



# felix

The award-winning student newspaper of Imperial College

"Keep The Cat Free"

Issue 1,449

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## Your life will depend on this

Consumer Electronics Show 2010 reviewed, p. 14 -15



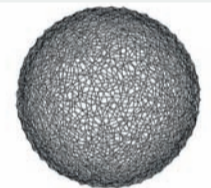
## This week....

Biologists gets up in their department's grill



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# 4 questions 4 judges £4,000

As the RCSU launches the Science Challenge for 2010, *felix* shows you how to win the grand prize of £4,000. See page 3



# Sir Keith O'Nions steps up

Alex Karapetian News Reporter

Sir Keith O'Nions has taken over the position of Acting Rector at Imperial following the resignation of Sir Roy Anderson. O'Nions began his role at the start of the New Year and sent out an introductory e-mail on Monday giving students some positive hopes for the coming year.

Sir Keith's role as Acting Rector is temporary as the replacement is yet to be announced, and upon entering office, he thanked Sir Roy Anderson for "giving so much to Imperial during his time as Rector" and that his work



Sir Keith O'Nions is keen to push the focus on the students of Imperial College as Acting Rector

means he is "taking the helm of a University in a very strong condition".

O'Nions was knighted in 1999 and has held positions including Director-General of the Research Councils, Chief Scientific Advisor to the Ministry of Defence, and Head of Department of Earth Sciences at Oxford University before setting up the Institute for Security Science and Technology upon his arrival at Imperial in 2008.

In his e-mail, he stressed that students "are a big part of why Imperial is here", and explained that a strong memory of his own student days at Nottingham and Alberta, Canada was the sense that he mattered to the University. He explained his approach to be to develop the medium term strategy to maintain a world class education that the students "expect and deserve".

He is very proud of Imperial's status and its students, stating "Imperial's

high global reputation is no accident", with it being "won because we strive for excellence in everything we do." He continued to explain that "some of the best research, teaching and support staff in the world work here and some of the best students in the world study here." His fondness for Imperial extends to a personal level and he said it

"looks like an organisation that is agile, moves with alacrity and knows where it wants to go" from the outside, impressions which were later confirmed by his experiences as an insider.

He has recorded an interview online with a lecturer on the Science Communication course for those seeking more information.

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# The world beyond College walls

## Honduras

**T**he Central American country of Honduras has had a turbulent summer.

In the morning of June 28th, following an arrest warrant issued by the Supreme Court, soldiers from the Honduran military stormed President Manuel Zelaya's residence in Tegucigalpa, the capital, overcame ten presidential guards, bundled Mr. Zelaya into his private jet while he was still in his pajamas, and sent him into exile in Costa Rica.

Members of the Supreme Court and Roberto Micheletti, the Speaker of Congress, had deemed Zelaya's recent attempt at constitutional reform unconstitutional. Zelaya, a supporter of Hugo Chavez's socialism, was supposedly seeking to run for a third consecutive term as president.

International reaction to the military coup has been almost universally negative, and no foreign government has yet recognised the interim government led by Mr. Micheletti. Since the coup, Zelaya has made several attempts to return to power, unsuccessfully trying to land his plane at Tegucigalpa's airport on July 5th, and crossing the border from Nicaragua into Honduras on July 26th, before being forced to turn back by Honduran soldiers. On September 21st, he reappeared in the Brazilian embassy in Tegucigalpa, prompting a curfew throughout the city, and bringing much of the country to a standstill until earlier this week.

## China

**O**n October 1st 1949, Mao Zedong stood before the Gate of Heavenly Peace, facing Tiananmen Square, and declared the founding of the People's Republic of China.

On the same day this year, China held huge displays of military might to celebrate the National Day. 10,000 goose-stepping soldiers marched down Chang'an Avenue, followed by an impressive array of 500 tanks, the latest in intercontinental ballistic missile technology, over 150 military aircraft, and 100,000 civilian participants.

The parade, which stretched over three kilometres, was perfectly choreographed during four months of training. Soldiers were told to blink only once every forty seconds, and took precisely 116 steps per minute. All of the Communist Party's senior members attended, including Chairman Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao.

The lavish ceremony was a reminder to the country, and the world, of China's growing military, political and economic clout. Despite these significant gains, China's leaders still complain that the world has not accepted its emergence. Developed countries argue in turn that China has yet to demonstrate that it will accept the responsibility which naturally comes with greater power.

## Iran

**T**he discovery of a second uranium enrichment plant near the city of Qom in Iran has prompted outrage from international observers, but ensuing talks may turn out to be fruitful, for once.

The plant, which can be used for making weapons-usable uranium, suggests that Iran, which is also working to produce plutonium, another bomb ingredient, is getting threateningly close to being able to build nuclear weapons.

In response to the threat, talks have been held in Geneva between Iran and six countries – the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China. These talks also open the first formal, direct negotiations between Iran and the US in three decades. Similar attempts at making Iran relinquish its nuclear ambitions have failed because of a lack of support from Russia and China.

This time however, Iran has agreed, in principal, to export much of its stock of uranium for processing, and to reveal its new plant to UN inspectors within a fortnight. Western officials caution that these agreements could still unravel during negotiations over details, but the deals offered the hope that the nuclear crisis could be diffused, at least temporarily.

**By Raphael Houdmont, International Editor**

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## This issue of *felix* was brought to you by:

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Gilead Amit

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# £4,000 for 800 words? Easy as $\pi$ !

As the Science Challenge launches this week, *felix* guides you through 2010's competition: its questions and judges, and talks to its organiser Afonso Campos about this year's vision. **Editor-in-Chief Dan Wan** reports

The Royal College of Science once again kicked off the annual Science Challenge on Monday night, and is promising to be the biggest and best yet.

All Imperial students are eligible to answer the four questions with an 800 word essay but 2010 sees the Science Challenge move with the times by allowing video submissions. These video pieces must not exceed six minutes and will challenge alongside against the 800 word essay submissions for the top prize of £4,000.

Once again the Science Challenge boasts a team of prestigious and respected judges who will announce the author of the winning entry on the 26th of March, at the Grand Final.

New Acting Rector Sir Keith O'Nions shall judges entries upon the question he set about the possibility of extra-



Online  
For full  
Science  
Challenge  
details  
sciencechallenge.org

terrestrial life. Mark Henderson, Science Editor at the Times looks to the future in medical science, whilst both Andrew Harrison of principal sponsor Shell, and UNESCO 2009 Woman Scientist of the Year Athene Donald set questions on the highly topical UK green agenda.

The Science Challenge was the brainchild of the Royal College of Science Association chairman John Sanderson in 2005, taking the prize money from his own bank account that year. His aim was to extend scientific vision outside of taught causes and raise awareness of scientific topics in the greater public. 2006's Science Challenge was opened up to secondary schools with bursaries to Imperial College as prizes. Submissions will be accepted from the 18th of January till 7th March on sciencechallenge.org



*"I am hoping to build on the Science Challenge's already outstanding reach and reputation. I genuinely believe that it is an event everyone should in some way or another be involved, even if it is just attending the Grand Final."*

*While the Challenge is a brilliant way for anyone who knows they have an aptitude for communicating science to gain some invaluable experience, I believe it is just as useful for those waiting to unleash talents they never knew they had.*

*This year the Challenge has a few differences as well as a few surprises and I urge you to visit our website on [www.sciencechallenge.org](http://www.sciencechallenge.org) and find out about the news we have this year, including the brand new "Media" prize that is now part of the competition."*

**Afonso Campos, Science Challenge Organiser**

## WHO WILL DECIDE THE WINNER?



### Mark Henderson

He graduated in modern history from Oxford University in 1996. After a brief spell working for the Sunday Express he joined The Times. He spent time as a general reporter and a leader writer, covering health education and social affairs, before being appointed Science Editor in 2000. As well as covering science for the news pages, he writes the Saturday Junk Medicine column and has authored '50 Genetics Ideas You Really Need To Know.'



### Andrew Harrison, Shell

Currently Fuels Innovation Manager at Shell's Technology Centre in Thornton, near Chester. He is a respected ambassador for Shell's work in Innovation and Technology both within and outside the R&D community. Between 1990-93 he was based at one of Shell's research centres in Canada leading R&D activities on fuels, engine lubricants and bitumen. He has expertise in combustion science and extensive knowledge of all aspects of automotive fuels and vehicle technology.



### Professor Athene Donald FRS

A professor of Experimental Physics at the Cavendish Laboratory and Deputy Head of the Physics Department at the University of Cambridge. Professor Donald is an expert in the field of soft physics and her work has opened up possibilities for the formation of new biomaterials that can be used in the repair of tissue and bone. A Fellow of the Royal Society, Professor Donald won the UNESCO Woman Scientist of the Year 2009 Award.



Sir Keith O'Nions FRS is an earth scientist holding a PhD from the University of Alberta, Canada. Between 2000 and 2004 he was the Chief Scientific Advisor to the Ministry of Defence. He has been a member of the Council of Science and Technology as well as the Chairman of the Natural History Museum. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1983 and was knighted in 1999. Sir Keith joined Imperial College in July 2008 to set up and direct the Institute for Security Science and Technology. He became the College's Acting Rector on 1 January 2010.



## 1 "How will genetic advances change medicine and society by 2020?" Mark Henderson, Science Editor, The Times



Nathan Ley  
Science Editor

### the felix view

This question pretty much leaves everything up to you. There are several routes you could go down with this. Critically, how do you define 'genetic advances'? Are we talking about annotation of genomes? Sequencing projects? Or are we thinking more along the lines of gene therapy and applications? Either way, the medicine and society aspect of this question allows you to take it wherever you like. By 2020, will a human's phenotypic fate become determined by access to money?

## 2 "The Climate Change Act 2008 commits the UK to an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050- can technology alone deliver road transports' share of this reduction?" Andrew Harrison, Shell



Nathan Ley  
Science Editor

### the felix view

Personally I doubt many of you will be having a stab at this, but for those who do, feel free to try and persuade us all that we humans can carry driving our gas guzzlers with no regard for the consequences. What's going to save us? Hydrogen powered 4x4's? Alternatively, be a cynic and preach to us about how technology can't save us, and that we'll just have to change our habits (and all commit to a worldwide lift-share scheme).

## 3 "Can renewable energy sources solve the UK's energy problems?" Athene Donald, FRS, UNESCO 2009 Woman Scientist of the Year

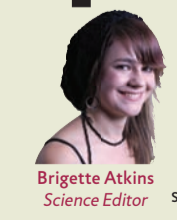


Brigette Atkins  
Science Editor

### the felix view

Athene Donald has proposed a more general question about the environment than Andrew Harrison. Whilst this encourages individual interpretation and should generate many answers varying widely in topic direction, it does introduce the danger of allowing answers which are too general to be interesting. A good answer to this question would most likely require the writer to think outside the box to ensure their essay stands out from the crowd. As renewable energy is very much an 'in Vogue' topic for science at present, there is no doubt this question is going to be a popular choice.

## 4 "What are the prospects for finding life on other planets?" Sir Keith O'Nions, Acting Rector, Imperial College



Brigette Atkins  
Science Editor

### the felix view

This is an exciting and very open question. A good answer would not only require 'hard scientific fact' but also a healthy dose of imagination and an ability to envisage the implications of such a discovery. Historically, the idea of finding life outside Earth has attracted a great deal of interest. Even today it remains a topical subject, with the discovery last December of planets orbiting the stars 61 Virginis and 23 Librae - planets thought to be similar to those found in our solar system and perhaps capable of harbouring life forms.

# Life is cruel, yet so beautiful...

I am a Pakistani by origin and therefore doomed to a life of constant insecurity and fear and perhaps an equally terrifying death at the hands of the so-called 'Protectors of Islam'. All this became cruelly apparent to me a month ago when our beloved friend and brother, Mohammad Bilal Riaz, died in a barbaric act of terrorism in Pakistan on 4th Dec 2009.

Bilal came to Imperial in 2008 for his MSc in Communication and Signal Processing at EEE, and after submitting his dissertation went back to Pakistan to get married to his fiancé on 15th Dec; little did anyone know that he would breathe his last just ten days before his wedding. On 4th Dec gunmen attacked a mosque in Rawalpindi during Friday prayers; Bilal was there with his five-year-old nephew. He hid his nephew underneath him to protect him from the bullets, was shot and died on the spot. I am recounting these gruesome details so that I can let people know that even in the face of death he was brave and sacrificed his own life to save another. In that miniscule moment we lost a friend, a brother, a son; in short a truly loved one. No consolation is enough for his loving fiancé, bereaved parents, siblings and friends. They face an irreparable loss and their

Bilal Riaz was a victim of December's barbaric terrorism in Pakistan. Friend **Sana Ahmed** pays tribute to a courageous man who died saving the life of his five-year old nephew

lives will never be the same again.

Life is cruel...yet so beautiful - his own words so aptly describe his short but fulfilling life. To an observer it would seem that Bilal had the best of everything; he excelled in every field of life be it education, extracurricu-

**"...even in the face of death he was brave and sacrificed his own life to save another."**

lar, family, friends or love and died a martyr's death which we will always remember. But there were dreams and aspirations to fulfill, promises to be kept and moments to cherish and all these died with him and so did a part of us.

I am not interested in the many conspiracy theories as to why Pakistan - an extremely strategic piece of land -

is on the brink of civil war. All I care about is that my fellow countrymen are dying for no reason at all, our lands are stained red with the blood of innocents and I have had enough. Above is an example of just one heart-wrenching story, you will find one in every corner of my country. World leaders and politicians condemn these attacks and urge Pakistan to 'do more' but only we mourn; words are but lame excuses to mask hidden agendas. All this is a gross violation of basic human rights and yet what we see around ourselves is indifference towards the plight of others. I hope that in time we will open our eyes to these cruelties around us and realise that life is sacred and precious and hence should be treated as such.

I just want to get this message across that we don't hate anyone: we just love our country and wish to live in peace. My thoughts and prayers will remain with those who lost their lives and those who lost their loved ones. Rest in peace Bilal, you will live in our hearts forever. May God bless you with the heavens.



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This advert has been approved by Trent Research Ethics Committee.

# Recycled questions rile students

Adam Freeman News Reporter

Many of Imperial's 2nd year Biologists have found their efforts to be in vain this New Year as their department has confirmed the retraction of coursework marks. This comes after students used past assessments to gain what the Biology department deemed an unfair advantage.

Students are up in arms as the department tries to blame the students for contravening course regulations, but the department has been heavily criticised for not producing new questions for graded coursework assessments each year.

The majority of students on the mandatory Applied Molecular Biology (AMB) module have found their coursework marks severely downgraded after three completed and submitted coursework assessments were removed from the syllabus with immediate effect.

After marks for these grades suddenly disappeared from Blackboard, the department's intranet system, staff sent out an email to all second year students on 21st December justifying the removal. It stated there was "unequivocal evidence of widespread plagiarism" and on Registry's advice they were voiding the given grades for two Problem Based Learning practicals and another online assessment.

Problems for the Biology department started when students did the obvious thing when it comes to exams and used last year's questions and answers to help them revise for the three multiple-choice question tests. Combined they were originally worth 50% of the module's coursework mark, but weighting has since dramatically been adjusted.

Students who were genuinely using past years' assessments as a revision-aid were pleasantly surprised to find out that all three tests used recycled questions from previous years.

AMB assessments took place throughout the module's duration which was convened for 6 weeks from the start of the academic year in October. Students have been flooding



The SAF wasn't a happy place for biologists over the Christmas period

the discussion forums on Blackboard since they arrived back at College for the new term.

One student wrote: "Grades change significantly [sic] for some of us who didn't cheat and this is totally unfair."

The dramatic drop in percentage mark for many of the affected students was caused when only nine questions from all three assessments were deemed except from the retraction. The nine questions were the only fresh questions used for this year, and now disproportionately equate to a decreased 25% of the Applied Molecular Biology coursework. One biologist was astonished at his new percentage mark.

"I went from a 2:1 to a fail! 25% of the coursework can make or break the final module grade at the end of the year."

As *felix* spoke to biologists in the Sir Alexander Fleming Building, they were mostly annoyed at their department's behaviour during this debacle.

2nd Year Biology Representative Alan Itakura said "I think the students feel there is a general lack of concern for their well-being from the biology staff. The decision to revoke the marks was not well thought out. There is no reason that new questions cannot be made every year for each assessment, and if, for whatever reason, that new questions are not made, there is no

reason that the students should take the hit for it."

Despite the department considering the use of past questions and answers as against course regulations, some people have suggested this logic is flawed. Students were encouraged to consult their peers in answering the two Problem Based Learning assessments in which they could freely revisit the online test within a time period of one week. 'Peers' would have included students repeating their second year, and hence the recycled assessment questions would have allowed these students, doing the exact same test twice, to be unfairly at a distinct advantage to their first-time counterparts.

Even more embarrassment has been piled onto the department after one student revealed they had been initially congratulated by staff on their excellent grades; the AMB coursework is known to be notoriously difficult amongst 2nd and 3rd years. The department is said to have been notified of the use of past assessments by students unhappy that their fellow biologists had used past years' scripts, and subsequently taken the action that has angered many.

Whether or not the students were right to use past assessments to complete an open assessment, it seems the Biology department has been naive to think their students would not track down previous assessments from elder years, to revise from or otherwise.

# Government cuts university funding by £398 million



Lord Mandelson wonders where the steering wheel is in his car

Sina Ataherian Business Editor

Lord Mandelson, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has announced a £398 million budget cut for UK universities for the 2010/2011 financial year. The prominent Lord has also asked universities to protect the quality of, and access to, higher education.

Lord Mandelson has further stated that last year's U-turn on extra places was "responding to the particular needs of the time" and will not be repeated in 2010-11. Universities are given quotas for the maximum number of home students that they are allowed to admit each year to each department, and Lord Mandelson says some have recruited more than their share. £3,700 per student will be reclaimed in each such case, which the million+ group of universities estimates will cost £60m overall.

David Willetts, who shadows Lord Mandelson commented that "we now have the bizarre situation that universities are being fined for meeting targets set by this government...unlike the government we don't believe in artificial targets. Our view is that higher education should be available to all those who are qualified by ability and attainment to pursue them and who wish to do so." One reason for the surge in demand for university places

is thought to be lack of paid employment opportunities for young people in the current climate.

"A reduction in the public funding per student could seriously threaten our ability to offer the high-quality experience our students deserve and expect," said Professor Steve Smith, president of Universities UK, an organisation for UK university vice-chancellors.

However, Higher Education Minister David Lammy defended the cuts saying, "this government recognises that a high quality student experience with excellent teaching and research is vital to maintaining the world-class higher education we enjoy in this country today. Fast-track, part-time and two-year degrees do not represent a reduction in quality in the higher education offer, but an increase in choice for the would-be learner...it was not a question of whether efficiencies should be made, but of where the efficiencies should be found."

The cuts include £84 million from buildings and equipment, and £51 million from teaching. However, a promise of a £109 million increase in research funding will be kept.

