. In July 2008, Sir Keith joined Imperial to lead the Institute for Security Science and Technology. **Sathyan Balaji**



Sir Roy's exit that have got the College's staff and students talking. It has resulted in many rumours circulating around College regarding the Rector's departure. It is clear that his explanation for leaving - wanting to focus more on research - has convinced few people at Imperial. The rumours largely stem from the Rector's short time on the job and the fact that he had continued to advise the government and get involved in research during his time as Rector. Some believe that he was unable to push forward his vision for the university, and there are signs that Sir Roy and Lord Kerr had disagreed on a range of issues including Imperial's response for cuts in public funding.

Some have even suggested that he is leaving in order to distance himself from the staff cuts in Humanities and

Medicine departments. University and College Union, who represent a portion of teaching staff at Imperial, stated that "We hope that Sir Roy Anderson's replacement will use the opportunity of coming to a new role to look again at plans for serious and damaging cuts. We look forward to engaging with Sir Keith O'Nions as soon as possible."

College Council are now due to set up a selection committee but it's not known how long the search for a new Rector will take. The search for a rector usually begins around 10 months before the end of the incumbent's contract; obviously in this case, there has been significantly less advance warning. The Rector of Imperial is the second highest paid Rector position in the U.K; Sir Roy's salary is £370,000 a year.

Sir Roy's peppered past :

This is not the first time Sir Roy has left a job in questionable circumstances. Whilst Linacre professor of Zoology at Oxford, he was placed on gardening leave for two months and subsequently given a vote of no confidence by his department. This came after he accused a colleague of sleeping her way to her position within the university. The researchers during his professorship criticised his management style of "autocratic" and that it caused "very deep" divisions within the department. Further investigations led him to resign from his professorship and as Trustee of the Wellcome Trust; the latter in which he was found to have unfair financial influences.



As a leading adviser to the Government regarding swine flu, he was publically criticised for his conflicting interests as a £116k.p.a. board member of GlaxoSmithKline, one of the main pharmaceutical companies producing a flu vaccine. His strategic mass culling of livestock during the Foot and Mouth disease outbreak was also heavily questioned and described as "scientifically unjustified".

How the rumour mill started spinning...

<p>2nd November : Rector cancels a scheduled interview with <i>felix's</i> Business Editor a few days before it is to take place. Interview could not be rescheduled.</p>	<p>9th November: Union President Ashley Brown unusually omitted from College Council meeting & Rector also cancels monthly meeting with Brown.</p>	<p>10th November: Speculation about the College's upper hierarchy mounts as Prof. Stephen Richardson is appointed as Deputy Rector; a position left unfilled since September 2007.</p>	<p>13th November: Times Higher Education Twitter feed hints at upcoming news, saying "Big announcement from Imperial College due on Monday. Rumour mill in overdrive..."</p>	<p>16th November 5.29am: After unknown insiders give clues on their discussion forums, Live! correctly pre-empt an official announcement from the Rector later that morning.</p>	<p>16th November 11.30am: Imperial College staff and students are sent an official announcement from the Rector stating his desire to return to academic research</p>
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10

The usual number of months it takes College to appoint a new Rector

16

The number of months Sir Roy Anderson was Imperial's Rector

£2 million revamp but do we deserve it?

Alice Rowlands Reporter

On Tuesday 17th November, ICU President, Ashley Brown, met with College's Portfolio Review Board to discuss funding for phase 3 of the union redevelopment. Phases 1 & 2 have been relatively dull for the average student; phase 1 saw a new lift and dodgy wiring being fixed in the union and phase 2 was responsible for the union offices and the student activities centre being moved up a few floors and a new gym in the union. Phase 3 is set to be completed in time for freshers week 2010 and includes major changes to the area dearest to students' hearts; the bar! The union bar is likely to be largely unchanged; neatening up the floor and ceiling as well as installing air conditioning.

Meanwhile, Da Vinci's and dB's both look set for a radical overhaul; regarding the current configuration of the bars Ashley told felix: "The problem with da Vinci's is that it's just too nar-

row, the lino floors are horrible and the catering area is a complete waste of space in the evening, reducing the useable length of the bar." When asked about the furniture in da Vinci's, introduced in a minor refurbishment in 2006, Ashley agreed they're not really fit for purpose and are far less robust than hoped- the tendency for legs to fall off the tables isn't ideal. However he maintained the considerations behind the furniture are still valid: "furniture in da Vinci's needs to be robust, perhaps the style should be more like what's currently in dB's, but with longer tables so that a whole team can gather around one and the furniture should survive outside use, making the space more flexible." One suggestion for solving the problem of the unsociable shape of da Vinci's is to knock out the current catering space changing the configuration to increase efficiency and improve the layout of the bar.

ICU's 'club' dB's suffers from a poor layout which makes it difficult to reach

the bar and therefore uninviting to the casual drinker. As part of an effort to make dB's a more inviting entertaining space, the entire quad is likely to be remodelled and the popular awnings repositioned in order to make better use of covered outside space.

Initial plans for phase 3 were produced when work began in 2006, the Union realise this refurbishment is a massive undertaking which can only be done every fifteen years or so it's essential to get it right. Temporary, ill-planned solutions have resulted in the current poor use of space, so the Union are consulting professional designers and students on how best to use the space.

Major work to da Vinci's and dB's will set the Union back around £2 million, Tuesdays meeting left Ashley confirmed the project will go ahead with funds raised between College, Union reserves and a loan to the Union from college, meaning the Union are happy press ahead with plans for phase 3.

Excitement over plans for phase 3 has been somewhat soured by evening revelry resulting in around £2000 worth of damage to the Union building over the last two weeks. Last Wednesday several panes of glass in ground floor doors and windows were broken and a door to the Union offices was damaged, on Friday night the door to the toilet in dB's was pulled off its hinges and this Wednesday a door near to the Ladies toilets was damaged to the point that it will be completely replaced. Talking about the recent damage, Ashley told felix: "General wear and tear should be expected but this much damage in a few days makes you wonder why we bother, covering the cost of this damage is equivalent to 10% on the price of drinks." Acknowledging that the damage is caused by a minority of 'drunk, stupid people', Ashley's message to students is: "If you see someone you know damaging Union property, tell them to pack it in!"



Damage to the Union over two weeks: 1. 1st Floor rear office doors, 2. dB's toilets, 3. Union Office door (Floor 2), 4. Da Vinci's internal door, 5. Main entrance window, 6. Union Bar door

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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

MISSING
PERSON



Miriam has been missing from Hinton on the Green, Worcestershire, since 10 November 2009.

There is great concern for Miriam as she is unwell. Miriam is 5ft 9in tall, of slim build with hazel eyes and shoulder length brown hair. When last seen she was wearing light colour jeans, a green-blue hooded jumper, trainers and a knee length beige corduroy coat She was carrying a blue and beige material shoulder-bag. Any information?

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Angry Geek really rethinks Green Week



"Pour three hundred gallons of ice cold water in through the roof of Sherfield and watch..."



Apparently I'm supposed to talk to you about The Environment this week. The big E. The G word. To celebrate Green Week at Imperial, *felix* allegedly is going to have an ecological flavour to things this week, printed on five thousand newspapers that will end up blowing around South Kensington and dumped in wastebins as a nice garnish of irony, and so I've agreed to go along with the charade under a gigantic wind-powered umbrella of protest. I'm not stupid enough to actually criticise the idea of conserving resources, of course, but as far as arbitrarily-chosen issue-driven periods of time go, I'm well up for a fight.

Before we go any further - being

green is a great idea and even if the only change you make is to stop moronically shoving everything in the black landfill bins when the red and green bins are right next to it, like a deranged, feral toddler who can't be arsed to solve a four-piece jigsaw puzzle, then Green Week will have achieved something. Although now I've just written that here, it'll actually be me that achieved it, but I'm willing to let those guys take the credit for now.

So yes, great idea. Clearly, I'm not sure it's best that Imperial hosts a week preaching to students about environmental friendliness when its own buildings have the *worst possible energy efficiency rating*, proudly on display in the Tanaka foyer, but if Imperial stopped doing things that were

hypocritical then it would pretty much have to shut down altogether. It's just that even if we assume all other things to be equal, having a celebratory week commemorating conserving resources is a double-whammy of mental disorders. On the one hand, there's the principle that people actually need a week of events, smiles and whooping to understand that they're needlessly wasting tonnes of material every day, which if true is a pretty sad indictment of the general populace.

Not that it's false, necessarily; I'm fairly sure you all get your brain cells from the same place you get your taste in music. I'm just saying that if we've got to the point where we need first years to "champion green issues" alongside John James, a man whose

Imperial Sabbs blog doesn't so much speak of a man ready to enthuse people into action over key issues as much as it speaks of several reasons why becoming a Sabb is only marginally better than being sentenced to death by buggery. If we've got to *that point*, then perhaps we need to think about nuking the site from orbit and starting from scratch.

But on the other hand from this, the idea of having a week bullying staff and students into switching off televisions in the ad breaks, or whatever the message is this year, is entirely futile. People get this stuff shouted at them every day, and eventually the scare factor just wears off. You can only tell someone they're drowning half of north-east India by leaving their printer on standby

overnight before they'll just stop listening. We're trained to do it, we're trained to tune out the repetitive patterns and droning in everyday life.

So my suggestion is this - instead of spending all this money on posters and events and encouraging *felix* to "write green", blow the whole budget on simulating what global warming would do to Imperial. Pour three hundred gallons of ice cold water in through the roof of Sherfield and watch as people get blown out of windows and drown to death in lifts. Hire a bunch of UV lamps and use it to slowly torch people to death as they eat their lunch on the Tanaka steps. I guarantee you, a week later those bottle bins will be overflowing and then we can all give ourselves a pat on the back.

Reuben Gibbons thinks you should be vegetarian too



"Currently a sixth of the world's population do not have access to clean water and agriculture"



If there were two identical people except one was a vegetarian, the greenhouse gas emissions attributable to that person would be nearly a fifth less.

Earlier this year I became a vegetarian, at first I thought I would be a 'meat-avoider' where I would try and stay to a predominantly vegetarian diet while allowing myself the occasional piece of meat, however I fairly quickly disregarded this and shunned meat forever more. Lord Stern would be proud. My reasons were purely environmental: animal welfare never really bothered me when you consider the number of people treated inhumanely due to industry; meat in moderation is healthy and I know its tasty. I stopped talking about how fishing and meat industries were bad for the environment in many, many ways and removed myself from it.

The U.N. report *Livestock's Long Shadow* - Environmental issues and options calculated that livestock is responsible for 18% of global CO2 emis-

sions, greater than that of transport. For all the other changes you could make: the light bulbs; the recycling; even the electric cars, a greater impact on your carbon footprint would be achieved by a simple change in diet, with probably a faster, notable saving of money. Not only that there is a whole plethora of other environmental impacts due to the production of meat which you would be directly reducing. Cows and sheep burp and fart out inordinate amounts of methane (a more potent greenhouse gas than CO2), contributing to 37% of global methane emissions. They also produce nitrous oxide and ammonia on a gargantuan scale, both of which are environmentally damaging. There is also the CO2 the associated with the meat processing and transporting industry.

There are also disproportionate resources required to produce meat. There is the classic example of a kilo of beef requiring at least 13,000L of water while a kilo of wheat only requires 2000L. Admittedly there are

some much more water hungry plants out there, and I would not trust anyone advocating a wheat only diet, they by no means take as much water as meat. Currently a sixth of the world's population do not have access to clean water and agriculture plays a key role in this. As water sources become scarce, those with pumps big enough withdraw water from deeper water tables further reducing the availability of water. Although all agriculture is water intensive, meat rearing is more so by stopping the demand for meat, the water supply could be used more efficiently and the land used for crop cultivation. Currently 70% of agricultural land is used for farming animals, either through grazing pastures or got crops to feed said animals. The utilisation of both rainforest and arid areas for animal production are well known and would not be required if there was the constant demand for meat.

It is not just the legged animals we should stop eating: pescetarianism is not all that much better as although

this reduces the demand for meat the world's fish stocks are in a bad place. At the moment two thirds of the world's fish species are either fully exploited or depleted. Furthermore, the removal of key organisms messes with ecosystems in place. Overfishing can lead to situations where remaining stocks are unable to restock the oceans properly and the process of by-catch where the majority of what is caught is discarded, as waste is highly inefficient. Although there are bound to be improvements in aquaculture, this method itself has many issues concerning it. Not least that the reared fish require to feeding, and often this is in the form of smaller fish that have been trawled from elsewhere. If you do choose to eat fish this is a good guide to what is sustainable: <http://tinyurl.com/MCSPGFG>

Maybe my vegetarianism is a bit dramatic, that if people reduced their meat intake at all and therefore had a decrease in the environmental damage associated it would be a big enough gesture. Recently the Belgian city of

Ghent became the first city in the world to have a meat free day (Veg-giedag) for civil servant and school canteens citywide, with initiative to encourage everyone to have a day without meat.

I'd hope we are all capable of at least pulling a Ghent, in fact I do not think it is much of a push to half ones weekly meat intake or even attempting to only eat meat once a week, a *Fleishidagg* if you will.

Further still are meat-avoiders and green-eaters, which are apparently emerging terms for people who on the whole try to avoid meat without prohibiting it altogether, and these are things I feel everyone has the capacity to easily achieve as it removes the guilt of the occasional lapse and preserves traditions such as Christmas dinner. By reducing their meat consumption or assuming a vegetarian diet people reduce their environmental impact and improve global access to water.

Humans are perfectly capable of surviving without eating meat everyday.

Gilead Amit and his bizarre train of thought



"Lol. Roffle. Bare, or 'bear', or quite possibly even 'bair', jokes."



I think it was Oscar Wilde who first said 'it's not easy being green'. Then again, it may have been the Statue of Liberty. Whoever it was, they were certainly onto something. It is decidedly difficult being green, and a great deal harder to pretend to be green. And, of course, quite possibly racist.

That's why, in fine Capitalist style, I'm going to subtly dodge the issue at hand. But, in order to avoid being dismissed as some ivory tower columnist (or should that be some ivory column tourist?) so far out of the loop as to receive a negligible field $B = \int \frac{\mu_0 I dl \times \hat{r}}{4\pi r^2}$ from the current running through it, I will deal with the burning green question in my own manner. Ahem.

Trains, eh? You can just about live with them, and you'd be able to live a great deal slower without them. But they pollute. Boy do they pollute. Right? I mean, what do I know? I've traveled up and down the country a few times in a seat opposite the

lavatory and I can tell you that the air gets pretty polluted. But as for the total carbon emissions, I honestly don't know. And if I'm starting a new trend for honesty in my prose, I might as well tell you flat out that for the purposes of this piece it doesn't matter. Not really. At least, it won't to you. And that's the important thing.

Ever since my girlfriend left London to swing her plan for world domination into phase two, I've been making regular train journeys up and down the country from London 'We've Got A Problem' Euston. And there are certain things you learn about train travel once you've journeyed the distance from New York to Salt Lake City in three months and a half. You get the chance to learn all the little secrets of how your railway station of choice works, and you come to grips with all the techniques for making sure you get a seat on the train you want.

The most important lesson you learn, however, is that none of these techniques works. Ever.

I'm sure Murphy, when he wasn't meting out sinister laws and generally being a depressive Irish git, was a commuter. It certainly would have given him enough time to come up with his vast literary output of one law:

'Toast will always fall with the buttered side down' and its corollary.

'Unless you smear the other side with chocolate spread, honey or Tiptree's blackcurrant preserve'

Only a man with intimate knowledge of trains and their greasy ways could have come up with so black an outlook on life.

Take me, for instance. Where once my idealism and naivety were such that I could watch Strictly Come Dancing in the belief that I was being treated to top class entertainment, I am now an ardent and committed pessimist. I have become the sort of person who believes we're all so damned thirsty that the glass of water itself is a mirage.

And I blame the railway system. Boo! You (quite possibly) carbon-guzzling,

smoke-belching harbingers of (what might well turn out to be) ecological doom. But where was I? Ah yes, on a train. Lol. Roffle. Bare, or 'bear', or quite possibly even 'bair', jokes.

The trouble, you see, starts with getting to the right platform. At Euston station there are two ways to find out what platform your train is boarding from. You can either read it off the massive boards that hang in the main hall, or off the smaller departure board that can be found directly beneath the others. And while the amateur traveler may see no difference between the two, those of us who are familiar with the functioning of Euston's delicate ecosystem can tell that therein lies the difference between life and death.

Don't ask me how I found this out – or, more to the point, don't ask me how my girlfriend found this out – but information appears on the smaller board fractionally before it appears on the larger one. Which means, gentle reader, that a glance in the right direction at the right time can

get you running in the right direction microseconds ahead of the hordes of sweaty businessmen, hoodie-wearing yoofs and shopping bag-laded old women.

In other words, by the time the ubiquitous, androgynous voice says "the next train to Manchester will be leaving from platform 6," you can be scampering half-way across the station.

The disadvantage of this technique, of course, is that it turns you into a neurotic wreck. The constant shifting of focus, the innumerable false starts and incessant nail-biting do take their toll. But, at least you get to be first on the train, right? And that's a good thing, right? Hmm. Well, in theory.

Tune in next week – same time, same place – to hear about our hero's exploits on on board the Irrelevantly-Named Express. Will he find a seat? Will he purchase and consume train food? Will a large hairy dog choose to jump heavily on his back? Find out all this and more in next week's issue.



My take on the past week

Jovan Nedic Assistant Editor

The resignation of the Rector, Sir Roy Anderson, on Monday morning came as quite a shock, mainly because Sir Roy had only been at the helm for about 16 months.

This relatively short amount of time at the top, and the wording in his resignation email, has led to many conspiracies about his untimely departure. The main question on a lot of lips, however, is: Did he jump ship or was he pushed off the plank? I know a lot of the students couldn't care less, in fact I don't think that a lot of students even know what a Rector is, let alone who they might be. To put it simply, he's the boss.

I think that most people do know who the rector is, maybe you should say "I know that most people couldn't care less but blah blah it's important"

First of all, let's get some background information. Sir Roy was a student at Imperial in the late 60's where he studied Zoology, before gaining a PhD in Parasitology in 1971. After he had finished his studies, he remained at Imperial doing research and he became a Professor of Parasite Ecology in 1982 and the head of Biology from 1984-1993. Over the years, he generated a

reputation of being a world expert in infectious diseases. The one thing that you can take from this is that he is an Imperial Man. He was a student here, he knows what it's like to be an undergraduate, postgraduate, researcher, lecturer and head of department. He knows the College inside-out.

Sir Roy left in 1993 to join the University of Oxford where he was head of the Zoology. This is where things started to go wrong for him. In 2000 he had to resign from the University of Oxford after he had made allegations that a female member of staff had slept her way to her position. An inquiry also found that he was in breach of rules, after he was found to have a conflict of interest as director and shareholder of International Biomedical and Health Sciences Consortium – an Oxford-based biomedical consultancy that had awarded grants to his research centre. Sir Roy was also the Chief Scientific advisor to the Government when the Foot and Mouth crisis came about, arguably his advice led to the unnecessary culling of millions of healthy animals. More recently, he was on BBC's Today Programme in May 2009, where he spoke about Swine Flu claiming that "the pan-

demia has started." When you couple this with the fact that he was getting paid £116,000 a year by GlaxoSmith-Kline, who were developing the vaccination for Swine Flu, some alarm bells started to ring in many people's ears. His most recent bit of controversy was the interview he gave to the Evening Standard where he seemed to be in favor of privatising universities.

His appointment as Rector was by and large seen as a positive one by students, postgraduates, researchers and professors alike, mainly because he was a student at Imperial.

There was hope that he would change the business appearance Imperial had and return it to what it really is, a place for higher education, a place for ground breaking research, a world leading university. This was clearly evident in the interview with that felix did last year, where he spoke about wanting researchers to focus on quality and not quantity, and wanting to give them the time and space where this could be possible, in his own words, he wanted to make sure the researchers weren't "consistently pressured by performance matrix". Seeing as I'm doing research now, that sounds like

a great thing. On the student front, he highlighted how he wanted to look into the student satisfaction figures and really get to grips with what's making them happy and what's not. All in all, it seems to me that his objectives were focused on bringing the university back to students and take it away from the business mentality that it had when he started.

There was one main problem to this dream, Sir Richard Sykes. The previous Rector was an ambitious man, he changed the structure of the college, made it more business focused. He hired staff that would enable him to do this and fired the ones that obstructed him. His greatest achievement was Imperial's rise to 5th best in the world. His greatest failure was the fall of Imperial's student satisfaction figures to the lowest of any Russell Group University (the UK's Ivy League). Even though Sir Richard's gone, his legacy, and more importantly, the people he hired to make sure his dreams were achieved, are still here.

Sir Roy's appointment was made during the credit crunch. 5% budget cuts were put on all departments, there was a hiring freeze and also job losses in

the Humanities Department and even more so in the Faculty of Medicine. To make matters worse for Sir Roy, the research money granted this year by the Higher Education Funding Council for England was half of what Imperial had received the year before, despite the fact that Imperial had one of the best Research Assessment Exercise marks in the whole country. The government funded RAE found Imperial to have many departments that were either world leading (4*) or internationally excellent (3*). Our faculties were either best or second in the UK in terms of the number of 4* and 3* research, with many individual departments coming out on top (including Mechanical and Aeronautics :-)). Again going back to the interview last year, it was evident that he was unhappy with the amount of money Imperial was being given for research, and the £5m decrease from the government this year certainly didn't help.

It seems to me at least, that his intentions were honorable. He truly wanted to help the students and the academic staff at Imperial, but his hands were bound not only by the economic crisis, but by the business men and women in the Blue Cube, who didn't want this change to happen.

I read somewhere that a Rector saying that he wants to 'focus more on his research' is the same as a politician saying he wants to step down from politics to 'spend more time with his family'. So I ask, are you really sure he wanted to resign?

Whatever you might think, Lord Kerr is back on the search to find a new rector, although with a salary of £370,000 a year I don't imagine he'll be short of applicants.



Let's set the scene, and stay calm

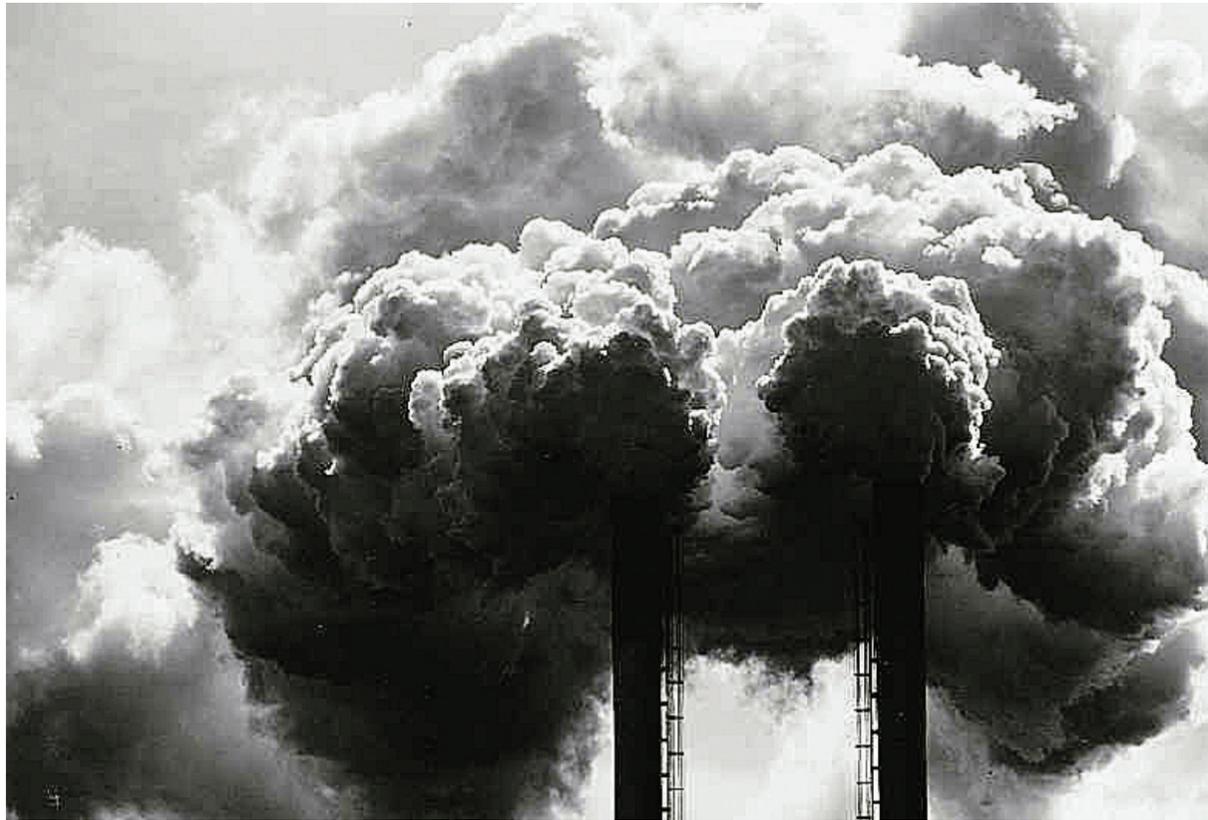
Nathan Ley Science Editor

The issue of climate change is one of the many issues that walks the tight-rope of a boundary between science and politics. It may be continuously on the agenda, but rather like an omnipresent smell, you get used to it and forget it. In fact, it's built up its own little hate club. But whatever happens, environmentalism is not the same as socialism, and even if it was, so what?

I'll often think about the wildernesses of this country, such as the Cairngorms and Dartmoor, and comfort myself in thinking that man is nothing but a pin prick in the grand scheme of things. Man cannot tame the great, wild outdoors and place a Tesco superstore or a McDonalds wherever it pleases because we are not capable of doing such things. An old saying on the moor goes "scratch Dartmoor and she'll break your back". This phrase has come to be due to the number of ventures man has made to try and tame it: for example there was a failed, and expensive attempt to build a railway from a nearby fringe village up onto the high peat workings.

However, there are those that take this a little bit too far. Those who believe that no matter how much man interferes with the planet, it will always correct itself as it has been doing on a cyclical basis for billions of years. The Gaia hypothesis proposes that the earth is a single, self-regulating organism.

This belief is not only incorrect and the official Republican Party line (and potentially industry-led), but is also extremely dangerous. It is the scientific equivalent of a cum rag. And so because of this idea, the logical policy



Filth, pure industrial filth - a symbol of the over-indulgence of the industrial generation?

goes "Is it worth compromising the economy for a cause that may actually be flawed? No? Ok then we'll just carry on as we are".

What the world has to realise is that economic growth, prosperity and reaching the summit of the capitalism ladder can't occur at all when there is no Earth to build these systems upon. You would think that a little compromise on everyone's part would be the sensible way forward, however

there are those with whom this is just incompatible.

An angle that this issue must be attacked from is the moral side. Al Gore's 2006 documentary 'An Inconvenient Truth' showed not only that the USA missed out on having the ideal leader as a successor to Clinton, but also that it was possible - through the eloquent skill of conveying scientific data and research as straightforward information for anyone to understand - to pull

on the heartstrings of individuals and make people think about the fairness of the effect they're having on the planet, without resorting to religion to have to impose morals.

It had the power and clarity to make us think about how our actions are undoubtedly affecting the sort of world we might be leaving for generations to come, and how it is morally incomprehensible to leave such a place.

Confronting the issue on another

front, a new UN report suggests that slowing the growth of the population could help to combat climate change. It said that if women were empowered to take control of their reproductive health, they may choose to have fewer children and consequently this would reduce pressure on resources and the environment.

The 94-page report calls for any deal coming out of Copenhagen to include measures to empower women. This report states what we all know to be common sense, but for some reason people refuse to be vocal about, for fear of racism. Well, you can call it racism if you like, but there's nothing sensible about families having ridiculous numbers of children, with Islamic and African nations mostly to blame for this.

The world clearly has a finite amount of resources and so it is an angle for attack on the problem of climate change that is all too often forgotten about. As Nobel Laureate Harry Kendall stated, "If we don't halt population growth with justice and compassion, it will be done for us by nature, brutally and without pity - and will leave a ravaged world". Maybe China had it right all along?

Anyway, whatever your opinion on these matters, it is a human character trait to never give up. Even without the appropriate backing from industry nor from government, scientists are universally attempting to find solutions to the problem of climate change which is quite obviously real and extremely dangerous - as it has been for a good few years now.

With the critical Copenhagen conference a matter of weeks away, here we present to you a series of articles that are themed to coincide with Green Week.

The government needs to wake up to the challenge of peak oil, fast

Erica Thompson Science Reporter

Let's start with a quick challenge: take a look around your home and try to name one item that was not produced by, with, or from oil.

Easy, you think - anything that's not plastic! But you'd be wrong. What about clothes? Sorry, synthetic fibres are out (made directly from oil) and natural ones come from plants farmed using tractors (running on oil). That apple in the bowl? Unless you picked it yourself from a local tree, it's probably been doused with pesticides (produced from oil) and shipped to you in a lorry (running on oil).

Contents of your bathroom? Almost all oil-derived. As are detergents, glue, paint, medicines, make-up, insulation, carpet, agricultural fertilisers and most forms of packaging. We also rely on oil in the form of petrol, diesel and jet fuel to transport ourselves and our food and goods from place to place, and on oil along with other fossil fuels to produce our electricity. Our economy, livelihoods, and lives are totally dependent on oil.

Now take a look at the graph showing world oil discoveries and world oil extraction. Discoveries peaked in 1964, and we are not finding enough oil to replace the stuff being pumped out of the ground. This means that at some point, because it is not renewable, the availability of oil will peak and start to decline. This will almost certainly happen in under 20 years, and could happen within 10 years, according to a recent report on Global Oil Depletion by the UK Energy Research Centre, based at Imperial College.

So, what are the implications of a decline in oil availability? It is easy to say that we should just start using other things, but not so easy actually to come up with a plan for doing that. Substitution by gas and coal is surprisingly difficult - you can convert them to liquid fuels, but in practice it's just not a viable large-scale option.

Renewable energy is great but without a huge shot in the arm from the government (something unlikely to be forthcoming in the current economic situation), it simply can't be scaled up quickly enough even to meet our climate change targets, let alone give us

"So, what are the implications of a decline in oil availability?"

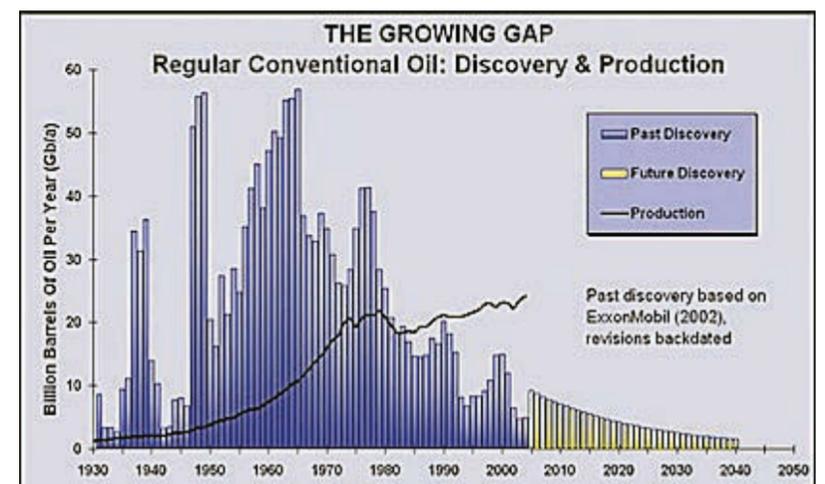
true independence from Saudi Arabia. Hydrogen vehicles - well, when are you planning to buy one? The price of electricity, transport, and heating will inevitably rise after the oil peak - all these we can and will learn to live with less of. But there is a key area where we are all truly vulnerable: food security.