The government is also planning to try out two-year bachelor's degrees as a way of reducing costs and appealing to a wider range of backgrounds.

Meanwhile, Scotland's SNP Government has promised a real terms increase of 2.1% in its universities budget.

felix FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2009 news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## £2 million revamp but do we deserve it?

Excitement over plans for phase 3 has been somewhat soured by evening news reports that 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 the Ladies was pulled off its hinges and the door was damaged to the point that it will be completely replaced. Ashley told the recent meeting: "Ashley told me: 'General wear and tear should be expected but this smudgy damage in a few days makes you wonder why we bother covering the cost of the damage is equivalent to 10% on the price of drinks.' Acknowledging that the damage is caused by a minority of unruly, stupid people. Ashley's message to students is: 'If you see someone you know damaging Union property, let them know it's not too late.'"



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

An article in *felix* dating 20th November revealing criminal damage to the Union Building

# Union Building vandalised for upteenth time

Dan Wan Editor-in-Chief

Imperial College Union's main building in Beit Quadrangle has been subject to unlawful entry and vandalism once again. The latest occurrence happened out of term time on the 22nd of December at around 2.25am.

Security staff found a cabinet in the Snooker Club's allocated room to be defaced and damaged. A snooker table was also found to be covered in an energy drink given free to clubs and societies.

This break-in is in a long line of attempts to enter the Union Building with criminal intent.

In the two weeks leading up to November 17th 2009, the Union Building was damaged six times by unknown assailants, which included the removal

of doors from their hinges and multiple panes of glass smashed.

Last year, the Union offices were burgled on several occasions and several items of considerable expense were stolen.

With previous counts, circumstances have been hazy regarding how and who was involved, and once again the Union's security lapses have created a shocking amount of uncertainty to this round of vandalism that will undoubtedly cost the Union to rectify.

Security staff have indicated that poorly positioned CCTV footage merely shows the top of the guilty party's heads as they escaped out of the Union's rear exit, and hence is useless. They also stated that the police have been informed but are yet to follow up on the initial report.

Access was gained via the East en-

trance door that leads to the Union Bar and eastern stairwell. The door is left unclatched out of working hours to provide local bus drivers access to the toilet facilities during the night.

This seemingly naive procedure was easily taken advantage of and led to the snooker room's vandalism.

Union President Ashley Brown has since confirmed that College are "underway with a security review" of the Union, and are "in the process of getting quotes for more CCTV cameras and card readers."

In light of CCTV's failure, it looks like an old-fashioned crime-solving detective like Sherlock Holmes is needed.

*felix* is sure he could make much more out of the comical Digestive biscuit-crumbs trail left from the East stairwell to the snooker rooms and out again.



# Rhys Davies' view on global warming



"...this plan is so mad, it's brilliant... 10 million cows in Britain, all of which need painting with MSG."



Firstly, welcome to 2010! Please wipe your feet. Last year, nothing much happened. Specifically, representatives from all the countries of the earth met in Copenhagen, argued back and forth about Climate Change for ten days and then... nothing. An "agreement" that not everyone agreed on. Bravo! And this was a shame as global warming seems like an important issue. I'm not too fussed on it myself but it bugs me how it has transformed the state of the weather into a valid topic of conversation. "So what's with this weather?" is supposed to be a last ditch attempt at communication, usually after the catastrophic revelation of one's political or sexual preferences. With it now taking the keynote position of after-dinner chitter-chat, how can

we possibly hope to shatter the silence imposed by "Actually, I find Nick Griffin in suspenders quite attractive"? I can deal with the floods, the frosts and the fires (coming this summer to a forest near you...) but I will not sit back and watch as the bedrock of polite conversation is eroded before our eyes. Accordingly then, I have devised a few measures which should put global warming back in its place, in the darkest recesses of late night chit-chat. They say that an area of rainforest equal to Belgium is cut down every year. This obviously has a considerable impact on the environment. My suggestion is that we cut down Belgium instead. Surely no-one will miss it. Goodness knows the atmosphere doesn't need all that hot air from Brussels! However, this barely scratches the surface. Cows are a much bigger problem than

Belgium. Agriculture contributes about 14% of the world's greenhouse gases, which is nothing to be sniffed at. What's more, a significant portion of these emissions is methane, which is twenty times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>, and a single cow, through the most ignominious of farts and burps, will produce 300 litres of the stuff a day. It's clear that they're a bigger threat to the environment than even Jeremy Clarkson. So what can we do? I originally planned a mass corking program but preliminary studies showed that the cows had a tendency to explode. Doctors like to term this an "adverse event" and is something best avoided. I went back to the drawing board, but not before passing the cork cow-exploder idea on to the Ministry of Defence. (France won't know what hit it!)

There are more than 1.5 billion cows in the world. That's more than the entire population of China – and, for the record, China is massive! "But why do we need so many cows?", I pondered over a beefburger in the Union. "You eat them all," my friend retorted, "If we were all vegetarians, we wouldn't need so many cows and could reduce their beefy burpy emissions." "But cows are vegetarians – in fact, they only eat grass," I argued, "and they're the problem!" But this got me thinking. If vegetarianism isn't the answer, maybe carnivorousism is! So, there are too many cows. Cows are vegetarians. If we could get cows to eat other cows, we would have fewer cows. Fewer cows are good! Q.E.D. But how to do it? I'm all for a bit of sirloin but cows, for reasons unfathomable, don't seem too inclined to take the bait. We

need to make cows more palatable to other cows. Therefore, I propose that we paint the cows of Britain with MSG, to enhance and accentuate their natural flavour. It doesn't hurt either that MSG is the one thing more addictive than crack cocaine. You may scoff but this plan is so mad, it's brilliant. There are 10 million cows in Britain, all of which need painting with MSG. And 3 million workers will need 3 million buckets and brushes, not to mention the gallons of MSG required, and all the sundries beside. The purchase of these goods will revitalise the economy and stimulate growth faster than ProPlus snorted off a £5 note. That is how we fix global warming and the economy in one fell swoop. Everybody's happy, except The Daily Mail, which, by definition, is never happy.

# Cheng Zhang congratulates the world of terrorism



"Leave the skies to those with enough backbone ... to say no to the measures taken in the name of anti-terrorism."



Well done terrorism – you've won again. A single guy is discovered with (potentially) explosive underpants and now millions of pounds of taxpayers' money is being spent on full body scanners in airports. Initially, there was a fuss over liquids, which are still banned until 2011. Presumably someone somewhere in the world was discovered with a bottle of liquid which was apparently part of a wider bomb plot. As a result of that, millions of travellers not only have to endure excessively long queues but are left baffled every day when their bottles of juice and plastic bags are confiscated by security personnel. Terrorists around the world must be rubbing their hands together gleefully at the thought of the millions of pounds we've been

forced to spend on largely meaningless and useless crap every time there's even a whiff of suspected terrorist activity. I wouldn't be surprised if the terrorists who plotted the daring underpants raid had shares in these body scanner producing companies. I mean, what's the big fuss over anyway? When the daring underpants raid unravelled, news stations worldwide were reporting the plain and simple facts – that some Nigerian radical had tried and failed to blow himself (and others) up on Christmas Day. In the UK though, our newspapers had to point out his time at UCL as if that fact was somehow related, almost as if he was radicalised during his time in the UK. Once again, freedom of speech in universities came under fire, if but briefly, even though universities quite simply don't create extremists. It's

ridiculous to say that Cambridge is somehow responsible for Nick Griffin or that David Irving, who wrote for *felix* while at Imperial, was radicalised during his time here. However, we cannot possibly ignore the fact that a graduate engineer has failed to blow himself up. I mean, what kind of a graduate engineer cannot even blow himself up? How can we possibly continue to advertise our world class education? I believe an immediate enquiry should be made into the academic standards of UCL. Coming back to the full body scanners I mentioned earlier, well, there have now been some pretty pointless attacks on this technology on the grounds that it is now a threat to child rights. The images can apparently be classed as child pornography so everyone under the age of 18 cannot be

scanned on this legal technicality. As I see it, government is going to find a way around this. As an added bonus, the hysteria of the child protection agencies, in pointing this out, have just possibly rather ironically encouraged child perverts to queue up for these jobs at airports – getting their rocks off on these images. So, the safety of our children has just been further compromised. I mean, don't get me wrong, I'm very much against these new scanners anyway because I feel they're a pointless waste of money to placate irrational public fears. If you're too much of a paranoid grapefruit to fly because of those laughable terrorists, then by all means leave the skies to those with enough backbone and self-respect to say no to the ridiculous measures taken in the name of anti-terrorism. My point is that the attack on body

scanners on the basis of some kind of a pervert charter is quite frankly silly. Child protection groups seem concerned that a child's genitalia will show up in these full body scans. How erotic... Why are they not equally concerned if some kid turns up in A&E and has to get an x-ray of that region because some other kid has kicked him in the balls in the playground during break time? Surely it's all about how the images are used – I mean, if you browse through a catalogue of kids swimsuits, that's fine but if you have a scrapbook of thousands of images of kids in swimsuits, then I wouldn't be surprised if you were prosecuted for being a weirdo. Isn't it time that we stood up to these terrorists instead of overreacting? What the hell happened to British backbone, or are we still going to run to mummy every time.

# Gilead Amit appeals to the moderates



"Those who have most to lose must take a stand against those who are most likely to take it away"



It's good to see that all of you have safely made it back to college. Whether by plane, train, sleigh or snowplough, or thanks to having hitched a ride on the back of a frisky reindeer, you've finally made it back to the warm embracing arms of college. Some of you have had to fight snow and ice, cancelled flights and endless news reports about snow and ice, while others have had to suffer heightened security at airports following the attempted terrorism on a flight bound for Detroit on Christmas Day.

It's become very easy for us to believe, as we put our shoes in metal detectors around the world and travel in ever more secure modes of transport, that we are the main victims of terrorism. That the global war on terror is a case of 'us' against 'them', where the 'us' represents the Western World and its liberal values and the main threat to our security comes from the 'them' – turban-clad, scimitar-brandishing cave dwellers of Victorian fantasy.

As convenient as this image may be to us as we lace up our shoes and replace our belts, it is a gross and tragic oversimplification. The automatic assumption that the West is under attack from Islamic terrorism is deeply flawed – it is Muslims who are under attack from Islamic terrorism, Muslims

who make up the majority of its victims and Muslims who are forced to suffer its consequences.

Students of history are in the habit of referring to the 'long' 19th Century as the period between the American Revolution in 1776 and the outbreak of the First World War in 1914. This period was then followed by the 'short' 20th Century, which spanned the rise and fall of fascism and ended with the collapse of communism in 1991. In that case we are due another long Century, one whose opening number has so far been mostly concerned with the rise of international terrorism.

The great ideological battle of these years of the long 21st Century is not between the liberal West and the fundamentalist Muslims. It is between the vast majority of peaceful Muslims and a small but ever-expanding radical fringe. The rest of us are merely the bullet-proof vest being battered between a rock and a hard place.

Those of us who live in enlightened democracies are mercifully safe from the consequences of extremist rule. A woman in London is allowed to drive; – a basic right denied to her sisters in Saudi Arabia – while a homosexual man in Paris or New York can escape the lashings which await him in Tehran. It is the Muslim population which suffers

most from many of the sanctions applicable in their home countries, sanctions instituted and defended by extreme interpretations of Islamic law.

Just as the Second World War was not fought against the evils of Germanic culture or Western European civilisation, but against the way in which they were abused, the war on terrorism must have as its principal target the abuse of Islam and its teachings. Because explosive devices on the roads of Iraq and Afghanistan and suicide bombers on planes over America or the United Kingdom are not distinct phenomena. They are all indications of the tremendous power held by fundamentalist clerics and leaders over the minds of their followers. Many who are willing to blow themselves up in the name of Allah are poor, but others are rich and well-educated. Some have never left their rural villages, whereas others were educated in prestigious London universities. Some are peasants and farmers, but others are doctors or engineers. The only thing they all share is a tragic receptivity to the dangerous words of ruthless and fanatical preachers.

As much as we have suffered at the hands of terrorists, our losses are nothing compared with the international Muslim community. Well over 90% of the terrorism casualties since 2006 have

been Muslim. Some have been collateral in the attempt to attack a greater Western target, but all have been victims of a school of thought which regards human life as a negligible factor in the great equations of morality.

Even those Muslims who have not been personally affected by such tragedies are unable to escape their consequences. The automatic assumption of guilt by virtue of religious or ethnic association is something that haunts all those with a Middle Eastern passport or appearance. Spot checks at airports, suspicious stares and unprovoked displays of fear or aggression are among the effects felt by millions of Muslims as a punishment for having done absolutely nothing wrong.

But it is no longer enough to enjoy a clean conscience in silence. In the same way that Jews around the world feel obliged to criticise Israel in order to clear themselves of any perceived guilt, and Americans by the thousand joined facebook groups entitled 'George W. Bush is not MY president', the tide of anti-extremist rhetoric and actions must now come from the millions of moderate Muslims who are currently silent.

By refusing to distance themselves from the fundamentalists, ordinary Muslims are encouraging the growth and popularity of xenophobic, racist

and even violent groups who are more than happy to spray all Muslims with the grapeshot of abuse. When we think of those organisations who are most vocally opposed to the rise of Islamic extremism, the Daily Mail and the BNP should not be the names that spring to mind.

No individuals have more to lose under the rule of a fascist caliphate than those who will be seen to have 'thrown in their lot' with the infidels or kafirs. On Tuesday's episode of NewsNight, Anjem Choudary (the leader of the Islamist organisation Islam4UK) pointedly refused to answer the more moderate Maajid Nawaaz's questions about what his fate would be under a Sharia tribunal, sinisterly hinting that Nawaaz 'knew the answer already'.

When moderates refuse to push back against extremism, the tides of fear and aggression drive ordinary people further and further to the political right. It is fear of this sort that led to the Swiss ban against minarets last year, and the recent decision by the Home Secretary to declare Islam4UK an illegal organisation.

If we are to make it to the end of the 21st Century, long as it is likely to be, those who have most to lose must take a stand against those who are most likely to take it away. Moderates of all backgrounds need to lead the way if extremism is to be fought.

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# Copenhagen + Self interest = Failure :(

Ben Fry examines just why things went so wrong, and outlines the possible paths to be taken

Being carefully turned in the candle-light, crystalline reflections were cast across the scroll strewn desk. Angular yet polished, shining yet black as the unlit night, the previously worthless anthracite was becoming the focus of one of the world's greatest minds. A pair of well worn hands lightly followed the cleaved boundaries as the rock's discovery was told by an immaculately turned out senator, his tunic golden in the dim illumination, aptly matching the fossilised amber hanging from the Emperor's neck. Under the all too common canvas, the politician could feel the tangible weight of his superior's intellect as the details of extraction and combustion were divulged, almost seeing the birth of industry dancing in those deep eyes; the visions of fully mechanised campaigns that would succeed success in Gaul, life for the populous of the Empire incomparably bettered through plenty and luxury, the spread of civilisation into the wild lands.

Had Marcus Aurelius discovered fossil fuels and thus stimulated an industrial revolution akin to ours, population numbers and moderation notwithstanding, the Earth would now be a very different place. A summer's afternoon picnic would not blossom amongst the delicate flowers of an alpine meadow, but instead be hosted by a swathe of coarse hardy grass adjacent to some hulking shadow of former industrialised glory. Manufactured fungal protein would replace the sumptuous steak sandwiches, and there would be no orange, chocolate or coffee to amuse the palette. Satiated sunbathing wouldn't be a temptation, the sky having been scorched by some overzealous geo-engineers a number of centuries ago; fruitless attempts to mitigate rising temperatures.

Finally the children, instead of running barefoot through the woodland and gleefully shouting after the wildlife that issued from nearby hollows and boughs, would chatter quietly on

the verge of the concreted vehicle bays, each with their virtual reality glasses on, taking the 'Rainforest Experience'. On returning they ask their equally perplexed parents if they remembered what the forest smelt like.

In this parallel history, the short term decisions the Romans took to revel in a few hundred years of hard earned, high carbon opulence led to the eventual climatic collapse of various natural systems, bequeathing a forced synthetic future, characterised by grey squalor,

**"Had Marcus Aurelius discovered fossil fuels and thus stimulated an industrial revolution akin to ours, population numbers and moderation notwithstanding, the Earth would now be a very different place."**

to almost a millennia of their earthly descendents. If this parallel story was indeed ours, it is curious to think how history would remember the Romans.

If the international climate accord, activities and attitudes remain unchanged, the current cohort of powerful political leaders and subservient civilian voters may become bitterly viewed by the coming generations. The final outcome of the UN climate



Tuvalu - with its highest point at only 4.5 metres above sea level, may not be with us for too much longer, but won't go down without a fight

change conference in Copenhagen was a relatively inert agreement that was a last minute product of two weeks of negotiation; a fortnight dominated by self-service, short-sightedness and confusion. Although it was the first time that developing countries had found such a strong voice in the global arena, the resulting 'Copenhagen Accord' lacks any principled substance (such as global emissions targets and related timeframes) that could ensure an ambitious, fair and legally binding climate deal. It also is only "noted" by the UN, not actually adopted, so its function currently remains unclear. The USA, China, and Saudi Arabia are specific parties who have attracted significant criticism in the Copenhagen fallout, commonly being recognised for respectively ignoring their historic responsibilities, blocking the legal aspects of the negotiations, and making all possible moves to disrupt consensus amongst the parties. Rays of light in comparison to these inhibitory fossils were the nation of Tuvalu for strongly voicing the need for a comprehensive agreement, Brazil for volunteering significant finance when not obliged to, and (once again) the UN Secretary General for some remarkable diplomacy.

As a process, these are mere tips of the beautifully proverbial iceberg. There were many more relationships built and lost, hidden discussions, leaked documents and impasses than can possibly be described in a coherent text, and this complexity and inherent dysfunction is causing a number of parties to lose confidence in this entire practice, the faith ironically melting away with the diagnostic icebergs.

So what becomes of the world, particularly those whose ancestors have laboured to create the now drying Sub-Saharan Africa and the now sinking small ocean states, while all the talk continues? Given man's significant exacerbation of the natural cosmic cycles that have dictated the Earth's meteorology for billions of years, changes in our activities can genuinely change the climatic path of the world. We have two clear options. We can continue with business as usual, feeding insatiable consumer lifestyles, shying from political boldness and so condemn-

ing future humanity to a narrative of struggle in the spluttering world alluded to earlier. Alternatively the existing suite of world leaders, arguably the most powerful people who have ever lived, can use the insubstantial but not meaningless 'accord' as a basis for building a strong international treaty during the course of this year, swiftly incentivising all sectors to pursue holistic sustainability. Only with clear guidance within an accepted paradigm will developed society then consider forgoing their 'rights' to unlimited electricity, second cars, new shoes and beef Wellington, in so not jeopardising the longevity of folk capriciously born into less fortunate communities.

If we are able to transform our language from the dominating but narrow, short term economics to one that genuinely values natural and human assets, there is yet hope. This very possible alternative unfortunately won't ensure the perpetual existence of the human race, though it would give foreseeable generations licence to exist more harmoniously amongst both natural and philosophically bright greenery.



Manmohan Singh of India proposed to cut emission intensity by 20-25% below 2005 levels by 2020



The president of the USA, Barack Obama, offered cuts of 17% on 2005 levels of greenhouse gases by 2020



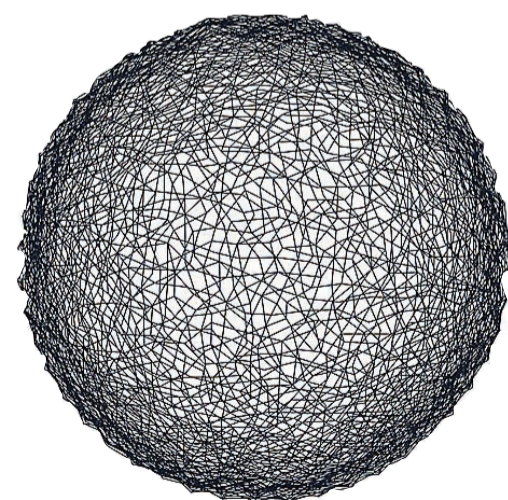
Angela Merkel, the German Chancellor, offered to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 40% of 1990 levels by 2020



Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of The Maldives set the target for his nation to become carbon neutral by 2019



Chinese premier, Wen Jiabao, who didn't attend the meetings personally claims China achieved what it set out to



COP15  
COPENHAGEN  
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2009

## THE KEY FACTS

2

Weeks spent at the conference

192

Countries represented

0

Legally binding agreements



# One hundred years of anonymity. Happy anniversary...

Emily Clifford

Chagas disease kills more Latin Americans than Malaria, so why do so few people know of its existence? It is endemic in 21 countries across South and Central America, and is increasingly being seen in the US, Europe and Japan in migrant populations. It is a silent killer with millions unknowingly infected.

Caused by the parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi*, the symptoms of Chagas can lie dormant for many years. In the chronic stage (developed by 25-30% of the infected) Chagas causes irreversible heart and gastrointestinal damage. The two available drugs against the disease were developed 35 years ago (in investigations not aimed at Chagas) and there has been very little focus on research and development. The laboratory manufacturing Nifurtimox (one of two drugs available) is no longer marketing the drug, only donating limited supplies. This is justified by claiming a lack of demand for the drug, but Chagas affects an estimated 14 – 16 million people and kills 20,000 to 50,000 every year. The drugs also cause unpleasant side effects which are common in patients, meaning that many sufferers do not complete their course of treatment.

Frustratingly, 80% of cases are transmitted by a vector (an insect, shown below) that lives in the walls of rural dwellings made from basic materials, making Chagas a disease of poverty. Although in many Latin American countries there are prevention programs involving pest control, these are expensive and are currently not effective enough to eliminate the disease. Transmission can also be blood borne, from mothers to children or through transfusions/organ transplantation, making this a disease that could be seen globally. Although a screening test has been approved for use in North America, not all blood banks screen for *T. cruzi*. With up to 50% infection in blood banks of some cities in South America, and increasing migration out of Latin America, you have to wonder how soon it will be before people start contracting the disease in western countries.

Simply put, Chagas seems to be a disease in which, pharmaceutical companies have little interest, endemic governments deem unimportant, and the diseased have little knowledge. Why? I cannot help but wonder whether an increase in cases in the more verbal western world eventually sparks an interest in Chagas? And if so, what would that say about current attitudes towards the affected?



Cause and effect: the assassin (or kissing) bug responsible for Chagas disease (above) and a girl with an acute form of the disease (below)

# An evening of inspiration

ISCMSU Muslim Medics celebrate the hardwork of the 'typical medical BSc student' with a Young Scientists' Symposium



Mohammed Al-Hairi's talk on psychological morbidity won the audience vote

Umar Chaudhry

Imperial College is renowned for its scientific prowess and a student's keenness to succeed by whatever means necessary, and this was no doubt exemplified on the night of Thursday 27th November 2009. Following the successes of PotMed, ISCMSU Muslim Medics embarked on a new journey by holding a symposium to signify the hard work and dedication of a typical medical BSc student. In front of a packed out audience, these presenters fought tooth and nail to ensure they were crowned winner of Young Scientists' Symposium 2009.

In its third year running, YSS grew to a somewhat unprecedented level this year. A lot of interest for presentations on various scientific topics was generated and this was further highlighted with the adjudicators present on the day. Dr Steve Gentleman, reader in Neuropathology, and an old advisory from the first YSS, was kindly joined by Dr Kevin Murphy (lecturer in Gastroenterology) and Miss Noor Jawad (the winner of the previous YSS). In addition, it was an immense honour to welcome the Deputy Principal of the Faculty of Medicine and previous head of the National Heart and Lung Institute, Professor Sir Anthony Newman. The judges were accompanied by the audience, composed of invited sixth formers and Imperial students from all year groups.

One of the aims of the night was to create excitement about science and research in general, especially within the younger community. This was fulfilled by astonishing the audience on the importance of research in various medical professions from cardiovascular sciences to endocrinology. Tailoring the advanced research to an audience of teenagers presented the first challenge. In addition, the art of delivering a speech to the respected panel was in

fact probably the defining feature of YSS, and it was through such coherent yet scientifically astute methods that the victor was selected. The victor did, coincidentally, make a thoroughly well received joke about Viagra!

At this moment, it is important to illustrate the exemplary nature of Imperial students by not only having the confidence to present but in one particular case, having the ability to be unnerved by the occasion and chairing the whole affair. Aamir Shamsi, a co-ordinator for YSS, welcomed many his seniors in a confident and insightful manner. It is this self-assurance that is undoubtedly present in many of our colleagues, which will hopefully take us places around the world.

Giving 'power to the people' this year came in the form of an audience vote; awarding Mohammed Al-Hairi a prize after he an interesting talk regarding psychological morbidity amongst mental health staff i.e. the mental

health of mental health staff. But, the main prize of the day was awarded to Zubair Sarang, a 5th year medic, who delivered a captivating presentation on the role of endothelium-derived nitric oxide on the development of aortic valve calcification, which could have implications when designing tissue engineered heart valves.

Imperial has once again succeeded in creating scientific aptitude, but I believe there is a sting in the tail, and one that I feel that should be underlined. For all the successes, it is very apparent that there is failure when it comes to *how* students succeed. Like I said earlier, students will often fight tooth and nail in order to accomplish their goals. They will let nothing stand in their way, be it getting published or winning a prize, and often use tactics to get ahead of their peers and colleagues. You can't just be ordinary at Imperial, you have to show that you're ahead of the game, when in fact trying to be ahead of the game is just part of the norm. Other peoples' work and achievements should be respected and appreciated, not just looked at and despised. But maybe this can be regarded as a success in itself as it allows students to prosper into their own niche, whereby everyone is good at something. This constant reminder that you have to be of use, might actually encourage students to take part in university life and achieve the unachievable. Who knows?

Young Scientists' Symposium was definitely a success, as illustrated by a member of the audience, who thanked Muslim Medics 'for organising such an inspirational event' (with a little smiley face at the end if I may add). It was a pleasure seeing so many young students genuinely interested in science, and hopefully this shall continue in years to come. However, this notion of fair-play should never be forgotten and everyone's achievements should be recognised. We are all extremely lucky to be where we are today at Imperial College and hopefully this luck will serve us well in the future.



The role of endothelium-derived nitric oxide on the development of aortic valve calcification was the subject of the winning talk given by Zubair Sarang

# CAT-NIP

Text in to 07832670472

Email in at [catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

Drop us a message at [felixonline.co.uk](http://felixonline.co.uk)



## CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE? SNOW: WINTER WONDER OR WICKED WHITEOUT?

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Text: 07832670472  
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## Lack of Coffee is 'Snow' Joke

Students given 'cold shoulder'

Hello felix,

*I would like to say how disappointed I am after a recent treasure hunt. Not the festive Easter kind, where all participants are eager and willing to enjoy the 'thrill of the chase' for that desirable golden (or chocolate) egg, oh no. I have just completed a treasure hunt on South Ken Campus looking for a cup of coffee and a flapjack!*

*Like most (diligent, neurotic, anxious – delete as appropriate) students the week before spring term, I have been on campus revising material I had promised myself I would learn-as-I-go back in October, and had decided to schedule in a break with a course mate. After visiting the Electrical Engineering cafe, Mechanical Engineering cafe, Business School cafe (yes, I tail-gated) and Mining School cafe, I found all were closed, it was clear that something was going on! That's right, once again the fragilities of London are brought to a standstill by 2cm of slush, as the signs at the cafes read 'Closed due to severe weather'. As far as I am aware, coffee machines and till registers still function when the temperature outside is below zero degrees, so during these academically troublesome times, is this drastic action to close our caffeine-fuelled refuges really justified? I think not. These cafes were due to close at 4pm anyway (no great hardship for employees), so was it really so severe that students be denied a late afternoon pick-me-up? Again, I think not. Undoubtedly most of them travelled home easily by tube unaffected by the weather and certainly no different to if they had left at 4pm, apart from the swathe of disgruntled students queuing in the Library for the only hot beverage on campus.*

*No doubt this was a decision made by the powers that be, but it would have been nice to see some staff/student solidarity or if nothing else some good old British resilience in the face of adversity. I, for one, think so.*

Will  
SEF Msci Student

This is an issue close to Cat-Nip's heart. We love treasure hunts! However, the lack of prizes is only one problem raised by this letter. Along with the question of understaffing, we want to know why there wasn't a coherent advertising campaign beforehand. With so many students 'jones-ing' for caffeine daily, we fear the organisers have severely missed the potential of *The Traditional Coffee Cafe Quest*. For Shame!

## Drunken-mate photo of the week

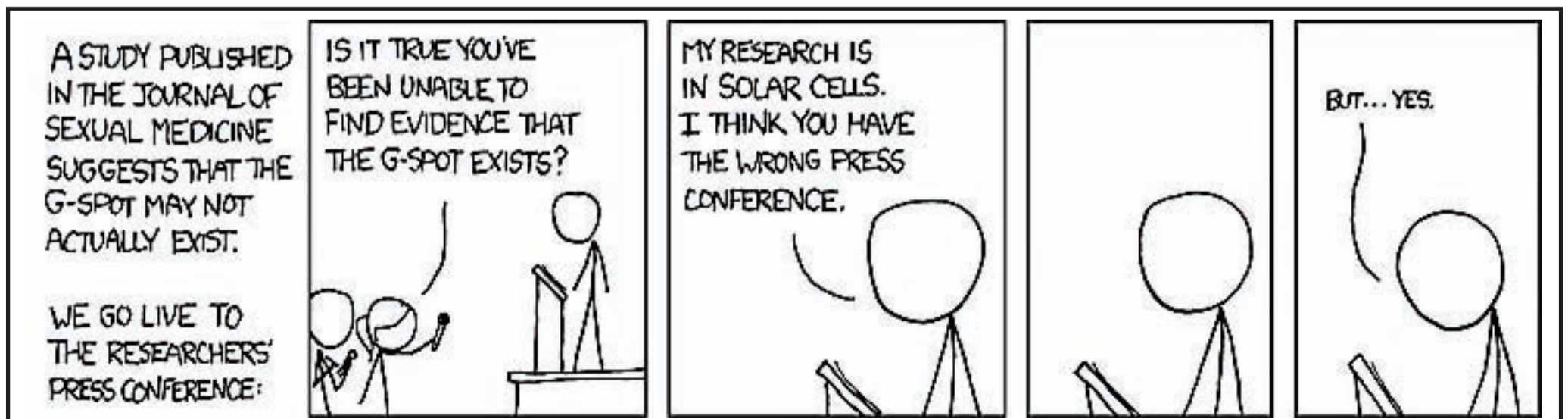


With Lemon and Lime Fairy Liquid and Salt going into the mix, this guy's scalp is only one ingredient away from the perfect Tequila Slammer!

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](mailto:catnip.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

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

xkcd.com



## New Year's Resolution

At the beginning of every year, many of us make a new year's resolution to improve something about ourselves, try something out or meet new people. After the initial inspiration then comes the hard part of actually sticking to it. This year, why not join a club or society to help you stick to your goals. We've asked clubs running taster sessions, to tell us when and where these are going on so that you can go along and find out what they're all about. So whether it's a case of dusting off that old instrument you played at school or getting fit by trying a new sport, why not start as you mean to go on with the help and support of other people with the same interests!

new year's resolution

try something new in 2010



**Jenny Wilson**  
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)  
dpcs@imperial.ac.uk

check out all the sessions at [imperialcollegeunion.org](http://imperialcollegeunion.org)

### Imperial vs Edinburgh on Monday

Imperial's run in this year's University Challenge continues as they take on Edinburgh University in the quarter-finals this Monday. Again the Union is the best place to watch the contest!

Imperial's team, consisting of team leader Gilead Amit, Simon Good, Ciaran Healy and Ben Nicolson will be on BBC Two at 20:00 Monday 18 January in the first of two rounds to qualify for the semi-finals.

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# FOOTBALL'S COMING HOME

**A**s I follow IC GAC throughout their tour of Dublin, it is clear that their captain Andrew Lavery is taking on-field performance seriously and looks to establish Gaelic Football amongst the rugbys, footballs and the hockeys of Imperial's sporting frontline.

Both the Mens' and Ladies' matches against Dublin's premier university, Trinity College, showed they refused to lay down and get beaten in by players way beyond their own experience.

Two weeks prior to the departure to Dublin, I put myself amongst the rough and joined a weekly training session to get a feel of this budding sport at Imperial. Immediately, I see Lavery has long lost his 'nice guy' off-field manner and is leading the Ladies' team with characteristic militancy. It is a trait which refuses to cease as I follow the team's progress for the next month.

In a brief moment when he takes his eyes off a flowing practice match, he spots the men's team arriving and is quick to remedy idle legs. He 'suggests' a warm up leg around Hyde Park's Serpentine Lake and IC GAC's Chairman Edward O'Hare gladly agrees to lead the troops. There's no waiting around and as soon as we have put our bags down, we commence on a demanding three kilometre exercise.

On completion of the warm-up that could have constituted my monthly work-out, it is explained that the team needs to reach 'championship fitness', and that these warm-ups should become less gruelling, and in time will eventually become standard practice.

By the time we jog back to the training pitch, the Ladies' team are packing up and seem to be in good spirits about their upcoming match against vastly superior opponents in Trinity College.

As Edward O'Hare tries to explain the game of Gaelic football to me in three minutes, I experience Lavery's determination and drive for the game first hand. He wants me to get stuck straight in at the deep end but O'Hare thinks otherwise. Lavery isn't having any of it, but the situation is resolved when he notices the boys waiting behind him for further instruction.

## A WOMAN'S TOUCH

Legs and heads rested, the team were in an upbeat mood upon their arrival in Dublin. There is a sense of trepidation as I talk to some of the girls, but they're sure they can give a good account of themselves on the pitch the next day.

For the Irish members of the team, a sense of familiarity harboured, and there was a poignant feel in the Dublin air as these players came home to test themselves against some of Ireland's best college-level football players with an essentially English team.

The Ladies' team played first but there wasn't much time for pleasant-

**"Fok's particularly impressive speed did her team many favours, allowing sporadic penetration of a well-ordered Trinity team."**

ries before the match. Being ushered into their dressing room on their arrival to the ground, their march onto the pitch saw them meet their imposing opponents for the very first time. Trinity casually warmed up and it was immediately obvious that their evident physical strength would make Imperial's day one of hard graft.

Imperial's line up featured plenty of pace throughout the side. What they lacked in experience and technical ability, Imperial's rapid progression up and down the field caused problems for Trinity all afternoon.

Imperial's pace nearly paid off shortly after kick-off when left half-back Jackie Fok started the first of many counter-attacks for the team, which nearly resulted in a shock lead. However, Trinity's experience counted for more this time and stifled the attack on the goal line.

The game quickly settled down

after this flurry of activity, and soon enough Trinity's solid team struck three points and netted a goal in quick succession. As Ladies coach Phil Jake-man blew gaskets on the touchline, Imperial responded with a goal of their own. After a few minutes of solid defensive play led by centre-back and captain Katie Cullen, Imperial slowly pushed the equilibrium away from their own half, and eventually found themselves in the right half once again. Though messy in front of goal, some poor Trinity defending allowed a goal-mouth scramble to end in the back of the net, with Chloe McKeon claiming the final touch and making it 1-03 1-00 to Trinity early on in the half.

Trinity attempted to continue in an expected onslaught of points, but were regularly answered by their opponent minnows.

Despite going in at half time behind, Imperial took the positives out of their brave first half performance and pushed on in the second. A frustrated Fiona O'Connell voiced her concerns in no uncertain terms about the lack of defensive organisation, leaving her job as goalkeeper an impossible task for long periods of the first half.

Though not quite solid enough to counter Trinity's strength in the centre of the park, the midfield pairing of Chloe McKeon and Carla Mulas proved fruitful in front of the posts. Man-of-the-match McKeon saw a second green flag raised for her when she found herself one-on-one with Trinity's goalkeeper, who did well to get a leg to a powerful strike. McKeon, however, kept her composure and followed the looping deflection under the bar and into the back of the net. Mulas did Imperial an important service by striking three points, including one from a well-taken free kick, in a fashion that made it look like she'd be playing Gaelic football for years.

Half-forwards, Sophie McLaclan and Eileen Brandley, took on the unglamorous yet extremely effective role of mopping up IC's desperate clearances from defence, and



Clockwise from lower left: Carla Mulas strikes a point in front of the net, Trinity, Coach Phil Jakeman bark orders from the sidelines, the Ladies' team, Trinity, Chloe McKeon slots home her second goal.

## A BEGINNER'S GUIDE

- A centuries old Irish sport, somewhat limited in popularity, is far the most popular game in Ireland though not as mainstream in Britain, the USA and Europe.
- Played 15-a-side on a large rectangular pitch with two posts, only with a football-like net on top of the posts.
- The object is to score either a point (by kicking the ball into the goal) which is equivalent to a goal (putting it in the net) which is equivalent to 2-07 to 1-04 (goals-points) means the first team to score 7 goals.
- Progress is made by passing the ball by hand or foot, a very difficult skill to master and involves a lot of running at full speed.
- You're not allowed to throw the ball or catch it, it must be kicked up into your hands from the ground, a skill to learn.
- Tackling is quite physical and although you won't see plenty of hard hitting. The idea is to tackle in a 50-50 situation you can get away with it.
- Football's sister sport, hurling, is very similar but the 'hurl' and a small ball called a 'sliotar'.



**GAELIC FOOTBALL IS A QUICKLY BUDDING GAME ON IMPERIAL'S SPORTS SCENE; IC GAELIC ATHLETIC CLUB BOASTS FULL ROSTERS FOR BOTH MENS' AND LADIES' TEAMS THIS YEAR. DAN WAN FOLLOWS THEM ON THEIR TOUR OF DUBLIN AND EVEN GETS STUCK IN HIMSELF**



the first half, Team Captain Andrew Lavery and Ladies' team warm up prior to the match against Trinity and the Mens' team deliberating tactics during half time.