Food contains hundreds of calories of fossil fuel input for every calorie that you eat. Plants are grown using fertilisers, pesticides, tractor fuel for ploughing, spraying and harvesting, machinery fuel for processing, plastics for packaging and diesel fuel for ship and lorry transport to your local supermarket - all from cheap oil.

Britain is currently unable to feed itself (just read the country of origin

labels in your next shopping basket). Now, food and indeed oil imports are unlikely to collapse overnight, but the price of oil has been extremely volatile over the last few years and the price of food commodities on global markets has risen to the point that many in the developing world can no longer afford to buy it.

These patterns are set to continue and worsen especially with the impacts of climate change. Peak Oil is a global problem, and it is enforced on us by physics, not politics. Unfortunately, physics doesn't have an obvious solution yet. Our government can no longer afford to keep their heads in the sand.



World oil discoveries and world oil extraction

Is it all smoke and mirrors?

Kelly Oakes Science Reporter

Geoengineering is seen by some as a quick and easy way out of global warming, and by others as dangerous, unpredictable and just another excuse not to cut carbon emissions. But what actually is it? Well, there is no generally-accepted definition, but anything that can be classed as a large-scale scheme to manipulate the effects of global warming would probably fit the bill. There are a variety of ways this manipulation can be done, however most methods can be split into two categories: solar radiation management and greenhouse gas remediation. In other words, reducing the amount of sunlight reaching the Earth, or soaking up greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

The first category includes techniques intended to increase the albedo (or reflectivity) of the Earth, for example sending billions of aluminised reflective balloons into the atmosphere, or positioning a giant mirror in space that would act as a sunshade between the Sun and the Earth. One of the most noteworthy of these types of proposals is one that aims to inject up to two metric tons of sulphuric aerosols into the atmosphere, which would then act as condensation nuclei and influence the micro-physical and optical properties of clouds. This is the idea of Dutch Professor Paul Crutzen, who won the Nobel Prize for Chemistry in 1995 when he and his colleagues discovered the cause of the hole in the ozone layer. Mount Pinatubo has already shown that this method would succeed in reducing the average global temperature; after its eruption in 1991, sunlight reaching the Earth was reduced by 10% and temperatures decreased by 0.5°C

over the globe, staying at their new level for 3 years on average. However, ozone destruction also increased substantially and the average precipitation worldwide dropped significantly in the 16 months following the eruption.

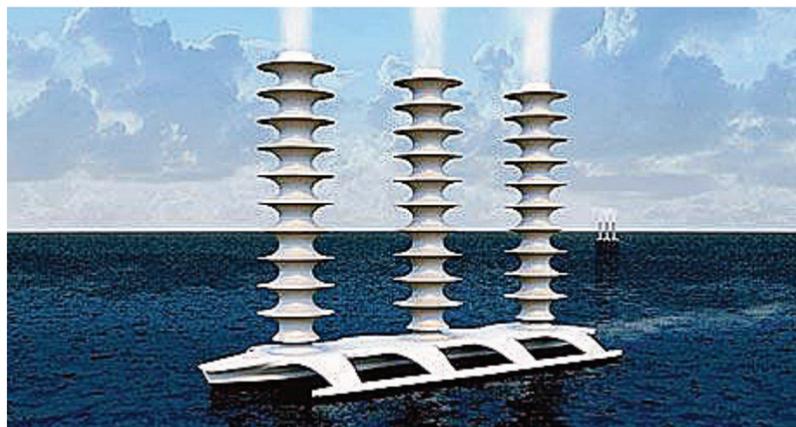
The second major type of geoengineering method involves enhancing natural "carbon sinks". Fertilising the oceans with iron to stimulate phytoplankton growth falls into this category, as does reforestation. These processes aim to attack the rising levels of greenhouse gases, and hopefully lock them away for years to come.

There are plenty of advantages to geoengineering. For instance, a lot of the methods that decrease the amount of sunlight hitting the earth would be very cheap to implement - it would be possible to create a new ice age for around 0.01% of the USA's gross domestic product by decreasing global temperatures. Also, the changes resulting from applying geoengineering methods would appear much more quickly than any changes arising from

cutting emissions, suggesting that it may be a good way to buy the Earth some time while we wait to see the results of emissions cuts.

Criticisms are also easy to come up with. It has been argued that these techniques will only put off the inevitable, and while doing so risk making politicians and others complacent about emissions cuts. What's more, little detailed research has been done into some of these methods, so there may be unintended consequences that we know nothing about at present. For example, reducing solar input could result in lowering crop yields, which would cause famine.

In an ideal world, to combat global warming we would cut emissions by the 60-80% needed to stabilise the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere. However, from 2001 to 2002 emissions actually increased by 2% and this trend doesn't look set to change much in the near future. Soon, some geoengineering methods may become necessary to stop drastic climate heating before it's too late.



Spraying sea water to create clouds and shield the Earth from sunlight is one of many geoengineering solutions to climate change

Manufacturing pollution: The hidden costs

Nick Oakes Science Reporter

It's becoming commonplace to examine the carbon footprint of everyday activities. We all recognise the importance of reducing carbon emissions. Airlines offer carbon offsets, car companies are making hybrids and appliances are becoming more efficient. But what about the indirect emissions - those associated with computers, clothes or books? What about the hidden emissions of manufactured goods?

Industrial production is based on a model that was invented over a century ago. As you would expect, that's now outdated. The assumption that industry's effects on the environment are negligible is definitely obsolete. For each product industry makes, there's a surplus of polluting by-products that are released into the environment. They come in various forms: harmful chemicals, greenhouse gases, toxic gases or even heat. On top of that, the inputs required to make the goods - and the pollutants - are natural resources. They are required to power the plant, to be the goods themselves and to run the manufacturing line. Ir-

respective of which perspective you take, the natural environment must be degraded in some form to allow for industrial production. This growing degradation has led to the current state of the environment.

Global warming is probably the most pertinent issue that exists today. Industry accounts for over a quarter of all the carbon emissions in the UK. And that's just their direct emissions. They also have indirect emissions associated with each product. Things like transport from the factory, factory heating, running a shop to sell the product, disposal emissions, etc. At every point in the life of something that wasn't grown in your garden (with some exceptions), it will end up increasing the carbon in the atmosphere. The humble American cheeseburger, for example, results in 3 kg of equivalent carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere, along its journey from cow to mouth.

In addition to carbon footprints there are ecological footprints. They display the full environmental effects of human damage, illustrating all the dangerous pollutants that litter our water, ground and air. Industry has a huge ecological footprint. Production waste is dumped

into rivers and delicate ecosystems. Factory workers get sick from the chemicals used. Most of the products themselves contain toxic chemicals. One study found antimony, a potential carcinogen, present in polyester shirts. Another found teratogenic compounds, a potential reason for birth defects, present in computer mice. Another found phthalates, liver carcinogens for animals, present in plastic baby rattles.

Why are these chemicals there? Are they necessary? Apparently not. There are engineers, designers and scientists revising the composition of products and eliminating the toxic chemicals. Retailers are starting to source their products from environmentally responsible companies.

Carbon emissions too are being reduced. Many companies are implementing extensive efficiency measures, trying to reduce waste and sourcing their power from renewables. Some have even built their own renewable supply. Others want to 'green' their suppliers, stores and even customers.

This is good - they are definitely steps in the right direction. But they are only 'being less bad'. Industry still has a long way to go.

The danger of static conservationism

Chris Self Science Reporter

I have a theory that, in the comfortable Western world at least, the most universally appreciable painful experience is the feeling of 'if only I had known then what I know now'. This powerless longing for the ability to change the actions of the past would explain why we grieve, and why we feel guilt of all kinds. And it would also explain why we feel such a terrible connection to the plight of species endangered by climate change. If only we had known 150 years ago that the comfort afforded by the brave new world would mean the irrevocable loss of creatures great and small and, in some cases, whole ecosystems.

The natural reaction to realising we have inherited such a dreadful legacy of short-sightedness is to immediately stop making things even worse. This is what informs a lot of environmental policymaking and in cases where our actions are the continual driving force, for example carbon emission forcing an ever-increased rate of rise of global temperatures, it is absolutely the right idea. But helping ease climate change at the source is, of course, only half the story of environmentalism. A lion's

share of the work done is aimed at dealing with the affects of that change, which even now we are beginning to see. Examples of this being: the melting of the ice caps, the migration of populations, and the increasing violence of weather patterns worldwide. This conservationist effort centrally includes helping those species doomed by climate changes.

But here we have reached a difficulty: as soon as we start talking about those animals and insects, creatures of all varieties, the deeply embedded cultural guilt rushes to the surface. All of a sudden, the only acceptable solution is to entirely stop the change, to somehow lock the natural world into a perpetual model of the early 21st century. And in this case, this is absolutely the wrong course of action.

"Ecosystems are in a continuous state of flux."

Ecosystems are in a continuous state of flux. The interactions of food webs, species diversity and distribution, other spatial factors such as the lie of the land, plant distributions, etc. alongside numerous other contributing factors make the evolution of ecosystems difficult to predict, and impossible at a 'by species' level. Beyond this, studies have continually shown that the results of ecological experiments cannot be generalised. All of this makes conservation work incredibly difficult. Put alongside the widespread belief that species distributions must be kept as they were some arbitrary amount of time ago, this has meant that until recently a lot of conservation work has been exactly that. Work has been aimed at main-

taining the ecological status quo, with species that are native encouraged and all other deemed invaders and exterminated, since the effect of that one invader on the ecosystem is impossible to predict, in which case it could be devastating. But the climate is changing; no amount of conservation work will stop that fact. And one of the main impacts of this is that species will naturally begin to migrate.

Most of the creatures of Earth have evolved to quite a specific environment and are almost exclusively found in this optimal region. But as temperatures and weather patterns shift, this window begins to creep, moving slowly across the surface of the planet. What happens if it crosses into a conservation region? Well, they're invading species right? I guess they have to be kept out. The native populations also seem to be diminishing; we better exterminate all these invaders quickly, restore the balance we're used to.

You can see the problem here; in blindly looking to the past for our record of what species are native to a region, we risk catastrophic collapse in ecological variety across the Western world. The very act of trying to correct the sins of our past would become a short-sighted failure to rival even those we strive to put right. Conservationism is now beginning to enter a new era of crisis policy. This is a regime under which it may no longer be possible to talk about maintaining the species of a region but instead considering the global variety and the viability of ecosystems as a whole. An era when the discussion is not about how to keep invading European butterflies out of the gardens of Kent, but instead focuses on the logistical challenges of allowing migrating creatures to cross the many dividing lines humans have driven across the landscape: railways, motorways, cities, farmland, etc. We must fight the root cause of climate change but at the same time recognise that the change is here and in dealing with it we may, at all levels, have to ask some hard questions.

Inspired by a talk given by Dr. Blake Suttle at the Grantham Institute for Climate Change entitled 'Challenges in Predicting Ecological Responses to Climate Change'.



More exotic butterflies, such as this Queen of Spain Frattillary, could soon be common in the UK.

An optimistic approach to tackling climate change

Brigette Atkins Science Editor

Regardless of my personal view on climate change, James Beal's article last week really struck a chord with me. Headlines day after day proclaim the inevitability of a doomed Earth and almost invite us to take an apathetic view on any matter relating to the environment, including climate change. It is evident these gloomy promises of a deteriorating planet are not having the dramatic effect needed to kickstart a change in attitudes towards environmental matters. It is all too easy for us to detach from the Earth and forget how much we rely on its all-too-finite resources. A fresh approach is needed in order to change the public view on climate change.

By chance, I saw a poster on the underground a few days after reading James' article, advertising a new exhibition at the Science Museum entitled 'Prove it!'. The exhibition promised "all the evidence you need to believe in climate change". After visiting the exhibit itself, I spoke with Victoria Carroll – head of content for 'Prove it!' – about the motivation behind creating the exhibit, its aims and the idea of adopting a new approach to convincing the public that climate change is a major issue facing humanity.

'Prove it!' was launched on 22nd October this year with an appearance made by Ed Miliband, the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change. It's directed at a target audience of adults and children over 16 with the following aims, as detailed by Mrs Carroll: "to raise awareness of Copenhagen, allow the public to explore the



'Prove it!' runs until 31st January. For more information, visit: www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/proveit

science of climate change, highlight the significance of negotiations in Copenhagen, show different viewpoints on climate change and give visitors the opportunity to explore these views and make up their minds as to where they stand in the debate."

Upon arrival, I was a bit surprised at how small the exhibit area was given all the press and political attention it had received. However, I was told this was down to sustainability being a main focus in the design of the exhibit. The Science Museum worked with Ab Rogers Design to use recyclables and a minimal quantity of materials in order to achieve a "balance between sustainability and retaining impact." Hence why the whole exhibit is held up with string!

I asked about the motivation behind the creation of 'Prove it!'. The Science Museum believes that climate change is the "most important issue facing humanity" and they were aware that a different approach to just bombarding the public with scare stories was necessary. Rather than create a sense of helplessness, the exhibit aims to engage the public and "create a sense of optimism about Copenhagen" – the climate conference set to take place this December. The Museum is positive Copenhagen will act as a turning point in the fight against climate change and is committed to being the "number one destination for public engagement with climate change."

When visiting the exhibition, I found

a wealth of information on why we need to act on climate change and the importance of the Copenhagen conference. Opposition and alternative views on climate change, such as the Gaia hypothesis that the Earth is a self-regulating organism, were largely ignored by the exhibition. When asked why only arguments for action on climate change had been included in 'Prove it!', Mrs Carroll informed me the Science Museum has looked through the evidence and is convinced that climate change is "real, happening and caused by humans." The Science Museum sees it as their job to convey what they view is scientifically-valid information to their visitors rather than presenting other views they do not believe to have

such concrete scientific grounding.

Part of the exhibit invites visitors to sign up online and be 'counted in' or 'counted out' with regards to the following statement: "I've seen the evidence. And I want the government to prove they're serious about climate change by negotiating a strong, effective, fair deal at Copenhagen." By the time I spoke to Mrs Carroll, 4700 people had voted 'count me in' against 7400 voting to be 'counted out'. I thought this may be down to the exhibit only containing information in support of acting on climate change; perhaps visitors thought they were being shown a very biased view of the evidence and therefore were mistrusting of it. Or perhaps they simply did not understand the aims of the Copenhagen conference and how it may affect them. Mrs Carroll had other ideas as to why a worryingly large number of people had 'counted out'. "[The poll] suggests a lot of people are not convinced climate change is a priority ... we see it as our job to reach these people." The Science Museum is planning more events along a similar theme in an attempt to do this, including a larger exhibit set to open in June next year.

I'm glad people are being given a chance to explore climate change in an environment safe from media tales of our planet's impending demise. But with so many still unconvinced that climate change is little more than fuel for the papers on a 'slow news' day, organisations such as the Science Museum will have a major task on their hands convincing their visitors that this is the most desperate issue facing our generation. That's not to say there's lack of trying.

'Rewilding': is turning back the clock really a solution?

Eliot Barford Science Reporter

All over the world, conservationists are attempting to resurrect the past. Against the odds, they are repopulating open spaces with species on the verge of extinction, aiming to create reserves that resemble the natural world as it was 13,000 years ago. They call it "rewilding".

Since humans settled the globe, hunting and climate change (cyclic ice ages, not just warming) have pushed most of Europe and America's large animals to extinction. These "mega-fauna" are considered to include anything as big as a human. During the Pleistocene epoch, early humans lived alongside other megafauna, from the famous sabre-toothed cat and woolly mammoth to more unusual giant sloths, birds and marsupials. That geological age ended 12,000 years ago, and the fossil record holds clues that the decline of megafauna coincided with the rise of humans. Some impressive beasts only recently disappeared, such as New Zealand's massive Moa and the legendary aurochs, both hunted into oblivion. Yet ironically, it is in humanity's cradle that most megafauna have persisted, with Africa and Asia still

hosting dwindling populations of elephants, rhinos, and the like.

Human activities continue to cause extinctions. What megafauna remaining in North America and Europe are mostly endangered and only special reserves or protections maintain populations of species such as the Red Wolf and Iberian Lynx. Many have completely died out in the wild and survive only as small captive populations in zoos. These decay in viability the longer they stay in captivity, as sedentary lifestyles and inbreeding cause them to lose fitness and forget their survival instincts. Conservationists know that reintroduction into the wild is essential for the continuation of these species, but suitable sites are lacking; they must be easily monitored, safe from human interference and often be very large. To make the matter worse, a hint at reintroduction of predators elicits hysteria from agricultural and safety communities touting risks to livestock and humans. Yet most people agree on a responsibility to repair at least some of the damage we've done to ecosystems, and many support the preservation of beautiful and iconic creatures like the panda and polar bear.

Rewilding may be a solution. The term derives from the practice of re-

training captive animals to survive in the wild; for instance, Chinese tigers are being rewilded successfully in South Africa for eventual reintroduction to China itself by the Save China's Tigers project. In recent years, the concept has been expanded and applied to the wholesale reconstruction of extinct ecosystems, typically those at the end of the Pleistocene – just before humanity's touch had truly been felt. In 2005, Josh Donlan wrote a provocative piece in *Nature* calling for the "rewilding of North America" to hold off the oncoming surge of "pests and weeds". He proposed reintroduction of the large vertebrates that previously roamed the Great Plains, such as camels and cheetahs. Donlan and others suggest that huge "ecological history parks" could save dying species, restore America's prairies and benefit poor surrounding towns in one shot.

But what of the Pleistocene species that have been extinct for millennia? These can be compensated for by reintroducing existing organisms with similar ecological roles. For example, the African cheetah could stand in for the vanished American cheetah, and elephants may be good substitutes for the mammoths and great mastodons that once trod the prairies.

So far however, it's in Eurasia that most progress has been made. Several rewilding reserves have been set up and zoologists have been "back breeding" animals to try to replicate their forefathers. For example, in the Netherlands there lies an isolated wetland called the Oostvaardersplassen. In only 40 years since the land was reclaimed from the sea, it's already one of the wildest locations in Europe. It hosts completely independent populations of Heck cattle and Konik horses, breeds that resemble the lost wild aurochs and Tarpans respectively. Those creatures were ancestors to modern livestock, and the new breeds have many of their characteristics. The Oostvaardersplassen has also attracted habitat-deprived birds like the White-tailed Eagle, and may soon be enriched with wild boars and deer from nearby reserves. Similarly, Pleistocene Park near Chersky in Russia accommodates the threatened Yakutian horse and wood bison, with plans for the reintroduction of musk ox and even the great Siberian tiger, which is presently confined to a tiny range in Russia's far east.

Rewilding is not without its problems. Like other conservation projects, reserves are short on cash and lack clear objectives. Conservationists

monitoring them are usually too busy to carry out studies, which are essential for garnering support from the research community. And what with most sites still lacking predators, these ecosystems' true stability is largely unknown, making access to funding difficult. Rewilding may be our last shot at restoring the world's untainted wildernesses, but such inspiring initiatives are in dire need of greater public support.



The longer a species remains in captivity, the more difficult it is for them to be 'rewilded'



Two sides of the environment debate

Don't be fooled by "green" growth

Dubious science and worse economics

Do you believe in sustainable development? I mean, really? Let's stop being hypocritical and realise that our way of life is unsustainable. The planet does not care if we think green: what matters is acting.

A bit of history - it all starts with Mr Watt and his steam engine. He led the way to the industrial revolution, which increased the production capabilities of countries in an extraordinary way. Never before had human beings produced more goods in the same period of time. And never before did we consume so many natural resources. Thanks to the steam engine and other fantastic inventions, the US and Western Europe got very rich. The world became more polluted, its resources were rapidly eaten up and the air got hotter. No one really cared. What mattered was getting richer.

Economists thought, and many of them still think, that more consumption invariably means more happiness. Governments, who listen to economists more than anybody else, therefore tried to increase consumption levels by promoting growth. This makes sense up to a certain level of wealth. But in rich countries, is this quest for being ever more wealthy still making us happier? There is another flaw in most economic models: they are based on the assumption of infinite growth. However, in a finite world where production is dependent on non-renewable resources, continuous growth pushes us against the wall. The current model is not sustainable.

It's time to reverse the trend, to think of qualitative and not quantitative growth. But how? Over-consumption is destroying our environment so we should consume less. This might not

even make us less happy. Was my life so much worse before I got my new iPod? Was I miserable when my TV was not LCD?

Let us not be fooled: efficiency gains and cleaner products will not achieve much if total production always increases. For instance, the planet does not care if the cars we produce are more environmentally friendly, or if the number of cars increases faster than efficiency gains. Unfortunately, this is the case right now.

Our need for more is destroying the world. We are putting too much value on things that do not necessarily make us happier. There is a case to be made that the world will be better off and we won't be less happy if we consume less stuff. At the same time there should be no limit to activities which do not negatively impact the environment, such as web technologies, the arts, culture and knowledge of the economy.

If we attach more value to non-material activities, this will lead governments and the private sector to redirect investments. Investing massively in arts and culture can only make a more diverse, broad minded and richer civilisation. Spending more money on education will make the planet smarter and allow us to solve more of our problems. This is what sustainability is really about: leaving the planet in a better shape than that we found it in.

We have to dematerialise growth. It starts in our everyday life, by slowing down in our quest for more and by giving value to non-material things. We could save the world and be happier if we realise, with Gandhi, that "there is more to life than increasing its speed."

By Lucas Chancel, Jonas Rooze and Romina Castro

The term "climate change" is nonsensical. No one disagrees with the fact that the climate changes. What many doubt is the proposition that human-produced carbon dioxide is having a significantly warming effect on the planet. We call it "anthropogenic global warming" (AGW).

We all know that carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas; this has been proven by repeatable experiments. Through this effect, the amount of radiation reflected increases as the amount of carbon dioxide increases in the atmosphere, thus keeping the planet at a higher temperature.

CO₂ on its own is insignificant in determining the temperature of our planet. Consider that carbon dioxide only comprises a small fraction of the greenhouse effect, with almost the entire rest of the effect taken up by water vapour, which acts in many ways we do not fully understand yet. Consider that the greenhouse effect itself is a relatively passive factor in determining the climate of the planet, surpassed by the oceans, ocean currents, the Moon, the Sun, orbital variations, and other flux from extra-terrestrial sources.

So how does the AGW theory manage to make such big claims about the importance of carbon dioxide? Well, what they've essentially done is speculate about the dynamics of all sorts of complex and non-linear mechanisms in the climate that work to amplify the small direct warming effect from carbon dioxide into a much larger indirect effect, and then put it into a computer model. They then run the computer model, show the Earth blowing up, and present it as proof of AGW.

There are two bold and glaring problems with this. First of all, computer models are not proof of a theory, they are representations of the understanding of the person(s) who built the model. To use computer models as proof is a circular argument. Frankly, it is quite shocking this very basic point is not challenged more often.

The second problem is that there is no empirical evidence to support their speculated magnification of the importance of carbon dioxide. There has never been a period in the Earth's history that shows carbon dioxide levels being important in determining the average temperature of the planet. When we find correlations in the data, carbon dioxide levels are trailing temperature changes, suggesting that temperature influences carbon dioxide, not the other way around.

There's no reason to get bogged down in the processes of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), catalogue the locations of meteorological equipment (they've put these things next to air conditioners and parking lots, no joke), or laugh at hockey stick graph data algorithms by putting in random phone numbers and getting the same shape. Proponents of AGW are trying to use computer models to prove their theory. That's not how the scientific method works, and that's why I believe we should look at alternative theories to anthropogenic global warming.

On the scientific consensus, I have two points to make. Firstly, truth in science is determined through the scientific method, not the democratic method. Secondly, whilst there is near unanimous support for the AGW theory amongst state sanctioned scientific organisations - many anonymous (to remove the element of peer pressure), surveys show even divides amongst individual scientists on the theory. The main purpose of the claim of consensus is to shut down further discussion, which is the classic signature of insecurity in an argument.

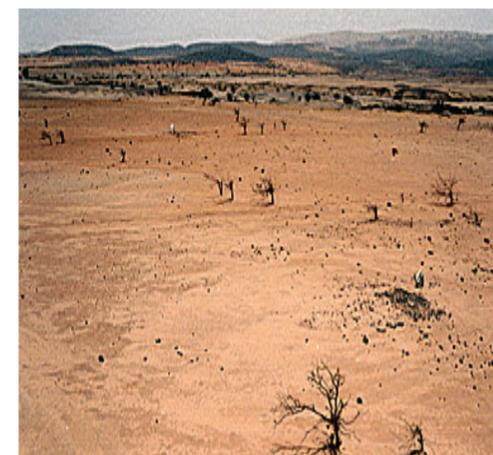
So is AGW a conspiracy theory? The answer,

with some clarification, is yes. A conspiracy is simply two or more people collectively organising an illegal or immoral act. All successful conspiracies in history have been the same. The average participant is an unwittingly genuine believer, and only a few key individuals are being consciously deceptive. Once the snowballs get rolling, it rapidly incorporates people who believe in its moral virtue as well as those who are keen to profit from this new direction of human priorities.

Carbon trading is the most likely "solution" that we will see, and it is a scam. It amounts to a global wealth redistribution scheme, with skimming operations by various entities all the way up and down the system. It works like this; you start with a blank piece of paper. Then, some bureaucrat sprinkles "carbon credits". He gives less to people he wants to steal wealth from, and more to people who are going to receive a fraction of what's stolen. If you want to engage in activities that produce carbon dioxide (which directly or indirectly means everything under the Sun) and do not get enough carbon credits from the bureaucrat, you have to go buy some from the people he gave lots to. Meanwhile, the real benefactors of this system get into action. First come unscrupulous carbon traders, who are actively lobbying for carbon trading. Then, the national governments take their slice through taxation in various forms on this trading activity. Finally, the World Bank takes its cut at 8% of all international trades, effectively creating the taxation foundation (receiving donations from national Governments is a weak basis of power) for increased global governance. If you think that will make policy implementation more efficient, just recall what happens when local Government functions are transferred to a national body. Then scale up.

In conclusion, I do not believe we can say with certainty whether or not carbon dioxide produced by humans is producing significant climate changes. We can, however, still take precautions. It is an observable fact that the wealthier the economy, the more capable it is of adapting to environmental changes. We should therefore aim for economic growth as a flexible and comprehensive preparation for any climate problems we might encounter. Sacrificing growth, by focusing on mitigating carbon dioxide emissions at the expense of cheap resources, only to discover we were wrong, would be catastrophic. We need our preparation for climate change to cover all possibilities.

By Edward Townes



Former grazing pastures: property rights would incentivise individuals to steward their land



Global warming is accused of contributing to increased flooding around the world



Climate debate is all wrong

James Goldsack Politics Editor

This week is green week at Imperial College. A week when eco-warriors get high and mighty about their cause – saving the planet from imminent destruction – citing Al Gore's 'An Inconvenient Truth' at every opportunity.

Global warming is a big issue both politically and socially. We are being told that it is almost too late to change, that we are not doing enough to curb our use of hydrocarbons and that we must watch our carbon footprints.

Isn't it funny how just a few decades ago there were warnings about us slipping into another ice age? Many scientists disagree with the claims put forward that global warming is due to our hunger for dirty fossil fuels. Admittedly, many of these are funded by oil companies who obviously do not want the findings to harm their business. However, the government is much happier to fund research that shows the "correct" outcome; that fossil fuels create global warming.

This politicisation of climate science is wrong. Researchers should be funded not depending on the outcome of the research or a person's particular view but on the quality of the research.

The government wants to send a "message" that we must cut down on our use of fossil fuels and halt destruction of the environment. The message may be commendable, but politicians are again perverting science. As was seen over the last two weeks, this is an example of politicians digging their dirty hands into science and playing games.

I believe that we should cut down on use of fossil fuels, increase energy efficiency and stop cutting down the rainforests, but for different reasons – pollutants are harmful to us; oil will run out and new energy supplies must be found; inefficiency is a pointless waste of resources and money; and destroying habitats means we will no longer be able to marvel at the different landscapes, flora and fauna.

There are restrictions on the concentrations of various pollutants allowed in the atmosphere. If we rewind back to the industrial revolution and even as little as 50 years ago there were no such restrictions. Yet all we hear is how the pollution occurring now is causing the warming of the globe. All the graphs we are shown to scare us into action show the rapid increase in temperature very recently. If it was linked to pollutant emission, would the temperature not have increased back when pollution levels were higher?

Many climate scientists point to the sun as an answer for increasing temperatures. Solar activity drives temperature changes and we are currently going through a period of high activity which, guess what, will naturally increase temperatures on Earth. Others have realised that we are still coming out of an ice age. How surprising is it

that temperatures are increasing? I am not saying we have no part to play, but I think it is very arrogant of us to assume we are to blame.

I know that I have been banging on about global warming, and green week is about more than this; it is about reducing waste, increasing efficiency and highlighting the need for renewables. I therefore commend the idea, despite my reservations about the dubious use of science to "prove" the necessity of these moves.

In the end each one of you should look at the evidence yourselves, and think very hard about whether you can live with waste, inefficiency and the prospect of oil wells running dry in a matter of decades.

With the Copenhagen conference fast approaching, many are claiming that there is no hope for a deal. Governments should push for controls on pollutants to prevent harm to citizens and for innovation in new technologies – "clean" coal, renewables. Do it without distorting science, and for the non-political reason that it will soon be necessary to say goodbye to fossil fuels as our primary source of energy and household materials. If we can get over the "messages" and whether we agree with certain claims or not, we may get somewhere by looking at the facts and finding solutions to the problems we face.

This will not end with international co-operation and some abstract targets (we are a long way from meeting our Kyoto agreement targets), there must be serious policy changes at home. The general population cannot be expected to take control of this problem, so money must be spent, where necessary, to ensure we have technology in place to replace current expiring sources.

It seems almost certain that the sea level will rise in the foreseeable future. Why are countries not beginning to contemplate the effects this will have? Mass migration is a real threat and plans must be put in place to ensure that these kinds of episodes can be dealt with carefully and properly. It is very likely that borders will be broken due to the huge influx of desperate people.

Equally, it is inevitable that countries will attempt to tighten their borders, leaving many stranded. In some cases I would expect boats to be purposefully sunk and many people shot to prevent overcrowding. We as a people must try our best as far as possible to limit the devastating effect we will have upon each other. This is as much of a concern as what to do about limited resources and what to do when they run out.

To the governments meeting in Copenhagen next month, whatever you do, whether anything is agreed or not, please do not politicise the scientific evidence.

Milk: more than just cow juice!

Neil Dhir

Do you remember the Milk Rounds? Or the School Milk? (In all honesty, yours truly was not born when this was around.) Well this is another one of those areas where the country has gone completely bonkers.