**TO GAELIC FOOTBALL**

like a cross between rugby and football. By a rough beginning to become more and more rope. field with goals at either end like rugby the lower section. (between the posts over the crossbar) or a trivalent to three points. So a score line of first team won by 13 to 7. kicking, fisting or a solo run which is a as bouncing the ball of your foot whilst pick it clean up off the ground, the ball on the deck - another not so straightforward not as heavy as rugby, a good match will to tackle the ball as opposed to the man but with a fair bit of that too. similar but played with a wooden liotar'.



in turn, created several chances that could have evened out the scores.

Imperial's forwards also benefitted greatly from their team's speedy play on the wings as they added to Imperial's score with points of their own. Xenia Snetkov, Catherine Parkinson and Scarlett Gillespie were especially able to move forward and try their luck on goal several times throughout the 60 minutes, yielding a combined five points between them.

The soloing pace of Sarah Jean and Jackie Fok out wide set up several attacks which resulted in points that Imperial desperately needed in the second half. Fok's particularly impressive speed did her team many favours, allowing sporadic penetration of a well-ordered Trinity team. Afterwards, even the Trinity players conceded that during moments of the game, Imperial's two quick wide players were a thorn in their side.

Trinity never really ran away with the game despite being in command for most of it. Imperial's lack of experience transferred to periods of loss of concentration during the second half when Trinity gladly notched the handful of points and few goals that won them the game. However, Imperial's keeper in the second-half, Tabitha Skinner, had considerably less to do than O'Connell's first-half, again thanks to Cullen's individual unyielding performance keeping Trinity's best County-level player in check.

For a team that was only established this year, winning against one of Ireland's most respected Ladies' university teams was always to be a very tall order. Despite the defeat, Imperial put up an energetic fight that saw them largely mitigate a game led by their Irish counterparts.

The Ladies' 18-strong team is largely inexperienced in the game of football, with most of them taking up the sport as an entirely new experience. The next few months would concentrate on de-

veloping their game in time for February's national championships held in Manchester; no doubt that the match in Dublin has taught them more than a term's worth of training sessions could have.

**BOYS IN BLUE**

As for the men's match, it was a much more even affair and resulted in a closely fought game either side could've won. The game started with an intense period of pressure from Trinity, with the Imperial defence and keeper being tested, but equal to almost every challenge. Jamie Sanders and Padhraic Comerford acquitted

**"Imperial upped their game though and showed a will to win"**

themselves well in this period and were responsible for many clearances down the left and right wings respectively. Nevertheless Trinity managed to nab themselves a goal and three points to the good in this prolonged period of possession.

The boys in blue were in no mood to lie down though with club talisman Danny Wilson providing the opener for Imperial after 20 minutes. Drawing on his soccer skills, Wilson half volleyed a loose ball straight into the back of the net, leaving the keeper no chance. The referee wasn't as impressed however and overruled the legitimate score for an alleged foul moments before. The impetus was with Imperial now and the boys won two frees which Ruairi O'Neill ably converted from some distance. Halftime score 1-03 to 0-02 to Trinity.

The second half began with Imperial retaining much more of the posses-

sion, despite the hangover from last night really beginning to take its toll. Their profligacy in the next 15 minutes would come back to haunt them as all but one of several scoring chances drifted agonisingly wide. The defence held strong though and worked hard to create chances for the forwards, but were cruelly caught out when a speculative looping effort from the Trinity half forward caught the underside of the bar and dropped in giving them the ascendancy that would be difficult to catch in the remaining time. Imperial upped their game though and showed a will to win, knocking over another free and a fine score from play by Rob Fitzpatrick. Trinity responded again and the frenetic display of counter attacking football from both teams was cheering up the cold supporters on the sidelines. In the final minutes Imperial were rewarded with a goal of their own as their half-forward thundered a shot on goal which the keeper somehow managed to initially block, but could not prevent a calmly-taken rebound reaching the back of the net. The final score read 2-07 to 1-04 to Trinity, although it was remarked by the hosts that the score line did flatter them somewhat. Imperial's display of character to fight back despite going down early in the match certainly bodes well for their upcoming BUSA Championships.

As I finish off this tour report, my inbox lights up and there is a new email from Andrew Lavery sent to all the players at IC GAC. He signs off in a manner that gives no indication that he plans to let up on his vision of making IC GAC one of Imperial's most nationally successful teams.

"Seriously lads, this is it. Last term was for messing about in the 'League' but this term is what playing Gaelic Football at IC is all about. 100% commitment and a Championship victory for the taking. It's up to you now. See you at training, Lavery."





Now available  
in stereoscope

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

Well there goes Christmas! Hope you all had a cracking break and got some awesome gadgets. But if you're like me and money is all you've got to show from the holiday season, apart from a larger gut of course, then this week you might find a few things to prise that cold hard cash out of your hands.

The start of the technology year always kicks off with what's arguably the biggest and most important exhibition in the consumer electronics calendar. CES, which is only open to industry types, journalists and the movers and shakers of the world, holds a treasure trove of innovation, bizarre technology and a load of gadget-lust inducing gear. This year, although we're in the midst, or tail end depending on who you believe, of a recession, the manufacturers still turned up with some impressive tech.

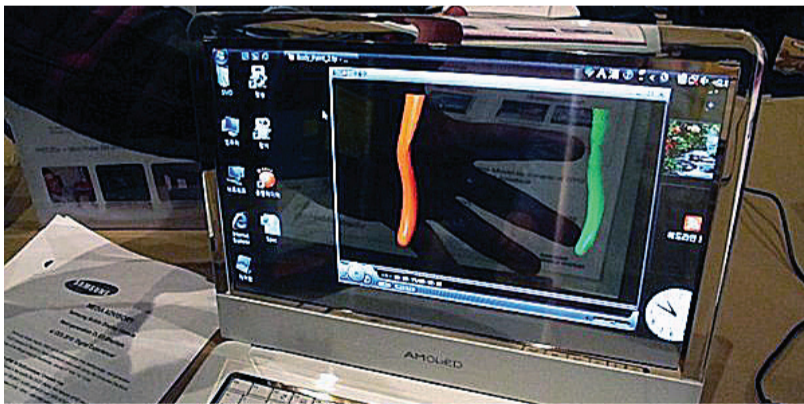
We've taken the time to go through the total information overload that is CES for you, to pick out some choice and outstanding products that you might just see on your virtual shelves sometime in the near future.

3D played a massive role this year at CES. One could say the third dimen-

sion is definitely 'in'. For better or for worse, depending on what your position is on the whole 3D being the future thing, the TV and film industry is trying it's hardest to shove it into your media enriched lives. Of course 3D not only means new TVs, new PVRs and boxes, but glasses. Yep, glasses. Great, so now not only have you got to wear glasses all day whilst trying to read things, but when you get home and relax you're going to have to don another pair of spectacles just to watch the damn TV.

OK, so you can probably tell by now that I'm not such a huge fan of 3D. Don't get me wrong, a 3D hologram projected in front of me would be totally awesome, but 3D from TV and film in my opinion rarely adds to the experience. A recent trip to the cinema to watch Avatar, cemented my view. Although 3D cinema might add to some things, especially walking through the giganto-smurf forest, for the most part I could do without it. It doesn't help that the 3D glasses are cheap and hurt your ears after a while, something I found particularly annoying in Cameron's two hour 30 minutes plus effort. Still there's bound to be custom specs available in the near future.

## Transparent Displays



Great, more distractions from work, essential student gear this.

Transparent screens will soon be making their way out of science fiction movies and into our lives, with a major story out of CES being Samsung's new transparent OLED displays. The technology promises to offer up to 40% transparency, a large and very obvious improvement over older transparent display technology. Samsung is planning to release an MP3 player and a phone that make use of this technology later this year. While the resolution of the OLED screens leaves much to be desired, Samsung is obviously betting on the novelty factor attracting customers, with the phone priced at £620 even while lacking a camera.

While the technology unquestionably has applications in many fields, the most important being true heads-up displays in full colour, it's questionable exactly how useful the technology is right now. The 40% transparency isn't enough to embed them in automobiles, and being able to see through your computer monitor is more a detriment than anything else. A lot more work will be required before Samsung can market these products as anything more than a pricey novelty for early adopters.

# Consumer Electronics Show the year's biggest gadget

The year has only just got going but already CES, the biggest gadget orgy of the year, has been and gone. The world's biggest, brightest and best were on hand to show attendees their wares, generate buzz and all the while hoping that they're the next *big* thing. For those of you not familiar with the buzz, hype and flat out lunacy of CES, it's THE event in the tech calendar and takes place every January, kicking off the gadget year with a bang in Las Vegas, the city of sin, sun and cold hard cash. Enough of the blurb, you've got the idea, so what has 2010 got in store for us?

## 3D TV



This is what \$21,000 buys you in 3D camcorders. An ugly beast.

Onward the march of 3D! Not content only to smash its way back into the big screen, 3D is infiltrating our homes and poking its finger right into your face. Sony was there with its pretty incredible 24.5" OLED 3D Bravia boasting incredible blacks and colour vibrancy, even if the 3Dness reduces the available colour gamut.

ESPN announced it would be showing World Cup games in 3D for all to behold. It won't just be football though with the Summer X games, NBA and of course NFL hitting America in the 3rd dimension. DirecTV also showed off its 3D wares at CES which the company is set to roll out in June this year. In this country BSkyB has already made its intentions clear about 3D with Sky1's Gladiators already being recorded in stereoscope. If you're a Sky subscriber and you happen to be packing a 3D HDTV, then look out for the roll out sometime this year. If you haven't got a nice big 3D HDTV just yet, you might want to consider an LG, who were on the scene at CES with two 3D LCDs, 55" and 47" models, which will be available around April this year.

Of course most of this 3D technology still requires the use of polarized glasses like those you have to wield whilst in the cinema for Avatar and alike. Intel however showed off its glasses-free 3D tech. Using a coating applied to the screen of the HDTV and specially recorded 3D video it's possible to create depth without resorting to wearing specs. The only problem with it is that there are only about eight specific places one can stand to experience the effect and the resolution the demo was running was sub 720p. I don't know about you, but for me no-glasses 3D trumps the spectacle requiring variety, so I hope content producers and providers take note.

Not to be muscled out, Panasonic was also on show at CES with some serious pieces of kit. How about the world's first integrated Full HD 3D camcorder. OK, it's not your average pocket shooter, but the 'Professional' camcorder packs everything you need to record 3D in one package. Up for order in April and carrying a price tag of \$21,000, you better have a pretty good reason for wanting to record your kid brother running into a window in 3D.



Glorious colour and the 3D's optional. Sony's onto a winner here.

2010 Int



Tab



T-Mobile 15-inch ICD Vega Tablet, Android fam

CES might have been the year of 3D TV and manufacturers from making an appearance. Of mythical iTablet the 'Slate' everything with a tab HP is no exception letting Microsoft kick off it's Slate. Steve Ballmer was wielding the prototype reader app. The tablet is multi-touch capable and taking great delight playing Frogger in front of the later this year.

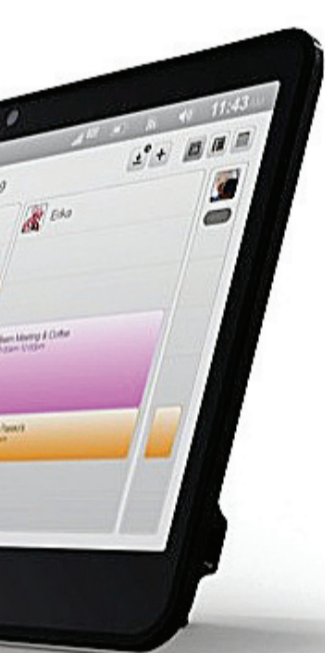
Lenovo made more of an impact with their I this seemingly ordinary laptop has a pretty slick multi-touch display. The laptop half of the con with a 128GB SSD holding Windows 7 Home Pr about this little beauty is that the slate itself is p a touch-screen version of the Skylight smartboo and you're away.

T-Mobile also showed off something fancy Android tablet. Powered by Nvidia's Tegra 250 of Android 2.0, the Vega is tailored towards th you've got an easy to use internet tablet with T-Mobile SIM pre-installed. The Vega also pack support built-in, although the Vega's 15" screen yet to be fleshed out but expect some sort of sul

# Now 2010 - Our highlights and picks from exhibition straight out of the City of Sin



## Tablets



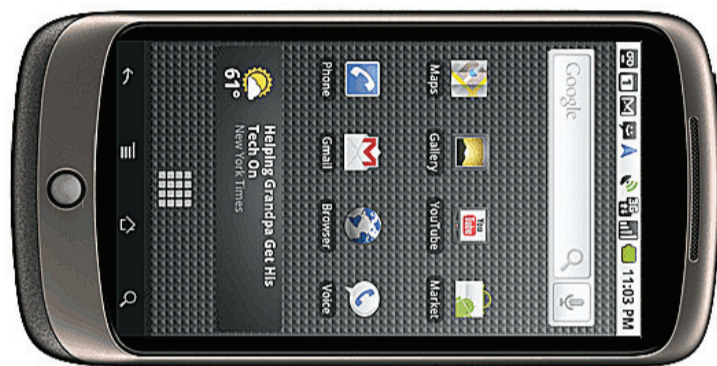
Family computing and we'll even get it in the UK!

eBook readers, but that didn't keep the tablet course now that Apple may or may not call their tablet form factor is getting labelled with the term. At the press conference with the unveiling of the HP Slate, showing off Windows and the PC Kindle and can even play games of a sort with Ballmer to the audience. Look for this one hitting the shelves

HP SlatePad U1 Hybrid. The clue's in the name but the party piece in the form of a detachable resistive touch device harbours an Intel CULV processor premium, pretty standard fare. The unusual thing is it's powered by a separate Snapdragon CPU running Android OS. Pull out the slate, switch over to Skylight

At CES in the form of the ICD Vega 15-inch tablet chipset and running a heavily customised build for the family market. In reality what that means is a shared calendars, SMS/MMS messaging and a built-in WiFi, an FM radio, on-demand TV and 1080p video is only 1366x768. Pricing and availability have yet to be involved.

## Android

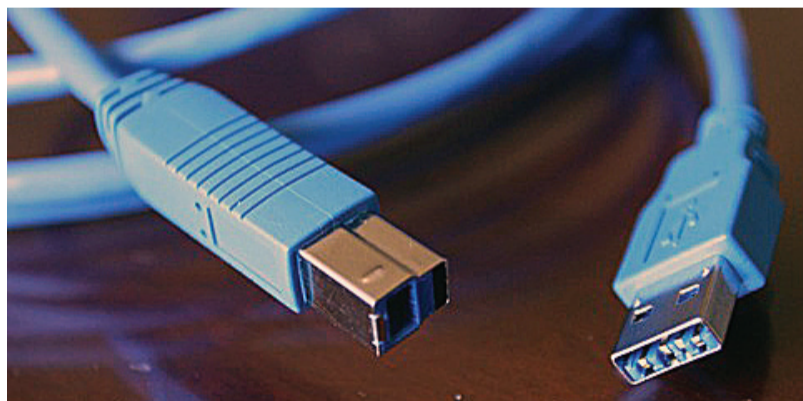


Google's Android powered 'superphone' the Nexus One.

Talking of Android, the growing maturity of the platform as an operating system for low-end computers and smaller devices was quite obvious at CES, with a slew of new Android-powered devices announced. Aside from Google's own Nexus One 'superphone', announced just before the start of the exhibition, AT&T announced it would carry five new Android handsets this year, with LG and Motorola also announcing new smartphones running the Linux-based OS.

The Android story didn't stop there either, with HP, Dell and Lenovo announcing netbooks and tablet PCs running the system. The emergence of Android at what is traditionally a Microsoft stomping ground is very noteworthy. Android could prove to be what many die-hard Linux enthusiasts have been waiting for: a widely adopted, consumer targeted, open source OS promoted by a major company. With at least a dozen new Android products on the way (and more to be announced at the Mobile World Congress in February), the OS looks like it's on the way to be truly competing with Apple and Microsoft for market share across platforms.

## USB 3.0

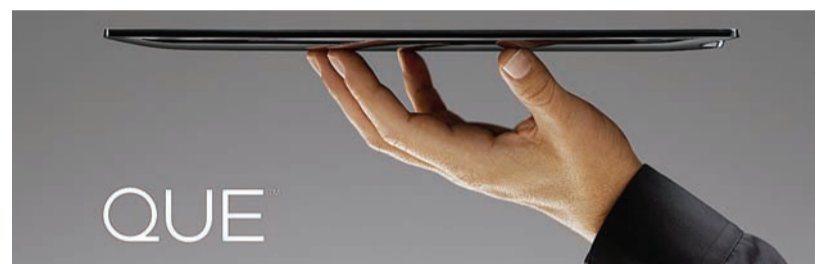


Could this be the one cable to rule them all or is Light Peak going to kick ass?

USB 3.0 finally seems to be making its way into consumer electronics, with the first officially certified USB 3.0 products set to hit shelves later this year. The specification, a fully backwards compatible successor to USB 2.0, makes use of a noticeably chunkier cable to offer data transfer rates of up to 3.2 Gbits (even with other overheads taken into account), an order of magnitude faster than the speeds USB 2.0 was supposed to provide.

While your standard USB 2.0 cables will still work on these newer ports, you'll be unable to take advantage of the speed boost - and your new USB 3.0 cables will not work on older ports. Is investing in the new standard worth it? Sony, Apple and Intel would like you to think otherwise - they have been working on a completely different technology, dubbed "Light Peak", that promises to offer faster speeds than USB 3.0 while connecting a much larger range of devices. Whether this will be enough to convince consumers to pay for the complete wiring overhaul that Light Peak requires is yet to be seen; there are no Light Peak devices due in the near future while USB 3.0 ready laptops from HP will be hitting shelves in the coming months.

## eReaders



The QUE makes Amazon's Kindle look like a not-so-cheap plastic toy.

The quest to make the humble sheet of paper obsolete continues with vigour this year at CES with the launch of yet more e-readers. The main focus for designers this year seems to not be on actually reading books but instead on what else they can do, with many new offerings able to play HD video, synchronise calendars and emails and even browse Twitter. Plastic Logic's QUE proReader pushes the envelope with its broad feature set which also includes opening most Microsoft Office documents, but unfortunately like most e-ink devices on show it suffers from really sluggish response and loading times. One company with the answer to that is display designer Pixel Qi, who comes to CES this year in Notion Ink's impressive ADAM tablet flaunting a new dual unit that sports a unique LCD that can be either full-colour and backlit or standard monochrome. Oh, and it actually gets easier to read in sunlight. The huge advantage of this is the ability to switch between the two at will, making it easy to view colour images or video and then switch to black and white for text reading that is just as crisp as Amazon's Kindle e-reader, which by now is looking rather long in the tooth.

## iPod Docks



Careful where you sit, it could be expensive.

Ah yes, the iPod dock. Once the must-have gadget for people with too much money, these glorified speakers now litter the electronics market and nowhere more so than CES. The whole iPod idea hasn't really changed much since last year, so the focus has been on innovation, which, as is typical when creativity is left unchecked, has produced some truly bizarre bits of hardware. This even winds up being ridiculously impractical in some cases, particularly with Branex's iTamTam docking stools. Putting aside for the moment that it's named like a women's sanitary product, this 'funky' 60s-style stool's docking point is right on the edge of the rim making it too easy to sit down and simply snap your iPod in half. Sony's Trik is another offering which is a bit of an odd choice in the design department, being reminiscent of massive 80s boom-boxes that got carried on shoulders. It does feature changeable skins though, and the speakers provide a not-too-shabby 75 watts. The true winner of weird this year though goes to Seiko with their 'Ocean Theatre' iPod dock. Its main selling point, in addition to the alarm clock and iPod attachment, is its ability to project marine life, such as whales and seaweed, onto your wall. If that wasn't lame enough, it does so with crappy pixelated images and at about five frames per second, which puts it on par with about 1980s technology. What it's doing at CES 2010 is anybody's guess.

# OUTDOOR CLUB

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# Dry-humping aliens; only in *Avatar*

Ed Knock Film Editor

## Avatar

Director James Cameron

Screenwriter James Cameron

Cast Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver

Running Time 162 mins

'I'm the King of the World!' declared James Cameron after the box-office smashing, Oscar hauling, behemoth of a film that was *Titanic*. With Hollywood wrapped around his little finger, Cameron looked poised to produce many a hit-film from his throne, but quicker than you can say Terrence Mallick, he disappeared. During the decade-long absence of his highness, many a young pretender has arisen to steal his crown, and whilst Michael Bay and Roland Emmerich's mediocre blockbusters have filled the void, the return of King Cameron seemed to herald the revitalisation of the action film genre. So just what has JC been doing for the past eleven years? We were promised the biggest revolution in cinema history since the Jazz Singer and a revolution he has certainly started, just how big it will be, only time can tell.

*Avatar* employs a new motion capture technology developed by Cameron and co. that allows the director to view the actors' performances with all

But has Cameron managed to break the recent trend of directors becoming carried away with CGI and ignoring the real substance of their films? Well yes, just about.

*Avatar* is spectacular to watch; the alien Planet of Pandora is vividly imagined with incredible attention to detail. Fantastic plants and luminous flowers populate the dense forests whilst vicious six-legged beasts roam the undergrowth and brightly coloured dragons swoop amongst floating mountains; Salvador Dali would be put to shame. What is amazing is that every part of the planet has been rendered on a computer but not once does the environment feel fake. This illusion is only slightly shaken by scenes involving the natives of the planet – the Na'vi – but I attribute this more to the fact that we are not used to seeing blue people instead of imperfections with the CGI.

The Na'vi resemble Native Americans in most aspects including a spiritual link to nature. But their perfect existence has been threatened with the arrival of the sky-people, aka humans. Far from a dying Earth, a mega-corporation has employed a private army to help them exploit Pandora's resources, specifically a rare mineral conveniently named 'unobtainium'. The film's hero Jake, a paraplegic ex-marine, is enlisted to join the 'Avatar Project' in which human's pilot home grown Na'vi bodies so they can breath the toxic atmosphere and interact with the locals.

pled, is very convincing. Zoe Saldana, last seen in *Star Trek*, gives the strongest performance of the film as the beautiful but fierce Neytiri, who's sent

**"Though somewhat far-fetched, downloading yourself into the universal conscience of the planet and praying to a giant glowing tree makes perfect sense"**

into a cascading dilemma of conflicting emotions and loyalties. The motion capture technique picks out Saldana's every subtle movement and expression, helping make Neytiri seem the most human character in the film. I'm not ashamed to say that her Na'vi accent and cat-like actions when angry, make her one of the sexiest characters to grace our screen in years.

Fittingly, the central two characters are the most developed and help keep *Avatar* focused however, the rest of the cast seemed to have wandered in from a variety of films. We have the gung-ho Colonel Quaritch, who is simply Colonel Kilgore plucked from the horror of 'Nam' in *Apocalypse Now* and thrown into the year 2154. Cameron even shamelessly acknowledges this by placing a mug of coffee in his hand during the gunship attack scene (only this time, there's no Wagner). When you need a macho woman these days, Michelle Rodriguez is top of the list but she struggles with some of the weakest lines in the script and her part is underused. Sigourney Weaver is reunited with Cameron for the first time since *Aliens*, her headstrong scientist is such a maverick that she smokes in space! And so the list of stereotypes goes on and on...

But James Cameron is the first to admit that the plot contains everything but originality. However, avant-garde

## Essential James Cameron Filmography



**The Terminator defined the 80's and put Arnie on the map. The special effects were, at the time, cutting edge and Cameron continued to push the boundaries in every one of his subsequent films. The imaginative action scenes combined with visceral violence gave the sci-fi genre a much needed boost. Arnie said he would be back and he was, with the arguably greater Terminator 2.**



**Feminist cinema had always been long winded affairs involving strong willed women who strive to be viewed as equals in blah blah blah. With Aliens, Cameron showed everyone how to empower the fairer sex: shove a fuck-off massive gun into Sigourney Weaver's hands and let her blow the crap out of dozens of vicious xenomorphs. Awesome and politically correct, what else do you want from a film?**

**"Brightly coloured dragons swoop amongst floating mountains; Salvador Dali would be put to shame"**

the special effects added immediately, thus moving CGI closer to conventional filmmaking. However, murmurs of discontent were heard as soon as details of the film emerged. Criticism of the 'photorealistic' effects and the very familiar plot were hurled at poor James, even meriting a whole South Park episode dedicated to highlighting the similarities to *Dances with Wolves* (smurfs). Interestingly JC didn't rise to the bait, confident with the knowledge that he had made something special.

Unintentionally infiltrating the local tribe, Jake's loyalties slowly switch from the classically unhinged colonel (played with menacing glee by Stephen Lang) to the Na'vi as he falls in love with their way of life and also a special lady alien.

The latest big discovery, Sam Worthington (*Terminator Salvation*), really comes to life when he's transformed into his 12 foot alter ego. His portrayal of a regression to an almost child-like state due to a new lease of life, in contrast to the depression of being crip-

films are not his craft and where he excels is in his attention to the structure, pacing and general tidiness of his films. When it comes to the story, we are in traditional Cameron territory; a love affair interrupted by the inconvenience of the threat of death and a finale climaxing with a duel between our hero and villain. So the plot may be slightly dull but he makes up for this with expert direction; there are no stupid 'action' camera tricks to confuse the audience or repetitive fight scenes which take up half the film. The carefully built set-pieces are masterfully handled; expert pacing combined with precisely fluctuating levels of suspense ensures that our attention is held throughout. Most importantly, at a running time of

2hrs 40mins, this film is never boring. His screenplays have never pushed boundaries but they are usually quite solid. Unfortunately *Avatar's* isn't so, and this is where the film falls flat. The weak script is peppered with clichés and the dialogue feels unnatural, preventing the characters from gaining any emotion depth. This was a big shame as I felt the wooden characterisation hampered the cast, who would typically have given stronger performances. There's the Na'vi language to consider as well, of which Cameron is apparently very proud, although it soon turns out that it is basically redundant as all the aliens speak English anyway. The film's mythology wisely sticks to a familiar fantasy format and thus avoids alienating audiences with technological jargon made infamous by the *Star Trek* films. Though somewhat far-fetched, downloading yourself into the universal conscience of the planet and praying to a giant glowing tree makes perfect sense.

However, not even the meanest of scrooges will be able to sit sour faced through the film, grumbling about the script. The sheer magnificence of the visuals will elevate you to a state of ecstasy, pushing any thoughts of the film's faults way to the back of your mind. But to experience the film's maximum beauty I strongly advise seeing it in 3D. Instead of being a gimmick, the 3D helps immerse you more into the kaleidoscopic world of Pandora. Ignore my negative criticisms; I'm just being a film snob and if you haven't seen *Avatar* yet then skip your next lecture and head down to the nearest cinema; you won't be disappointed.



## MUSIC

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



## Music snobbery

Kadhim Shubber Music Editor

A quick confession before I continue: I spent all of Christmas listening to **Empire of the Sun** and **Passion Pit** (and a little **Bing Crosby** of course.) Which brings me nicely onto the subject of this column, music snobbery.

Empire of the Sun and Passion Pit are, here comes that dreaded word, *mainstream*. They're so mainstream that the BBC recommended them to "the people" in their "Sound of 2009" list (although apparently Passion Pit were less successful, ultimately making them more credible; I call it the **Bombay Bicycle Club** effect).

You'll all have noticed the fight between people who enjoy mainstream music and people who are repelled by it this Christmas. It was the big thing this winter, in one corner, "RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE" bellows the announcer, and in the other corner, "JOE MCELDERY" (say it aloud and you'll realise how lame that sounds).

I'll admit that I did buy "Killing in the Name Of" but the whole exercise essentially involved telling a large chunk of the country, "the music that you listen to is SHIT. You don't know REAL music. THIS is music."

But ultimately, as one astute observer commented on *felix's* last.fm group (to break up our first online troll war; awh) "Isn't it funny how music is subjective?"

In the end, people will enjoy whatever music they happen to enjoy and telling people that their music isn't as good as the music you like is just pointless. I can't help but feel that the main

consequence of the RATM campaign is that Shelter got a whole lot of money and that every Christmas henceforth there's going to be a Facebook campaign for some old and distinctly unchristmassy song.

However, being snobby about music can be fun sometimes, like when you've heard about a band way before anyone else. In light of this revelation, here are the bands that I knew about before anyone else (kind of):

**The xx**  
**Mumford & Sons**  
**Florence & The Machine**

On the other hand, there are bands that I've listened to way after anyone else. **Wild Beasts** are a case in point. They released their album "**Two Dancers**" last year, we were sent the album for review and we even printed a review of said album. And I still didn't listen to it (I didn't write the review).

But I have listened to it now and for all those people who don't already know about **Wild Beasts** (very few I imagine) I give my humble recommendations that you look them up. Hear past the melodic falsetto vocals and you'll notice how deliciously dark and weird the lyrics are.

Just to redeem myself slightly, the mixtape that **Four Tet** gave out at his last DJ set at Plastic People is now on the internet, google "**Four Tet - Much Love to the Plastic People**". Also Jamie from **The xx** has released a dubstep remix of Basic Space, it's called "**Space Bass**". They're both worth checking out.

But you probably already know that.

# The BBC's Sound of 2010

Greg Power and Hugh Crail take a look at a few of the artists that will likely (and depressingly depending on your tastes) be heading the charts in the coming year



## Joy Orbison

Thank God, they got one right.

This producer and DJ is no longer underground dubstep's little secret and hopefully will start getting the commercial success he deserves.

Joy Orbison started DJing at the tender age of 12, back when he was still mortal and called Peter O'Grady. He then set up his own label (Doldrums) and has been honing his skills ever since.

If his Fabric sets and recent releases are anything to go by, he's only getting better.

## Gold Panda

Gold Panda is a Japan-obsessed, left-field, electronic artist who stands out from the BBC's selection by being truly original.

Lacking in mainstream appeal, his songs combine samples taken from charity shop VHS cassettes with low-key moody backing akin to Four Tet.

Perhaps the most important find on this list, he may not find fame and chart success in 2010 (his myspace doesn't display the marks of an intense PR push) but I bet he will be around much longer than most of the artists that made it onto this list.



## Daisy Dares You

The BBC wants us to believe that "Bubblem punk" is the sound of 2010. Seriously? This is a fucking joke.

This preppy sixteen year old sounds like Avril Lavigne with a guitar rammed up her ass.

Seriously there's nothing to say here. I'd rather receive a fisting by twelve coked-up baboons than listen to her shitty auto-tuned tween angst ever again.

IT'S ALREADY BEEN DONE! IT WASN'T EVEN THAT GOOD FIRST TIME AROUND!

## Devlin

It was bound to happen: the BBC found the Eminem of grime! By that I mean an angry little white dude with mad flow.

The beats are fast, the music is menacing and there's obviously lots of violent lyrics, some witty ones too. But there's nothing here that Wiley ain't done before.

But if you're not already massively into grime, why would you be remotely interested in Devlin? Oh wait... 'cos he's white. Thanks for treating us like retards, BBC.



## Ellie Goulding

The latest in the relentless wave of young female singer songwriters, like a zombie invasion with too much hair-spray and 80's shoulder pads... and I'm pretty sure you can only kill them by removing the head.

I probably wouldn't be too offended by Ms Goulding (she just follows in the hardly original footsteps of Little Boots without adding to or taking anything away from the formula) except she's recorded a horrible cover of Bon Iver's "Wolves" with shallow electronically distorted vocals... kill me please.

## The Drums

The Drums are the NME's tip for 2010 and like most of NME's tips, they have a hollow look in their eyes and sound a lot like The Smiths.

These New York 'cool kids' who sing about surfing are probably some record label's attempt at filling the time between now and the next MGMT album.

They'll probably turn out like their comrades in catchy whistling: Peter, Bjorn and John, and disappear after their one song is released about 4 times.



## Most listened to this week

1. Radiohead
2. Animal Collective
3. Florence + TM
4. Bloc Party
5. The xx
6. Coldplay
7. The Killers
8. Yeah Yeah Yeahs
9. Muse
10. Daft Punk

## Join felix Music on last.fm

I'm coming to accept the inevitable fact that Radiohead might end up being Number 1 every single week. If it continues I'm just going to print the chart from 2-11, which this week would mean Kings of Leon sneaking in... mmm maybe I won't then.

Kadhim



## Owl City

He has 20 million plays on myspace by re-imagining The Postal Service through the eyes of cretin.

He's already had a Number 1 song in America so we've really got to hand it to the BBC for spotting him.

This man is an idiot, one of his lyrics is as follows: '10 million fireflies, I'm weird cause I hate goodbyes.' See? Idiot.

If you have never listened to Postal Service then you probably won't understand the urge I have to track him down and punch him in the ovaries.

# Hot Chip's One Life Stand out in Feb

So while you guys were snowed in this Christmas, **Kadhim Shubber** chatted to **Al Doyle** about the new album

**Kadhim:** The new album sounds less brash than your previous records, it's a little more laid back.

during recording and the rehearsals we're doing now but it didn't fit, we felt like we didn't really need it.

**Al Doyle:** It's been a little strange hearing the responses that we've been getting to the album. The very first interview that we did was with Pitchfork and they kept saying how low-key the album is which confused us a little.

**K:** The album feels a lot less silly than some of the stuff you've released before, I think it's a synthesis of what's come before. There are some songs, a lot more comfortable with themselves.

**Al:** It's true, we don't have any tracks like "Shake a fist" from the previous album. I think it's a synthesis of what's come before. There are some songs, well actually the two that have been released so far, One Life Stand and Take It In, that you might call archetypal Hot Chip songs. Ultimately you've got the pop song structure, verse, bridge, chorus but we've tried as usual to inject some strangeness, to make it more interesting. I don't think we've changed our formula too much but our execution has definitely improved.

**K:** The whole thing feels more like a complete record as well.

**Al:** Our previous albums I think worked well as collections of songs but a lot of the feedback that we got was that people were confused as to why we moved around so much stylistically.

**K:** That wasn't what you guys were aiming for I guess.

**Al:** We're all about making music that people can dance to but we've always had a different idea about what constitutes a groove. I don't think we've ever been brash but it's a good word because what some people call electro these days is just brash noise, a sort of repetitive annoying noise, there's no other way to describe it. But that's not the kind of music that we've ever wanted to make.

**K:** You seemed to have dropped the heavier guitar elements that you had in "Made in the Dark". Was there a specific reason for that?

**Al:** We were experimenting with that

I don't think that many artists would take that on board but we challenged ourselves to create something more cohesive.

**K:** The songs on this album sound like they come from a deeper place emotionally, I'm really enjoying "Brothers" but compared with say "Wrestler", there's something different going on.

**Al:** [laughs] I think Wrestler is probably the most specific song that we've ever written but I'm glad that you like "Brothers" because it would probably be a pastiche of a love song if there wasn't genuine emotion behind it.

**K:** Keeping on that idea, where does the impulse to juxtapose upbeat melodies with more melancholy lyrics come from? For example, the Wiley cover that you did made "Wearing My Rolex" sound heartfelt.

**Al:** We ended up making it sound like he's upset about losing his rolex [laughs]. But more seriously, it's a tradition in a lot of genres. You look back to Motown and Gospel music from the South and move through Chicago and Detroit and the house music coming out from there; the same feeling is there. The music can be upbeat, and even the lyrics can be uplifting but it retains a depressing quality. It's not a magic trick but the interplay definitely creates something interesting for the listener, which is why we like to do it and which is why it's quite common throughout a lot of genres. It gives the listener something deeper to come back to, instead of the kind of songs you get from the Sugababes.

**K:** There's one song specifically from the album that I wanted to talk about. I was a bit surprised when I listened to "I Feel Better" because it sounds like the kind of music that you hear on the RnB club scene.

**Al:** We deliberately wanted to make that kind of song, we thought it would be funny to jump on the auto-tune bandwagon but waaayyyy late. But the lyrics for most of the song are quite dark which I think contrasts well with

the type of song it is, but when we got to the chorus we thought we'd go all out and use the most clichéd dance lyrics we could imagine. I guess it's just another play with the idea of contrast, between verse and chorus, major and minor chords in that song.

**K:** You're touring with The xx in the U.S. for a short while this March, are you a fan of theirs?

**Al:** Well I don't know their music very well, I don't have their album but I've been listening to some of their songs quite a bit recently and I really enjoy it. We wanted to put together a really exciting bill and they're getting quite big in the U.S. so it's worked out quite well.

**K:** In your wildest dreams, who would you want to tour with? And you can't choose LCD Soundsystem.

**Al:** I guess you've got to think about who would be most fun to tour with so you've got to go way back for that, maybe the Happy Mondays? It was quite cool a few years back because Neil Young was playing the same festivals in Australia that we were, which was kind of like touring with him. It was nice seeing Neil Young every day.

**K:** Everyone at the moment is giving their recommendations for artists to look out for in 2010, have you got any?

**Al:** There's this artist that Felix and I are producing called "Planning to Rock". The girl's name is Janine Rostrom and she's done some work with The Knife as well. We always mention as well, Grovesnor. The guy's name is Rob Smoughton, he's actually drumming for us on our upcoming tour. Their both pretty great, check them out.