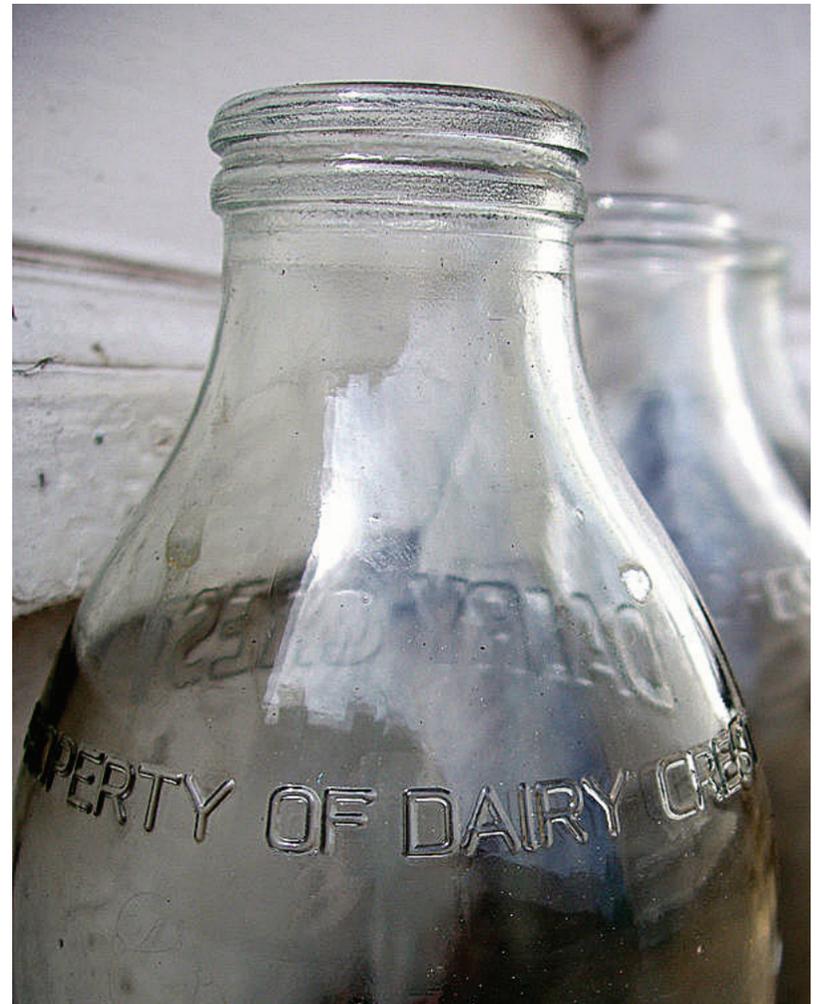
Consider what we now get our milk in: environmentally hazardous plastic cartridges that have to be thrown out once they have been used. This of course, is counter productive as the things are made of plastic i.e. oil, and may have to be burned, thus releasing all those nasty gases the Green lobby keeps banging on about.

What has been done about this then? Not very much to be quite honest. But before we get to the Milk rounds, lets have a look at what some food chains are in fact offering. Tesco have nothing but the plastic gear which is utterly useless, particularly if you throw the infernal thing out with the lid screwed tight. Some councils now employ people-this is not a joke-whose soul purpose is to pop the cartons so as to free some space in the bins. The same story is true for most of the big stores, except Sainsbury's and Waitrose. They have in their larger supermarkets started using bags of milk. Even the bags themselves are recyclable which is always good. But obviously the main benefit comes from not having a physical carton which you have to smash with your bare knuckles in order for the damned thing to become somewhat 'flat'. Other benefits include saving plastic and using that oil on, say, better equipment for the armed forces.

Sainsbury's claim that the only way to open the bag, without ending up covered in milk, is to place the bag inside a jug and shut the lid. The special Sainsbury's jug has a spike which pierces the bag releasing the milk. Your humble narrator can comfort the dear reader that this is all complete bollocks. You do not need a special jug. You need a jug, but not a special Sainsbury's jug, and a pair of scissors. Cut off a corner and pour the bloody milk into the jug. It is not rocket science and even if it were the all-mighty Imperial student should be able to handle it.

It is a bit odd that it only arrived in the UK about a year ago; you can only buy milk in bags in Canada. They do not sell it in any other form (supposedly 60% is sold in bag form, the remaining 40% being some unknown form of storage particular to Canada). Which begs the question: why are they intent on destroying the countryside when they might as well just outlaw any packaging which does not necessarily have to be made from the most inconvenient of materials? Do you really need cereal in a carton, is not the bag enough? And so on. While not wishing to be a mouth piece for the Green lobby bandwagon, (which Imperial has happily hopped on – for it is a very profitable wagon, and as such suits Imperial College perfectly) we do need to reconsider the way we pack things at least to save material.

But now the more pressing of questions: why have they let the Milk Rounds fall into despair, when it was



Remembering the good ol' days of the Milkman delivering to your front door

probably the most environmentally friendly way of delivering fresh, cheap, locally produced, milk? Bear in mind that companies like Lidl insist on their milk being sent from Germany to some of its stores in Europe. I.e. The milk you buy from Lidl is not, even by any stretch of the imagination, 'local' if bought in Sweden, for example. The Milk Rounds use glass bottles (as you will know by now that glass is 100% recyclable) and the vehicles they spin around in are driven by electricity.

This is not to say that the industry is dead - far from it. From the website Findmeamilkman.net we have it that "The UK's 9,500 milkmen and women deliver to around 5 million homes every day. Whilst fresh liquid milk in environmentally friendly returnable glass milk bottles remains the cornerstone of this service, your milkman can also offer a large range of other goods. They will be more than happy to discuss the range of products that can be delivered regularly directly to your doorstep." Now, a normal person in the UK consumes roughly 2 litres or 3.5 pints of milk each week. This is a fair amount of milk. But one must wonder why are only 5 million homes in the UK getting their milk from this service which ought to be the Emperors of the milk trade (and media and government policy) in the UK, yet are not. A decade ago, more than 2.5 billion litres of milk were being delivered to the doorstep each year, which by 2004 had fallen to 637 million. Only 13% of the milk now consumed at home comes from delivery rounds (2006).

We can get pretty nostalgic about

our doorstep milk deliveries. After all, there cannot be many countries that have had a record at number one in the singles chart about a milkman. Comedian Benny Hill's record Ernie (The Fastest Milkman In The West) topped the charts in 1971 for five solid weeks. Before the milk float, milk was delivered on wheeled carts – either horse-drawn or simply pushed. The milk was in a churn before the advent of the milk bottle, and the milkman poured it into the jugs his customers left on their doorsteps. A cloth cover over the jug protected the milk from flies. The early morning chink-chink of the milkman or woman and the hum of the electric float is declining in 21st-century England, despite efforts to extend the range of products on offer to include eggs, bread, juice and more.

Despite rumours to the contrary, there is no threat to UK milk deliveries from the European Union. However, as we move further into this century, it appears that the trend is being reversed because people are starting to realise what this article has been arguing, that there is simply no way in which supermarket-milk beats milkman-milk. As such, it is becoming more popular again and it is only a question of time before an MP of one ilk or another seizes upon this issue to include in their portfolio of "green policies".

Instead of building expensive "eco-towns", perhaps we ought to retrace our steps to a time when people were far more sensible (and greener) than they are now; without having to destroy the entire economy in the process.

Proactive approach needed on climate

Richard Howard

Everyone knows about climate change. Its buzz words: carbon footprint, greenhouse emissions etc. Its endless documentaries, books, songs and constant pleas from celebrities. But, what are we going to do about it?

There are enough people out there in the public arena that are all talk and no action; most celebrity endorsements are so hypocritical they're insulting. In a nutshell, their antics go something like this: find cause which is poignant and mindlessly gut wrenching. Attract huge amount of publicity visiting indigenous people and pretending to talk to tribesmen (plenty of time for a photo shoot); then fly back home first class on a greenhouse-gas-spewing nightmare of a plane. Arrive home; next day do a circuit of all the daytime TV shows showing lots of emotion over the subject matter, and plug an album.

That is a pretty cynical view, I know, but I am sure the celebs care about their causes, but what I find so stupid and inconsiderate on their part, is the fact that they then expect us, the general public, to down tools and get to work ensuring their futile vision of a harmonious and peaceful world will come to fruition. When actually, funnily enough, we don't have the same endless pots of gold as a multi-platinum recording artist or a jumped-up model that suddenly cares about things that the general populous cares about, just after they've been grappling with the tabloids over a nasty and twisted divorce. The general public have much

more important things to spend their precious hard earned cash on, and there are so many important causes out there, ordinary people just don't have the resources, and when these pretentious climate messiahs tell us mortals to do this and that it just guilts us into feeling bad that we not billionaire philanthropists.

Protesters and dreamers at hippy gatherings of climate camp are preaching more about prudence and an end to the consumer agenda, than actually about climate change. They want a change in the way people live their lives, and that is a far greater ask.

This is a far too much of a political agenda, and almost bordering on a new religious ideology. Again, just making everyone else feel bad. The solution of climate change will come from scientists and if they want to help instead of camping in inconvenient places in London; play the system, lobby, drum up public support for ideas that will really make a difference.

What is needed is not to concentrate on the emotive side of the problem, more the rational solutions.

Climate change in the media is bandied around so much, but how many people actually know the science behind it? To your average Joe, and your Gucci wearing hippy of a celebrity this probably doesn't matter, but it should. Arming people with a knowledge of how and why the climate is changing and the technical side of the solutions, would do more for climate change than trying to force people's opinions with inaccurate shock therapy on TV. With some basic science, public opinion



Continued pollution at current levels will lead to a 6°C rise in global temperatures say the Global Carbon Project this week

would be much more tailored to what was needed to combat climate change, and this would get the ball rolling much faster as to what is needed to solve this gigantic pain in the arse.

Maybe stuck-up seaside residents would then be far less hypocritical

when campaigning against the construction of wind farms because it will ruin their view, while still wanting at the same time to save the earth. Or pressurising the people that matter to invest vast sums in relevant technology (but nothing in comparison to a bail-

out), like fusion power for example.

My point is that we need to be more proactive in our quest for change, and in possession of knowledge we can look to a brighter future, instead of the frightening one that is portrayed in the public domain.

Berlusconi's widespread corruption in Italian politics

Pietro Aronica

There once was a king who very much enjoyed his reign. He got impunity from the law, a different damsel in his bedroom every night and no one could do anything about it, not even complain. You could be forgiven to think that I'm talking about some feudal lord of the Middle Ages, but for the citizens of a certain country in southern Europe, this is reality. Welcome to Italy, where the third-richest man holds the reins of power, the director of the foremost public news program refuses to air news criticising him and five out of six television channels, the most used media by the majority of Italians, are under control of the government.

Berlusconi represents the perfect politician, the union of resources, an excellent understanding of what appeals to people and enough boldness to ignore reality. His control of the media has allowed him to demonize his opponents and spread his slogan of "less taxes for everybody", a strategy that has allowed him to get elected three times in the past twenty years. To his credit, he has kept that promise, despite crippling the economy in order to make up for the tax cuts that ben-

efitted mostly only the ultra-rich. The sensible laws however, or indeed any law that pertained to the country, were submerged by a sea of acts that had as their only purpose to take him out of his legal troubles. Berlusconi is a man with many ongoing trials against him, mainly concerning shady takeovers of companies, illegal handling of wealth and suspect mafia connections. His first priority once in power has always been to protect himself and his friends by decriminalising whatever they were accused of, by making them immune from the law and restricting the powers of the magistrates. His latest attempt to make himself untouchable has been declared unconstitutional by the Italian Supreme Court: no more than a mere speed bump in his run, as he is already pushing another law that would cause all the trials against him to expire.

The question is why the Italian public keeps voting for him. One could blame the media, which conveniently hides or downplays all the ad personam laws, trumpets triumphantly anything else he does and rabidly attacks anyone who criticises him. One could also blame the lack of alternatives, as the Italian left is lethargic, divided and trying to be too clever for its own good. The right-wing parties show

much more loyalty to their bosses and much less squabbling over inanities. This allows them to quickly pass laws in parliament – never mind that they are actively bad or useless for the country, at least they are doing something – the Italian public thinks. But the far more sinister option is that Italians, in their hearts, want to be like Berlusconi. They want to be charming, successful men who accumulate masses of wealth and sleep with beautiful women, who only care for their own good and are not afraid to resort to illegal means if it makes them richer. They want to own football clubs, evade taxes and promote family values, despite sleeping with prostitutes.

Maybe this has become a little more of a rant than intended (although everything I've said is true; you can check the work of many independent journalists such as Travaglio and Santoro to prove this), and maybe you already knew all of this, or maybe you don't care about any of it. Probably what I'm trying to say is that if you think that this country's got it bad, with neo-Nazis on public television and hardly any alternatives to the two very similar main parties, it could be worse. At least you don't come from a country where people are at best blind, or in the worst case, tax evaders and Casanovas.



Berlusconi with his new barbershop quartet: Obama, Medvedev and Hu Jintao



It takes more than glitter

Rosie Milton Arts Editor

This week at *felix*, the Arts editors have decided to offer up to our reading public a new, regular feature: a listing of any art-related events that we think will satiate the culture-hungry of you out there. So try to seek out what we list and recommend. If there is anything you have seen recently, particularly anything interesting, off-the-beaten-track, do let us know! Any reviews will be happily received and considered for selection for future issues.

On that note, this week Bernard Pereira offers up a review of one of the National Gallery's current exhibits, 'The Sacred Made Real'. It brings a much-welcomed antique element to our Arts pages this week, for it is my firm belief that historic art informs how artists create work today. That is something you can also judge for yourself.

Bringing us right up to today, I have made a brief review of 'Pop Life: Art in a Material World', currently on show at the Tate Modern. I feel this is an exhibit one needs to see in actuality to fully gauge the 'slap-in-the-face' quality of most of the artworks. Although I found it still quite socially and mentally challenging, my article hopes to express the tension between contemporary and now what is also sliding into the historic, with this show.

Moving back up the river to Trafal-

gar Square, my co-editor Caz Knight reviewed an exhibit currently showing at the National Portrait Gallery, 'Beatles to Bowie' – a fairly self-explanatory title. I would consider this a second part in Caz's recent exploration of London retrospective music exhibits, which she thoroughly investigates for our reading pleasure.

We are glad to say at Arts, we are receiving articles regularly from contributors and will try and post them all. Whatever we think is interesting and written in a clear and concise manner will be considered!

Next week, Caz Knight and I will be attending the press launch of Damien Hirst's new show at the Jay Jopling's White Cube spaces in the West End and East End. Hirst is an artist who, although his artworks do not always agree with me, is certainly one who crops up a lot in my critical thinking. He is an artist who has an impressive command of the commercial art market and never fails to fuel tabloid columns (including these, of course!). So we shall be reporting back our opinions of his return to painting after the opening of the show next week.

Next week, look out for a new feature within these pages: 'Why I Like ...' – a specific focus on artists and other cultural figures who inspire us and why, spearheaded by our co-editor Lucy Harrold.

Godheads of the '60's

Caz Knight reviews a thematic NPG show of rock and roll stars

The Sixties was one of the most riotous, exciting and revered (at least from a hedonistic point of view) decades of the century gone by: it is hard to refute this fact especially when one can compare what has gone before with the time in which the youth of today is growing up. The world was shaking off the frugality the war had imposed and the progeny of the May 1945 celebrations were at the helm pioneering the expansion in music, fashion and more. It is little wonder, then, that the National Portrait Gallery, like many before it, has tried to capture this exuberance.

Beatles to Bowie travels chronologically, exploring the big bands, artists, models and hangers-on of each year. Cabinets of 'artefacts' such as magazine covers and record sleeves punctuate the portraits in an attempt to make the collection seem less like, well, a one dimensional photograph. The first few years of the decade plod through the early years of pop music as we know it, filled with faces that few born after 1960 would remember and far too many of a chipmunk-faced Cliff Richard.

It is only after 1965 as the Beatles started gathering more and more momentum that the portraits become slightly more adventurous and it becomes harder to tell immediately they were commissioned for the glossy pages of a magazine or Sunday newspaper supplement, as many were. Fiona Adam's portrait of the four members of Gerry and the Pacemakers in the

process of sliding down a playground slide and the iconic Beatles-jumping-in-mid-air photograph leap out immediately on account of their playfulness and sense of spontaneity. Jean Marie le Perier also creates two atmospheric and eye catching Beatles portraits: the four of them peering round their manager Brian Epstein's red door and another where they stand huddled, the only light coming from matches used to light their cigarettes, bringing to mind the atmospheric lighting created in a renaissance painting. This 'old master' effect is recreated later by Gered Mankowitz in his portrait of the Spencer David Group.

By the time 1966 comes around it is obvious the curator, Terence Pepper, has begun to try a bit harder. The portraits now come with a soundtrack of Pink Floyd, the Rolling Stones and the other usual suspects as well as some unsightly mannequins clothed in the fashion of the day (mini dresses mainly). Here, not only does the music get better but the photographs do too, with a more portraits seeming less staged.

Thorgerson/Hipgnosis' 1969 photograph of Pink Floyd (used for the 'Ummagumma' album cover) is as off the wall as its subjects' music. The four band members are spread between a room and the garden it leads into, with the picture on the wall in the foreground a near mirror image of the scene we see, only the band have swapped positions and attire. Bob Dylan trying on shoes in Carnaby Street and Donovan sat writing song lyrics on

the south bank with Big Ben a shadow in the background are more intimate offerings, as is Tom Blau's black and white triptych of John Lennon and Yoko Ono going in for a kiss.

The gems of the collection only emerge in the later years of the decade, a sign of the more exciting approach to photography (smearing Vaseline on the camera lens) but also, perhaps, of the more exciting times when groups such as the Jimi Hendrix Experience, Led Zeppelin and the Doors (surprisingly absent from this exhibition!) were at the forefront of music and the demure Fifties were a more distant memory.

The baby boomers of the Forties were now all young adults, and with such a high proportion of young people in the population it is not surprising that the second half of the Sixties became as exciting as it was. It may explain the insipid, bland youth culture and music present today in a rapidly ageing population.

But there was not just only music and fashion, sex and acid during the Sixties (not for everyone, at least). There was also political unrest, war and famine and it would be naïve to only look at the music in isolation as contemporary times will always have effect on artistic output in any given era. After having been recently to the British Music Experience, which successfully includes music, paraphernalia and politics in an immersive environment, Beatles to Bowie seems haphazardly curated, making the decade seem hackneyed; a cliché of itself.

Rosie Milton witnesses Pop Art's final flails at the Tate

I was sitting at home recently, listening absent-mindedly to the news, when I heard a report about a 'controversial' new exhibit at the Tate Modern, which had withdrawn an artwork even before opening to the public.

It seems to be to be a rare thing these days to find an artwork that shocks and appalls the public to the extent that it is removed. Saatchi's collection of elephant poo canvases, blood heads and portrait of Myra Hindley composed of child handprints pushed the limits of what viewers could stomach, but now that its 'been done', is considered blasé by gallery-goers. However, in the case of the Tate Modern's brash new show 'Pop Life: Art In A Material World', it was not the clamouring public who had Richard Prince's photograph (of a photograph) of a pre-pubescent Brooke Shields posing, nude in her bath, heavily made-up (need I go on?) removed, but the Tate themselves ushered in the Metropolitan Police's Obscene Publications Unit out of sheer concern for 'doing the right thing'.

The exhibit begins, naturally, by leaning heavily on Andy Warhol – the 'father of Pop'. Yet it focuses on the

more crude and commercial side of this artist, his 'sell-out' phase, where he would do a cheap deal on a double portrait for any willing punter. Damien Hirst makes an appearance – an artist recognised for his sheer manipulative grip on the world art market, having made over £112 million at a knock-out sale at Sotheby's a year ago (even more poignant being that he made this astronomical sum the same week the fall of Lehman brothers signalled our descent into economic crisis). Yet apart from this market 'phenomenon', let us call it, Hirst's work is still considered rather tame – not having the 'shock' factor. We all saw his pickled shark at the Saatchi gallery.

My point is this; that although many of the artworks shocked even me, especially Jeff Koons' huge blown-up fantasy portraits of himself and pornstar La Cicciolina exposing orifice and member to all and sundry, these artworks are now nearly 30 years old!

Does an exhibition such as Pop Life act as a retrospective for the era of 'look-at-me' art? Are we entering a new age of conservative art? Or will we be subjected to a new wave of sensibility-insulting images and artworks?



Untitled 2009 © Maurizio Cattelan. This artwork acutely embodies a well-known phrase relevant for this exhibit

Celestial bodies, beatifically rendered

Bernard Pereira reviews and critiques the National Gallery's current display of Spanish sculptures and paintings

Functional art – that's probably how one would describe the exhibition at the National Gallery's Sainsbury Wing, which currently showcases a thoughtful selection of paintings and polychrome sculptures from 17th century Spain. On display are works that were created to, and in Spain continue to, aid wor-

ship and devotion: many were commissioned by churches, monasteries and religious orders, and most have never travelled beyond the walls of these religious institutions before departing for central London. The short video that is part of the exhibition shows the use of the wooden sculptures of Biblical figures on pasos, large floats used

in Spanish religious parades that are particularly prominent during Semana Santa, or Holy Week (the week leading up to Easter). When these occur at night, the flickering candlelight and the swaying pasos breathe life into the wooden statues – the intention is, of course, to allow observers to connect with the higher power above.

What place, then, does all this have in largely secular London? Why has the National Gallery chosen to display paintings of saints and sculptures of Christ in dimly-lit rooms? In a nutshell, these sculptures and paintings are just as significant in terms of art as they are in terms of religion. They represent a slice of culture and history, but in the past, have only rarely been viewed from an aesthetic perspective, despite the fact that some of the most important artists of the time were involved in their creation. As a matter of fact, the very first work one sees is a painting, by the famous Diego Velázquez, of Juan Martínez Montañés in the act of sculpting (1635-36). Montañés was a popular sculptor in his day, and left his mark on Spanish art by having a large influence on the next generation of sculptors.

In the same room stands Montañés's *The Virgin of Immaculate Conception* (c. 1628), a polychrome sculpture of the Virgin Mary that attempts to realistically depict her as a young 13-year old girl, as opposed to a some distant ecclesiastical being. Much of the exhibition shows art that was created to revitalise Catholicism in light of the Counter-Reformation, a period of Catholic revival triggered by the 16th-century Council of Trent. As such, the artists attempted to follow the Catholic Church's recommendation that religious art be made realistic and

accessible to the illiterate as opposed to being intellectually challenging. It is as a result of this that the term 'hyper-realism' arose, and that Montañés' sculpture attempts to literally present its subject. The realism becomes more prominent as you walk through the exhibition. The sculpture of the *Head of Saint John* (c. 1625) by Juan de Mesa was probably based on the head of an executed criminal, and the trachea, oesophagus and paraspinal muscles are clearly visible despite the bright red blood that covers the neck. The torn skin and trickling blood on Christ's back in Pedro de Mena's sculpture *Ecce Homo* (Christ as the Man of Sorrows; 1673) contributes to a graphic representation of Christ after his flagellation. The accuracy in the depiction is extraordinary, to the point where the ribs of the lean torso are visible under the bruised skin. The exhibition's centrepiece, *Dead Christ* (1625-30), was sculpted by Gregoria Fernández in order to allow the faithful to meditate on Christ's death by his almost-naked corpse. In an attempt to shock the viewer, Fernández went all out to make the corpse as realistic as possible: real hair is used for the eyelashes and glass balls for the eyes; the teeth are made from ivory and the bark from a tree was painted red to ensure that the congealed blood had a convincing texture. The perverse attention to detail is no doubt gory, but the work commands appreciation in an artistic sense, just as it would have commanded devotion in the worshipper.

The sculptures themselves would normally have been created by two different parties: after the sculptor had finished sculpting the treated wood, a specialist painter would take over to bring the work to life. Painting these

sculptures was a highly-regarded art in 17th-century Spain, and there were strict guidelines present for completing the task. These included instructions on painting the flesh tones and on obtaining realistic lighting perspectives, as well as on techniques for decoration and realistic representation. *Ecce Homo* (1621) sculpted by Fernández is a good example of this approach; its painter is unknown, but his broad blue brushstrokes give the skin a bruised quality, and he has removed the smooth layer from parts the sculpture to illustrate the flesh wounds. The frequent practice of painting sculptures meant that actual painting its own right often attained sculptural properties, such as in Francisco de Zurbarán's drawing of a *Head of a Monk* (1620-30), in which the attention to shadow gives the monk's praying face a real spatial quality. Likewise, de Zurbarán's *Christ on the Cross* (1627) consists of Christ hanging on the cross in the middle of a totally black background – the work was painted to be hung in a specific location in a Spanish chapel, in which the light streaming in from the windows brought prominence to the work's subject, and gave it a three-dimensional character.

The attempted realism throughout is something that cannot be missed, and a visit to the National Gallery is highly recommended. It is by no means a 'Christian' exhibition; non-believers and people of other religions will find that the works can be readily appreciated as works of art, and that they provide much insight into an age where the Church had so much influence. That they were created primarily for devotion cannot be denied, but this, perhaps, makes for an all the more engaging experience.



The Crucifixion, Francisco de Zurbarán, 1627. © The Art Institute of Chicago

Listing of events, happenings, doings and things around the city for your interest

Mainstream Art Exhibitions

Nothing Matters Damien Hirst

White Cube, 25-26 Mason's Yard,
SW1Y 6BU

Nov 25-Jan 30 2010 / admission free

A show of Hirst's paintings, this show promises not to shy away from controversy. How the critics will find his hand at painting is yet to be decided...

Anish Kapoor Anish Kapoor

Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly,
London, W1J 0BD

Until Fri Dec 11 / £8 NUS/ISIC

An exploding cannon of violently bright red goo is generally the main attraction to this exhibit, but Kapoor has more to offer than just the purely entertaining.

Wild Thing

Epstein, Gaudier-Brzeska and Gill

Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London,
W1J 0BD

Until Jan 24 2010 / £7 NUS/ISIC

An exhibition of sculpture from three of the most prolific sculptors of modern art history, this exhibit explores the mechanics of Futurist sculpture and more.

More Quirky Goings On

Nostalgia Omer Fast

South London Gallery, 65 Peckham Rd,
London, SE5 8UH

Until Sun Dec 6 / admission free

A futuristic vision of a dystopian Britain, possibly not one too far off to imagine, is created by Fast in a film entitled 'Nostalgia'. The visuals of this artistic film look enticing.

Ghost Forest Angela Palmer

Trafalgar Square, London, WC2N 5DN

Until Sun Nov 22 / admission free

Perhaps a more insightful visual warning to us about the waste of Christmas, Palmer's giant dead tree stumps from the rainforests of Ghana will be installed in Trafalgar Square for us all to consider.

The Museum of Everything Various Artists

The Museum of Everything, Corner of
Regents Park Rd and Sharples Hall St,
NW1 8YL

Until Wed Dec 23 / admission free

A quirky little 'pop-up' museum of over 200 works has appeared just off Primrose Hill to showcase a collection of Outsider Art.

Shake It: An Instant History of the Polaroid

Pump House Gallery, Battersea Park,
London, SW11 4NJ

Until Sun Dec 13 / admission free

Sadly the death-knoll of one of the most fabulous inventions of our time has sounded. The polaroid, with its instant visual (and physical) gratification is celebrated here at this exhibit.



Anish Kapoor, currently exhibiting at the Royal Academy. Vivid halls of red plastic material delight the viewer

MUSIC

Music Editors: Alexandra Ashford, Kadhim Shubber & Luke Turner
 Online Editor: Christopher Walmsley
 music.felix@gmail.com www.felixmusic.tk



To rebel! That is the immediate objective of poets

Luke Turner Music Editor

This is for the beaten down, spontaneous souls that inspired some of the best of music... Beatniks. The Beat Generation was a group of American writers in the 1950s. They rejected American values, society's values and lived the spontaneous life of doing whatever they wanted, whenever they wanted and liberating themselves. A life of non-conformity in order for pure expression to be achieved.

It's pretty obvious the 1950s were a serious turning point on the road that music was to take. At that time, jazz and swing was breaking out of the previously 'normal' music style and the Beat Generation had a lot to do with that. Whether they knew the significance of their actions or not, this generation had set music down a road which would encounter The Beatles, Bob Dylan and The Doors. It can be said that Beatniks were a cause of the hippie revolution (in my thinking, we're on the brink of another hippie movement. Anyone?). They were true bohemians.

Jack Kerouac's writings in 'On The Road' and Allen Ginsberg's 'Howl' are

two books that inspired The Beat Generation to spread. Jack Kerouac being the one who introduced the term Beat Generation.

In the end music is a form of poetry, with or without lyrics, and the Beatniks' poetry was genius. It went against conformity in a simple way, it was different. Allen Ginsberg: "The only thing that can save the world is the reclaiming of the awareness of the world. That's what poetry does." He really believed in what he was saying. Once The Beat Generation had grown roots, they began to put their poems to music :soft, quiet, jazzy background accompaniments to poems. Sometimes Beatnik music was stripped down to a simple poem and beat.

Whatever they did, they did well. Having a big influence on rock and roll of the 1960s until today- Bob Dylan being one of the better-known Beatniks, but others were members of the acid-loving Merry Pranksters in the 1960s, which brought us The Grateful Dead. Some inspired The Clash, The Doors, The Rolling Stones and Lou Reed. The Beat seed had been planted and look at the road it's taken us on, not bad at all.

felix charts: Imperial's favourite artists!

felixmusicchart.tk

We've been on the hunt lately to find out what Imperial students really listen to every day, and we've found out! Apparently it's Biffy Clyro, which is ok I guess - at least they kept Muse from taking the top spot. The chart comes from the felix group on last.fm (which can be found by using the above address, felixmusicchart.tk). If you join the group, it tracks what you listen to and then makes a chart based on how many different people listened to a certain artist. So what are you waiting for? Go and get a last.fm account, download their iTunes scrobbler and join the group. We both know that The xx should be number one so make your listens count!



1. Biffy Clyro
2. Muse
3. Radiohead
4. Jay-Z
5. Kings of Leon
6. Sonic Youth
7. The xx
8. Yeah Yeah Yeahs
9. Animal Collective
10. Red Hot Chilli Peppers

ONLINE
FELIXMUSIC.TK

Muse live at the
O2 arena

Interview with
Souls Of Mischief

Filthy Dukes'
brand new single

Alice in Chains live
at HMV forum

Reviews

ALBERTA CROSS
BROKEN SIDE OF
TIME
ARK RECORDINGS
ALBUM



This second album from Alberta Cross is overpowering. It is amazing, with brooding blues and the pure power of emotion. The vocals being exceptional in some parts and the music impassioned. This is beautiful rock, full of soul, from a band that will undoubtedly inspire many. - Luke Turner

STRAIGHT LINES
VERSUS THE
ALLEGIANCE
XTRA MILE
SINGLE



When this band was doing the British thing of waiting in a queue to get their name they were right at the back, down the street, round the corner, over the traffic lights, along the M4, on the Welsh border. Essentially they're not good enough to have a top quality name like I Hope You Like Your Soggy Sandwiches. They're reminiscent of Lost Prophets; Visions being their most catchy song. - Tom Jennings

1997
NOTES FROM
UNDERGROUND
VICTORY
RECORDINGS
ALBUM



This album is full of catchy melodies and pleasant guitar sounds. But there's a huge contrast in styles throughout the album, as if there was more than one band in here. The lyrics are try-hard emo, and the sound never breaks out of being conventional. Not much that hasn't been heard before. That said, it does sound nice... - Luke Turner

SPECTRUM 7
SERAFIN
EXTRA MILE
ALBUM



They're listed on their Myspace as being rock/punk/alternative: isn't every band? (apart from the ridiculously precise genres like "industrial four dimensional nerdcore!!!!") This band wholeheartedly lives up to its description if you think 'rock' means 'Fallout Boy'; 'punk' means 'Green Day' and 'alternative' means 'Panic At The Motherfucking Disco'. - Tom Jennings

REGARDS
AFTER MANY A
SUMMER
SINGLE



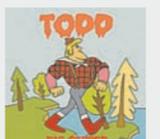
This track commands attention from the outset by the use of discordant guitar arrangements, which remain effective until the vocals begin in the lazy, slurring style so often adopted amongst vocalists today. The layering of multiple guitars on top of a simple yet thunderous drum creates an atmosphere of tension and urgency which is relieved at the chorus. However, this musical structure is used and reused soon becoming very predictable; perhaps as pop music should be. - Joanna Cai

TORI AMOS
MIDWINTER
GRACES
UNIVERSAL
REPUBLIC
ALBUM



Billed as the first 'seasonal album', Midwinter Graces contains reworked Christmas carols along with original music. A nice easy listen that should appeal to most musical palettes. - Richard Waldie

TODD
BIG RIPPER
ROUGH TRADE
ALBUM



For some this will sound like the equivalent of musical diarrhoea. But for fans of lo-fi noise-rock in the vein of Times New Viking and Wavves, this is a glorious piece of work. The third LP from this London-based band isn't easy on the ear, featuring heavily saturated guitars and incomprehensible screaming. But there are inspired moments throughout: flirting with doom-metal and stoner-rock. On a whole, it's an abrasive, messy success. - Greg Power

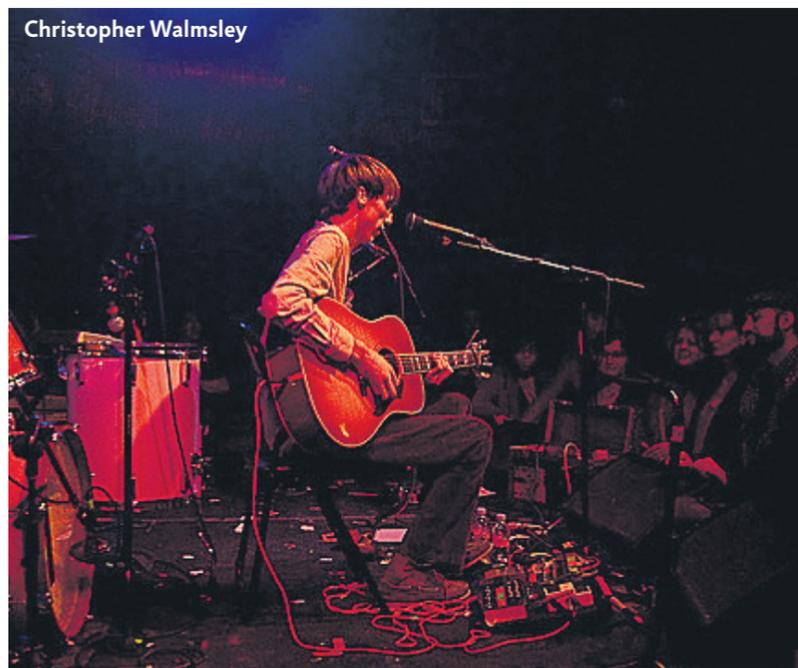
THYRD EYE
SAY SOMETHING
LEVELSOUND
EP



A Welsh "goth"-rock trio consisting of two brothers on guitar/drums and their sister Hannah on the bass. This 3-track EP sounds like bland 90s alt-rock. "Say Something" is decent, mainly down to Hannah's dreamy vocals and a catchy chorus riff. - Greg Power

This sentimental ballad would be very fitting in the middle of a dramatic scene of Grey's Anatomy, or another such TV series- it wouldn't sound bad if a tactfully chosen snippet was to play on-screen, but upon one full listen, the song surfaces full of dreamy, soppy, "indie-folk" crooning. It was made to be background music: the dynamics are flat, and even with high strings trailing in and out on top of the simplistic piano motif, there is no real assertive melody. Tom Hull's voice is too weak to enhance this piece of music, being quite nasal, and the instrumental ending is bland and stylistically unimpressive, wrapping up a song that has been written following the ballad formula, but lacking in true emotion. - Joanna Cai

Live



Atlas Sound @ Cargo

Christopher Walmsley gets cosy with Cox at Cargo

The lofty, skinny frame of Bradford Cox takes a seat in front of a plethora of effects pedals inside this intimate east London venue. He's just arrived this morning, got no sleep on the plane and he shares with us that we should not be alarmed if he has to urgently leave the stage. Turns out he gets the shits when his sleeping patterns get fucked up. So it goes.

Delicately noodling some guitar riffs into his delay pedal, the ambient, swaying 'Quick Canal' quickly begins to take shape, and he is joined on stage by vocalist Laetitia Sadier, one of the guest collaborators on his new album 'Logos'. When satisfied with his loop

construction Bradford makes for the drums, prompting a child to take to the stage and gyrate an 'interpretive dance'. This sounds pretentious but I think it was the son of a friend, and it certainly was only intended to lighten the mood.

The cosy atmosphere inside Cargo coupled with Bradford's friendly nature make tonight's show feel like he was just performing for friends in his front room, although he points out that only half of us would be able to fit inside his whole house. His dialogue with the crowd, while at times treading in self-indulgent territory, demonstrates that he is here just to play songs. He enjoys not having to simply shift albums and this makes the evening feel much more

personal. Lacking Noah Lennox (of Panda Bear and Animal Collective) on 'Walkabout', the performance failed to live up to the recorded standard, but the catchy 'Shelia' sounded really good and would be my pick for song of the night.

This was a very impressive display of how complete a sound could be made simply by one individual and the aid of a looping device

Atlas Sound
Cargo
15th November
★★★★☆

Albums that you should know

Gregory Power looks at modern classics that shaped music today

At the turn of the Century, a peculiar hybrid of electronic music and hip-hop appeared in techno clubs which was later termed "glitch-hop". The movement was created by artists who rejected the forward thinking of IDM ("Intelligent Dance Music"), pioneers of the great Warp record label. Glitch-hop disappeared, and IDM

thrived through ever-changing acts like Aphex Twin.

Parallel to all this commotion over what the future of electronic music should be named, the Berlin Wall fell and all over Germany people got drunk to the sound of their new-found freedom.

Amidst a bustling electro scene, Ger- not Bronsert met Sebastian Szary at an

acid rave party in Berlin, and they set out to make liberating music of their own.

Throughout the next 15 years they pulled out sick tunes under various monikers, finally settling for the name Modeselektor. In interviews, they describe their music as "Happy metal, hard rap, country-ambient, Russian crunk", and some douche from a London zine called them "bassbin-blowing techno hop dubstep core", but there really is no term to describe their wonderful mix of breakbeat, IDM and glitch-hop.

'Happy Birthday', only their second full-length album, is their most ambitious work yet, clocking in at over 70 minutes and featuring numerous

Modeselektor
'Happy Birthday'
BPitch Control
2007



collaborations with top artists. Every track creates a mini-genre of its own, from the off-beat party electro of the title track, to the heavy ragga of "Let Your Love Grow", and the old-school beats of "Wedding Toccata Theme". "Black Block" and "Sucker Pin" manage to incorporate elements of IDM whilst remaining awesome dance tracks.

However, the highlights here are the sinister hip-hop "Dark Side of the Sun", featuring badass puppet-rap crew Puppemastaz, and their brooding collaboration with über-fan Thom Yorke, "The White Flash".

The album is a flawless listen and more importantly, an essential record for lovers of all types of electronic music.

Want to write about your favourite album? Email music.felix@gmail.com

Friday

- White Lies** :: Brixton Academy :: Alternative Rock
- Jonas Brothers** :: Wembley Arena :: Pop
- Madeleine Peyroux** :: Royal Festival Hall :: Jazz Blues
- Gomez** :: The Troxy :: Indie Rock
- Elliot Minor** :: HMV Forum :: Pop Rock
- Starfucker** :: The Garage :: Garage Rock
- The FM Flash** :: Monto Water Rats :: Prog Rock
- Cosmo Jarvis** :: The Watershed :: Pop
- Sister Ray** :: The Underbelly :: Alternative

Saturday

- Rise Against** :: Brixton Academy :: Punk Rock
- Tower Of Power** :: Matter :: American Soul & Funk
- Will Young** :: Hammersmith Apollo :: Pop
- Cleo Laine** :: Royal Festival Hall :: Jazz

Sunday

- Cluster** :: Royal Festival Hall :: German Experimental
- Blueneck** :: The Dublin Castle :: Ambient
- Breed 77** :: The Garage :: Metal
- Think In Oceans** :: Roundhouse :: Silent Films With Live Music

Monday

- Taylor Swift** :: Wembley Arena :: Pop
- Rodrigo y Gabriela** :: Hammersmith Apollo :: Folk Rock
- Snow Patrol** :: Royal Albert Hall :: Rock
- Lisa Hannigan** :: Royal Festival Hall :: Folk
- Paloma Faith** :: KOKO :: Pop

Tuesday

- The Specials** :: Hammersmith Apollo :: Ska
- Canterbury** :: Barfly :: Alternative
- Rupa & The April Fishes** :: Cargo :: Latin Folk Rock

Wednesday

- The Antlers** :: Bush Hall :: Folk Rock
- La Roux** :: Shepherds Bush :: Indie Pop
- The Butterfly Effect** :: Islington Academy :: Hard Rock
- Filthy Dukes** :: Dingwalls :: Synthpop

Thursday

- Skunk Anansie** :: Brixton Academy :: Brit Rock
- Fucked Up** :: Barfly :: Hard Punk
- My Life Story** :: KOKO :: Power Pop
- Laura Gibson** :: The Luminaire :: Blues
- Gun** :: Islington Academy :: Hard Rock

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



Special effects & a whole load of clichés

No point going green this week really, according to the latest Emmerich blockbuster film **2012** the fatal blow to our planet will be served by neutrinos and there's nothing we can do about it. So sit back and watch with joy.

Josh Pear

It has to be said that the director, Roland Emmerich, has done a fantastic (albeit ridiculous) job of the latest Hollywood 'end of the world' movie. The stunning CGI and special effects pushed the estimated cost of the film to a cool £120M, and has already raked in £39M globally in its first week. That said, this is the director of *Independence Day* and *The Day After Tomorrow*, and nobody would have expected him to be conservative in his budgeting.

So, why are we all going to die this time? Well, to be brief, solar flares are bombarding the earth with neutrinos and are heating the earth's core and 'cement' (as it's described) by a microwave effect. This cement no longer holds the tectonic plates in place, causing massive earthquakes, movement and breaking up of land mass. I'm quite sure that there will be several physicists disputing the cause of the disasters.

The all too familiar multiple narrative scenario from Emmerich presents the disasters from different people, who eventually connect, but the storyline itself is simply awful. The entire movie is basically a string of horrific disasters, one of which being California disappearing into the sea.

Don't get me wrong though, this movie is thoroughly entertaining on the basis of the jaw-dropping special effects. The first ten minutes or so of the film are not particularly fast-paced, until it suddenly jumps into the California disaster. You will definitely sit there in awe of the collapsing skyscrapers, and of the volcanic eruption of Yellowstone, hence the massive portion of



This is only one of the hundreds of scenes where CGI is implemented with a stunning effect. It's a shame similar neat tricks can't be used to write a screenplay.

the budget spent on CGI.

You're probably now wondering why I think the storyline is terrible, the answer is simple... cliché, cliché, and oh yes, a few more clichés. Examples of these would be the man who falls off a cliff and everyone thinks he's dead until his hand appears from over the edge (copied from Indiana Jones); or the man with a few hours' flying experience who has to pilot a ridiculously

large jet to safety (take your pick from any airplane disaster movie, how about *Air Force One*?) and the underwater escape scene at the end. The list goes on and on.

Now back to the good parts. Yes, it's an end of the world disaster movie, but there are some laughs in there. However, I'm not too sure they're intentional. Look out for the Russian man falling down a precipice near the end of the

film; the noise he made had the whole theatre laughing at what was intended to be quite a sad moment!

The part of the film that I really like is after all the destruction and loss, there is that 'everything will be OK' sense at the end. All the characters seem to ignore the fact that nearly 6 billion people are dead. But this is fine, as they're heading for the new Africa.

Bottom line is, the storyline is dread-

ful, but is totally and utterly dwarfed by the outstanding special effects, I personally like the 1500m tsunami hurtling over the Himalayas. There is a scene, which you can watch online by typing '2012 scene' into youtube. On that basis, I would recommend that you should go and see it, even if it is for a laugh. Had this film not devoted so much to the special effects, it would have had 1 star.

Their very own Personal Jesus...

Matthew Colvin

I like Depeche Mode. I don't like drawing pictures imagining myself married to the band members. Some people like both. The Posters Came From The Walls taught me this and a whole host of mainly bizarre Depeche Mode fan anecdotes, yet amongst the weird and the peculiar on offer, I left the screening with a much greater admiration for fandom in general. The film is an interview-based documentary surrounding fans of Depeche Mode worldwide. Directors Nicholas Abrahams and Jeremy Deller zip around the world as if it were a high octane action film.

From Basildon to California to Saint Petersburg, I often expected the next shot to be of a bearded Russian general urgently making a call, ordering the execution of some nefarious scheme surrounding the band, while

simultaneously pouring himself a glass of the people's finest fermented potatoes. With a little effort I was able to snap out of this political thriller mindset and put my documentary hat on (which I must admit, doesn't happen too often). What I found though, in lieu of the usual multiplex releases that I am so very fond of, was a truly genuine and, in some ways life affirming, documentary.

While Depeche Mode is at the crux of the issues of the film, the true message is that of the extremes of fandom and the positive and negative effects of it. Interviews are held with people who have in some way been significantly affected by their love of Depeche Mode.

The types of their stories are balanced fantastically throughout. High drama stems from the Russians who see the group's music as a soundtrack to the political upheaval that occurred during the late eighties and early nineties – with a timely reminder of the fall

of the Berlin Wall. Comedy is found with the German family whose hobby is to re-enact music videos. The sight of trumpeters performing a routine to 'Personal Jesus' simply has to be seen to be believed.

These fans seem contented and despite their struggles, political or otherwise, their association with the band has had a small negative and detrimental impact.

A fan even talks breathlessly and with enthusiasm of a near riot in Los Angeles. But then, I thought that this was perhaps the point. An underlying theme present through many of the stories was the betterment of the people concerned and the overcoming of problems. People had been brought together and found purpose in their own lives through this joint love for music.

The film goes on a very limited one-day release on December 1st and will be out on DVD in Spring 2010, but if



you do find the opportunity to go and see it, take it. Next time I hear some Depeche Mode, I won't go to the extreme of some fans and apply some de-

finitively eighties make up, but I will be reminded of how much of a difference people can make when they are truly inspired.



There's nothing green here

Zuzanna Blaszcak Film Editor

As you have probably noticed by now, the film section isn't quite following the 'green' theme this week. I could try arguing that 2012 fits the bill of a movie concerning climate change etc. but seriously, we should all be pretty confident that our beloved planet won't be destroyed by neutrinos, we'll be a bit more responsible for the end of the world than that. With *The Men who Stare at Goats* and *The Posters came from the Walls*, I have no chance whatsoever of finding any relevant themes. So I simply have no choice but to come clean and say that despite Dan's numerous e-mails, I have forgotten about the idea of a themed issue this week. And being a bit lazy I have decided not to write something on the spot. Any-

way, if you've never tried writing in the *felix* office you don't know what 'tough environment' means. Thus all you get this week from me is a pretty pointless string of words.

To give some semblance of meaning to this pitiful comment piece let me grab this opportunity to thank all the contributors. I am extremely proud of the film pages this year and I can't even try to fool myself that I've had anything to do with that. No, Ed and I manage to print pages full of great articles each week thanks to the students among you who have the courage, drive, ego and the slightly masochistic streak that makes you send in reviews week after week after week. If you've not heard it from others, at least hear it from me: thank you. You make my life so much easier.

Films you never grow tired of:



Charlotte Ivinson

Once, there was a lonely old inventor who decided to make a man. He called him Edward. He gave him eyes, a brain, and a heart. But the inventor died before he could finish him, leaving him with scissors for hands. Years pass, and the first point of contact Edward has with the outside world is... his local Avon lady.

This beautifully quirky fairytale, concocted by Tim Burton when he was still in school, is stunning in every way, with the attention to artistic detail Tim Burton is renowned for, and a glitteringly ethereal soundtrack. Filmed in 1990, this was the groundbreaking film on which the magical partnership of Tim Burton and Johnny Depp was

born, and the first 'alternative' film Depp acted in. The entire film feels like it has been shot inside a snow globe containing a generic 1960's Floridian suburbia, with identical, Monopoly-like houses and cars, perfectly manicured lawns and a chorus of gleefully tacky gossip suburban stereotypes providing the perfect backdrop for Edward's complete otherness.

Innocent and child-like, all Edward wants is to fit in with the unexpected world he has found himself in, which is met with consequences, at times both tragic and hilarious.

The story is charmingly adorable in places, and does have romantic elements, but its originality and quirky artiness keep it well out of the 'girly' box. A perfect film for a winter's night in.

Not worth staring at goats

Stefan Zeeman

Soldiers who can kill a goat... with mind bullets! Sounds brilliant, and a great concept brought to the big screen. Based on the book by Jon Ronson, the film follows a hapless journalist and a 'Jedi' soldier on a mission through war-stricken Afghanistan... or something like that.

Ewan McGregor plays Robert 'Bob' Wilton who is a small-time journalist in a small-time world. Suddenly, his life is torn apart when his wife leaves him for his one-armed boss, so he impulsively becomes a war correspondent in Afghanistan. His stay is bleak until he recognises the name of Lyn Cassady (George Clooney) from a previous interview. Cassady reveals himself as a level 3 psychic, who was previously trained by the 'First Earth Army'. The desperate Wilton seeks refuge in the embrace of the psychic, and they venture out into the desert to discover their future, among other things.

Throughout the film, Wilton narrates flashbacks of the story of First Earth Army. The founder of the unit is Bill Django (Jeff Bridges), who was converted into an easy going hippy after the Vietnam War. The team is trained by Django with several predictable, yet amusing moments. All is well until a new Jedi (Kevin Spacey) joins the unit, and continues to betray the team in an attempt to gain greater psychic power and the unit is disbanded. The film is essentially a mish-mash of past and present, which unfortunately never gains any real momentum. Considering the film is marketed as a comedy, there are far too few good jokes, and it could be so much funnier.

The film is in fact based upon many shocking truths. The First Earth Battalion existed after the Vietnam War,



1...2...3..., when I reach 10 you will take of your shirt and make pig noises..4...

and promoted peaceful methods of war, including presenting lambs on the battlefield to comfort the enemy. The 'sparkly eyes' method, which is referenced in the film, was another key weapon in their arsenal.

On screen, George Clooney is most often seen in a tuxedo with a quick script and sharp wit, yet he seems at ease inhabiting Lyn's quirky character. Clooney's role is closer to his Oscar winning performance in *Syriana*, than any previous rom-com charmer but his rugged looks in the film are surely bound to keep the housewives swoon-

ing on command. McGregor acts a standard McGregor role, and plays off Clooney's character well.

The desolate surroundings of the Afghanistan deserts provide a great backdrop for a pretty bleak film. There's an uplifting soundtrack to back the film, and you'll be left with Boston's 'More than a feeling' ringing in your head long after the film ends.

Unfortunately, there is little structure to the storyline, and the viewer is left stranded in the crossfire of a misfiring plot with little going on. Even the great cast cannot save the film from tedium.



Simon Dixon: THE NEED FOR MONETARY REFORM AND THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

Mon 23rd November
18.00-19.00
Business School LGS

Award winning Banking & Finance presenter Simon Dixon (from "Benedix") will dig deep into the history of money and debt to give a new perspective of how we arrived at the financial crisis. He will offer his opinions as to where the problem originated, highlight the shortcomings of this current economic system and describe the possible future repercussions of money creation via debt.

Whether you are a first year, penultimate, final, postgraduate or PhD student, knowing the market situation is important before deciding what's right for you.

REGISTRATION: Sign up at
<http://dougal.union.ic.ac.uk/scc/finance/events>





Green Week 2009

Hannah Theodorou

Since setting up Imperial's first Green Week in 2006, I have seen real highs and lows in Imperial's long journey on the road to sustainability. I can't help feeling as I write this that I would have given up a long time ago if it wasn't for the fact that I've noticed a stirring, a seismic shift almost, in Imperial's attitude towards its impact on the environment. I remember sitting in a Q&A session with the then-Rector, Richard Sykes, who assured me he wasn't the bad guy. After all, he "didn't leave the tap running when he brushed his teeth". I left the room feeling a mixture of frustration and disappointment,

knowing that moving the Green agenda forward under his reign would be a tall challenge.

However, since then we've done some remarkable and encouraging things. This will be Imperial's 4th Green Week. 1300 of you signed a petition encouraging the Union to introduce a comprehensive environmental policy (which it did in 2007). We've marched, we've recycled, we've campaigned, we've switched off and above all we've had fun. We even painted the Rector green, in way or another.

I certainly haven't done it on my own- there has been an amazing dedicated group of people who have been instrumental in this change, both from the student body and College staff. Soon it'll be my time to move on from

Imperial, but I can do it happily knowing that we've got the ball rolling and you'll all be taking over the helm. I hope many of you will find something to take part in during the week and it'll inspire you to put on something even bigger and better next year!

This year we'll be focusing on signing up students to the national 10:10 campaign (more info on www.1010uk.org) so come and visit us in the Sherfield Foyer.

After Green Week, on the 5th of December we'll be joining the masses marching in London to call on world leaders to take action on Climate Change.

For more information about this and all the other events visit www.imperialcollegeunion.org/green

Sign up to 10:10 this Green Week and do your bit to save the planet

This year at Imperial we're hoping to take the first step towards a better, happier, healthier future. If we decide not to, we know what a future with climate change will bring and none of us want that. Carbon is the problem and starting to cut our carbon is the first step of the solution. That's why we're asking everyone to make a simple 10% cut in their carbon over the next year. We're on board, are you?

By signing up to a 10% target we're not just supporting 10:10 - we're making it happen. In our homes, in our workplaces, our schools and our hospitals, our galleries and football clubs

and universities, we'll be backing each other up as we take the first steps on the road to becoming a zero-carbon society. It's easy to feel powerless in the face of a huge problem like climate change, but by uniting everyone behind immediate, effective and achievable action, 10:10 enables all of us to make a meaningful difference.

10:10 is the perfect opportunity to discover what's possible when we work together and we'll be signing people up to 10:10 in the Sherfield Foyer (walkway level) every day throughout Green Week. Come along and sign up!

Tuesday: A Time Comes 12.30, dB's

The Kingsnorth Six made history last year: accused of causing £30,000 of criminal damage to Kingsnorth power station, their defence of "lawful excuse" was accepted by the jury - because they were acting to safeguard property around the world "in immediate need of protection" from the impacts of climate change, caused in part by burning coal.

Inspired by their story internationally acclaimed director, Nick Broomfield has just completed a 20 minute film celebrating the spirit of direct action. The film tells the story activists who scaled the 220m chimney at a coal fired power station and the landmark case with supporting testimony by the world's leading climate scientist, Dr James Hansen of NASA. Come along this lunchtime to hear their story with a pint in hand!



Wednesday: Dig for Victory 12.00, Prince's Gate Gardens

Take a break on Wednesday afternoon to have a tour of the Environmental Society's Wildlife Garden located in Prince's Gate Gardens. We'll be providing you with all the tools and items required to pot up your own herbs to take home, or you can even have a go at a spot of digging!

Make your own way there by going to Weeks Hall in Prince's Gardens and going through the gate to the right of it (you'll need your swipe card for access). Follow the path to the next gate which leads into Prince's Gate Gardens. The Environmental Society's Wildlife Garden is the fenced-off garden at the back and there will be people there to greet you.

Erica Thompson's top 10 tips for beating green-fatigue!

You might be feeling a bit depressed. I am. The world economy is faltering, the climate looks set to change beyond recognition, resource depletion may prevent us from taking the strongest actions that are needed for a transition to a low-carbon economy... and it's all a bit overwhelming. What on earth can we possibly hope to do about it?

So I thought I would share with you some of the things that I am doing to make the transition less painful, firstly to show that it is possible to do these and still lead a relatively normal life, and secondly in the hope that you may be inspired to take up some of these personal changes yourself.

1. **I don't fly.** I don't have family abroad and therefore I have no need to fly at all. My research (climate modelling) does not involve field trips and I can attend conferences in the UK and Europe by train. Incidentally, I'm going cross-country skiing in Germany at New Year. Not flying does not mean giving up your holidays, as some hysterical complainants would have you believe. But blowing your entire yearly global fair share of carbon emissions on an unnecessary return flight seems pretty crazy.

2. **I am nearly a vegetarian.** Actually, I've been pretty close to it for years as I can never be bothered to cook meat, and the

range of vegetarian options is pretty good. I never buy meat, and I don't eat it except at special events. I also recently switched dairy milk for soya milk (avoiding rainforest-destroying brands), and was surprised at how nice it is!

3. **I switched my electricity supplier** to one which provides "100% renewable electricity" (greenwash - they get paid to do this anyway) AND also tears up the "renewable obligation certificates" (ROCs) that it receives for doing so. This does increase the amount of installed-renewable supply in the UK.

4. **I went to see my MP** (Justine Greening, Conservative, Putney) about resource depletion and the coming UK energy crisis. She has

promised to investigate her party's policy on oil depletion for me.

5. **I talk about climate change,** energy policy and resource depletion at any opportunity (contact me on e.thompson07@imperial.ac.uk if you want to join the discussion).

6. **I have joined my local Transition Town** (Google it).

7. **I have joined my local Friends of the Earth group,** who campaign to the local council to Get Serious on CO2.

8. **I try to buy local, seasonal fruit and vegetables.** That doesn't mean going OTT and living on cabbage for the whole winter, it just means checking labels, not buying fresh produce from outside Europe and choosing UK stuff whenever

possible. I recently discovered celeriac, a British vegetable I had never heard of but tastes amazing!

9. **I don't buy things I don't need.** I am on my second mobile phone as the first one only lasted six years. I mend my favourite clothes instead of chucking them out. I'll take the tap water over the plastic-bottled fizzy brown sugar water with phosphoric acid any day.

10. **I think about the future could be like.** I will be 65 in 2050. It's important to me that we get there safely, and I am voting with my feet what sort of future I want to have.

Meat free Monday

While there are pros and cons to the meat industry, there's no denying that most of us probably eat too much meat. Whether you decide to go the full-slog and turn vegan, or make the choice to only eat organic, locally-sourced meat we can make a difference to the environment with our eating habits.

Meat Free Monday is a national campaign to encourage us to cut meat out from our diet for one day of the week. Simply doing this one action will result in a significant cut in greenhouse gas

emissions and is better for your health too!

Imperial's Queen's Tower Room and Senior Common Room will be going vegetarian for one day in Green Week to highlight that meat-free meals can be delicious and nutritious. There will also be free recipe cards for you to try your own hand at some vegetarian meals at home.

For more information visit www.meatfreemondays.co.uk

Monday: End of the Line screening 12.30, SAF G16

The End of the Line, the first major feature documentary film revealing the impact of over-fishing on our oceans is being shown on campus as part of Green Week.

In the film we see firsthand the effects of our global love affair with fish as food. It examines the imminent extinction of bluefin tuna, brought on by increasing western demand for sushi; the impact on marine life resulting in huge overpopulation of jellyfish; and the profound implications of a future world with no fish that would bring certain mass starvation.

Filmed over two years, The End of the Line follows the investigative reporter Charles Clo-

ver as he confronts politicians and celebrity restaurateurs, who exhibit little regard for the damage they are doing to the oceans.

One of his allies is the former tuna farmer turned whistleblower Roberto Mielgo on the trail of those destroying the world's magnificent bluefin tuna population.

Filmed across the world from the Straits of Gibraltar to the coasts of Senegal and Alaska to the Tokyo fish market featuring top scientists, indigenous fishermen and fisheries enforcement officials, The End of the Line is a wake-up call to the world.



Monday: Climate and Health talk 18.00, SAF G16

There is a growing consensus amongst medical professionals that Climate Change will be one of the biggest threats to global health. We have already seen a significant increases in global disasters resulting in catastrophic loss of life.

50 years ago the health profession mounted a fierce campaign against tobacco smoking, despite strong opposition from the tobacco industry. Once again, it's vested interests in

oil investment that have halted progress for tough action on climate change. Although climate change will affect rich and poor, it is the nations least responsible that will suffer the most.

Come along on Monday to listen to Dr Robin Stott from the Climate and Health Council give his views on why health professionals must act now and take part in the discussion on how we can play our part.

Thursday: Green Fair 11am-3pm, Great Hall

Exhibitors invited include:

- **WRAP** – www.wrap.org.uk - the organisation that helps individuals, businesses and local authorities to reduce waste and recycle more, making better use of resources and helping tackle climate change
- **Connect** – www.connectbyhertz - bringing the freedom of driving a car without owning one!
- **Veolia Environmental Services** www.veoliaenvironmentalservices.co.uk - who offer a range of waste management services from refuse collection to material handling equipment - this is the contractor that remove college waste via Westminster Council
- **IMC** – www.imco.co.uk - the Imperial Machine Company Ltd who are due to install the college's first food composter next month. They will be providing a demonstration as to how this system works
- **eSoc** - The Union's Environmental Society
- **Foodworks** – www.foodworksuk.org – a project of the Centre for Innovation in Voluntary Action (CIVA)
- **OPAL** - A volunteer-led soil-sampling research project based at Imperial College. Come along to get your own soil-sampling kit
- **ETHOS** – www.ethosrecycling.co.uk - showing how energy can be made from waste!
- **MIDEX** – www.midex-rt.com - the specialist contractors who reprocess end of life WEEE (Waste Electronic Electrical Equipment) and computers, currently dealing with waste at Imperial
- **TFL** - www.tfl.gov.uk - Transport for London
- **VegSoc** - The Union's vegetable appreciation society
- **Facilities Management** - www.imperial.ac.uk/facilitiesmanagement

Thursday: Flash Mob 13.00, Upper Dalby Court

Gather on Upper Dalby Court (outside the Faculty Building) to become part of the human 10:00 logo. Pose for a photo and then you're free to disperse! The more people, the merrier...

+ Thursday: Reasons to be cheerful - Paul de Zylva, Head of Friends of the Earth UK 17:00, 220 Mech Eng

Make do and mend

Most of us buy clothes without a second thought. Fashion these days is seen as disposable, and the recession has only increased the number of trips to cheap clothing stores to find bargains. With the ice caps melting, wildlife dying out, pollution increasing, and the rainforests being cut down, clothing seems low down on the list of environmental priorities, but choosing what clothes you buy and where you buy them takes hardly any effort and can have a big impact on the lives of many people and animals. After all, the clothing companies will produce whatever sells well, and if that happens to be ethically laudable, then that's what will start being sold. So where should you start?