**K:** Do you ever find that it's difficult to juggle your commitments to Hot Chip and LCD Soundsystem?

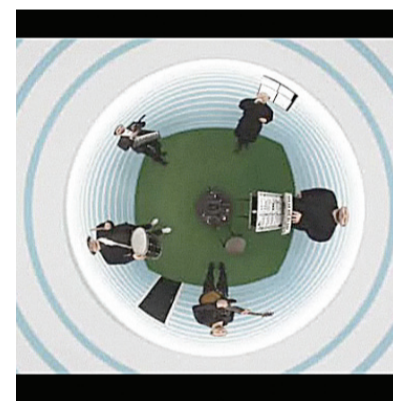
**Al:** I do actually, I'm having to miss out on the tour this year. I'm doing some rehearsals with them so I might be able to join them later on in the year but it hasn't been decided yet so it's a bit shit.



I don't understand but you can buy them at [thetrilogytapes.com](http://thetrilogytapes.com)



I don't understand this album cover either but the album's out on February 1st. It's called "One Life Stand"



I don't understand... O.k. I do, it's the music video for One Life Stand which is on youtube now. They pointed a camera at a mirror ball hanging in the middle of the room to get this effect. Pretty good eh? Well I like it anyway.



Al Doyle is also in LCD Soundsystem don't you know?

**MAPS**  
DIE HAPPY, DIE SMILING  
UNIVERSAL  
SINGLE

**SHEARWATER**  
THE GOLDEN ARCHIPELAGO  
MATADOR  
ALBUM

**THE MACCABEES (FEAT ROOTS MANUVA)**  
EMPTY VESSELS  
FICTION  
SINGLE

**FYFE DANGERFIELD**  
FLY YELLOW  
MOON  
POLYDOR  
ALBUM

**CHARLOTTE GAINSBORG**  
IRM  
BECAUSE/ELEKTRA  
ALBUM

The arrangement of this song is fairly simple: a sort of repetitive distorted bass firing at you, combined with ethereal vocals and an ascendant piano solo in the middle of the track. It actually makes for good listening but the lyrical content assumes the pop position of, find two lines that rhyme and repeat throughout the track. It's taken from his 2009 album "Turning the Mind" and I can't imagine the formula stretching for 12 tracks. - **Kadhim Shubber**

Shearwater manage to attain a medieval atmosphere to their music without the mindless cacophony and mumbblings of bands like Sons of Noel and Adrian. They make unobtrusive use of the bongo drums and at times begin to hit the seamlessness that made Fleet Foxes debut so appealing. The songs aren't particularly "hooky" so you've got to put some effort in. This album is unlikely to reward the disinterested listener. - **Kadhim Shubber**

This collaboration between skinny indie pop and one of Britain's most interesting rappers almost, almost works. The first minute or so, where Roots Manuva raps over the dark ambience of The Maccabees single "No Kind Words" is convincing but then you realise that there's been almost no remixing at all and you're just listening to The Maccabees. I don't dislike them but this 'remix' doesn't add very much. - **Kadhim Shubber**

The first solo effort from the Guillelots' front-man was always going to be unpredictable. The album opens with a bang, with a track that sounds like Paolo Nutini having a wrestling match with the Scissor Sisters but the rest of the album is stripped back to a bare minimum, which allows his skills as a songwriter to shine. Although the album doesn't recapture the manic energy with which it starts, this is a genuinely superb record. - **Duncan Casey**

Up until now Charlotte Gainsbourg has been famous for two reasons: having a crazy-ass dad and slitting her clit off in a crazy-ass movie. Her third studio effort "IRM" was written and produced by the great Beck, which has significantly improved the quality of her songs. The result is a collection of acoustic balladry and quality pop numbers, including an insanely catchy duet with Beck, "Heaven Can Wait". - **Greg Power**

# Mice bled for Yeasayer's *Odd Blood*

Kadhim Shubber and Jamie Fraser quizzed them about the massacre, charitable celebrities and silver fists

**Felix:** Why did you decide to release *Ambling Alp* for free?

**Ira Wolf Tuton:** We want as many people to hear the music we're making as possible. We're pretty aware of the industry environment that we live and work in and we're trying to react to it as it changes. So we don't have the luxury to rely on massive million dollar marketing schemes or young pretty faces. We're weathered, handsome, musicians that need to give a little to get a little. So we give our singles out and if you like 'em then maybe we see you at shows or maybe you buy the record - hopefully you wanna help us keep making records. Your money ain't going to my castle yet. We're just trying for longevity. I wanna make more records.

**F:** Is the video about man (and woman) kind's search for the almighty silver fist? (see right - Ed)

**Ira:** It's whatever you want it to be my man.

**F:** How did the group harmonies first come about? would you argue that they're a focal point of your sound?

**Ira:** They definitely were for the first record. The Strokes and Interpol were the archetype when we recorded *All Hour Cymbals*. We probably reacted against that as much as we found common ground with our interests in different choral traditions from around the world whether it was Sacred Harp Singers or Missa Luba. I think vocal and harmonic music was really important for all three of us in our musical upbringing and helped inform all of our musical vocabulary, whether it was being turned on by singing along to something as ubiquitous as the Beatles or trying to understand some more obscure singing styles from around the world. I think we departed from a focus on choral arrangement on *Odd Blood* but the vocals have remained a core element. We wanted to give a nod to the production techniques of some of the more contemporary popular music that we love and listen to but until now, hadn't directly engaged. But that was this album. I don't want to be



Alright, you can do this, [exhale], OK steady breathing. Whatever you want it to be, whatever you want it to be... [exhale] nope no idea..

in a band that casually regurgitates a 'sound'. We have so many more directions that we can explore. That's what I get off on.

**F:** Who's got the best voice in the group?

**Ira:** Probably whoever's giving the interview. But I do think that one of our strengths is that we have three distinct vocal styles and tones to play with. It opens up our ability to play with tambour and arrangement that much more. It's really the benefit of having three instruments as opposed to one.

**F:** How did you get involved in the 'Dark was the Night' compilation CDs?

**Ira:** We met the guys from The National when we played back to back at a festival in Sweden. A few months later Bryce and Aaron came to us and asked if we wanted to be involved with the project. We were surprised to be asked, but obviously excited to help with the red hot charity in any way we could. We had played that song live since before the first record was released, so it was a good opportunity to finally get it down.

Are there any plans to get involved in the same sort of HIV awareness work again?

**F:** Are there any other charities or movements that are close to your heart?

**Ira:** I would love to be involved with a number of charities. The fact of the matter is that we need to attain a little more success before we can really begin to have the luxury to "give back". That being said, I think an artist is in a tricky position when it comes to bringing awareness to any number of issues. Good intentions can sometimes be misconstrued and strong

egos and personalities can take away from the issue at hand. Other times in the most insidious of instances, some people in the public eye use a tie to a random charity as a chance to wipe their slate clean and clear their conscious only to move on and back to their life. Of course there are exceptions. But at the base level I am a musician. I am not a politician, and I am not an activist. I care deeply about many many issues and I commend those people that devote their entire lives to changing things for the better for all of us. I can only hope that I make enough money in my life to be able to help support those people in their missions.

**F:** Did you record your new album like your debut (both at home and in the studio over a long period of time) or was it a much quicker process?

**Ira:** We spent three months living in a home studio in Woodstock, NY. That was where the lion's share of the work was done. It was a different experience from the recording of the first album primarily because we had no day jobs. Our entire job was to make this record. We had a live work space that was far enough from our loved distractions in Brooklyn, but close enough to them that we could easily get back every week or two. We work pretty slowly and have no real set method but that's both the enjoyment as well as the challenge of it. We revised, arranged and threw things away and started things over and beat our heads together until we had some good meat. In May we got out of the studio and played some shows while working out some of the songs with our live band. Then we got back to a studio in Manhattan to mix

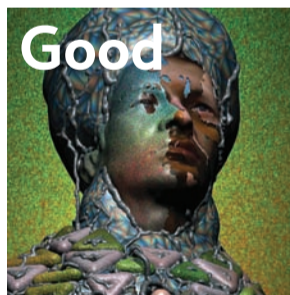
and add some additional recording for a month.

**F:** Was there a conscious attempt to make your music more accessible?

**Ira:** We had no idea what we were doing on our first record. It was total trial by fire and we're still learning. That "sound" was the sound of a chinese knock-off blue mic that 'fell off the back of a truck' running straight into the computer with no pre-amp. We corrected all our shortcomings with reverb and delay effects and all that translated somehow into a cohesive sound. On the new record we fortunately had the luxury to use a lot more equipment so we made a strong effort to really be aware of what was the best tool to use for each situation. From the outset we knew we wanted to make a record that explored more dance production techniques. When our drums got big, we didn't want them to sound like a drum circle. We wanted them to sound like a slamming singular intelligent robotic fist pounding a hole through your chest. I love music that does that; music that makes you dance, and we didn't touch on that on the first record. There's also something to be said for what we want to play live. I want to be able to sweat and watch people dance for the next year and a half. But hey - if you like that first record, it will always be there to listen to. We don't have to redo it.

**F:** I read that you killed a lot of mice when you were recording the album, are you going to dedicate "Odd Blood" to the mice who bravely lost their lives in the pursuit of musical excellence?

**Ira:** There's nothing brave about something that waits till you're sleeping to come and steal your food and spread its diseases. Mice have no place in a house and they need their necks snapped by snap traps. Throw 'em outside 'n' let the cats eat 'em.



The world seems a lot simpler when you see it through Ira's eyes. The image on the left is the album cover for *Odd Blood*. Why does everything have to be weird?



The new album "Odd Blood" is out on February 8th on Mute label. You can also download their single "Ambling Alp" for free. Just google it. Check out the video on youtube too, it's very, very strange...

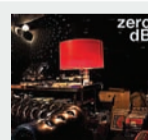
PAPERPLAIN  
ENTERING PALE  
TOWN  
DESTRUCTIBLE  
ALBUM



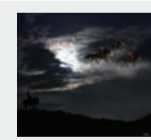
LIGHTSPEED  
CHAMPION  
MARLENE  
DOMINO  
ALBUM



ZERO DB  
ONE OFFS,  
REMIXES AND  
B-SIDES  
TRU THOUGHTS  
ALBUM



VAUGHN  
MONROE  
GHOST RIDERS IN  
THE SKY  
SINGLE



ESMEE DENTERS  
OUTTA HERE  
TENNMAN  
ALBUM



The songs on this debut were apparently mostly recorded when the artist (Helen Page) was just 16 and despite showing talent, the childishness shows. It fills the space between cute lyrics about hanging out at home and a slight melancholy folk ambience but then again, that's hardly the most groundbreaking combination conceived. It's like if Laura Marling released the music that she wrote at 16. But there's definite promise here. - Kadhim Shubber

This is an indie pop gem, full of anthemic swoosh and grandeur. It's taken from his rumoured and as yet unnamed second album, due for release this year. Even for Dev Hynes, the lyrics are strange. "Everybody knows you want a baby?" well okay... There's also a cover of Serge Gainsbourg on the b-side and so while it isn't as good as "Everyone I know is listening to crunk" (but then what is?) it is certainly worth a listen. - Alexandra Ashford

Following the success of their thrilling "Bongos, Beeps and Basslines", pioneering underground electro-jazz duo zero dB return with a wicked collection of unreleased material, an essential listen for any crossover dance music fan. These bass-heavy nu-jazz remixes would work magic in any electro club, shooting Brazilian carnival madness through your brain and kicking the plethora of monotonous dance "artists" straight in the nuts. - Greg Power

White Rabbits are a Brooklyn-based indie-pop band, a damn fine one too. Produced by Spoon's Britt Daniel, their second album "It's Frightening" clocks in at just 35 minutes, leaving no room for filler.

From the pounding rhythm of "Percussion Gun" to the bittersweet final ballad "Leave It at the Door" the polyrhythmic songs flow with ease, displaying a maturity all too rare in the indie world. - Greg Power

Esmee Denters is a star in her native Netherlands, given a record deal by the Prince of Pop himself, Justin Timberlake. Not only is her first album produced by JT, but he also sings backing vocals, plays instruments and beatboxes on most tracks. Esmee has an impressive voice, but besides JT's electro-pop beats and two catchy tunes nothing here sounds any different from every Beyonce/Rihanna album. - Greg Power

take me to the

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# The streets lined with Turkish Delights

Chris Sim found that there probably wasn't enough room in the belly department for all that Istanbul had to offer.

I have to say that there is no other city like this anywhere else on Earth. Being a city which encompasses both Europe and Asia really does represent a fusion of east and west, with traditional Islamic values standing side by side with those from neighbouring Europe. It is also a harmony of old and new, with a slick new tram system riding amongst the archaic monuments of the magnificent Hagia Sofia and the Blue Mosque. Istanbul is fast becoming a slick metropolis with every modern comfort, and whilst this city spoils you with every international cuisine you could think of, I'm going to write about the local food which really encapsulates the spirit of this city.

I'll start with a Turkish classic, Turkish delight. You'll find this everywhere, and whilst most shops and market stalls will produce those of quality exceeding what we'd find on our British shores, in my opinion, it's worth checking out a chain of shops which go by the name of Gulluoglu, whose produce will really get your tastebuds dancing. Try their double pistachio delight, whose partnership of pistachio pieces enrobed in a classically sweet, sugar-dusted jelly creates a wonderful textural balance of crunch and chew. It's also worth giving their baklava a try, a pastry-based dessert found throughout Turkey and the Middle East. Turkish baklava differs from Lebanese baklava in the sense that it is richer and a tad sweeter. (This is solid evidence that it is possible to load something with more butter and sugar than Lebanese baklava). More importantly, it is vital to eat Turkish baklava fresh, for even a few hours on the plane will ensure that their crunchiness is hastily converted to sogginess. A must try is their green diamond shaped baklava brimming with pistachio tones.

Describing the street food in Istanbul in one word is not easy. Amazing, divine, brilliant, all these words don't quite do it justice. Stroll around the tourist or nightlife areas and you won't have to walk far for a treat to come to you. In winter, freshly roasted, beautifully sweet chestnuts are on display, whereas in summer, a slightly chewier version of ice cream known as 'dondurma' is a crowd pleaser. Mussels, stuffed with rice and herbs are also a must try at just 50 cents each. Or try these shell-dwellers in deep fried form on a skewer, whose juicy bodies covered in an ever-so-light crispy batter, laden with an aromatic but not overpowering garlic sauce, makes for an exceedingly mouthwatering com-



ination. And then there's your classic kebabs, where the average doner is something truly tasty and far less greasy than what you'd find at your local kebab house. But something you really cannot afford to miss out on is a simple fish sandwich known as 'balik ekmek', which can be found in Eminonu on the European side and in Kadikoy on the Asian side. Sold in sandwich stalls, they are pretty hard to miss, for your nose will be alerted to their presence by picking up the sweetly seductive whiffs of pan-seared fish hovering in the air. Amazingly fresh mackerel (you can even see it being fished on nearby bridges) is pan fried, placed in a wonderfully soft ciabatta-like bread roll, with onions, lettuce and lemon juice added to it. Fish sandwiches don't get better than this.

The variety of Turkish restaurants will keep you entertained for days on end. Gastronomers should pay culinary



Your sense of smell will guide you in embarking on a pilgrimage to these shrines honouring the fine art of cooking the freshest fish. Well, at least mine did.

## ISTANBUL'S FOODIE HIGHLIGHTS

### Balik Ekmek

World's best fish sandwich for two quid

### Ciya Sofrasi

Restaurant whose chef is not afraid of big, big flavours

### Mussels

Stuffed with spicy rice or deep-fried with a garlic sauce: cheap, omnipresent, and cheerful

homage to Ciya Sofrasi in Kadikoy, where the proprietor (who is known locally as a culinary Indiana Jones) gathers unique flavours from the frontiers of Turkey and delivers them straight to your plate. Some of their vegetarian options really did stand out, such as their stuffed dried vegetables, which incorporated eggplant, rice, peppers, mint and garlic into a uniquely entertaining combination. Also try some of their desserts; their 'sobiyet' (green baklava shaped as triangles) was memorable and their pumpkin dessert was, well, interesting. For a fine dining experience, head to the restaurant inside the Topkapi Palace known as Konyali Lokantasi, where, whilst the prices could be a tiny bit kinder to your wallet, the quality of their traditional Ottoman food is certainly worth it, particularly if you're a fan of lamb. If you'd like some alcohol with your cuisine then head to the side streets off Istiklal Caddesi, where if you eat in a type of restaurant known as a 'meyhane' you'll find 'meze' (small tapas-like dishes) aplenty accompanied by even more 'raki' (an aniseed flavoured spirit).

A hard day's eating should be rewarded with some relaxation, so after satisfying your stomach, why not head into Tophane where you can have shisha (known as 'nargile' in Turkey) with friendly locals and enjoy some indulgently sweet pistachio coffee. Or head to a hamam, where you can get a traditional Turkish bath and massage. I'd recommend Cemberlitas hamami,

whose stunning stone baths are the perfect setting for a thorough cleaning by their firm-handed staff. Just a word of warning, such a meticulous cleaning can hurt just a tad. To conclude, this city will not only bring some truly sublime tastes to your palette, it will also ensure your other senses don't feel too left out either.

## 'Fish in Bread'

Come to think about it, this is actually a student dish.

### Ingredients:

Mackerel fillets  
Turkish bread/ Ciabatta  
Olive Oil  
Lettuce  
Tomatoes  
Onions  
Lemon Juice

### Cooking procedure, in true Gordon Ramsay style:

1. Pan. Heat olive oil.
2. Mackerel. Fillet with knife. Salt and Pepper. Pan fry.
3. Half bread. Fill with fish, lettuce, tomatoes & onions.
4. Lemon juice to taste.
5. Balik Ekmek, or 'Fish in Bread', DONE.

felixonline.co.uk

felixOnline

Food page coming online soon...

Imperial College  
London

imperial  
college  
union

sport Imperial



Munch  
Healthy  
Monday



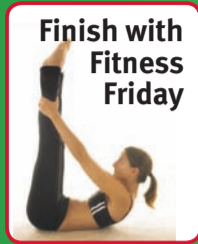
Bike  
Tuesday



Wellbeing  
Wednesday



Try It  
Thursday



Finish with  
Fitness  
Friday



25 - 29 January

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# A New Year in the Scottish Highlands

It may have been  $-12^{\circ}$  but the Fellwanderers made the most of their Winter Tour to Glen Nevis, by **Ande Elliott**



**O**n the 27th of December, 11 Fellwanderers set off, ready to start our epic journey to the snow covered north.

We got our first views of the West Highlands driving past Loch Lomond and through the famous Glencoe. We arrived at the bunkhouse at 10:30, after a 13 hour drive. However, in the greatest traditions of Imperial, we decided to start drinking. We then went to bed slightly bemused, but sort of ready to brave whatever Scotland threw at us.

After little sleep and no hangover on behalf of Nathaniel (the man is a machine) we started our first day. We got up at 7 and started walking at 8, to maximise the 7 or so hours of daylight. After a short drive in the minibus, we started on the first hike of the trip, a nice horseshoe around a ridge.

We started on a nice gentle path, then using the 'right to roam' land to its full awesomeness, cut our way up a steep slope in the snow using the ice axes and poles to their full extent.