First of all is the human cost. Many stores keep their prices down by using sweatshop labour, often underpaid and using children as part of the workforce in countries where employment legislation is lax or unenforced. Stores which ensure that their clothes are made by properly paid and legal workforces will advertise the fact, and consumer information about clothing brands that fail to follow ethical standards is easy to find from a simple web search.

After ensuring ethical standards for the clothing makers, then comes the problem of deciding what standards to apply to the materials that make up the clothes. Few of us would buy clothing made from fur, and it's unlikely you've read this far into this article if you're

Friday: Imperial's Swap Shop 17.00, dB's, ICU

Tired of your old clothes? Don't throw them away just yet!

Bring them to Union reception (Mezzanine Level in Beit Quad) and we'll give you a token for each item to use at our swap shop on Friday. Simply turn up, take your pick and add to your

wardrobe!

TRAID will be on hand all day from 12.00 to inspire and assist you with ideas of how to customise your own clothes and your newly-acquired items. For more information about TRAID visit www.traid.org.uk

wearing your favourite hat of Sumatran tiger fur, but is there much difference between leather from farmed cattle and fur from farmed mink? The leather is sometimes seen as a by-product of the meat industry, but a demand is still being created which contributes to the need for farming. If you are going to buy clothes made from animal skins, at least ensure that they come from sustainable, farmed sources. Wools are a whole different area, as farmed sheep need to be shorn of their wool each year, although vegans object to this on the grounds that the sheep are still being farmed and exploited. Some vegans even object to silk, although most people remain unmoved by the fate of moth larvae.

Many clothes, especially the cheapest ones are made out of man-made fibres. Polyester clothing, trainers, and many others, are all made from non-biodegradable oil products. Man-made fibres are present in so many clothes

that it's very difficult to avoid them altogether, but you can ensure that they do not make up the bulk of your clothing. Fabrics made from plant fibres avoid most ethical problems, and cotton and linen are the two main fabrics made from plant fibres. But even here, more pesticides are used on cotton than on any other single crop. Look for clothing that is labelled as being made from organic cotton, which avoids these problems. A range of cellulose fabrics made from trees also exist: Rayon, Modal and Viscose are made from wood chips that are cooked and spun into silk- or cotton-like fabrics, but this then contributes to deforestation.

The most ethically sound materials, however, are recycled ones. The easiest way to recycle clothing is simply to donate to charity shops, or put your unwanted clothes in clothes banks so that the clothing is kept in circulation, and not simply thrown away when it still has wear left in it.



Go, go Eco-Power Rangers!

Imperial's Halls of Residences are going head to head in a blood-thirsty battle to reduce their carbon emissions

Andy Hix Student Switch-Off

Over 300 students in halls of residence at Imperial have pledged to do their bit to tackle climate change by becoming an Eco-Power Ranger! But rather than running around in spandex tackling rubber villains, these students will be taking small actions to save energy – like switching off lights and appliances and putting a lid on the pan when cooking.

This is part of a national Student Switch Off campaign that is running in halls of residence over the whole academic year. The campaign, run in association with the NUS and WWF, gets halls of residence to compete against each other to save energy. The hall that saves the most energy per person at the end of the year on gets a big party for their whole hall.

As well as the communal incentive for the winning hall, individuals who have signed up as Eco-Power Rangers can also win prizes such as Ben & Jerry's ice cream, tickets to London clubs, as well as energy-saving gadgets. These prizes can be won by posting energy-saving pictures on the "Imperial College Eco-Power Rangers" Facebook group.

Photo competition winner Daniel Jackson commented, 'Climate Change and Global Warming are no longer theories, but facts. Student Switch Off is a great way to get involved and



do the right thing in so many ways so SWITCH OFF!

Last year the campaign saved almost ten per cent of the energy used in halls across eleven universities. This year 10,000 students across the country have signed up, so the savings will be much bigger.

At Imperial this scheme is being piloted at Southside, Weeks & Garden and Evelyn Gardens which represents 1,096 students and if successful will be rolled out to other halls next year.

To become an Eco-Power Ranger and maximise your chances of winning some of these great prizes either join the Facebook group Imperial College Eco-Power Rangers or e-mail ecopowerrangers@studentswitchoff.org. Remember you don't have to be in the participating halls to take part - everyone is in with a chance to win prizes!

For further information contact Andy Hix on andy@studentswitchoff.org, 020 8287 0227 or 07734 965465

Erica Thompson ponders 'sustainability'

The adjective "sustainable" seems to be very trendy these days. Sustainable development, sustainable holidays, sustainable tinned tomatoes - you name it, and the green PR machine will sell it to you, probably at a premium to the nasty "unsustainable" stuff on the opposite shelf. So you assuage your slightly doubtful guilt by buying "sustainable" products and forget all about it - you're doing your bit, right?

To answer that, you have to go back to what "sustainable" actually means. The opposite of sustainable is "unsustainable", meaning "not able to be sustained". If you keep doing something which is unsustainable, you will eventually reach a point where it cannot continue, due to physical limits.

If we wish our civilisation to continue on this planet indefinitely, then we must live sustainably - by definition. If we don't live sustainably, then our civilisation cannot continue on this planet indefinitely - by definition.

It's pretty clear that if we have a finite amount of some resource, and we use it up at any rate other than zero, then we are living unsustainably. On this planet we have a finite amount of oil, coal, natural gas, water in aquifers, diamonds, uranium, gold, selenium, etc. The only sustainable net rate of consumption of these resources is zero, and in order to avoid crashing into that brick wall of depletion we must either drastically downscale or shift to reliance on renewable resources within a couple of decades. Think about the consequences that has for our economy.

We also have a finite atmosphere. The effects of splurging vast quantities of CO₂ into it are becoming more apparent by the day. The only sustainable net rate of production of CO₂ is zero, and in order to avoid catastrophic climate change, accompanied by mass starvation and migration, we must drastically cut emissions within a couple of decades. Think about the consequences that has for our economy.

So a sustainable economy is necessary, but it is possible? Is it possible that within our lifetimes we can re-gear the entire human way of life so that we really are acting sustainably?

I think it is, but it will be a huge challenge. For centuries we have squandered our most precious energy resource - oil - on luxuries for the rich rather than on the basic needs of the poor. We have invested overwhelmingly in cars, fossil fuels and big industry instead of bicycles, renewables and social projects. The lip service fashionably paid to "being green" has not reduced our emissions - instead, it has created a generation of brainwashed, greenwashed, "eco-friendly consumers" who truly and with the best of intentions think that offsetting the emissions of their flight to South Africa make it sustainable and that buying Kenyan green beans benefits the local economy!

There are only a few short years to act on these problems. Sustainability cannot continue to be a marketing tag - it must become a way of life if we are to survive. Physical limits are not subject to international negotiation; they will not come up trumps with "bail-outs" for damaged ecosystems or new fossil fuels for countries who cannot wean themselves off it. We, the scientists and engineers of Imperial College, are some of the best-placed people to bring about these urgent and necessary changes in the way the world produces and uses energy. We must walk the walk as well as talking the talk. In our own lifetimes it will become clear whether we have succeeded or failed - this is a heavy responsibility.

Banning the Bulb?

As EU ban comes into force we are forced to reconsider using CFLs

David Sharp Green Reporter

As we are all no doubt aware the government is trying to take away all our incandescent bulbs, starting with voluntary bans by some suppliers targeted mainly 100W and higher as well as frosted, but with an aim to remove them all. In the UK it is expected that 5 - 25 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year could be saved from the reduced energy consumption by switching over from incandescent lighting.

The EU ban is by no means revolutionary. Cuba was the first nation to put a ban on incandescent bulbs in 2005/2006 in favour of fluorescent lighting. The motivation behind this was to reduce the load on the national grid and prevent black outs that had been affecting the island. Ten other Caribbean countries and Venezuela have since instigated similar policies.

Australia was the first nation to initiate a ban of incandescent lights with purely environmental motives. With the warm climate of the country it was seen as wasteful for the heat from incandescent bulbs to add to the electrical load required for air conditioning. The Environment minister predicted a 4 million tonne reduction in the country's 513 million tonnes of national

I would recommend giving the old CFL a second chance. Get one manufactured by a recognised brand; slightly higher 'equivalent' rating than your incandescent and try to have a look at the different colours and shapes to find what you like - it's a way of avoiding disappointment! Some stores will let you try out the bulbs; most super markets will not. If you think the government have gone too far with incandescent lamps be warned that halogen lamps and high power torchieres are next!

Lighting the future

LED technology is certainly going to be a more and more common feature in lighting and we are not just talking bike lights and screens, but industrially buy tomato farmers in Canada and powerfully in the new-year ball in time square, LED technology has improved dramatically and continues to do so and unlike most other technologies are no where near their theoretical limit of efficiency. Before you encourage Imperial to replace all the lighting with super efficient LED's (you can get LED arrays to replace, and look like, fluorescent tubes) there is that issue of cost, which makes these currently unsuitable except in very low heat/ power applications.

'Hybrid systems' is a popular 'solution' in most industries but what does it mean for lighting? We are not talking a sky light and a dimmer switch, although that works well (if you get the correct type of dimmer switch for your fluorescent lamp). But the a full spectrum hybrid lighting system as proposed by the Solar Energy Laboratory, University of Wisconsin-Madison, where you collect solar light separate the IR out for water heating or thermal photovoltaic and run the visible around the building with fibre optics to produce a natural lighting that has no heat attached to fight with the air conditioning. Nice when your office is in Hawaii not the best solution for frost bitten student accommodation in London and starting at \$4K it will take some time to see the investment paid off (about 10 years in Hawaii).

If you like try something different there are other technologies out there like the "Electron Stimulated Luminescence" by Vu1 who claim to be sitting on lighting technology that is cheaper than CFL and more efficient than halogens. This could be an enlightening solution to our energy problems or simply the next carbon arc lamp. Aesthetically and functionally they are similar to incandescent but they are still less efficient than the CFL.

And for those who still think LED's kill the batteries too fast on your bike light you could always try a USAF nuclear powered torch; guaranteed durability and long life.

So as you toss the refined curves of the incandescent bulb in the bin, what you replace it with need not be sterile or inferior but should be more efficient.



Banished to the archives soon?

green house gas emissions by 2012 as well as cutting domestic electrical bills by 66%. Due to the specialisation in incandescent technology use this is not a blanket ban but will have exceptions such as oven lights and for medical uses.

CFLs have been shown to have lower cradle to grave CO₂ emissions and well as cost. Yet in Europe the ban has been met with much opposition. Mostly this comes from European countries which have driven to use CFL in the last decade when the technology was much less mature. Because of the initial failure excuses are made for not attempting to give these lights a second go. This is not helped by companies such as EDF giving free ultra poor quality low wattage light bulbs when trying to be 'green'. Or the bulbs themselves down matched in stores (80W equivalent lamp gives out less than equivalent the 80W of light, a policy aimed to try and get people to use lower lighting levels and so less power).

BATTLE OF THE BANDS



Friday 20 November 20:00-02:00

UNIONd's



Friday 27 November
22:00 - 02:00



Recollections of an eco-tourist

So what is *eco-tourism*? Rummaging through his memory bank for the more eco-tastic moments, **Dylan Lowe** presents the enlightening instants of his travels, and explains his stance on the new trend of 'green travelling'

London. Institute of Education. Basement dance studio. Saturday morning on which my logic would have instructed me to stay in bed. In its stead I dragged myself to Warren Street to feed my morals by attending *Power Shift*, a youth climate change conference over the course of the weekend.

Sheepishly following the schedule I found myself in the room, storeys below the grievances of gloom and rain, found a seat and saw the workshop convene.

In our circles, we took turns to present our story of 'me', an exercise on engaging and inspiring people on a personal level to become more aware of the environment and effects of climate change.

It was my go. And so I told them, from the memoirs and diaries I had maintained within my head, the events and encounters that shaped the eco-initiatives that defined my ethics and beliefs.

The lone kayak was hovering adrift, oars extracted from the clear waters and its rider reclined, head held high, silent in admiration of the mighty glacial architecture. The eyes were shut for a brief moment, to give room to that bone-crushing crackle as gallons of droplets glided down the cascades. Then, as vision rebounded, the discovery of the perfect synchronicity between hearing and sight, between sounds and landscape.

I wouldn't have wished for a better, or indeed different, way to explore Milford Sound, the famed fjord that deservedly maintains a spot as the most-visited tourist site in New Zealand. But it is no less stunning than the places my family and I visited on a road trip around the South Island: from the geological freak-show of an Abel Tasman National Park, the icy peaks of Mt Cook that nurtured Sir Edmund's mountaineering genius, to stretches of grape vines scattered across the pastures of Marlborough and the crystalline glaciers bearing the names Fox and Franz Josef, 'God's own country' is simply remarkable.

No wonder, with parents residing in Auckland and so frequent opportunity to travel around the country, I have encountered numerous compatriots who have flown 23,000 miles to witness nature at its utmost glory.

But at what cost? Recent statistics have showed that New Zealand, as a nation, is amongst those worst offenders of carbon emission, which includes Australia and the United States. Indeed, since *Aotearoa* has a heavy economic reliance on tourism, there is no surprise that the major contributors of such have been the two million tourists that visit the 'green nation' annually.

As I paddled furiously towards the cruise ship, in response to an announcement that dinner was served, I couldn't help but wonder how our sheer presence was ironically destroying the environment we have come to admire.

Between conserving the natural environment and sharing the splendour with



visitors, generating local revenue and career opportunities in the meantime, where is the balance?

The thought persisted throughout dinner, when I had encountered an equally avid traveller at the dining table. Over the immaculately prepared roast beef joint, he recounted his own experience of visiting the Galapagos Islands. Similar to New Zealand, a place he came to adore, Darwin's very own fountain of revolutionary ideas was on the verge of losing the balance and will soon succumb to the effects excessive tourism.

This is, he argued, the most fundamental question of what he described as 'eco-tourism': should one contribute to the wildlife's downfall by visiting and appreciating its magnificence in person, or should one seek to preserve and acknowledge it by limiting one's travels and not visit the location at all?

He offered a third alternative: in a bid to quench what was his guilt for – at least taking part in – driving the Galapagos to ruins, he participated in a voluntary conservation programme and spent three months assisting in scientific research that aim to safeguard the island's future. That way, he pursued, he could offset the impacts of his visit.

And isn't this same guilt that drives us to mechanically submit our bank details to flight carbon emission offsetting services, or take part in projects with an

eco-initiative?

I was baffled by his insights. But then I was too ignorant, and indeed selfish, to even spare a thought on whether it is alright or not to 'erase' one's footprints by performing self-righteous acts of redemption. No, the guilt wasn't sufficient to distract my intention to burn off my three helpings of roast beef with an evening swim.

The guilt level could easily rise above the thatched *bure* and corrupt the stratosphere.

I would walk away from the scene, disgusted with any affiliation I had with the atrocities conducted without a hint of remorse traceable on the Fijians' faces. Well, walking away was out of the question – unless I had enough vigour remaining to allow me to swim a distance a motorboat had managed to sail through in twenty minutes.

Holding my breath, I went under again. The Fijian guide caught sight of my approach and, eager to impress, snatched a reef shark by its fin and hauled the creature into his cradle, struck a pose. I inspected, and sighed – it was the same shark that had previously swum by me, playfully rubbing its sandpapery skin against my belly. I gestured that I didn't have a camera; clearly disappointed, he let it go.

Enough of this regime of cruelty, I

thought as the Fijian kicked the shark in the head. I boarded the boat, rejected an invitation to snorkel again and sat in silent protest. Of course, I couldn't have raised my voice and questioned their *modus operandi*: not whilst giddy on the choppy return journey or during the evening kava session, treated as a guest in the local village. I couldn't have so rudely deprived the other resort guests of what entertainment they deemed appropriate – evidently so as they were happily snapping away as the sharks wrestled for their survival – nor could I have risked offending my hosts. Though, as I spotted the offenders of hideous animal cruelty across the grog matt, I found it hard to stomach my discontent.

Perhaps, from hindsight, I should have mentioned something.

Eco-tourism has achieved a commercial status that can rival that of *Sainsbury's Basics*; little surprise therefore when the people of Wayalailai had named their local-run hotel an 'eco' haven resort.

From the unpleasant experience, I must give a judgemental statement: what a hypocrisy.

I have noticed that, similar to their effort to attract tourists by the branding, the indigenous people are inclined to model their behaviours on the very people they served to please. It was the consequence of our disregard for nature and wildlife, that the Fijians have forsaken

their century-old coexistence with their environment, that they have corrupted their ideals upon the introduction of ours.

Fundamentally, as much labelling as one utilises – voluntary work, conservation projects – 'eco-tourism' simply cannot exist unless the self-proclaimed 'eco-tourists' have a genuine desire to connect with nature.

The inhabitants of Tanna live out their lives in the very bosom of nature. It is impossible to think otherwise when the largest banyan tree – arguably the largest organism – resides on the pacific island, explosion of lava quaking everything under the volcano's feet in ten-minute intervals, primary mode of transport on horseback, kastom dances and chants the means of praising nature, and practices of a peculiar religion which regards Prince Phillip as a god.

Like an Argentine I met, who had arrived at the island from an odyssey of self-discovery and unwittingly took up a six-month placement at the local school, I became myself infected with the very mode of life that Westerners perceived barbaric and sought to purge and rectify for the past centuries.

That didn't eclipse my delight of finding a travel companion, as we set straight the formalities of introduction in the back of the monstrous cross-islander van,



Wayalailai 'Eco' Haven Resort



The road to Mt Cook, where Edmund Hillary trained before conquering Everest



with an Oxford graduate of geology. True to my nature, I didn't allow the geological bantering linger and switched the conversation into travelling mode.

And so he told me about his fleeting employment under the Sudanese government.

I could see the remorse in his eyes – he had a good reason to feel no pride in this affiliation. He did redeem himself, and indeed his soul, when he declined to work on a controversial project, conducted by a controversial company of a nation brimming with ethical controversies.

All whilst Kelson the guide had the chicken knocked out stone cold, restrained and plucked, before I was handed a machete and committed the act of murder.

The sight aroused some disgust in Anna's facial expressions, though I was brimming with childlike awe.

"What is this?" I pressed on. The Moroccan seemed patient – more due to hard-learned marketing techniques rather than the genuine wish to educate a couple of foreigners.

"Sheep's head," he muttered as he deboned the skull of one and mutilated it beyond recognition. Oddly, in its more passable manifestation, my appetite swelled. So I sat down, Anna by my side expressing her indifference yet eagerness to try, and the stewed meat landed in our bowls effortlessly on our part, save the odd *afak* and *shukran* to show our gratitude.

Except for being a bit greasy with a tad too much fat slithering on my tongue, I thought it tasted not bad at all. The aroma, which scented the four corners of Djemaa el Fna – the evening food market of Marrakech – was an absolute bonus. I didn't know, until then, that a cut considered waste product back home had such capacity to satisfy even a strict palate like mine.

(Though, on a side note, British manufacturers are known to include cheeks or even the entire head of cattle in the industrial production of beef burgers – watch out the next time you order one at your local kebab shop.)

We have fallen in touch with what we eat. It is evidently so when our meat comes in plastic wrappings and packaging, plucked straight from the shelves of Tesco, and when recent studies show that an overwhelming population of children in London have not even the faintest idea of what an onion looks like.

And too many times I have seen tourists give the grimace and decline the invitation to try something different. In fact, refusal is a better phrase to describe their methods of dodging the 'awkward' situations; very often not so much a slab of kangaroo on the plate, or kava in coconut bowl, but familiar culinary ideas that were managed by the hands of a foreign

chef.

Travelling opened my eyes to the nature-conjunct cuisines that a city life would have me blinded to. Venison reared in grasslands, gigantic turkeys owned by the Strawbridge family of *It's Not Easy Being Green* fame, metre-long fish heaved from the Fijian seas, solitary pineapples from the trees and sweet potatoes from the ground – none of these were sheer impulses to consume but instead my utmost respect for the natural form of my foodstuff.

And so, from Cornwall to New Zealand, from Morocco to the South Pacific, I found in my sources of food the means to rediscover the essentials of life I had lost touch with.

The presentation had me digging deep into reminiscence. I knew, as soon as I took on the stage, the stories and photographic memoirs would have me overburdened with nostalgia for an adventure lost. At least, I consoled myself, I was there to share them with a group of travel enthusiasts who would likely themselves embark on the hitch-hike from London to Morocco.

And since minimal preparation was made on the night before – the *Power-Point* presentation consisted of no more than ten pictures and my notes pretty obsolete – I embraced the role with full commitment to improvisation. Or ramblings.

"Why hitchhiking?" is next.

"It's fun, exciting, unpredictable; you get to meet people along the way..."

I tried to be as persuasive as I could, though the list of justification was running dry fast.

Better think of something equally as fast.

The sparkle of inspiration was as ingenious as the charity hitchhike itself.

"For the eco-warriors amongst you, think about the eco-initiative of the hitch: not only will you be leaving behind zero carbon emissions by travelling to your holiday destination by using alternative transport, you're effectively reducing the carbon footprints of those who give you lifts."

Although, I must confessed, I had bolted my way out of embarrassment using 'facts' I improvised on the spot, there is still truth in my claims. You *are* reducing your carbon footprint by not travelling by air, and you *are* dividing the carbon emissions of a vehicle amongst the drivers and his/her new-found passengers, therefore yet another reduction.

And so I questioned: considering our impact to the environment by the simple acts of voyaging, should we travel less, if not stop travelling altogether?

Am I to be deprived of my rights to achieve better understanding of cultures and nature? Surely my motivations are more noble than those whose sole pur-

poses of travelling are to get plastered on yet another party island, or absent-mindedly peruse yet another museum?

Perhaps selfishness got the better of me.

Alternative means of transport are becoming increasingly popular due to the raised awareness for the environment. But, not dissimilar to my hitchhiking stunt, they remain exclusive to those with time in their hands.

Will I spare months of my time, travelling over land and sea, to reach home some 23,000 miles away, just because my conscience dictates so?

Not a chance.

Face it. Eco-tourism has never been about labels and marketing strategies, vanity-driven self-righteous 'commitments' to conservation or CV boosters. Fire away your accusations of idealism and impracticality – I am shameless to admit them all. But, I have gradually come to an understanding through travelling of the environment and the impacts of our acts of greed and ignorance. Eco-tourism can only be so when the people affiliated to the trend are receptive to their surroundings as they travel, yearn to learn the essentials of life in relations to the environment, muse about the impact inflicted by their pursuit of knowledge, and can return from their journeys and continue to live out the lessons and inspire others to do the same.

And so with these I shall leave you, dear readers, the stories of 'me'.



Early stages of growth of a mango...you don't learn that at school do you?



Our victim in its final moments



Alternative modes of transport



Simon Dixon:
THE NEED FOR MONETARY REFORM
AND THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

Mon 23rd November
18.00-19.00
Business School LGS

Award winning Banking & Finance presenter Simon Dixon (from "Benedix") will dig deep into the history of money and debt to give a new perspective of how we arrived at the financial crisis. He will offer his opinions as to where the problem originated, highlight the shortcomings of this current economic system and describe the possible future repercussions of money creation via debt.

Whether you are a first year, penultimate, final, postgraduate or PhD student, knowing the market situation is important before deciding what's right for you.

REGISTRATION: Sign up at
<http://dougal.union.ic.ac.uk/scc/finance/events>





The Green Machine

Michael Cook Games Editor

It's a bit of a mishmash this week, as you can probably see. We've got an extra page, onto which we've sprayed a little something-something about the next generation of gamers (and why you're not invited). We've also got a review of Dragon Age, an RPG that's taking up far too much student time this month.

It's also Green Week, and seeing as we're so packed out with other stuff, now would probably be a great time to talk about how gaming impacts the environment. In short – it doesn't, much. But what it might do is change the way you impact the environment. I'm not talking about things like EcoKids (<http://www.ecokids.ca>) with abysmal, nineties-style games that funnel facts down your throat at a rate of knots. These sorts of games have little effect on the player unless they're concentrating in a learning environment.

We want something more subtle than that, something that's still fun. The difference between games as a social tool and, say, film is obvious – interactivity. Consequence, choice, things like that. ElectroCity goes some way towards that, by presenting a more enjoyable environment. You can plonk down to beaches, prospect for gas and oil, implement energy efficiency bills and the like. It doesn't preach to you, there's more of a feeling of "you decide". There's a little rating that tells you how many rabbits died this year as a direct result of your actions but it's

not overtly educational.

But even this is just a little Flash game. You're still sitting down to tackle an environmental problem. There's a "serious games" movement dedicated to producing games that tackle difficult issues, and even Microsoft has managed to haul their arse into gear by creating the "Games For Change" competition that encourages the development of games about a range of topics, including the environment.

But it's all for the purpose of getting the message across, and that tends to get in the way of really representing the intricacies of something like this. So this week, I've been playing Democracy 2. And I think that it's the best environmental issues game you could ever play. It's a simulation of political office: you've just been elected President and you've got to keep enough people on-side to get re-elected next time. Among the many issues you have to tackle is the environment. But you'll be so snowed under with other concerns; the pressure of voters and lobbyists, the penalties inherent in actually solving the problems at hand. The chances are you'll probably barely have time to consider the issue, and even if you do, you'll face such stiff opposition that it'll cripple you for the rest of your term.

It might be depressing, but people need to understand why things *don't* get done as much as they need to understand why things *should* be done. Serious games need to get serious, and drop the biased undertone.

Ten Long Years – 2005

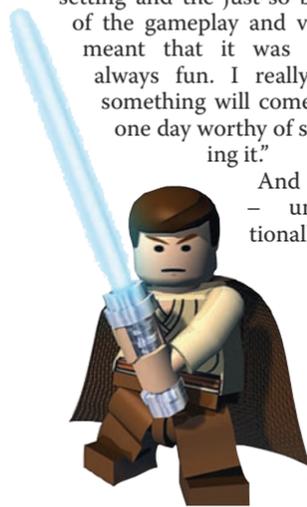
The modern age of gaming begins – PS3, Xbox 360 and hot, hot coffee

Blimey, what a year. Where to start. Let's jump right into the middle of the year – this was the E3 where both the PlayStation3 and the Xbox 360 got their first airings. With both the PS2 and the original Xbox still going strong, it was a year of looking ahead as well as looking to the shops – the God of War saga began this year, as well as old faithfuls such as Tekken and Gran Turismo making new appearances.

On the PC though, it was the summer that made the year so great. Battlefield 2 made modern day, 64-player online matches possible in a way that no game had done or has done since.

"Battlefield 2 was, is, the best multiplayer experience I have ever had to date. The impact of the real-world setting and the just-so balance of the gameplay and vehicles meant that it was almost always fun. I really hope something will come along one day worthy of succeeding it."

And then – unintentionally



topical – a developer called Infinity Ward released a sequel to a game they made back in 2003, with Call of Duty 2. CoD2 really pushed the series forwards, and began many of the gameplay tropes that are still in use in the latest editions.

Speaking of franchise-defining releases, Lego Star Wars popped out this year. Lu enthuses:

"It shouldn't work, it certainly shouldn't work for adults, but it does. The only recent platformer to overshadow it is Psychonauts which came out the same year."

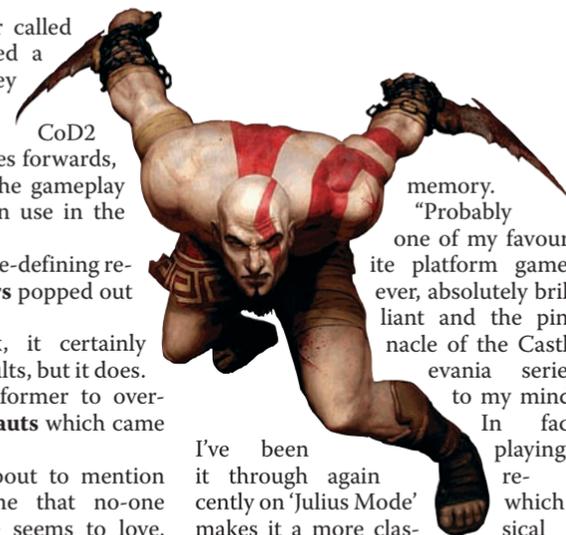
Obviously I was about to mention Psychonauts. A game that no-one bought but everyone seems to love. Odd, that, eh? Go and buy a copy now. Go on, you miserable bastard. It tried to keep the platforming lighthearted and while it utterly fails in some areas, it at least looks better than Brutal Legend. Sorry, Tim.

Swat IV! Skippy, talk to me.

"One of my top 5 "FFFFUUUUUUUU-" games. The phrase "You're in my way, sir" still makes the red mist descend.

"I think the worst mission for me was that one where there's a couple of bombs to defuse within a time limit, meanwhile thirty Heinz baked bastards are huddling behind every blind corner and bathroom."

The DS also gave Skippy some entertainment this year, it seems, with Castlevania: Dawn of Sorrow, which a few of you mentioned as being a fond



memory.

"Probably one of my favourite platform games ever, absolutely brilliant and the pinnacle of the Castlevania series to my mind.

I've been playing it through again recently on 'Julius Mode' which makes it a more classical Castlevania game, and it's still brilliant."

As a counterpoint to the announcement of the next generation, November saw the PlayStation2 become the fastest console to sell a hundred million units, overtaking its predecessor as the holder of the title. It's a monumental achievement although not enough to protect Sony from competition in the current generation.

Finally, who could forget, the hilarious time we had watching Rockstar wriggle out of the Hot Coffee fiasco, a furore so intense and hilarious that it brought together Hilary Clinton, GTA: San Andreas, and thousands of sweaty and anxious teenagers like no event has ever done since. It sounds like the setup for the perfect teen comedy. In many ways, it was.

Next year – the next generation begins in earnest.

In Pictures - The Week In News: Making money, spending money and losing money

iPlayer Channel

The Wii will get its own BBC iPlayer channel, as a nice match to the Xbox's recent extra-game expansion.

BBC iPlayer



NPD: 14% Game Online

14% of US households have a subscription to an online games service, such as World of Warcraft or Xbox LIVE, according to an NPD survey.

MW2 'Hacked'

PC gamers have already subverted Modern Warfare 2 to run dedicated servers - but the PC accounted for just 3% of over £70m in launch week sales.



Edgeward McEdgington

AN ADVENTURE GAME ABOUT GREED



On The Edge?

Indie gamers band together and rename their games in protest against the re-emergence of disgraced 'trademark troll' Tim Langdell

Commodore

The kids are alright (and valuable)

Feeling old? Allow us to help – **Mike Cook** doesn't think you matter any more, and he's got two reasons why

The Entertainment Software Association, a trade association for the US games industry, has some statistics on its website. Amongst these, one in particular stands out as strange: "The average game player is 35 years old and has been playing games for 12 years." This echoes the findings of various and amusing surveys held over the past few years, the most recent carrying the delectable subheader that gamers are fat and depressed. However, anyone who tells you that the old folk matter in the industry is plain wrong, because the fact of the matter is that the youngsters shape this industry – and you're not one of them any more.

You might think that, as you sail towards your mid-twenties like a greased cinder block on a waterslide, you're entering the key target demographic for gamers. You're at that point where anyone will listen to your ideas, no matter how stupid they are. ESA findings are richer than just suggesting an average age of 35 – they go on to state that 34% of gamers are females above the age of eighteen; that there are more gamers aged over fifty than under twenty. But numbers like this are meaningless to big business for one simple reason – for the ESA to count you as

a gamer, you need to buy a couple of games. For companies to count you as a target, you need to buy the most games.

We talked to Andrew, a thirteen year-old gamer, about the sorts of games he likes to play now, and how many he buys in a year.

The first game Andrew remembers playing is Croc on the Playstation. Croc was a 3D platformer aimed squarely at kids, so it's no surprise Andrew cut his teeth on that. But that soon led to more frenetic games that Andrew could play himself – Ratchet &

Clank on the PlayStation2 and Unreal Tournament on the PC. Andrew certainly would've beaten me at almost any game when I was his age.

Why are they more important? Because they grew up with the Playstation and the N64 – they grew up after the point where gaming became a genuine

"they're the trendsetters now"

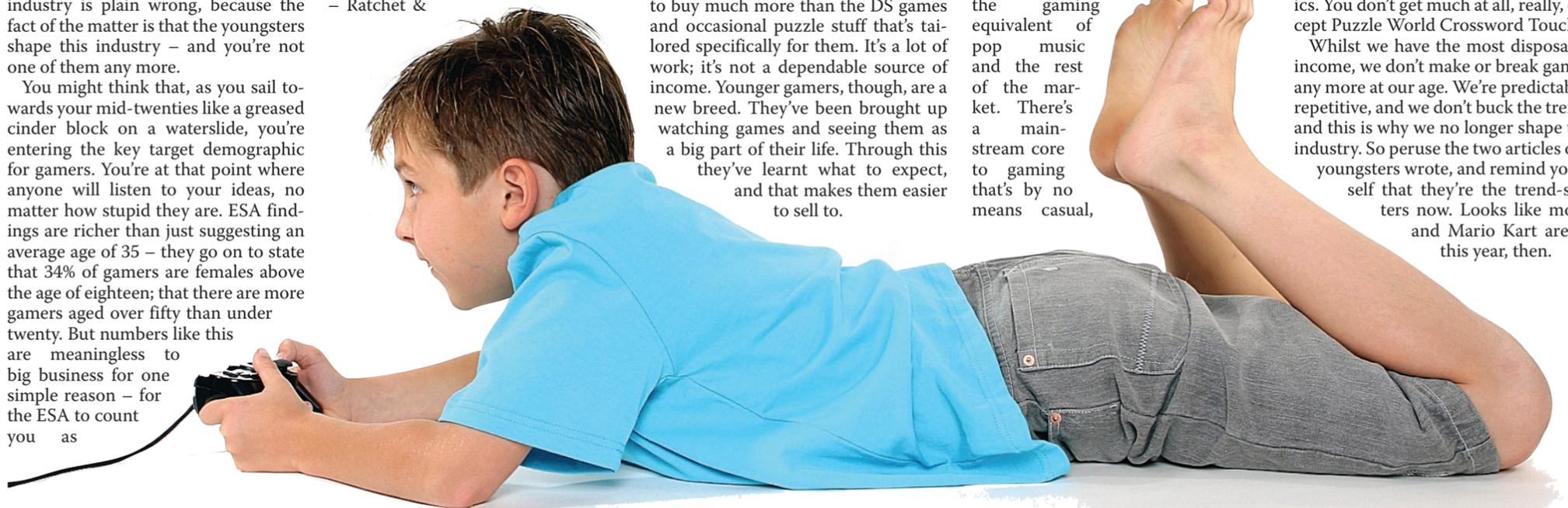
industry. The over fifties are unlikely to buy much more than the DS games and occasional puzzle stuff that's tailored specifically for them. It's a lot of work; it's not a dependable source of income. Younger gamers, though, are a new breed. They've been brought up watching games and seeing them as a big part of their life. Through this they've learnt what to expect, and that makes them easier to sell to.

Nowadays, Andrew enjoys first-person shooters. He's playing Modern Warfare 2 at the moment, and hopes to pre-order Halo Reach and Max Payne 3 in the near future. When I ask him about the violence in the games, he admits that some games do have a lot of killing in them. But he's "sensible", he says. It's easy to believe him – he says he buys games based on their reviews, not the number of guns in them. Still, he seems to enjoy them nonetheless.

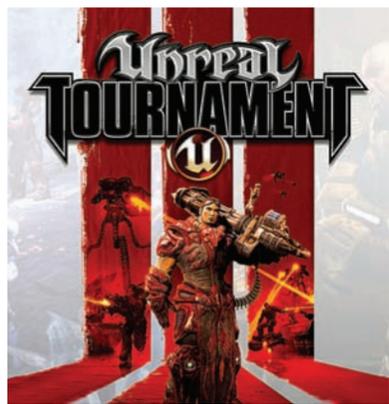
As time goes on, we're seeing more and more distinction between the gaming equivalent of pop music and the rest of the market. There's a mainstream core to gaming that's by no means casual,

but has a particular feel to it – it's the sensation that runs through Far Cry 2, through Gears of War, through Smash Bros. and through the modern Tomb Raiders – and this isn't a point about violence being made here. It's a point about simplicity, what's marketable, and how much effort is required to sell another unit to someone who made a purchase one, three, six months ago. It's almost evolutionary – a games studio will offer a twist on a currently popular game, and the kids either buy it or don't. You don't get that sense of progression in the older demographics. You don't get much at all, really, except Puzzle World Crossword Touch.

Whilst we have the most disposable income, we don't make or break games any more at our age. We're predictable, repetitive, and we don't buck the trend, and this is why we no longer shape the industry. So peruse the two articles our youngsters wrote, and remind yourself that they're the trendsetters now. Looks like mods and Mario Kart are in this year, then.



Feature: Modding



Andrew Games Writer

Are mods worth it? The way to put this is, yes, they are an amazing waste of your life.

Mods have become very popular in the world of gaming, people making modifications of their own with special programs. When you play your first mod or get your first flippin' skin to work in Counter Strike, then you like mods and want to make one yourself.

Mods give us something that an ordinary game won't give us. Take Unreal Tournament 3 – this is a game where you can't get many characters in so

there are new ones with new sounds, skins and more.

A good mod is one that can change a game completely like The Haunted which changes Unreal completely. You can play on your own or with friends. It is a mod set in a church, the west and many more places so you can kill zombies! I wouldn't be surprised if it said when you got *GODLIKE*. Instead it said ZOMGWTFBQQ.

When modding a game you need to backup the files so if the mod does not work you can get the old stuff back and work on the other mod while playing the game as well.

If you are like me and you like modding UT3, you should definitely mod the mutators to get more of an effect on the game. I've been using the Gibalicious mutator which increases the gore and blood. Also there is the Gears of War mutator which gives you the Gears of War style mode. The jetpack mutator is a jetpack and if you hold down jump you fly around the whole map (I recommend doing that on the map Deimos because it is a very big map).

So that is my thought on mods and basically they are good if you have nothing to do and you are bored of the game you've got.

We asked Jamie and Andrew, two 13 year-old gamers, to write us something about what they love doing with their gaming time.

Let us know what you think of our two new writers, and we'll pass your comments on: games.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Review: Mario Kart



Jamie Games Reviewer

It has a wide range of tracks and vehicles but you do not get them straight away. You have to win or get second or third place to open new tracks. Sometimes, you get a few glitches in the game but the game corrects itself. The gaming characters are Mario, Luigi, Yoshi, Birdo, Baby Luigi, Funky Kong, Dry Bowser, Rosalina, Daisy, Bowser Jr, Dry Bones, Baby Daisy, King Boo, Diddy Kong, Toadette.

You can also play multi-player. I think it is more fun to play with your friends because you have more of a challenge. You can also go online where you can race people around the world if you have wireless internet. And on the game you have different objects you can get to help you out, like a banana

or triple banana that make other cars spin out of control. You also have one green shell or three of them that you can use to knock over vehicles only in a straight line. One red shell or you can have three that lock-on to vehicles in front of you. A Bom-omb explodes knocking over any vehicle in the area. A spiny shell can hit the leading vehicle. There are other items you can use in the game such as a fake item, dash mushroom or three of them, golden dash mushroom, bullet bill, blooper, lightning, super star, mega mushroom, POW block, thundercloud. These make the game more fun to play. You can use a choice of vehicles in the game. They are a motorbike and a car/go-kart. The controls are easy to use when playing.

I would rate this game.

FASHION

Fashion Editor Kawai Wong

fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Heroin of fashion

Kawai Wong Fashion Editor

I was in Primark the other day and they now make 'bags for life'. The irony, eh? You buy a pair of Primark knickers and don't really expect the seams to stay stitched for 24 hours. A bag for life that carries your big Primark shop? You'll probably get home with just a big handle on your shoulder. No bag, and definitely forget about your shopping.

So what do you do with this wrecked pair of knickers anyway? You bin them. What about the dress which was burst at its seams? You got it for £10; a sewing kit costs £5. You'll most probably go and buy a new dress. As a result, we all contribute to the clothing related waste in Britain.

The colossal amount of wasted polyesters, viscose and herbicide rich wool amount to the weight of 240,000 double-decker buses every year. On this small island, one of the most populated countries in Europe, it is not the immigrants we're up against. It is the avalanche of unwanted clothing that is eating up our habitable lands. And it starts from our overflowing wardrobes.

Throwaway fashion's horrific environment and humanity track record needs no repeating. You can smell the benzene on Primark's accessory floor and feel the child labour in the buttons.

The reality is, how many of us can resist a £10 trendy new look? A new outfit boosts your confidence like nothing else, it makes you feel new. There's no rehab for throwaway fashion. No one can help you.

The bottom line is, the more consumers care about eco products, the more the industry is willing to cater to them. So you need to know that eco-fashion is not just about H&M's organic and fair-trade cotton. It is about the environment – treated cotton is hard to degrade; polywhatever plastic is toxic to the environment.

Ethical manufacturing allows you to trace your woolie jumper back to the sheep that has produced the yarn (then you know the farmer isn't keeping his herd in a cardboard box). And you will also find that the company pays decent wages to its workers. Beautiful Soul, a company that upcycles vintage Japanese kimono, allow asylum seekers in the UK to make friends and learn English while making money by producing eco-friendly garments.

Last but not least, our photo shoot is the final proof against the common belief that anything ethical is boring. The craftsmanship and the creativity that goes into these garments is just as good as in 'non-ethical' fashion. If not better.

News Strip

Kawai Wong Fashion Editor

Pitt and Jolie design for Asprey

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have designed a capsule limited collection for Asprey. Prices start at \$525 for the snake inspired items. All profit will go to Jolie's charity. The collection, called the Protector, will go on sale in Asprey's London stores.



Sophia Theallet - new star to watch

The french born, NYC based designer has won the prestigious CFDA fashion fund. The \$200,000 prize was previously awarded to Alexander Wang. Sophie's SS10 collection featured tunic dresses.

Adidas will make €1 trainers for people in poor country

Bangladesh's Nobel prize winner Muhammad Yunus has inspired Adidas to put the 89p trainers on the market.

Gareth Puge moves into SHOWstudio

The avant-garde designer will set up a temporary studio space at SHOWstudio in Bruton Place. Gareth will aim to create a piece themed around his SS10 collection and will be sold there and then. He will be working at the studio on the 20, 21 and 22 of November. SHOWstudio is curated by the legendary photographer Nick Knight to broadcast live fashion events online and to bring people closer to the fashion world. The site has previously broadcasted Nick Knight's shoot with Natalia Vodianova for Vogue. You can watch Gareth at work online at www.showstudio.com

The green gateway



BY SLOBODAN R. FROM LEFT: ANNABELLE WEARS SILK BLOUSE AND BLACK COAT BY STAMO; LOUKIA WEARS BOW BLOUSE BY STAMO AND SKIRT BY HENRIETTA LUDGATE; LUCKY WEARS DRESS BY HENRIETTA LUDGATE.



BY CHRISTOPHER CHAN. FROM LEFT: LUCKY WEARS SKIRT BY HENRIETTA LUDGATE.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: BY ANDREEA BABIUC; BLOUSE AND COAT, STAMO. BY ALFRED YU; SHEER SHIRT, STAMO; SKIRT, HENRIETTA LUDGATE. BY SLOBODAN R.; CLOTHES SAME AS BEFORE.

Clothing: Henrietta Ludgate, Stamo; **Accessories:** Fara Charity; **Production:** Kawai Wong; **Photographers:** Alfred Yu, Andreea Babiuc, Christopher Chan, Jonathan Kim, Slobodan R., Tristan Brown; **Processing:** Alfred Yu, Andreea Babiuc, Slobodan R., Tristan Brown; **Hair:** Holly Sarrer; **Make-up:** Ainhoa Manterola; **Models:** Annabelle Harris, Chidi Ilobi, Loukia Sivena, Lucky Guo; **With special thanks:** Rohini and PhotoSoc. Fara is dedicated to transforming the lives of the poorest children in Eastern Europe. Fara provides a home and an education for children and offers training for teenagers. The Fara Charity Shop on Gloucester Road often stocks designer items such as Ralph Lauren and Gucci from £20. Also spotted recently are granny specs from £3.

Designer Profiles



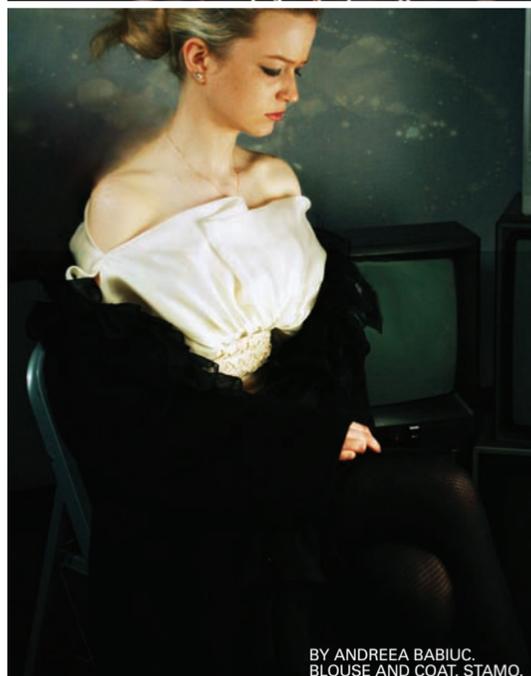
BY TRISTAN BROWN. CHIDI WEARS JACKET BY HENRIETTA LUDGATE.



BY TRISTAN BROWN. COAT AND BLOUSE, STAMO; SKIRT, HENRIETTA LUDGATE.



BY ANDREEA BABIUC. JACKET, HENRIETTA LUDGATE.



BY ANDREEA BABIUC. BLOUSE AND COAT, STAMO.



BY SLOBODAN R. ALL FROM HENRIETTA LUDGATE.



Henrietta Ludgate in her own SS10 design at an Estethica event

Kawai Wong Fashion Editor

Henrietta Ludgate has come a long way since February. Since her appearance at the Glasgow Fashion Week for her debut Autumn Winter 09 collection, she has opened a showroom in Covent Garden, won this season's 'Fashion Innovation' award and been praised by Roland Mouret, Dolly Jones of Vogue.com and Anna Orsini – the founder of Estethica. She exhibited her latest Spring Summer 2010 collection at the Somerset House during London Fashion Week and will continue to do so this February for her AW10 designs.

The Scottish designer is a graduate from Central Saint Martins. She worked for Osman Yousefzada before setting up her own label.

The softly spoken designer creates from her studio in the Highlands of Scotland. The Scot uses Scottish fabric and aims to be as sustainable as possible. She is inspired by the legendary Italian designer Elsa Schiaparelli. Henrietta views fashion as a type of architecture and believes that clothing should be closely connected to the frame of the body.

Her classic sexy numbers feature futuristic rims on the sleeves reinforced by flexible tubings. Her dresses are a pleasure to touch. The fabric feels like a hybrid of spandex and silk. The dress sits nicely on the body, maximising the womanly curves. The nice sheen of the dress gives off a power-woman touch – a nice balance of femininity and feminism.

Bespoke couture appointments are available with Henrietta at her London show room on Exeter Street.

For more details and stockists, visit www.henriettaludgate.com



The woven logo on Stamo's clothes tag

Kawai Wong Fashion Editor

The first time I spoke to Stamo was at the Estethica press conference. She struck me as a straight forward businesswoman – clutching a Blackberry, dressed in a black suit and a speaking without emotion. It only occurred to me 5 minutes into the conversation that this woman – who could probably bite off anyone's head in a boardroom – has handpleated the lapels of her jackets and many of her Spring Summer 2010 pieces. And when asked if she makes all her clothes, the answer was simply, "Yes."

The softer side of her is apparent in all of her designs. Her AW09 pieces featured many sexy black mini dresses. Cut outs at strategic places make the dress slightly edgier than the classics of Givenchy.

Some of her pieces are theatrically elaborate. At the front it may look like a one shoulder body-con; turn the dress around and there's an exagger-

ated pink bow extending all the way from the waist down to the ankles. The coat we feature in our photoshoot is just another example of this theatrical sentiment. The lining of the coat is ruffled with silk. Wear this inside and you'll get a normal looking winter coat with ruffle trimmings at the opening. Wear this outside and it looks like an oversized, romanticised poncho.

Stamo's ethos is that she tries to produce the garments in the same region as they will be sold so that she gives back to the community as much as she takes. She also works with crafts that are dying, for example hand pleating. She is interested in preserving them as part of our international heritage and culture.

Perhaps it's a Greek thing. She is definitely not as fearful as I imagined her to be. If anything, she is the complete opposite. She always ends her emails warmly with "Wishing you a lovely day."

For details and stockists, visit www.stamo.co.uk. She will also exhibit at London Fashion Week this February.



Cheese and potato pie

Holly Cumbers thought this was tasty!

I know from years of experience how difficult it is to eat a healthy, balanced vegetarian diet at university. For years I have had an incredibly unhealthy diet, including biscuits, chocolate, breadsticks and most recently I have fallen in love with peanut butter sandwiches. My flatmates over the years have all joked about my strange eating habits.

However, it is important to at least attempt to eat healthy and nutritional meals- as I am sure you already know.

To help you on your way I have included a recipe of one of my favourite



dishes- cheese and potato pie. This recipe is easy to make, cheap and warming on a cold winter's night- and what's more you can easily make enough for at least two meals, which gives you enough time to do some more coursework- joy!

Recipe for a scrumptious cheese-potato pie!

(Student Style)

Ingredients:

4 or 5 potatoes- make sure they are washed peeled and cut into quarters
200 grammes cheese- can be any cheese, but I think cheddar cheese works best
1 onion- can be either red or white depending on taste, make sure it is sliced
1 tomato or use two if they are small, again make sure you cut it into slices
Herbs for flavour, I usually add mixed herbs and a sprinkling of salt

Begin by boiling and mashing the potatoes (for a creamier texture add milk) and add salt for flavour. At the bottom of a casserole dish create a layer of potatoes, followed by a layer of cheese, then another layer of potato. Finish off with another layer of cheese. Put under the grill for twenty minutes. Then add the sliced tomato and the sliced onion. Put back under the grill until it goes golden brown. Enjoy your tasty but nutritious meal!

Tibits, the best vegetarian food?

James Kightley changes his views on vegetarianism? Perhaps...

They'll love you- but will you love them?
I must admit that when I received an email this week asking me to review a vegetarian restaurant to celebrate green week, my heart sank. I decided, nevertheless, to put my preconceptions of vegetarian food aside and began scouring the internet for something that might inspire me. So imagine my joy when I came across the restaurant Tibits. A fully vegetarian restaurant with the tag line "Food that loves you back". How could I possibly refuse...

Located in a beautiful, bustling, pedestrianised street called Heddon Street, set just back from Regent Street, Tibits offers a large terraced area in front of the restaurant, which I imagine is a joy in the summer. Inside the restaurant, the atmosphere is relaxed and the décor colourful and casual with bench seats in the large windows, which give the restaurant a wonderful feeling of extra outside space. Tibits is a great choice for all age groups, and a great place to go for a casual evening with friends.

Tibits is a Swiss concept and is, as is so popular on the continent, a self service buffet. This is one of the greatest things about Tibits, as it is in my mind what makes it successful. As may have been obvious from my initial reaction, I am an avid meat-eater and the

thought of chomping my way through a large portion of imitation chicken and cubes of soy was horrifying, however on entering I was pleasantly surprised. On entry you are immediately confronted by an enormous "boat", heavily laden with all manner of vegetarian dishes, and I have to admit that I was genuinely excited to try each and every dish on offer. There are over 40 dishes on offer, which take inspiration from all over the world. These range from vegetable red Thai curry, to falafels, dahls, and all manner of interesting cold vegetable and pasta dishes with exciting dressings. Although no particular dish jumped off the plate at me, the quality was very good and the variety and combinations worked well to create a very pleasant meal.

I would like to say that the service was very good. Being a self service restaurant however, there really isn't any! What I can say is that the staff were very friendly and helped explain how the concept worked, part of which was to pay for the food by weight. Your food is weighed at the bar area, the fortunate thing being that vegetables tend to be light. This means one can enjoy a full plate of food for around £8, and a pudding bowl selection for around £3-£4. There are also various healthy fruit drinks on offer, you know the ones I mean, like "Vit boost" etc. I had a "Tutti Frutti" on the recommendation of the Manager - tasty enough,



but only as good as a smoothie I could make at home and for £3.30 for a small glass, I felt that it wasn't really worth it.

I can assure you, you won't leave feeling hungry, the food it is very satisfying, and healthy to boot. There are different prices for 100g of food at different times of the day - £1.40 for breakfast, £1.80 at lunchtime, and £2 at dinner. All in all this makes for a very affordable meal, particularly considering the location of the restaurant.

So have I changed my mind on vegetarianism? I suppose I have. If a vegetarian friend suggested Tibits for dinner I would not feel disappointed at all, and if I were a vegetarian this would certainly be a place I would frequently return to. I'm not sure if I love Tibits as much as it claims to love me... but we are certainly friends.

My favourite five green vegetables...

Holly Cumbers explores ways in which you can get your 5 a day!

As this is the green issue I thought I would do a special article on my favourite green vegetables. Seaweed has to be number 1. Admittedly not to everyone's taste (I don't really understand why!), this vegetable is packed with calcium and magnesium (making it an excellent substitute for milk). I love seaweed on its own with just a sprinkling of herbs on top. It always tastes best when cooked properly, something which I can never master-but it should be fairly easy. This is a perfect dish to order when you go for your next chinese meal.

Number 2, Popeye's favourite food- Spinach. Spinach is jam packed with iron, calcium and antioxidants- now I know why Popeye was always so strong!

Spinach has to be cooked properly in order to be fully enjoyed. I recommend adding spinach to pizza as it does actually taste nice- and you don't have to feel bad tucking in to a divine snack.

Although I used to hate it as a kid, number 3 would now be cabbage. Unfortunately, I can never shake off those terrible memories of school dinner ladies slopping it on to my plate. However, this vegetable shouldn't be grum-

bled at- it is packed with vitamin C.

4 goes to Brussel Sprouts- again only for the acquired tastebuds. So many people find these disgusting simply because they are overcooked. I love brussel sprouts with chestnuts at christmas or in a stir-fry, both are extremely tasty. Brussel sprouts are full of protein and vitamin A, which makes them an excellent replacement to meat, giving you essential nutrients that are often difficult to get from a vegetarian diet.

And finally courgettes (I am not 100% sure whether they can be called green vegetables but what the heck they are still nice, and of course healthy! Very healthy. They are filled with wholesome vitamins such as folate acid and vitamin A- and you do not need to worry about putting on any weight as they are incredibly low in calories). I love them when they are cut into chips and then fried. My friend also suggested to me the other day that courgettes are excellent when they were fried in breadcrumbs.

There are so many creative things that you can do with green vegetables. It is really fun to explore new recipes and different ways of cooking green vegetables. Not only is it fun but it is also essential for a vegetarian diet. So have fun! I am sure you will!



Vegetarianism in Camden

Holly Cumbers reviews food in Camden

Camden is famous for its arty stalls- selling alternative dresses, gorgeous trinkets and most importantly, so much vegetarian food that it feels almost heaven-like. There are dishes from all over the world. On Saturdays and Sundays they have places where you can sit and eat, so you can eat your food whilst watching the world pass you by.

I particularly enjoy visiting Green Note cafe, although this isn't technically a food stall the prices are still extremely good.

The cafe is both a live music venue and purely a vegetarian cafe (If you are a full strung meat eater I would avoid this place like the plague! As you won't get served any meat here!). I tend to visit this place on a Sunday as they have open mic sessions where people just come up and sing for you- you can get some really random and fun acts sometimes, which will always brighten up your day.

I instantly fell in love with the friendly and relaxed atmosphere. You can really make yourself feel at home here. The staff make you feel as if this is where you belong with their compliments and their genuine smiles. You just know they genuinely want to look after you and give you the best possible

service.

The menu is full of nutritional and tasty dishes from all over the world (they call it world tapas), but they also have larger food dishes available. We decided to order several dishes as we were told that they might be small- however as the dishes start from only £3.50 it is what you would expect. We opted for the mixed vegetable samosas, which were served with mango chutney, the mixed olives and the mango and halloumi salad- which caught our eye as it sounded so exotic! And the tex mex dips- which were served with tomato salsa and guacamole. All the ingredients they use are organic.

The food arrived really quickly, which was good as the divine smells coming from the kitchen were driving us crazy. All the dishes were well prepared.

The food is amazing and I think that is why I keep coming back to this little cafe. It always tastes better than the money I spend on it. The dishes are always filled with so many different flavours.

Next time you are in Camden pop by- I am sure they will be pleased to see you and they will make you feel like one of the family. Just bear in mind that it is closed on Mondays and Tuesdays! I would advise a lazy Sunday here.....

How bad is meat for the environment?

Reamika Patel weighs up the pros and cons of the meat industry and asks if giving up the steaks and hamburgers for good will really be saving the planet

Food production is an important factor in global warming and climate change. The claim that meat (especially beef) production is a huge contributor to global warming is certainly credible; industrial meat production is responsible for water pollution (due to the practice of storing waste in giant lagoons), greenhouse gas production and land degradation, as well as deforestation to grow crops to feed livestock. As a result we are being told to go vegetarian to save the planet. In fact the UN published a report on livestock and the environment recently, with the conclusion that “The livestock sector emerges as one of the top 2 or 3 most significant contributors to global warming”. But let us not throw the baby out with the bathwater. The key word here is “industrial” meat production. While this is certainly unsustainable and damaging, the same is not true of grass-fed livestock raised in a traditional way. In fact, certain farming methods can actually help reverse global warming, and it could be that a conscientious meat eater may have a more environmentally friendly diet than your average vegetarian.



ennial pastures used for grazing to decrease soil erosion by 80% and improve water quality, as shown in research by Minnesota’s Land Stewardship Project. Even a report by the United Nations concedes that “There is growing evidence that both cattle ranching and pastoralism can have positive impacts on biodiversity”.

Traditional farms have numerous animal species co-existing harmoniously, which is the natural way of the world. For instance, farming sheep and cows on pastures keeps them in better shape as sheep can eat weeds that are toxic to cows and vice versa, and they also help control parasites that affect one species but not the other. Chickens on farms can follow ruminants and take advantage of the short grass and insect larvae in the ruminant manure, leaving behind their own nitrogen rich droppings. Meanwhile pigs can be used to turn and aerate compost which can feed the grass. This form of sustainable farming uses resources efficiently, and provides highly nutritious food for humans.

Using unproductive land

A key argument is that the grain used to feed animals, which in turn feeds humans, would feed more humans if it was directly consumed by people. It should be noted that grain-fed animals tend to receive the poor quality grains and by-products unsuitable for humans. Doesn’t it make more sense to convert low quality grains to a more nutritious product through livestock rearing, than to consume them ourselves? The truth is that there is a lot of land out there that just isn’t suitable for growing crops, for example mountains, deserts, heath and moorland, salt marshes and lakes. Most of this land does however support grass and other plants we can’t utilize directly. Thus the land can be used to raise animals which convert the inedible plants into a form of food we can eat – meat. In these areas animal farming is the most efficient use of the land and can even improve the health of it. Even in the UK, arable and orchard farming occupies 30%

of total land area, while permanent meadow and pasture (which supports animal rearing) covers 50%. Sheep are our major livestock production, reared almost everywhere. Without sheep farming the mountains of Wales and Scotland and the moorlands of central and northern England would become largely unproductive. We’d simply have to import more food.

Animals and ecosystems

Even if more land were suitable for crop growing, is the planting of monocrops all that good for the earth? The answer is a resounding no. In fact, removing grazing animals from the Earth’s grassland ecosystems causes long term damage to the soil, and certainly contributes to global warming. Grazing animals provide fertilizer in the form of nitrogen-rich manure, root stimulation, pest control and decrease soil erosion, thus eliminating the need for artificial fertilizers which rely on fossil fuels. Nothing made from fossil fuels is sustainable. In addition, permanent pastures act as carbon sinks, pushing carbon into the soil and building topsoil. The grasses and herbs take in carbon from the atmosphere (as carbon dioxide), the animals eat the plants, which then go back into the soil via the animal’s manure, and are trampled back into the soil where the carbon is absorbed and recycled, feeding plant roots and enabling new plants to sprout. This form of farming mimics the natural evolutionary conditions of the earth thousands of years ago, where grazers grazed the land and fertilized the soil with their waste, then were chased away by predators or moved on, thus allowing new plants to regrow. This process is in stark contrast to a conventional corn or soybean field which is actually a major source of greenhouse gases. According to a recent Scientific American article “Future farming: A return to roots?”, production of high input annual crops release carbon at a rate of around 1000 pounds per acre, while perennial grasslands can store carbon at roughly the same rate. One analysis published in the journal *Global Change Biology*

showed a 19% increase in soil carbon after the land was changed from cropland to pasture. Factor in the fact that animal grazing also reduces the need for vehicles, machinery, fertilizers and pesticides, and it’s not difficult to see how raising animals on grass, as opposed to in confinement, can actually benefit the environment.

What can we do?

The problem is not as clear cut as “meat is bad for the environment, so we should all go vegetarian to save the planet”. Going veggie may mean importing more food and making us even more dependent on the industrialized food chain, which is dependant on fossil fuels and chemicals. Animals are needed to cycle nutrients and prevent areas of land turning to desert. The problem isn’t meat. It’s large industrial corporations and big agribusiness companies. It’s true that as the

world population grows, the amount of meat eaten will grow. But when living on pastures as they meant to, animal foods are healthy, traditional parts of the human diet that we have relied on for most of our evolution. If we want to save the planet and still enjoy that hamburger, we should support local, organic farmers who raise their animals on grass using traditional methods. All the food we buy should be minimally processed, in season and locally grown, and we should not let any of it go to waste. In terms of meat consumption, we should be eating more organ meats – if we are going to kill an animal for food the least we can do is not waste any of it.

Thinking about the issues involved, and how much more damaging to the environment that soy burger could be (can anyone say deforestation, pesticides, fertilizers, etc..?) we can all make our diets more sustainable and eco-friendly, whether we’re vegan, vegetarian or omnivores.

Chris Reynolds casts his eye over the fishing industry

Most of our earth is covered by ocean, a rolling expanse of waves that seem to hold a limitless bounty of fish, forming a staple part of the diet of a huge proportion of people on earth. The worldwide per capita consumption is around 16kg, more than double what it was during the first half of the twentieth century, and in Britain, fish and chips have long been one of the most popular dishes. For a long time, the sea has been seen as an infinite resource that can be plundered relentlessly without any consequences, but after years of unsustainable overfishing, stocks of many fish are running low. A study in *Nature* found that 90% of the larger predatory fish such as sharks and marlins have disappeared from the oceans, and 80% of most of the smaller fish, such as cod and tuna, are gone too, and this study was performed six years ago.