After this effort we felt a break was in order, and stopped at the top of the hill admiring the awesome views of Ben Nevis in the snow. We had a snow ball fight at the top of the hill, and wrestled in the snow, (no gayness involved honest). Then we continued along the ridge in snow varying between several inches and 2 feet.

Whilst waiting for everyone to catch up, Ande, learning to map read ('I'm sure there should be a forest around here') decided that putting a plastic map case on an icy slope was a good idea. It slid all the way down the hill we had just climbed, and he had to run down to retrieve it while everyone fell around laughing.

Continuing on, we climbed the pinnacle and progressed to our first Munro (special Scottish mountain above 3000 feet) Stob Ban. On the way down from Stob Ban we had our first survival bagging of the trip. For those uninitiated in the ways of the Fellwanderer, this involves taking a thick plastic orange sack, that you can sleep in if you get stuck in the mountains, and using it as a sledge. Unfortunately the snow was too powdery and we didn't get very much speed on the slopes. Progressing around the horseshoe we climbed another Munro, Mullach Coirean, then

descending into a forest. The sun was setting and with a howl from the north, the first monster of our trip emerged, a Polish person with a new head torch. Rafal took large amounts of enjoyment from blinding anyone at the wrong place at the wrong time, (working on the principle that When Mister Head Torch is not on, Then Mister Head Torch is not your friend).

Getting back to the bunkhouse, we enjoyed the first of many Morrisons-based meals with their yellow goodness. Luckily we had the excellent chef, Heather, in charge and so the Spag bol worked out very well. Our pet vegetarian and president Alex even said to everyone's surprise that the veggie mince (that you have to boil rather than fry!) was nice.

After our rather epic first day we decided to do something that in Alex's words was low level, so we started very low and ended up at the summit of the seventh highest mountain in the UK. After a short minibus ride, we set off walking, and ignoring the danger sign on the side of the path we proceeded along an icy track through a forest. Emerging from the forest, we walked through a valley admiring the snow covered hills on either side of us. We climbed up to the foot hills of Aonach Beag with cries of 'They're taking the hobbits to Isengard', traversing around a smaller hill to get to the saddle point of Aonach Beag. However, we didn't realise that the hill was so slippery. So even with ice axes, several people required help from the cramponed Nathaniel to get them across. We stopped for lunch at the saddle only to realise that the smaller hill we were going around had been protecting us from the bitter wind which started flicking up powder snow into our faces. Then after the shortest lunch in the history of man, we set off on the 'final ascent' to Aonach Beag. We continued to the top and were rewarded with awesome views of the winter wonderland that surrounded us. Continuing down, we reached the icy sections in the dark, convincing ourselves that moonlight was better than torches.

With ice on the roads there were a few worried looks from the Fellwanderers as the bus skidded around corners. We finished the day with another excellent meal of bangers and mash,

followed by more of Heather's cake (cutting it with several impressive rebounds from a spear).

The fourth day was our rest day, with an optional walk to see the north face of Ben Nevis from Coire Leis. As a testament to the Fellwanderers or possibly because of the pictures of the face on the walls of the kitchen, all but 4 did this epic walk. We started from the hut and walked up to the saddle of Ben Nevis. Once we hit the saddle we were again hit by strong winds throwing powder snow in our faces, so much so that we had to face the other way when the wind gusted. We then traversed around to get into the valley of the north face. Once we got there the strong winds intensified, funnelling through the valley and making walking more difficult.

Continuing along the valley we noticed a flare going up on the north face and a rescue helicopter flying over to it. Thinking there must be a training exercise on the mountain we continued on losing the path in the deep snow. Alex started making a new path through the snow for us all to follow; suddenly, we all heard a loud crack as the ice under Alex's boots broke, leaving him in a foot of icy water. Then Chris, thinking he had found a better path through, also sunk into the water. Apparently even in frozen Scotland we cannot get away from the Bogwanderers.

When we finally reached the hut and got changed, Ande took stock of the kitchen. Despite getting there a lot earlier than everyone else he still wasn't finished making shopping lists. Alex, amid protests from Heather and Ande, claimed he knew exactly what to buy.

This seemed to amount to needing 'lots of hand waving' amounts of potatoes, pasta and other food. So with pained looks from the physicists and mathematicians we set off to Fort William for our afternoon off. We had 3 hours to relax there. However there really was nothing to do. We all eventually ended up in the Morrison's café, while Alex, Ande and Heather shopped, finding that Alex's hand waving actually meant he had no idea. Alex, frustrated with stupidly specific instructions from Ande such as 'We need 1.125kg of rice' wandered off on his own to find the Haggis. Nathaniel bought two more bottles of Whisky.

We also had to say goodbye to Yvonne that day as she was going to meet some of her friends for New Year's. She was replaced by a new Fellwanderer convert Beccy. Getting back we discovered to our delight that the veggie meal planned had been cancelled and replaced by Fajitas. After the meal we chatted to some of the other people staying in the bunkhouse, to discover that the helicopters we had seen earlier had been called to try to rescue a party of 3 climbers on the north face. Only one made it back alive and it was a sobering to think how quickly the mountains can turn against people who were less than a ½ kilometre from us.

Waking up the next day, we followed the same route for the first half mile looking at the steep hill we had climbed earlier; thinking about how much worse it looked now the snow had been blown off it.

Upon reaching the top of the valley, we had the most epic survival bagging session of the trip, which then degenerated into a snow wrestling match. This, I must point out, despite being described as 'erotic snow play' by certain members of the party, was completely heterosexual.

We then followed the West Highland Way along for several miles, going through a forest in the dark ending up on a hill side overlooking the lights of the bustling metropolis that is Fort William.

Starting our New Year's Eve party, Chris, Alex and Nathaniel became improvised Scotsmen by constructing kilts out of survival bags and towels and running around shouting FREEDOM! We then started a game of 'Fellwanderers' ring of fire. This turned into less of a drinking session and more

into a cross-dressing party, ending up with Chris wearing a tight top and pants, and Ande in a low cut top and leopard skin leggings!

Luckily New Year came and everyone got distracted by the countdown and afterwards didn't seem to remember anything. With the new year seen in we all headed back to the bunkhouse, with the more extreme people staying up to continue ring of fire. We were joined by an awesome Scottish guy, who traded our President Alex's jeans for a kilt, and I can confirm for all of our female readers that he did go full Scottish, swinging his underwear around his head before throwing it away Full Monty style. The game continued for a while with large amounts of good whisky mixed with 'olde English' cider being consumed by all until we all stumbled off to bed.

The next day, we split into 3 groups; one group did a river walk, ending up in a pub where we waited the previous day, enjoying hot chocolate. Ande and Heather did a short walk into Fort William, and our beloved president stayed in bed all day recovering from his pains. Towards the end of the day we managed to convince him that there was more to the world than his duvet, and he joined us for dinner and more drinks. Due to our president's illness (vegetarianism not being hung-over), we finished the day with our sole veggie meal Cous Cous, to Chris' displeasure.

On the last hiking day of the trip we finally managed to make it up Ben Nevis. We flew up the first few sections that we had walked before to the saddle. As we were climbing the next few sections the clouds started moving in around us, giving us brief glimpses of the amazing panorama around us. We reached the top in good time, and had first lunch there. Nathaniel brought up beer to the top and had the highest can of beer in the UK. We reached the saddle early and decided to do a bit more walking. We climbed Meall an t-Suide which is on the Ben Nevis ridge, our last walk of the trip.

I would just like to thank all of the people that made this trip amazing: Alex who did an excellent job organising this trip, Heather who did an fantastic job with the food, the minibus drivers, and quite frankly everyone for putting up with me. I regret that I cannot mention everyone by name in article. We all really enjoyed this trip and I hope you enjoyed reading about it. I hope to see you on a Fellwanderers trip in the future!



There's nothing like an ice-axe fight to keep you warm



## HinduSoc put Hinduism under trial in 'Why Do We...?'

**W**hy Do We...? There are many speculations about Hinduism – for example, why do Hindus worship idols and why do Hindus have so many creation stories? So, for one evening, Imperial College Hindu Society put Hinduism on trial.

The renowned guest speaker Rishi Handa stood proud in the court room to defend Hindu Dharma. In this interactive workshop, Rishi answered to the crimes on behalf of all Hindus, giving answers to questions that no one had dared to ask before. Hindus are guilty of many acts; many are not even aware of why they do them.

When entering the lecture theatre, you could instantly feel the atmosphere swimming with questions. There was a huge turnout for this event, by people of various cultures, religions and races all having a certain curiosity around the unanswered questions surrounding Hinduism. It was time to understand why Hindus have a caste system and why they are still male-dominated.

The lawyer, Anand Pandit, accused the defendant of being guilty to the following crimes: worshipping idols, being polytheistic, being ignorant in light of the suffering of others and segregating society according to heritage and gender. The defendant argued from his perspective, sometimes adding quotes from sacred books. For example, when arguing the polytheistic nature of Hinduism, he quoted Krishna: "Those who are devotees of other gods and who worship them with faith actually worship only Me... but they do so in a wrong way" (Bhagvad Gita - chapter 9, verse 23).

As the jury, the audience had the

opportunity to probe the defendant further, turning the event into an open-floor discussion. Many of the audience were intrigued with the topic surrounding male dominance and why women are seen as being impure when menstruating.

This was then followed by a Q&A session, whereby members of the audience asked various questions, including whether or not sex before marriage is seen as acceptable in the Hindu culture. The defendant stated that how someone perceives sex before marriage is a value judgement. However, it is regarded as highly spiritual in the Hindu culture as it is the joining of two people, both physically and mentally, in a completely new respect. Rishi's beliefs are that you should only have one sexual partner in your lifetime – and this should be your spouse. Having sexual partners before marriage and then marrying someone different cheapens the spirituality of sex – especially as the person who is not a virgin can be seen as 'impure'.

To help encourage the audience to ask questions, there was a prize for the person who asked the best or most inquisitive question. Co-president Minesh Parmar had a brilliant question about why all of the priests have dreadlocks! He had been planning to ask it for about 2 weeks but unfortunately, on the day, his nerves got the better of him and he was unable to follow through. Para was awarded with the best question inquiring about the inequality of women within Hinduism.

In my eyes, Rishi was able to justify the actions of Hindus from his own perspective of Hinduism and its obligations. However, as the answers were his views and his interpretation of the



scriptures, I feel that for the audience to have benefited the most from this event, they needed to have had their own opinions on the topics.

This would have helped to decide whether his answers were put into the correct context, thus allowing a deeper understanding of the issues raised. After all, the audience were the jury

and so the final verdict rested on their shoulders.

After the event there was delicious Indian food available for all those who attended – samosas, dhokla and a variety of fruit juices. It was deemed a complete success because of all the enquiring questions the audience asked and the variety of faiths that attended.

The hard work that the Hindu Society's committee had put into the event was evident, and it is an event that the committee is definitely considering holding again. This way, even more unanswered questions will have their answers revealed.

Email: [hindu@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:hindu@imperial.ac.uk)

## A Gliding Club Winter over the lochs and hills of Scotland

**D**uring the holiday period, Imperial College Gliding Club visited Portmoak, Scotland to sharpen up our skills. Whilst visiting Scotland during the winter may sound stupidly cold, the airfield we flew at has certain features which recommend it: notably the two ridges of Benarty and Bishop. For the record, it was stupidly cold.

Now, it may not sound like a sensible thing to fly around large crashable hills, however gliders can use them to stay airborne for far longer than anything possible at our home airfield of Lasham, in winter. There is some method to our madness. Portmoak is also incredibly pretty.

The tour started with an excessively long and boring journey on the 27th of December followed by the ritual visit to Mr Chan's Chinese restaurant. We can but recommend it.

The next day saw our first flights, with our instructor, Andy Cockerell, taking the lion's share for his instructor check-flights. During the evening, we watched the film Avatar at the local cinema. Not to ruin the plot, but nice graphics, pity about the plot: although I appear to be in a minority in my judgement of this film. Apparently

glider pilots are the jackdaws of aviation with a great love of shiny things.

The 29th saw the first flight of the club members – weak wave conditions over Loch Leven allowed us to fly most of the students – offering flights longer than most had ever had before... Indeed in this day we managed to fly for longer than the sum of all last year's flying.

Regrettably, the next day was un-flyable as a result of strong winds: to occupy ourselves, some of the club decided to climb the Bishop – and feeling that the path was too horizontal, we opted to ignore it and take a more vertical route up the hill. Sadly, some of the members of the group opted not to climb through the metre or so of snow at the summit: Ryan, man up. Those that opted to climb up had the fun of rolling down – and that much at least made the ascent worth it; although the random gentleman wearing nothing save shorts at the top of Bishop at least reinforced just how strange Scotland is: I would like to draw attention to just how cold it was.

In the evening, the group chose to see yet another film, Sherlock Holmes... where club members spent time checking the historical accuracy of the buildings featured in the film; never go

to the cinema with Imperial students.

New Year's Eve saw more flights, and a visit to the Edinburgh Hogmanay festival. This was an interesting experience – with the most unlikely person in the group getting groped by ladyfolk of Scotland, police kettling and a disappointing lack of alcohol (amongst the students) who were all keen to fly the next day.

The highlight of the evening, midnight, showed us the true depth of humanity: Auld-Lang-Syne was sung, fireworks went off, and some random

person in the crowd got hit by a bottle of human waste. Much fun was had by all.

New Year's Day was another day of excellent flying, where everyone was able to fly and Miles was able to get a free, two hour flight; he's not remotely smug about this. The next day, we made our journey back to London, which was excessively long (due to traffic) and very dull.

Broadly speaking, we had a superb tour in Scotland. The club managed to get at least 3 times as much airtime

in compared to last year, visited a very pretty area of Scotland and celebrated the New Year in style.

Special thanks must go to Andy Cockerell (our instructor), Rory Condon (our guide) and John Davey (our driver) and the University of Edinburgh for lending us their glider for a week.

The club had a lot of fun, flew a lot and can heartily recommend Portmoak (and gliding): if you want to learn more about our club, visit <http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/rcc/gliding/>.



# COFFEE BREAK

Coffee Break Editor Charlie Murdoch

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Hi. Don't come in, just sod off

Charlie Murdoch Coffee Break Editor

Hi welcome back to the New Year. Right that's all the pleasantries over. Christmas was good wasn't it? Well apart from the small sprinkling of snow that brought the whole fucking country to a standstill. Now if I was Kim Jong-Il and wanting to piss Brown off I would seize the opportunity whilst Britain was immobilized and bomb us. We should count ourselves lucky that Hitler didn't have the foresight to attack us in deep Winter, because we'd have been fucked. But then he only had one ball. Thinking about it, that's probably why he was so fucking wound up all the time- some nobber had taken one and put it in the Albert Hall. I assume this was some type of pre Damien Hirst exhibition, that's where ole Maggie Thatcher got her good looks from, she was a pickled exhibit too.

Now, I don't claim to be some type of specialist train engineer, but I am pretty sure that the Underground runs underground, hence the name. So why do you cancel the services because of the snow? Fuck knows. And as for the constant announcements telling me to watch my step on the platform due to the 'adverse whether conditions'. I'm

not a complete moron. Arsehole. What does that even mean? Watch your step? You want me to look at my feet as I walk? I'm a little preoccupied with the sheet ice for that. Maybe next week eh? Besides one of the great benefits, no the only benefit, about snow is watching people fall arse over tit, landing in a crumpled heap on the floor. More often than not these people are girls. In stilettos. Are you fucking stupid? It's shitting icy out here you dumbfuck.

But don't worry, a bunch load of leaders went for a conference about global warming in Copenhagen. Turned out that America was just spoiling every ones day, especially the trees. Well, I for one didn't see that coming. So shocked I had to go and roundhouse kick an old lady just to bring me back to reality. So Brown used his brain and decided that the world would be a much better place if he solved the problems associated with turning cold water into hot water. Obviously hoping to get rid of the snow too. He rang up Darling and told him to offer subsidies of up to £400 for those replacing inefficient boilers. Darling replied: "Look mate, I've got a shitting financial meltdown here, so fuck your boilers yeah?"

## Stuff Imperial students like:

### 11. Tankards:

We all love a good tankard, and it appears that us here at Imperial have taken tankard loving a little too far. Seriously, there are tankards for literally everything behind the Union bar. Even RCC clubs and shit like Live? have some.

I propose a cull of all tankards that are not associated with extreme laddish behaviour. The only way we

can decide if the tankard is eligible for laddish behaviour connotations, is to have a boat race. Yes, I want everyone who has a tankard to come to that bar and down a pint. All at once. Not only will profits of the bar fucking sky rocket, it will cut the wheat from the chaff. The wheat can stay, the chaff can take a hike. And be melted down. No seriously this is happening, this place has gone to the dogs.



And what is wrong with a glass?

## felix Lovestruck

07726 799 424



"I'll come over for a coke if you come and fine me in the PC room."

**I meant cock**

"Dan Wan, as your penis is so under used at the moment, do you fancy giving me hard anal tomorrow night? Pease."

**Fuuuuuuurk**

"dan wan loves girls. especially ones that are under the age of 16. preferably

those that are less than 12. I know because he raped me in the disabled toilet after luring me into the union."

**Raped**

"Fuck of. i might be an American hoe, but why the fuck are you wearing a pink glove in the union. Not even two.. just the one. You are a fool."

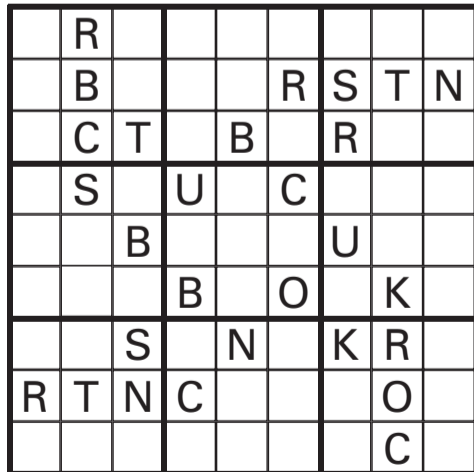
**Amy the American**

Quote of the Week

Dave Mustaine: "Don't ever give up on something or someone that you can't go a full day without thinking about."

## Wordoku 1,449

INTERMEDIATE



EVIL



Okay.. so I forgot to put the letters in the right order last issue, well the word was ODALISQUE (where the missing letter was a U). Well done to the winner **The Harry Potter Trio** who still managed to get a correct answer in. Big hand to **Kelvin Wong** who got it right too, We've given you two this week to make up for it.

**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](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk). You will not get credit for just the word alone. It's not an anagram.

Evil Wordoku is exactly the same... only harder... and there's a letter missing... that MAY be a duplicate - just solve it like normal and insert the letter that you believe makes the word.