We’ve already seen the effects of overfishing on the whale population, which crashed back in the 1960s, and scientists are now predicting that supplies of fish will run out by 2048 if we continue fishing at the same rate. With levels of fish dropping, fishing methods have become increasingly intensive. Long-line fishing, where miles of baited hooks are strung out below the surface of the ocean surface, and trawling, catch fish indiscriminately, killing many unwanted larger fish. With catches getting smaller, the trawler nets grow ever wider, and the number of unwanted larger fish, such as dolphins, getting swept up increases. Bottom trawling, where the net is allowed to scrape along the ocean floor to catch the cod and halibut that live at the deeper depths, can cause vast damage to coral and the sea floor ecosystem.

There is a lack of pressure on fishermen to stop overfishing. Fishermen don’t want to start imposing quota limits on themselves and limit their income, and governments are unwilling to do anything about it; after all, the fish don’t have votes, and there is little public pressure. Overfishing is not an environmental problem uppermost in the mind of most of the public. It’s easy to show people images of vast swathes of cut-down rainforest, or sodden rock replacing snowy glaciers, but showing the effects of overfishing are more difficult. The sea looks the same as ever, while the fish stocks dwindle away, invisibly, underneath.

Overfishing can be very difficult to change. For example, despite all whale-hunting being banned since 1983, many whales are still near the brink of extinction, and large numbers of whales are still killed under the guise of conducting scientific research, presumably into the tastiness of whale meat. However, there is some good news for whales and fishing bans. Blue whale hunting was banned in 1960, when 5000 blue whales were left, and only now, 50 years after the ban are the numbers of blue whales starting to grow again in the Antarctic. This gives some hope that attitudes, and the march towards extinction of many fish species can be changed, and you too can help. Try to cut down on the amount of fish you eat, and if you do eat fish, make sure they are properly farmed from sustainable sources, and that damaging fishing methods are not used. The Marine Conservation Society publishes leaflets, available on the internet, which can give you an easy guide to which fish are properly farmed, not trawled, and dolphin-friendly.



A stormy Halloween in the Lake District

The Fellwanderers hike the Lake District on a wet Halloween weekend; Joe Rumer describes the madness



Chris and Alex changed a little over the weekend. Maybe it was the rain. Or the pumpkin risotto

Always look on the bright side of life, do do, do do do do...maxing out the minibus volume, the people waiting for buses just love us. We pile a mountain of rain-soaked kit onto the pavement, including a skull dripping with wax and a rolling pumpkin with a face only a mother could love. This wasn't the only cheesy song of the weekend, and my mind remains harrowed by memories of a Halloween in the Lake District that will haunt me forever: think gay pirates in skin-tight pink V-necks, white lightening cider and a castle plunging into darkness before you. Think a Fellwanderers' trip to a beautiful mountain...

11.00am Saturday: the valley floor swept out before us, over the rocky foreground a raging river chased the path down the mountainside back to the pub where we began, and many miles later would finish. Left, two sheep (with their picturesque blue spray-painted-on numbers) scampered past a dry stone wall. Right, an

eerie mist washed down over the landscape, the peaks of the mountains lost in the clouds. The wall was wet from rain and the mist kept coming, so we kept going.

The day's conquest was the volcani-

'In a Fellwandering frenzy we embarked on a midnight walk ... carrying a sheep's skull mounted on a stick and two lit pumpkins.'

clastic sandstone summit of Bowfell, 6th highest mountain in the Lakes. We were in good hands: Alex our leader had kicked off with a pint before departing from the Union and I picked up a bottle of white lightening cider on our travels north. We arrived with

all our kit rain-soaked on the top of the bus at our exclusive residence (an ageing village hall with an ominous portrait of some fat, old and now dead lady hanging above as we slept). Manpoints to Jim for sleeping in a half-soaked sleeping bag. The hall came complete with a classic record player and all those 80s hits on vinyl – sadly these weren't played. What's more, I had to settle for porridge for breakfast. I think you have problems if you like this stuff.

Up the valley, onto a plateau and past a lake, up a bit more: some nice views, lots of mist and rain now, but rewarding all the same. We find the 'shelter' (is it really a shelter if you can legally smoke there? Two walls – is that a shelter?!) and enjoy our first lunch. A small patch of blue sky emerges later and we all take pictures. After a small map-reading error, we plough on, only to confront our worst nightmare – the other half of the trip emerge from the mist (we had split into two groups doing the same circular walk in opposite

directions!) a Tolkien-style troll battle ensued. Later in the afternoon we hit the summit and bash on down to the pub which, quite frankly, was a little disappointing – it had strip lights and red vinyl flooring (but no, not a strip club) – not your classic English watering hole. Still, following a plastered local home because he couldn't bring himself to drive above 25mph (60mph limit) was entertaining, but not as much as was what lay ahead...

At the hut, butternut squash chopping. Too much squash. But it went into a tasty pumpkin risotto and pumpkin pie for dessert, all very Halloween-tastic. The connoisseurs amongst us enjoyed our food with a tasty glass of Frosty Jacks while some of the plebians settled for fine wine and real ale. Then there's the one who always goes too far: for full appreciation, try the recipe at home: 1) take a half pint of white lightening cider. 2) to the glass, add a brown sugar frosting to the rim, and dress with wedges of pumpkin and apple. 3) heat in the microwave for two minutes. 4) light a candle and float this in the drink – now enjoy your tasty, steaming beverage, just like mulled wine and rat's piss with a rotten cabbage thrown in. Yummy!

The merriment continued with folk donning their costumes: Scream was in attendance, a gay pirate, a bat and a vampire. An El Presidentes pumpkin carving contest was hacked out on the stage (Chris should never be trusted with a knife like this again) and then candles were lit and the lights turned out. This was the ideal time to touch up freshers.

In a Fellwandering frenzy we embarked on a midnight walk to the local Wray Castle, carrying a sheep's skull mounted on a stick and two lit pumpkins. The beautiful stone gothic building was illuminated in a deep orange glow, towering over us. Until, without warning, darkness instantaneously enveloped us. Fearing we had upset the gods, we marched back to the hall for a necessitated night's sleep. No one will ever know what caused the castle to vanish into darkness like that...

Sunday morning, pissing down,

drank too much cider. Shit, there's a slice of pumpkin pie in the oven still! Mmmm, oh that's good. And in the door of the bus, oh yes, my chips left over from Friday night. Tasty. None of that porridge for me.

An aqua-bus journey along roads that have become rivers, past fields that have become lakes, and we found ourselves in Conniston. There was a choice of three options here, each more nonsensical than the last: stay in the pub all day, take a short walk around the lake and pub lunch, or go for a long walk up a mountain in the rain to see a 'Goat's puddle'. For the benefit of the club, contrary to what any forecaster may have told you, I can assure you we enjoyed blue skies and sunshine all day, with panoramic views of jaw-dropping scenery. We were bounding like lambs over heather.

We returned to the buses, reluctant to leave. Still, I knew I would fall asleep and wake up in London a little later. Let's just forget about the road works and heavy traffic because of stupid cars full of stupid kids at the end of half term, and the service station dinner (KFC/salty soup/expensive sandwiches/Friday's chips re-heated).

Late at night – when only those of you who got bladdered for the entire weekend and could no longer move remain at the Union – we return: more mountains conquered, more classic dishes served up, many more cheesy songs, countless laughs and dozens of heroic tales to tell. We returned home looking on the brighter side of life!



Scrumpy Jacks IS a cocktail...

The Amnesty Column - this Newspaper could get you arrested

We are very blessed to be in the UK. It may not be perfect but we are free to make statements like, "I would rather shoot the Andrex puppy in the face than vote BNP" and "Gorden Brown's choice of biscuits leaves something to be desired." We are free to question authorities; for example, I am at liberty to question how much money the Union invests in the arms trade. If I chose to get married I can enjoy the same rights as my husband, and can then choose to divorce with or without his permission (as al-

most 50% of our population choose to do).

In 1988, a group of students in Burma protested against their military regime where freedom of speech was forcibly repressed. The government's response was to arrest, kill and 'disappear' thousands of people. Their crime was breaking one of Burma's most ridiculous sounding laws; disturbing public tranquillity. Other banned activities in Burma include; gatherings of five or more people, discussing fuel prices, politics, religion, foreign affairs, peacocks or the colour red.

The internet is restricted by gov-

ernment censorship and you can get arrested for accessing BBC pages, Amnesty International information or other outside literature. When the freedoms of a people are restricted, it is the duty of others to use theirs.

In August and September 2007, members of the original '88 group, including veteran activists Htay Kywe and Mie Mie and a younger member, Zaw Htet Ko Ko, took part in mass anti-government protests which swept through Burma. These much publicized events (in the UK at least) were brought to an unceremonious end by a violent crackdown by the military jun-

ta. Htay Kywe, Mie Mie and Zaw Htet Ko Ko were arrested in October. Htay Kywe and Mie Mie were sentenced to 65 years in prison and Zaw Htet Ko Ko received an 11-year sentence.

As a human rights charity, Amnesty International campaigns for the unconditional release of these prisoners of conscience. Not only horrified by the violation of some of the most basic of human rights (freedom of speech and freedom of assembly), mistreatment of prisoners is also a concern. Since 1988, at least 135 political prisoners have died either in prison or during interrogations. Past prisoners report police

brutality, the use of shackles and other mistreatments.

As a group, the Amnesty International Society have signed the petition for the release of Htay Kywe, Mie Mie, Zaw Htet Ko Ko and all other Burmese prisoners of conscience. But there's more than just that; our society is dedicated to informing ourselves and others of human rights violations around the world, including in the UK.

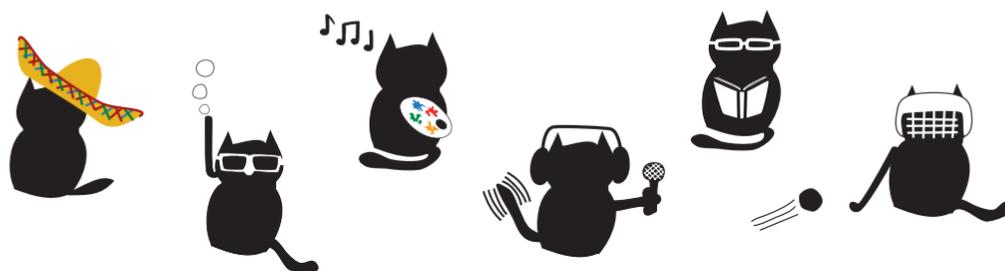
So if you see us around campus do come over, ask questions and read our petitions. Sign, donate or join in if you agree. You are blessed that here you are free and safe to do so.

What's on...

Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editors – Lily Topham & Rachel D'oliveiro

whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Mon 23rd Nov

Political Philosophy – Classics Series 2

- Science and the Spirit of Anarchism
- 6pm, Elec Eng room 509
- Talk by Rachel Souhami, Lecturer in Philosophy of Science

Finance Society – Benedix Financial Recruiters Presentation

- Work for us, you know you want to...
- 6pm, Business School LGS LT

Question Time with MSF and Debating Society

- Discussing the difficulties of humanitarian aid..
- Prestigious panelists include Gareth Tudor-Williams and Alvaro Villanueva
- 6:30pm, SAF LT G34



Tues 24th Nov

Ahlul Bayt - Hajj Exhibition

- 12-2pm, Sherfield Concourse Level 2, Free
- Find out about this incredible journey...

Christian Union Impact

- “He’s just as drunk as I am – Aren’t all Christians hypocrites?”
- 12pm, Union Dining Hall
- Free discussion lunch bar open to all with free food and drinks!

Finance Society – Goldman Sachs Presentation

- Work for us, you know you want to...
- 6pm, Physics LT1

ICSM Orchestra Concert

- St. Stephen’s Church, Gloucester Road, Sw7 4RL
- Doors open at 7pm for 7:30pm start.
- Free for students plus free glass of wine on entry!
- Repertoire includes: Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 2, Mendelssohn A Midsummer Night’s Dream Overture, Hans Zimmer Selection from Gladiator

Weds 25th Nov

Finance Society – KPMG Presentation

- Work for us, you know you want to...
- 6pm, SAF 121

Thurs 26th Nov

Ahlul Bayt - Hajj Exhibition (Free)

- 12-2pm, Sherfield Concourse Level 2
- 6-10pm, Huxley 340
- Find out about this incredible journey...

Muslim Medics Young Scientists’ Symposium

- 5:30pm, SAF LT G16
- Free entry with refreshments!
- A wonderful opportunity for medical students to showcase their research.

Model UN and Amnesty International

- Corporate Responsibility Simulation
- 6-7:30pm, Read LT, Sherfield
- Free for all!
- Talk from Catherine Cartwright followed by a debate.

Finance Society – BAML Presentation

- Work for us, you know you want to...
- 6pm, Huxley 311

Fri 27th Nov

Ahlul Bayt - Hajj Exhibition (Free)

- 12-2pm and 5-10pm, SAF CL Level 1/Foyer/G16 Lecture Theatre 1/Rm 119-122
- Find out about this incredible journey...

Sat 28th Nov

ICSM Choir Concert

- Free for students plus free glass of wine on entry
- St. Stephen’s Church, Gloucester Road, Sw7 4RL
- Doors open at 7pm for 7:30pm start.
- Repertoire includes: Puccini Messa di Gloria, Rachmaninoff Ave Maria, Beatles Yesterday



To Do....

- 1) Find passport....
- 2) Email whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk (Club name & event, time, place, price, pics...) by end of **Tues 24th Nov.**

CAT-NIP

Text in to 07832670472

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

Drop us a message at felixonline.co.uk



NEXT WEEK'S CATNIP QUESTION: WHAT DO YOU THINK REALLY HAPPENED TO THE RECTOR?!

What's the rankest meal you've ever eaten?

durian

Pineapple man

Your Mum. (Honestly, she was so goddamn stringy – even reggae reggae sauce couldn't improve the flavour. Also, she was a terrible shag.)

Anonymous

A two-week old pasta-bake. Limpid pasta, offensive sauce and drowned . But now, I have no gag reflex. Result!

Anonymous

I saw someone in my halls eating cereal out of an unwashed bowl that had contained pasta the night before. It put me right off my breakfast.

Southwell Fresher

Drunken-mate photo of the week



Got a picture of your mate being an absolute waste of oxygen? Well, get your camera out and email your drunken-mate photos to catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk

This charming fellow got on a coach, fell asleep, and then threw up. At least, we think that's the right order...Red wine or Snakebite, you reckon?

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

**CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?
EMAIL TO**

catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk

FACEBOOK

it on our 'Felix' fan page

TEXT US

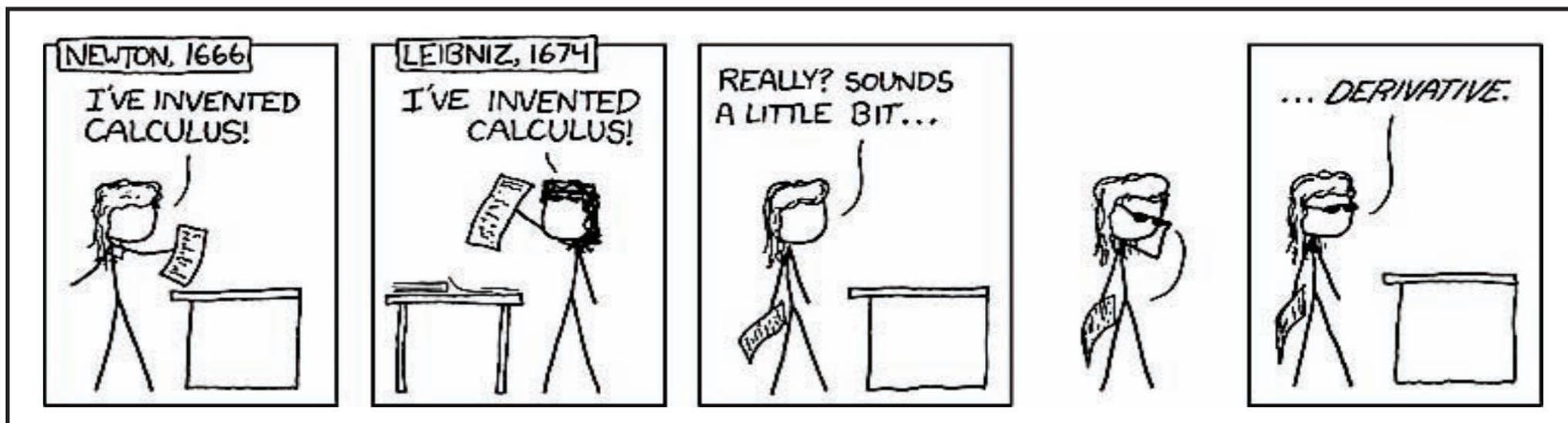
on 07832670472

AND NOW ON

TWITTER!

just tag your tweets with [@felixcatnip](https://twitter.com/felixcatnip)

xkcd.com



Hangman

(We've gone green for Green Week, not that we weren't green before...)

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Beginner's Guide to being Green

There's not much you can do. Stop blaming yourself for the world's problems and start blaming everyone else.

Anonymous Hangman Editor

It's not easy being green. Shut up, yes it is. Green is just a social convention, a fashion, a mating call. 'Check out that guy with his eco-friendly shopping bag. He cares about the environment. He's such a caring guy. I love caring guys, he'll care for me... blah blah blah...'

Green is a show. No-one actually wants to do green. The only reason we use recycling boxes is because we love to collect shiny things and arrange them in height order.

So lets stop pretending that we care about our children, or our children's children. That's a disgusting amount of children to be caring about. Lets instead worry about ourselves and how we look because the most important thing in life is to care about what other people think.

Tip 1 - CAN STAMPING!

You don't really know the logic behind stamping on your empty drinks cans, but you assume it helps the recycling people in some way.

That's a lie - you don't care about the recycling people. You've just seen too many *Blue Peter* appeals in your life-

time and your endless can-stamping was a dire attempt to win the coveted *Blue Peter* badge along with the affections of Konnie Huq. Ahhhh yeeeeeahh, Konnie Huq! (Foreign Students may need to do some background research here).

Of course, endless can-stamping, combined with the bitterness of never actually receiving a Blue Peter Badge, soon led to an implacable stamping addiction. There's nothing better than picturing the can with the face of some stupid smug twat and stamping the smugness right out of that stupid smug face. Of course Hangman does not advocate sticking the faces of your favourite twats onto your disused drinks cans and stamping them to death.

How to stick the faces of your favourite twats onto your disused drink can



Tip 2 - The Great Chirade

It is imperative that you shun all forms of fuel-consuming activities, including public transport. Stop whining about the late buses and tube-line closures and use your legs! Go out there and save the world with your legs because the world needs your legs and your legs need a green world to live on. Smell the

fresh outdoors and take time to enjoy the beauty that surrounds you - ah fuck this, take the bus.

So you've just realised that you're too lazy to care. Of course you don't care, no-one cares. The only thing we care about is looking like we care, thus a foolproof plan must be implemented to pass off the illusion of your green endeavours.

When going places, make sure that you always get off one stop too early and run the remaining distance. Inform your friends that you are boycotting carbon dioxide and saving nature by running everywhere. Your lack of fitness will only authenticate your lies as a five minute jog will leave you ruddy-faced and sweating like an African's ball-sack. Try to force a small tear down your cheek as you weep for the fallen trees.

Tip 3 - Protestors

That's right, these tree-hugging, sun-worshipping druid tossers are only giving you guys a bad name. You can often find them outside your local power-station, chanting scientifically misinformed drivel about the environment. Remember you are not one of these people, nor do you want any as-

sociation with them. Despite appearing to have similar views, they actually *do* care about the world (remember that you *don't!*). The problem is that they stroll around with their natural teeth, their natural clothes, natural hair and look naturally disgusting. We haven't even mentioned that they period into mooncups. That's right, you've now got to look up 'mooncups' and whether the word 'period' can be used in verb form.

They're so freakishly in love with nature that they just look weird. We all just look at them and think, 'Thank God I'm normal! In fact people are so scared of looking mildly hippie-like that they try damn hard not too. In other words, hippies are putting us off making an effort to save the environment. It's their fault! It's nothing to do with our laziness, it's simply our determination not to be a hippie.

Well, glad that's settled. It's the hippies' fault that I'm so negligent and don't give a shit. In fact I might just throw this copy of *Felix* on that pavement over there.

And if you're still worried, you can organise a fuck-off concert with an extravagant lighting/sound system and jet celebrities in from all over the world. That's a clever idea you American twat!

NOOSE OF THE WORLD

FELLOWSHIP OF THE METH RING

So it seems old Roy has left us for more important things. Now everyone is starting to question his sudden departure. What's behind that stern and threatening face? Does he really care about diseases and all that? *Noose of the World* has the exclusive scoop on the Real Royboy!

There has been much speculation over this scandal and rumours have been spreading faster than Katie Price's legs. A favourite seems to be that Royboy has actually started his own private crystal meth business. There have even been reports of him being seen with Amy Winehouse.

"Him and Winers have been getting on well recently. Often seen 'em stumbling around Camden at three in the morning with cans of Frostie Jack", reported an unreliable source.



Linked? Amy and Royboy

However, closer sources have told us that Royboy was asked to resign due to the discovery of him being a giant ant. Imperial has strict policies on giant ant rectors and had to take hard action.

"We were very shocked at the news and regrettably had to ask the giant ant to step down," said a high-up Imperial official. "GSK to crystal meth. It's money money money with him."

Hangfan

We love hearing from the fans and have received some really warm feedback

"I'm not one to ever feel the need to comment/act/care about the 'banter' in Felix, BUT, I think last week's article was spectacularly...wrong/offthemark/too un-PC. I was pretty disappointed to find out that the article was a snobbish attack on the 'working class'. The content is what it is, but to put it in Felix with Imperial's diverse range of students as your target audience is just plain stupid. I won't be supporting Felix if content such as this continues to be published." **Die-hard Hangman fan**



TWATTER



[the_Cuddly_Racist](#)

Just been pwning some nabs on COD Modern Warfare 2! Epix game! xXx



[Barack_attack_l33thaxor](#)

Bet you love killing dem terrorists right? :p



[SexyOsama69](#)

Well he hasn't killed me once yet lol!



[the_Cuddly_Racist](#)

Lmao. stfu Osie! I've killd u loadz of times. Ur such a camper! U jst sit in your cave!

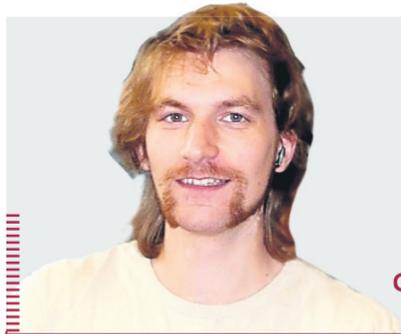


[Barack_attack_l33thaxor](#)

Yeh Osie you camper! BTW I've sent some RL soldiers to your RL cave lol! Just for teh lolz! Just givin u heds up :p

COFFEE BREAK

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



I've had an absolute 'mare

Charlie Murdoch Coffee Break Editor

Apparently I can't spell, and judging by last week's efforts here that is something I cannot dispute. It was like going back to the days of Mr Ravi Pall, where each week this space was guaranteed to have been filled with incomprehensible, poorly spelt drivel. But it was entertaining, incomprehensible, poorly spelt drivel! I will do my best to improve the standard of this editorial, and I think have managed to formulate a master plan that Dr. Evil will be proud of. I am going to actually make an attempt to re-read what I write! This will however severely dent the amount of time that I can spend 'working on my degree'. And by 'working on my degree' I really mean 'testing out the durability of the bar's tables and chairs'. And by 'testing the durability of the bar's tables and chairs' I quite simply mean getting a bit tipsy. And by... well, I hope you get the picture by now.

Moving on to the events of my life this past week. I have to admit it's been a bit up and down really. It was my birthday- a day I never enjoy too much. What with all these people who

I haven't seen for ages bothering me- maybe there's a reason why we haven't met recently? That being said I managed to get on a 14 or 414 (don't know which) bus at South Kensington, going towards Fulham, only to wake up on a 22 in Waterloo. Not sure how that happened as I am almost 100% sure I didn't get off the bus at any stage. Weird huh?

Seeing as I had a free weekend, I thought I'd go home to visit my mother who has been giving me an ear bashing for a few months now. Never before have I received such a bollocking! The pinnacle was being told off for eating too much... Seriously, that is the best part about going home, you sit down to dinner, and wow! it's not pasta. I personally think she's gone a tad mental because when I was young she would always force feed me potatoes and meat to 'build me up'. Or was that just a sneaky ploy to make the huge pile of greens look smaller?

Well I hope you've enjoyed my (largely correctly spelt) muttering, and if any of you readers out there would like to fill this space please do. If you are a girl. And blond. And willing to give me a hug. And a kiss. Hockay bai. X

Stuff Imperial students like:

7. Lunch (free):

Yo Davo, you heard about the lecture on counterbalance fuelled menopause today? No mate, and it sounds like a pile of horse semen to be quite frank. You what? Mate, there's a free lunch at the end... Oh sweet as a fucking honey roasted peanut! It is defiantly worth my while sitting in a lecture theatre being talked to by a mentalist in a shell suit, not understanding liter-

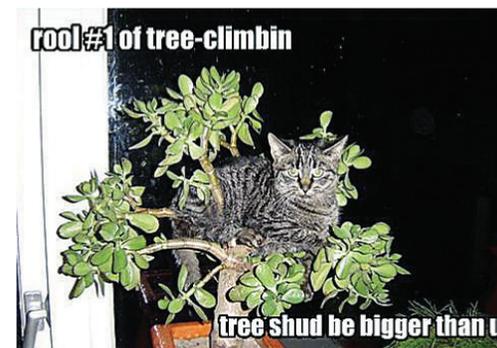
ally a single word spoken, just to get a free lunch.

Let's be honest, we've all done it haven't we? You have no interest whatsoever in the subject, but the fact that you are going to get some free sandwiches and save yourself £2 is a big attraction. In my past I've even been to a lecture about PhD opportunities... in my second year! Well, you have to keep all your options open don't you?



Kerry Katona's new advertising job

This week's best of lol catz



Quote of the Week

John Henry Newman: "To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often."

Wordoku 1,445

E		Z		B		O			
O	M	B	W						Z
	W								
		W			O	M		E	
			B		E				
A		E	M			B			
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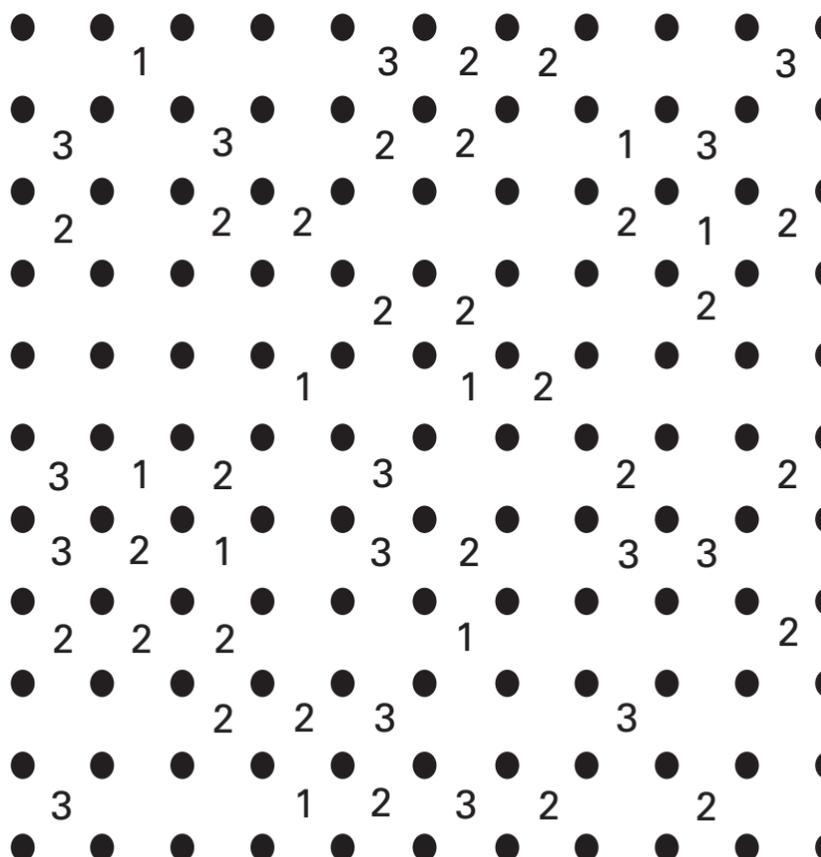
Solution 1444

A	D	B	G)	;	O	N	E	
N	G)	B	E	O	D	A	;	
O	E	;	N	D	A	G)	B	
;)	G	O	B	E	N	D	A	
D	A	E	;	N)	B	G	O	
B	O	N	D	A	G	E	;)	
E	;	O)	G	D	A	B	N	
G	N	A	E	;	B)	O	D	
)	B	D	A	O	N	;	E	G	

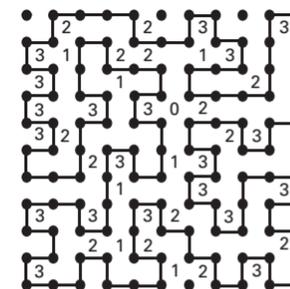
How to play: Wordoku is identical to Sudoku; we've just replaced numbers with letters. Complete the puzzle and then send the whole grid to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk. You will not get credit for just the word alone. It's not an anagram.

Scribble box

Slitherlink 1,445



Solution 1444

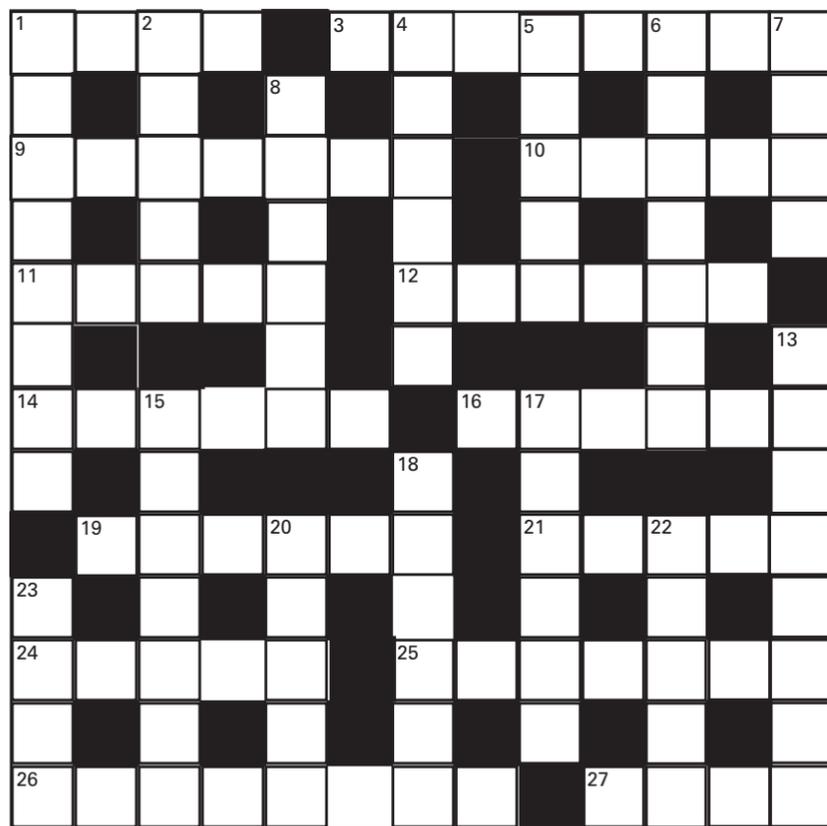


Harry Potter Trio won. Well done. Usual crap. Send in results. I have a headache and I'm hungry. I want some eggs on toast and a mild gin and tonic. Moon. Table. Phone. Screen. Space filled!

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.

A quickie (crossword) 1,445



ACROSS

- 1 Class - Rancid (4)
 3 "Come on Tabby, I think that's _ _ _ _ . I said you could have a bite of my pasty, but not all that! No you take it. Stick it up your arse!" (1,3,4)
 9 Cutting tool - Motorbike - Helicopter - Trouser-snake (7)
 10 Mammarific French city (5)
 11 Arabic French city (5)
 12 Instantly (2,4)
 14 Horrified (6)
 16 Relating to the stars (or Van's weeks?) (6)
 19 Barter (6)
 21 Tell/Hood's bullet (5)
 24 Mission statement (5)
 25 Type of hero - Only if you think you're hard enough? (4,1,2)
 26 Gland found nestling up a man's "pipe" (8)
 27 Glandular eye infection (4)

DOWN

- 1 Player of guitars, shagger of girls, drinker of JD, talker of bollocks etc...? (4,4)
 2 Lethal rope form (5)

- 4 Purveyor of intoxicating beverages (6)
 5 Crap liqueur - Socially Prohibited (5)
 6 2nd hang banger (4-3)
 7 Not love (4)
 8 Metal rods, connecting the hub to the rim (6)
 13 Marine mammal's water-shooter (8)
 15 Piratical term; typically when they are pulling something in (5-2)
 17 Fast (6)
 18 Flaming heat - US street sausage (3,3)
 20 Spook (5)
 22 Cook in dry heat - Court lady Premier League style? (5)
 23 Cups (anag.) (4)

Dr Science! is back an he has taken his horrible Chemistry fluids and thrown them all over the opposition. No seriously it's so nice to have you back, and if you help me with my Chemistry I'll give you a whole extra point. Literally one whole point! In other news SEND YOUR ANSWERS IN!!!!

Crossword by **Peter Legg**

Solution 1444



Scribble box

Horoscopes as they bloody should be- so bum sex off

I write these, not you. The sooner you learn that and go back to touching your sister inappropriately the better



Aquarius

Want some attention? Why don't you piss off the nation's farmers by slaughtering all their cattle, then convince the

whole world they're going to die from swine flu. Then top it off by demanding that every student pays extortionate, lifetime-debt inducing fees whilst pocketing a 370K paycheque before finally fucking off. Twat.



Pisces

Your house is literally falling to pieces. A leak in the bathroom has caused the kitchen ceiling to fall in, leaving a massive

hole. At least you can have a chat with whoever's cooking dinner whilst you're on the shitter. Drop a nice big chocolate log in the curry. It'll probably make it taste better than the crap you cooked on Wednesday night!



Aries

Trying to convert women to any religion in an attempt to get some pussy is a terrible idea but apparently it's all the rage these

days. Give it a shot then! 'Jo Hos' seem to be the most experienced so now you have an excuse for stalking that fittie next door. "Ahem, have you heard the word of..." Oh fuck this, God is boring. Go back to trusty Rohypnol, it works every time.



Taurus

Did you catch the meteor shower this week? Of course you didn't, you live in the murky shithole that is Laandan! Well

these shooting stars have serious astrological consequences for your horoscopes. Good news is that you'll finally lose your virginity, bad news is that you'll strangle her in your sleep. Don't worry mate, we've all been there.



Gemini

If you say Fail, Gash, Izzit or any other shitty street slang/ Internet speak again to me again, I swear I will fuck you up for

good (with a big knife mind, I'm not actually as hard as I sound). And what's with the saying 'butters'? I'm sitting on the bus and some kid says Tinchy Stryder is 'butters'. What the fuck has shitty hip hop got to do with butter?!



Cancer

For the past six months I've been campaigning to have this star sign renamed to Stupid Talented Annoying Syphillis

Ridden Fame Hungry Dog Faced Bitch. Stasrfdh doesn't roll off the tongue very well so I went for Jade Goody instead. Apparently this is in 'bad taste' though. Can someone tell me what the fuck bad taste is?



Leo

Madonna? Course you fucking would! Sure, she's over 50 and has become a man but she's still Madonna! Think hard about it,

you would be fucking Madonna. No? How about the ginger from Desperate Housewives? No? Not even our beloved monarch Queen Lizzie? You boring cunt! You would definately do Jeff Goldblum though? Oh Yeah, thought as much.



Virgo

You have always found it hard to speak to girls. Everyone you approach wrinkles and looks away in disgust. You can't understand

every person seems to hate being being in your company. Have ever considered it is because you're a fish? You smell like a sweaty clunge and flapping around on the floor in a waterless environment is not attractive either.



Libra

Have you ever wondered which legend added a 'p' to the Imperial College sign on the South Ken underpass. Well

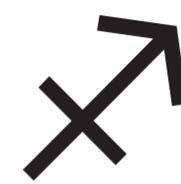
I had the honour of meeting him and today I exclusively reveal his name. Let me introduce to you (Drum Roll) Jack Offalot. This is what Jack had to say about his famous letter: "I thought it would be..." I couldn't be arsed to listen after that.



Scorpio

Green Week is soon so here are some tips to be eco-friendly: 1) Don't use condoms, latex is non-biodegradable. 2) Every person contrib-

utes 17,000 tonnes of CO2 to the atmosphere a year, help this by killing the child after raping it. 3) Rising sea levels will soon flood our coastlines, let's relocate Blackpool now...to fucking Mongolia! (Honestly, I do love Tower World)



Sagittarius

New from Hasbro! The Miss Universe Threesome Sex Tape Playset!. Includes camcorder, lube and Viagra for pre-

pubescents (biglittlboy™). Renact all the classic scenes with your school friends such as upside down deepthroat and reverse cowboy anal. Buy now with the Miss Japan's guide to amateur porn dialogue. (Exclusive to Toys 'R' Us, £45)



Capricorn

I don't need to tell you that the Miss Universe sex tape is some good shit, you already know. You happened upon it whilst innocently

browsing the interweb and it wasn't long before your hand was on your cock. 43 seconds later and with no toliet roll you desperately searched for somewhere to wipe. Now everyone's asking where you got your hairgel from. Pint?

Aunty McPickle says all your problems are real. Oh dear

Dear Aunty McPickle,

My girlfriend is a recently qualified gynaecologist; she deals a lot with old women. Personal hygiene is not one of her fortes and since becoming a doctor it hasn't improved.

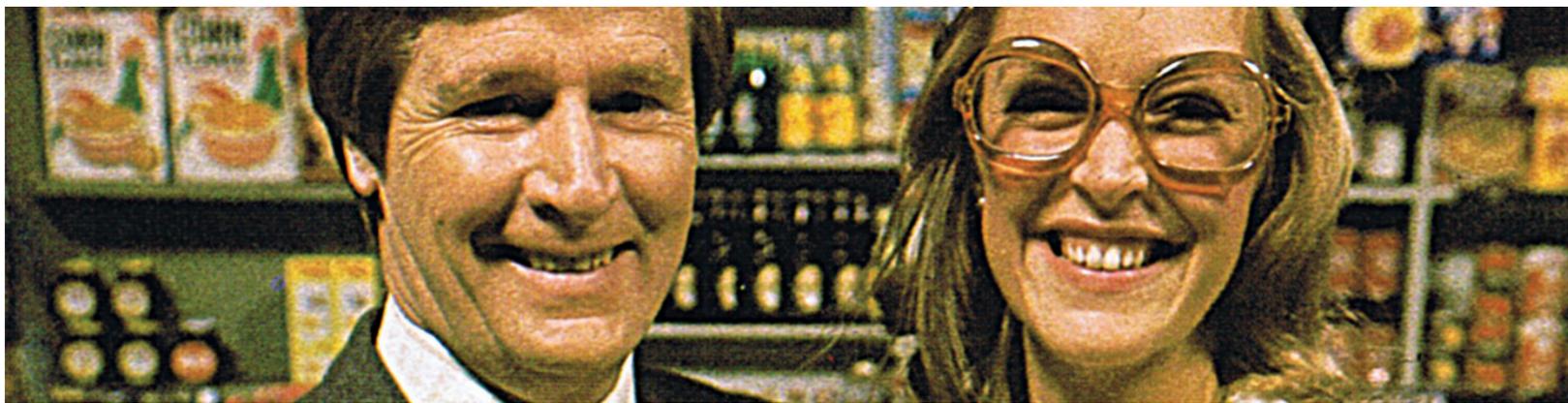
She always has dirty finger nails and they have started to get really bad, to the point where I just try to blank it out. To add to this, during sex she often expresses her pleasure by digging her nails into my back. I have developed some pussy pustules which look infected. What should I do?

Terry Bourbons

Dear Terry

It looks like you seriously need to address this. She needs to clean! Tell her simply that unless she keeps herself scrubbed, you are not going to touch her. Be careful, though, as women can often go longer without sex from their partners than men. This is usually because they can get more action elsewhere because they have tits.

So if she holds out longer than you do – which is likely – don't find a prostitute, as you'll have to pay her extra to ignore the pustules. Make an anonymous complaint to her hospital when you get your back looked at. She may lose her job, but at least she'll not be



Sorry Granddad, but two things: 1) she's taken, and 2) ew seriously what the fuck?

putting her hands in any more granny fannies for a while.

Aunty McPickle xxx

Dear Aunty McPickle,

On a recent visit home, I walked in on my granddad having a wank over Coronation Street. He was making strange groans and crying out "Deidre". At the time I was horrified and screamed "you dirty old man" at him but thankfully he did not notice me. I now feel I was too harsh in my initial disgust. How should I confront him?

Jack Offman

Dear Jack,

This does sound traumatic. It might be best to not bring this up. He clearly has no idea that you caught him and it really isn't doing anyone any harm.

Maybe next time you should be a little bit more cautious about entering rooms and your choice of seat. Consider buying him some sofa covers. People that age tend to prefer neutral colours, such as beige or a light grey, but so that it is easier to clean up, consider buying those plastic covers old people seem to love.

Hope this clears up,

Aunty McPickle xxx

Dear Aunty McPickle,

I have just returned from a trip to Amsterdam with my old mates from school. As you can imagine some pretty un-holy things happened but one has scarred me mentally. Basically it took place in a dark hall, where a massively fat prostitute was doing loads of tricks which involved pulling things out of her vagina. This was all reasonable but then she came over to me with a banana wedged between her poon-lips. I was asked to eat the slippery banana. I had to do it. It smelt worse than shit. I can't explain how bad it was but something was definitely rotten and it wasn't the fruit. I managed to do

it and so have received nothing but praise from my friends but I am now haunted with visions of decomposing poonanas.

Will Fezito

Dear Will

I think you should see a counsellor about this. I think maybe some hypnosis may be needed to help you blank this scented scene out. Otherwise, you may have to wait until scientists discover mindbleach.

Yours,

Aunty McPickle xxx

Old school carolling collections

Yes, the rumours are true (though, unless you're a hack, you probably haven't heard any of these rumours). We, RAG, are currently in possession of a deceptively heavy CGCU mascot which goes by the name of Bolt (pretty creative, since it actually is a bolt...). He/she/it is being held in a secret location, gagged and blindfolded (but well fed nevertheless).

Late at night, it cries for its dear older brother, Spanner. Poor thing. We have approached the CGCU with a proposal for its handover – possibly involving

some sort of ransom – and we'll keep you informed on how things turn out!

On another note, with Christmas-time coming up remarkably fast, RAG has managed to secure some insanely awesome carol singing permits! Our very own choir will be using their angelic voices to enchant passersby into sparing some change for our charities.

The first carol singing session is on Friday, the 4th of December at Green Park Station and it will be led by the Imperial College Chamber Choir. We are taking along 5-7 collectors to this

wonderful event.

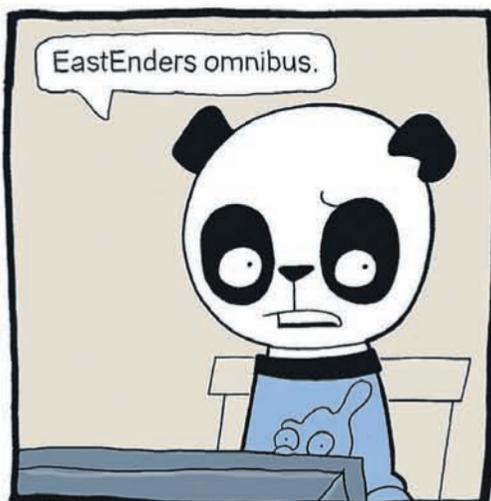
Our main carolling event will take place on the 14th of December between 18:00 and 19:00, when RAG will team up with the Main Choir to have a carol singing/collection on a massive stage in, wait for it, Trafalgar Square! It will be right under the huge Christmas tree and we will be taking along 15-20 collectors for this.

To make sure that you don't miss out on either of these wonderful Yuletide collection opportunities, e-mail RAG at rag@ic.ac.uk.



Don't worry. You won't have to dress like this, unless of course you want to

ANDY PANDA



ANDYPANDA.CO.UK

Gaelic Sports in high spirits

Continued from page 38

chotomy in our performance against St. Gabriel's. The first half saw them free to attack at will while in the second period, they were put under much more pressure and found it harder to burst forward. In the end they were too strong.

After this, Gabriel's and Mitchel's played the leader-deciding match of the group, with Gabriel's coming out on top.

It was decided that the winners of a play-off between Imperial and John Mitchel's would play, along with St. Gabriel's, in a semi-final against one of the losing teams from the Cup competition.

So they took to the field again, and made sure we gave the Intermediate champions a serious challenge.

From the throw-in, Imperial battled well, doggedly defending against Mitchel's attacks. Against the run of play however, they managed to forge



Last week hurling, this week football for the meteoric Imperials Gaelic Sports Cub.

a goal out of a number of attempts by Imperial to clear the ball. This was followed by Keith Laverty, now playing at centre-forward, converting two scores. The score stayed the same until half-time: Imperial 0-2, John Mitchel's 1-0.

Unfortunately playing with the wind in the first half again meant we would always be vulnerable in the second half, and Mitchel's managed to break free to convert a few points.

Some great saves and long clearances from the Imperial defence, with rookie Jamie Sanders showing some great courage, slowed the opposition attack down, and allowed our forwards to convert some more scores.

As the final whistle blew, John Mitchel's came out tops, but not without a very respectable display from Imperial.

So that was it for our championships this year. All that was left to do was to get very, very pissed on the bus back to the union and support the Irish football team against France in Da Vinci's.

This is not the end of the season for Imperial's Hurling squad.

The focus now for IC GAA turns to Gaelic Football where this Sunday (20th) the men's team are participating in a blitz with Oxford and St. Mary's universities. Training continues as always on Wednesdays in Hyde Park.



FIXTURES & RESULTS



in association with Sports Partnership

Monday 16th November

Badminton (ULU)

Challenge Cup

Mixed 1s
SOAS Mixed 1s

Netball (ULU)

Women's 1s
RUMS 1s

Women's 2s
King's College

Women's 3s
LSE 4s

Women's 4s
SOAS 1s

Squash (ULU)

Men's 2s
LSE 1s

Men's 4s
LSE 4s

Women's 1s
St George's 1s

Water Polo (ULU)

Mixed 1s
King's College 1s

Wednesday 18th November

Badminton

Men's 1st
King's College 1st

Basketball (BUCS Cup)

Men's 1st
Canterbury Christ Church 1st

Football

BUCS Cup

Men's 1st
London South Bank University 2nd

Men's 2nd
London South Bank University 3rd

Men's 3rd
University of Essex 1st

ULU

Men's 4s
St Bart's 2s

Men's 5s
Queen Mary 3s

Men's 6s
Goldsmiths 2s

Men's 7s
Royal School Mines 1s

Hockey

Men's 1st
University of Brighton 1st

BUCS Cup

Women's 1st
University of Reading 3rd

ULU

Women's 2s
Imperial College Medicals 2s

Lacrosse

Men's 1st
University of Hertfordshire 1st

Women's 1st

King's College 1st

Netball (BUCS Cup)

Women's 1st
Brunel 4th

Women's 3rd
University of Brighton 2nd

Rugby

Men's 1st
King's College Medicals 1st

Men's 3rd
Imperial College Medicals 3rd

BUCS Cup

Men's 4th
LSE 2nd

Squash

Men's 4th
University of Surrey 2nd

BUCS Promotion Play-off

Men's 1st
Leeds Metropolitan Carnegie 1st

BUCS Cup

Men's 3rd
University of Reading 1st

Tennis

Men's 1st
UCL 1st

Women's 1st

University of Brighton 1st

BUCS Cup

Men's 2nd
Royal Veterinary College 1st

Saturday 21st November

Fencing

Tournament (BUCS)

Women's 1st vs University of Bristol 1st
Women's 1st vs Oxford University 1st
Women's 1st vs University of Cambridge 1st
Women's 1st vs Queen Mary, University of London 1st

Football (ULU)

Men's 1s vs LSE 1s
Men's 2s vs UCL 1s
Men's 4s vs UCL 6s

Men's 5s vs RUMS 2s
Men's 7s vs RUMS 4s

Vase

Football Men's 6s vs Royal Veterinary College 2s

Sunday 22nd November

Football (ULU)

Women's 1s vs King's College Medicals 2s

Rugby (ULU)

Women's 1s vs King's College Medicals 1s

Monday 23rd November

Basketball (ULU)

Women's 1s vs St George's Medical School 1s

Netball (ULU)

Women's 2s vs Imperial College Medicals 2s

Challenge Cup

Women's 1s vs Imperial College Medicals 1s

Wednesday 25th November

Badminton

Men's 1st vs University of Portsmouth 1st
Men's 2nd vs Royal Holloway 1st
Women's 1st vs UCL 1st

Basketball

Men's 1st vs King's College Medicals 1st

Fencing

Men's 1st vs UCL 1st
Men's 2nd vs Brunel University West London 1st
Men's 3rd vs University of London 2nd
Women's 2nd vs UCL 1st

Football

Men's 1st vs St Mary's University College 4th
Men's 2nd vs RUMS 1st
Men's 3rd vs Imperial College Medicals 2nd
Women's 1st vs Brunel University West London 2nd
ULU
Men's 5s ULU vs Royal Holloway 4s
Men's 6s vs Royal Holloway 6s
Men's 7s vs Imperial College Medicals 3s

Golf

Men's 1st vs Brunel University West London 1st

Hockey

Men's 1st vs University of Kent 1st
Men's 2nd vs Canterbury Christ Church Uni 2nd
Men's 3rd vs Brunel University West London 3rd
Men's 4th vs University of Sussex 2nd
Women's 1st vs University of Chichester 2nd
Women's 2nd vs Buckinghamshire New University 1st

ULU

Men's 2s ULU vs RUMS 1s
Men's 5s ULU vs RUMS 3s

Lacrosse

Men's 1st vs Canterbury University 1st
Women's 1st vs University of Essex 1st

Netball

Women's 1st vs University of Hertfordshire 2nd
Women's 2nd vs Brunel University West London 5th
Women's 3rd vs Royal Holloway 3rd

Rugby

Men's 1st vs RUMS 1st
Men's 2nd vs University of Hertfordshire 1st
Men's 3rd vs Kingston University 2nd
Men's 4th vs City University London 1st
Women's 1st vs UCL 1st

Squash

Men's 2nd vs University of Sussex 1st
Men's 3rd vs University of Kent 2nd
Men's 4th vs Buckinghamshire New University 1st
Women's 1st vs University of Reading 1st

Table Tennis

Men's 1st vs LSE 1st

Tennis

Men's 1st vs King's College 1st
Men's 2nd vs LSE 2nd
Women's 1st vs University of Portsmouth 1st

Volleyball (ULU)

Challenge Cup
Mixed 1s vs UCL Mixed 1s

Controversy at qualifiers

felixSport's **Indy Leclercq** offers perspective

Here we go again. The qualifying rounds for the 2010 football World Cup in South Africa came to an end this week, and the stage is now set for the biggest sporting event in the world, kicking off next summer. Thirty-one teams, out of an initial two hundred, made it through the qualifiers. Even if you couldn't care less about Football, this is worth a moment's consideration. 200 teams is more than the number of members of the UN. It is probably even more than the number of different nationalities at Imperial College.

The World Cup is one of the most universal contests there is; something that literally every country or nation has tried to take part in. The UK, and England in particular, comes to a standstill for those four summer weeks in a world cup year. The dip in employee productivity and the rise in beer consumption are a well-documented phenomena.

This time round, England easily made their way through qualifying to the finals and (don't say it too loudly) are one of the more fancied teams to lift the trophy. Of course, the British tradition of the underdog means that any England fan will hugely underplay the lads' chances in South Africa. Nevertheless, next summer, the entire nation will be holding its collective breath. In fact, every single one of the 32 countries taking part will be holding their breaths. Football manages to bring people together in a way that no other sport can. I believe it is called the beautiful game for what it can do off the pitch as well as for what happens on it.

Having said that, I now say this: Thierry Henry is cheating scum. For those who don't know what I'm talking about, French captain Henry came up with the ugliest act of deceit since Maradona's famed 'Hand of God' to put his team into the finals. By keeping the ball in play with his hand, NBA-style, he managed to set up the goal that sent France to the finals, at Ireland's expense. As a Frenchman, I'm obviously delighted that my country managed to qualify but deeply ashamed that it had to be through such a dishonest act. As such, I would like to apologise on Henry's behalf to any Irish people out there. You deserved to go to the World Cup. In the name of our common hatred for England, forgive us. Oh go on. Guinness? Parfait.

In any case, thanks to my not-so-distinguished countryman, France in particular, and football as a whole are going to be closely scrutinised in the run-up to the summer. The ink will flow in newspapers and the lager will flow in endless pub debates. If the players are allowed to get away with cheating at the very highest level, what message does that send to all the youngsters who just enjoy kicking a ball about? Hopefully, once the tournament kicks off in June, we'll let the football do the talking.

South Africa are the first African hosts ever, and they've promised a month of revelry that the whole continent will be able to bask in. Great goals will be scored, legends will be made and for a while, people will remember why the beautiful game is so great.

Until all hell breaks loose as England lose the final on a controversial penalty.

BUCS Cup progression for 1st XI

Mustapher Botchway Sports Editor

OLIVER WYMAN	
Imperial College Men's 1st XI	5
London South Bank Uni 2nd XI	1

South Bank 2nd XI were in the way of Imperial's first team progressing to the 3rd round of the BUCS cup, waters never previously ventured by the club.

Similar to the tie against the Imperial College Medicals 2nd XI in the first round, College went into the game cautious, but not complacent or pre-emptive of a victory against South Bank, a team 3 divisions below in BUCS.

After a sluggish and sloppy start, Imperial went 1-0 up on the 15 minute mark when Chauvet sent in a teasing cross to Vallin, who brought it down and shot past the goalkeeper to score his first goal in his ICUAFC career. Equilibrium was restored soon after, when South Bank scored from a loosely conceded corner.

At 25 minutes a high clear out from Botchway was flicked on from Chauvet which led Swain to deliver a deep cross into Eshun, who capitalised on the poor goalkeeping by South Bank.

Five minutes later, Ferrol again continued his record of scoring in every game he's played after reacting quickly from a through ball from Chauvet.

3-1 up at half time was certainly a scoreline which flattered Imperial as sloppiness and lapses in concentration was the theme of the first half.

The second half brought a slight improvement with Ferrol completing his brace after latching onto a high ball from Vallin, who on 75 minutes completed his brace after being a gifted a goal from the opposing goalkeeper.

With the final score at 5-1 of a game which would have been closer if South Bank had a stronger defence and goalkeeper, the 1st XI progress to the 3rd round which is set to be a riveting encounter against Reading 1st XI.

A special mention to the 2nd XI who on the adjacent pitch, emerged 3-1 victors against South Bank 3rd XI.



From Left to Right (Back Row): Theocharis Tofis, David Sapin, Patrick McMullen, Matthieu Vallin, Nathan Ferrol, Leslie Eshun. (Front Row): Romain Chauvet, William Swain, Mustapher Botchway (Captain), Jonathan Hill, Thomas Fryatt

Win a pair of premium box tickets to the AEGON Masters Tennis Tournament with drinks and sandwiches on 5 December!

The hugely popular AEGON Masters, now in its 13th year, is staged at the prestigious Royal Albert Hall from 1-6 December. With confirmed players including Pat Rafter, Mark Philippoussis, Goran Ivanisevic, Pat Cash & Greg Rusedski plus many other legends, you can be assured of an exceptional standard of tennis this year.

This tournament offers the perfect combination of drama, tension and skill with competitive singles taking place in each session. The doubles event is more relaxed but still makes for compelling and entertaining viewing, with wonderful displays from crowd favourites Henri Leconte, Mansour Bahrami, Mark Woodforde.

For your chance to win a pair of premium tickets with drinks and sandwiches for the afternoon session on Saturday 5th December (Ivanisevic will play Rafter for the 1st time since the 2001 Wimbledon final) please answer the following question:

Which player will make his debut at the 2009 event at the Royal Albert Hall?

- A. Pat Rafter
- B. Stefan Edberg
- C. Greg Rusedski

EMAIL YOUR ANSWERS TO SPORT.FELIX@IMPERIAL.AC.UK

Tickets to the AEGON Masters Tennis are now on sale - to book call Box Office on 020 8233 5882 or visit www.aegonmasterstennis.com



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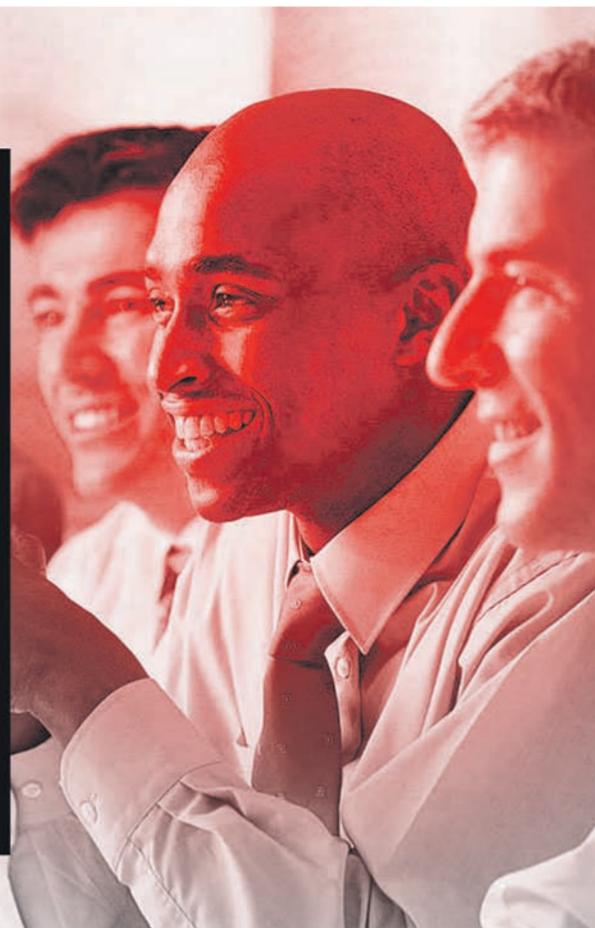
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IC at Hurls Champs

Finian McCann Hurling

In their maiden year of top-tier hurling, Imperial gave a great account of themselves. Fielding in the Plate competition, they found themselves in a group with a Birmingham Universities/Warwickshire select, Cambridge University, St. Gabriel's (this year's London Senior League and Championship winners) and John Mitchel's (British Intermediate Championships winners).

The two club teams were always going to be more experienced than us, but we knew we could give the two other universities a good challenge.

However, both teams pulled out at the last minute, leaving Imperial as the sole third-level competitor in this year's Plate.

Not that this bothered us. We were there to play hurling, and our first match was against John Mitchel's. Driven on by what can only be described as a gale behind us, Imperial played a very hard match against more experienced opposition.

There was some great defensive work by David Noonan at full-back and Neil Clancy at centre-back, both showing that they were as proficient as their opposite numbers. Keith Laverty led the way up front, with Kieran Heatley and Mark Jennings applying at lot of pressure in midfield.

As the first half wore on, Imperial's lack of accuracy in front of the posts

was beginning to show. Mitchel's in the meantime managed to sneak in a goal and a couple of points. In the second half, they took great advantage of the wind, punishing some rookie mistakes by Imperial. John Mitchel's proved to be the clear victor in the end, with Imperial learning some vital lessons from the game.

After a very brief break, St. Gabriel's took to the field against us. Imperial gave a spirited show at the start of the game with some great challenges made by Phil Jakeman and Padhraic Comerford; in the full-back line, Meathman Sean Dunne at corner-back and Rostrevor native Eddie O' Hare at full-back made some excellent dispossession and clearances under heavy pressure from a determined Gabriel's attack. Chris Farrell in nets made some vital saves but was eventually beaten by some well set-up shots from the Gabriel's full-forward line.

At half-time, it was clear that the London champions would go on to win the match, but Imperial gave a committed second-half performance, with West Belfast's Stevie Gallagher eventually scrambling the sliothar over the line in a goal mouth fracas. Buoyed by their first score of the day, Imperial continued to apply pressure on St Gabriel's but the senior club's experience came to the fore again and again.

In the end, there was a clear di-

Continued on page 38



A mixed bag of results for ladies medicals basketball

Hannah Barrett Basketball

The ICSM Ladies' Basketball team played two games in the last fortnight. After the fusion of the two ULU divisions, the ladies are facing tough competition this season, having finished fourth in the second division last year. With new players, a new kit and more games than ever before, the team were anticipating a challenge. The first game of the season was played at home against SOAS. Both sides seemed well-matched at the start of the game and, at the end of the first quarter, everything was even. However, at the start of the second quarter, ICSM took the lead,

thanks to the scoring of Rachel Carten and excellent defensive rebounding of new centre, Mariam Akinpeju. In the third quarter, the tempo shifted to favour SOAS and ICSM found their lead shrinking fast. Losing the lead in the third quarter gave the medics the motivation they needed to get back in the game with a run of three-pointers. The game ended with a comfortable 10 point cushion for the ICSM Ladies, with a final score of 43-33.

The second game was away against Queen Mary's, another team who played in the higher division last year. The going was tough from the beginning with the fast-paced, aggressive style of the well-practised team re-

vealing the inexperience of some of the ICSM players. The press caused multiple turn-overs and Queen Mary's star players found the holes in ICSM's zone. The half-court press gave the team difficulties, preventing outside shooters from scoring. Though Akinpeju, Barrett and Lees opened up the zone with cuts, nobody's shots were falling and, other than the occasional fast break, scoring was low. The game went in Queen Mary's favour and the final score was 51-23. ICSM Ladies' captained by Anita Ponnuthurai and coached by Hannah Barrett intend to work on the mistakes made in the last game over the coming week in preparation for their game against King's.