Solution 1448

A	S	I	D	Q	E	L	U	O
E	U	O	I	S	L	A	D	Q
L	Q	D	A	O	U	I	S	E
U	O	A	S	I	Q	D	E	L
S	I	E	O	L	D	U	Q	A
D	L	Q	U	E	A	S	O	I
Q	E	S	L	U	I	O	A	D
O	D	L	E	A	S	Q	I	U
I	A	U	Q	D	O	E	L	S

Scribble box



## Wordpath 1,449

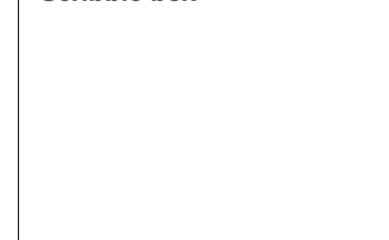
ORIGIN:

**HUNT**

DESTINATION:

**GOLD**

Scribble box



**How to play:**

Make a path from the origin word to the destination word by taking steps using one of three following methods:

**Letter Substitution:** Substitute just **one** letter for another to produce a 4 letter word.  
e.g. WORD -> WARD

**Anagram:** Rearrange the letters to form a 4 letter word.  
e.g. WARD -> DRAW

**Wordslide:** Replace the letters with ANY consecutive 4 letters from a 5, 6 or 7 letter word containing the former 4 letters consecutively.  
e.g. DRAW -> RAW (via DRAWER)

No two consecutive steps can be made by the same method.  
e.g. WORD -> WARD (by LS) -> WARE (by LS) would be **invalid**.

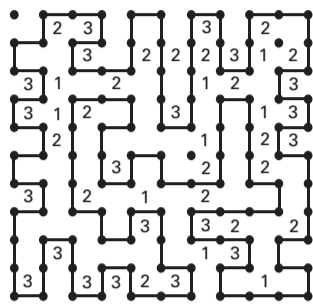
Points are awarded for the earliest SHORTEST path between the two words. Send your solutions to [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk).

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk

COFFEE BREAK

# Slitherlink 1,449

Solution 1448



Last term's 2009 final issue winner was **The Tough Brets** so well done to you. Getting pretty tight at the top of the table, but like your mum. Great banter yes i know. Thanks.

**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.

# FUCWIT League Table

**Teams:**

Harry Potter Trio	101 Points
The Tough Brets	100 Points
The Cool Kids and Fergal	33 Points

**Individuals:**

Matthew Colvin	82 Points
Ying Liang	42 Points
Louise Parchson	28 Points

The Felix University/College-Wide Invitational Tournament League is new and improved, with an iPod nano for both the team and the individual with the most points at the end of the year.

5 points for the 1st correct answers for all puzzles on these pages, 4 points for 2nd, 3 points for 3rd, 2 points for 4th and 1 point for 5th.

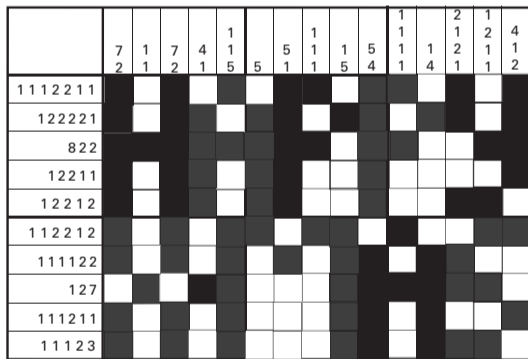
Now then FUCWITs, answers to [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk). Go!

# Nonogram 1,449

**How to play:**

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

Solution 1448



		1	1					1												
		1	2	6	9	8	7	3	4	1										
1	1																			
2	1	3																		
5	1																			
3	3																			
1	8																			
5	2																			
5	1																			
5	2																			
4	2																			
3	1																			

The Cool Kids and Fergal were winners, in 45 minutes.

# Guest Puzzle 1,449

**How to play:**

Connect all the islands together by bridges running in direct lines, North, West, East and South only, with no more than two bridges connecting any two distinct islands. Every island must have the same number of bridges from them as the value printed on them and bridges must not cross one another or lead to nowhere!

This week's puzzle was donated by *anonymous*.

*felix* wants your puzzles! Just send them to us at [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk) and if we like them we'll print them\* and credit you however you desire (photo, name, alias, whatever)! \*THE SMALL PRINT: your puzzle will belong to us etc.

# 2010: the year of RAG

Happy New Year Imperial! 2009 has been a great year for RAG, and 2010 promises to be even better. We have some great events lined up. We're kicking off 2010 at Stamford Bridge (pun intended!) with a collection after the Chelsea vs. Sunderland match at 15:00 on Saturday, 16th. Chelsea Stadium is only a couple of minutes from campus by bus, and is a must see for anyone who hasn't yet.

On **Tuesday 26th**, there's going to be a bicycle auction in Beit Quad, with all the monies going to RAG. Travelling in London can be a bitch, so why not treat yourself to a new bicycle and lose that holiday weight?

On **Wednesday 27th** Imperial RAG is teaming up with Cambridge, Lough-

borough, St. George's and a few more to shake our buckets for charity at our first Megaraid this year. Together we'll be collecting ALL DAY at Fulham Broadway, Earls Court and Gloucester Road as well as in the city centre. It'll be a massive event, and afterwards everyone involved is going out! We're doing fancy dress, so dust off your Halloween costumes, neon tights and masks and join us for an epic day! Make sure you tell your friends. The collection will be for Barnardo's.

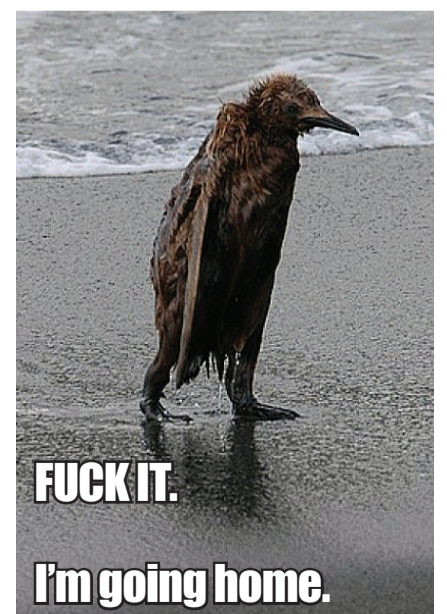
To finish off January, we are collecting at South Kensington Tube Station on Saturday 30th. It's literally a 5 minute walk from college so

if you feel like shaking buckets for an hour or so let us know.

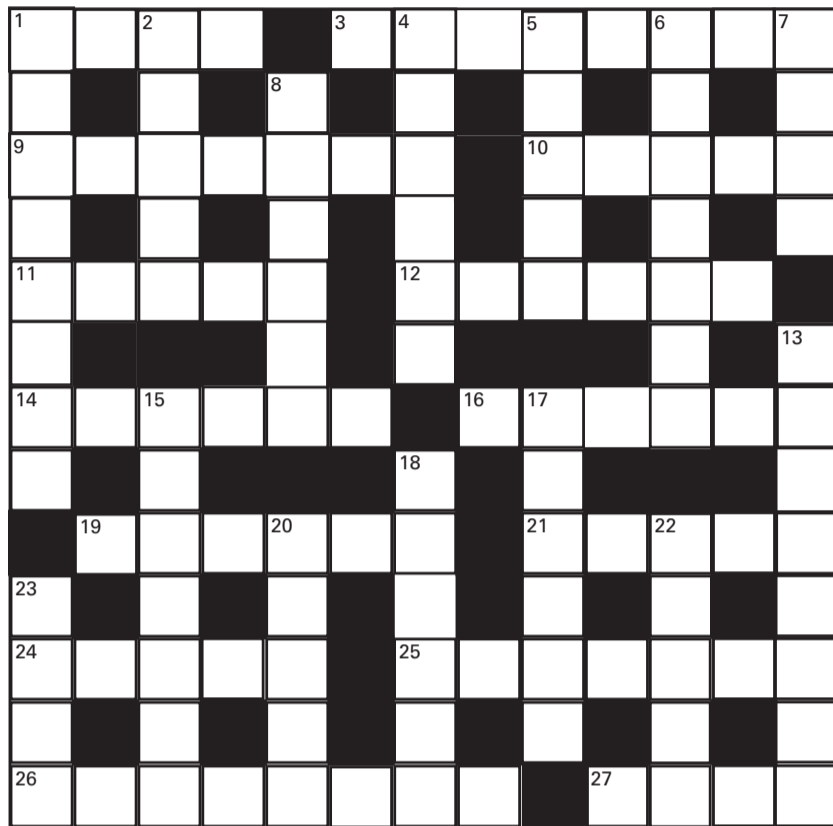
Make sure to check out this section every week in *felix* to find out what we're up to. Keep your eyes peeled for some great events in 2010! If you feel like going on a collection, have any fundraising ideas or want to be part of the committee then e-mail us at [rag@ic.ac.uk](mailto:rag@ic.ac.uk).



Sucks to be this guy: Best of lol-wet-thing



# A quickie (crossword) 1,449



## ACROSS

- 1 Facial covering (4)  
 3 Idiom or saying (8)  
 9 Horned marine mammal (7)  
 10 Utterly destroy (5)  
 11 Escapade (5)  
 12 Of the stars (6)  
 14 Gathers the harvest (6)  
 16 Digital or obscure (6)  
 19 Perfect solid (6)  
 21 Perfectly solid (5)  
 24 Make-up (5)  
 25 Copy (7)  
 26 Rest break (8)  
 27 Czech river (4)

## DOWN

- 1 Hand trimming (8)  
 2 Boot or jock (5)  
 4 One of 5 in Islam (6)  
 5 The work cited (2,3)  
 6 Repeat. Repeat. (7)  
 7 Charade (4)  
 8 Retreat in the opposite direction (6)  
 13 Sculptor of the lions in Trafalgar Square (8)

- 15 Bulb (8)  
 17 Type of plane (6)  
 18 Stern (6)  
 20 Occasion (5)  
 22 One thousand dollars (5)  
 23 Pubic infestation (4)

## Solution 1448



So well done to **The Cool Kids and Fergal**, who again slipped a correct answer to this crossword under the door at 12.45. Well done lads, and Fergal. You are a little too keen, but meah shit happens. Best to have participation even if you are a little bit weird to be honest. I mean, seriously, do you actually wait in the quad for the paper?

Crossword by **Peter Logg**

## Scribble box

# Depresso-scopes; I hate my life but I hate yours more

This is probably the last thing that I will ever write, consider it my last will and testament



## Aquarius

This week, you're lying in bed and staring at the ceiling. Your room is pretty bare, there's nothing to look at which

is why you stare at the ceiling. The mattress is hard and uncomfortable and there's only three hours before the new day begins again. Another night without sleep and tomorrow, another day without joy.



## Pisces

This week your girlfriend catches you helping an old lady across the road. She says she's fed up with all the attention you

give other woman and dumps you on the spot. She comes around your house and gives you a DVD. It's a video that she made when she fucked your best friend. You recognize the poster in the video, they fucked on your bed.



## Aries

This week you go visit your mother. You bring her your favourite childhood photo. It's of you and your father playing in the

garden, before everything changed. You show it to her but she's too busy on the phone and just waves you away and mouths "Come back tomorrow". You feel like shouting "Why would I ever come back to you!" But you don't. You never do.



## Taurus

This week you feel the ground shaking. It's an earthquake! The ceiling's about to fall and you're fucked but you live in Haiti

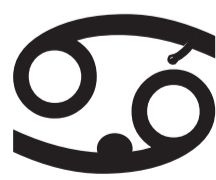
so Death is probably a relief from the shitness of everyday life. Miraculously you survive but some douchebag BBC photographer takes a photo of you as you emerge and now you're whored out to every major news outlet.



## Gemini

This week you write a horoscope (see left) about how your girlfriend cheated on you with your best friend. But you don't have a

girlfriend, everytime a girl talks to you, you get nervous and become really awkward. You also don't have a best friend. The few friends you have don't like you that much. You just tag along really. That's why you write the horoscopes.



## Cancer

This week you see the counsellor and she advises that you write down your feelings in a diary. It actually works, your head feels less

cluttered. But then your housemate finds it, and reads it out to the rest of the house. You come back to find them laughing in the living room and that evening you burn your diary and finally decide that there'll never be any salvation for you.



## Leo

This week you've got a lab report in. Just like every other week of university. Just like every other week of your depressing, monoto-

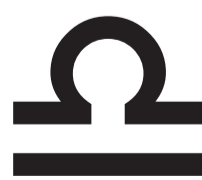
nous and futile existence. You can actually feel the mundane weight of the world slowly crushing your skull into the concrete. Pushing, squeezing, grinding, the boot of the world on your ear until... POP, you're dead.



## Virgo

This week, before you enter the shower, you take a look at your face and decide to cut yourself, just a little. You take a single blade

razor and touch it to your thigh but as your push the metal down, you falter and put it back. You get into the shower, there's no hot water. You slide down the wall and curl up in the corner and try to convince yourself not to give up.



## Libra

This week, while your sitting alone in the library cafe, a nice girl sits down and offers you a crisp. You smile at her suspiciously and

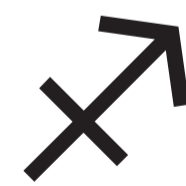
reach in to take one. But your arm accidentally knocks her coffee all over the floor. You apologize frantically and run to buy her a new one. But when you return, she's already left. The coffee's beginning to burn your fingers. It feels good.



## Scorpio

This week, as you walk into university, a walk of over an hour because you can't afford the bus or tube, it begins to snow. It gets colder and

colder and unfortunately you left your jacket at home. You succumb to the elements and die. Your body is concealed in the snow. Nobody notices that you're even gone until you don't turn up for exams in June.



## Sagittarius

This week, as you write your cries for attention in the horoscopes, the rest of the Editors laugh and joke about how edgy they are this

week. They don't really care whether you live or die. If you didn't come down here to do your page each week, they wouldn't care. They wouldn't text or call you. They'd just advertise for a new Editor. They'd probably do a better job than you.



## Capricorn

This week, one of the horoscopes exactly matches your experiences. You begin to hope that maybe the writer of the horoscopes

is a kindred spirit, rejected by society. But no, I just made these up, but you live it, every single day of your dull and meaningless existence. This is life, it doesn't get any better and eventually you die. That's all. Sorry. Pint?

# Hangman

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## THE LEGEND OF XYRON

A Dark Graphic Novel from the creators of 'The Friendly Rapist' and 'Tales of a Gay Dragon Housemaid'

**Anonymous** Hangman Editor

This is Chris Bean. He looks like your normal spotty Imperial College loser.



However, when he doth garb himself in trench coat and black boots, he becomes....



Xyron Cubed, defender of galaxy 3.



This is Gaz the engineer, a simpleton from Runcorn, codename 'Giraffe'. He spends most of his waking days in the library revising for engineering tests that he sets himself. By night, he creates zany inventions which help Xyron to promote truth and love.



**Gaz: COME IN!**  
**Chris: You fool, Giraffe! I did not do the correct knock. I could be an imposter! Hasn't federation training taught you anything!?**  
**Gaz: I'm sorry Chris, it won't happen again. Just come in and look at this.**

**Chris: Well aren't you going to confirm that it's actually me by requesting the correct door knock?**  
**Gaz: (sighs) If you require entry to the room please respond with the correct passcode**

*Chris knocks the tune 'One Man band' by Leo Sayer and enters...*

**Chris: There, not so hard, was it, Giraffe? And don't call me Chris, you know it's Xyron when I'm wearing my trench coat.**

**Gaz: Sorry Xyron, but you were behind the door so I couldn't tell.**

**Chris: When I'm Chris I sound like this, 'Hello I'm Chris'. When I'm Xyron, I sound like this, 'Hello I'm Xyron'.**

**Gaz: They sounded exactly the same**



**Chris: But did they?**

**Gaz: Yes**

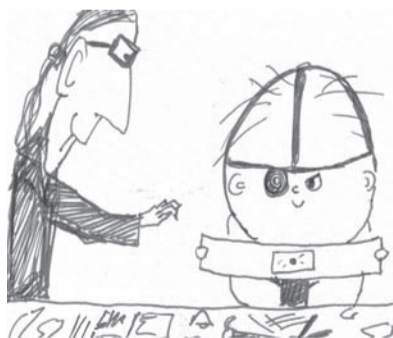


**Chris: BUT DID THEY!?**

**Gaz: Yes**

**Chris: Oh. Is my invention ready?**

It is Wednesday evening. ACC Bar Night at the Imperial College Union. Xyron would not usually dare venture into the territory of twats, but tonight he plans to confess his undying love to the girl of his dreams, and he knows that it's the only place to find her. Giraffe has been making the finishing touches to his latest zany invention, 'The Confidence Belt v2.0.1!'



**Chris: It is complete! Excellent news. This way I'll be charming enough to woo Porsche. She's going to be so impressed!**

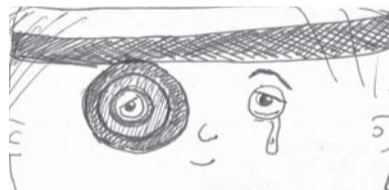
**Gaz: Oh please tell me your joking Xyron. Not Porsche, the University Slut? I've heard she's been entered by all of the Rugby boys, and has gobbled off every left-back the football team has ever had. She's even tongued the fat ugly ginger one.**

**Chris: Hey don't talk about my Porsche that way Giraffe! She's just a poor lost girl looking for a real man to take care of her, and tonight, I will be that man. Besides, the fat ugly ginger one spiked her drink again so it doesn't count.**

**Gaz: OK well whatever, I just think you're making a mistake. Try out the belt, you need to check it works.**



**Chris: (Triumphantly) I am no longer encumbered by my cowardly ways, for tonight I harness the power from the Belt of Confidence v2.0.1, and I pledge to honour my lady by casting asunder my imperfections. Today the laws of love will bring me justice.**



Meanwhile, at the ACC Bar Night...



things were already getting out of hand. The enemy forces were swiftly moving in and Porsche was having fun with the Rugby lads. Is Xyron too late? Will his confidence belt see him through the perils of trying to communicate with heavily intoxicated loud-mouthed twats? What the fuck happened to 'Beginner's Guides'? ...FIND OUT NEXT WEEK IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF

**THE LEGEND OF XYRON** (XYRON...XYRON...)

### Hangfan

We love hearing from the fans and have received some really warm feedback. Send some of your love to [hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

*"Oi! Hangman! I had the worse Christmas in the world, and where were you to make it better? It happens I'm allergic to snow, indoor trees and the glow of cheap shitty coloured LED lights. I also have a phobia of tinsel, so overall, Christmas was f\*cking awful. Also, my Mum died, but moreso because of the tinsel phobia."*



### TWITTER

**SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87**

Hey did every1 hav a gud Xmas? Obie did you get my present? :D

**Barack\_attack\_l33thaxor**

Waz it dat Nigerian suicide bomber?

**SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87**

Yeah lol. I posted him from Amsterdam tho coz Royal Mail is shit

**Barack\_attack\_l33thaxor**

Nah it was shit Gor. Didn't even work. Dyu got receipt?

**SexyOsama69**

I think ur both disgusting. Making jokes bout suicide bombers. Sum1 cud hav got hurt



# felixSport enters 2010, at a quick jog

Indy Leclercq Sports Editor

Welcome back! A new year, and a new term, are upon us, and 2010 promises to be a massive one in terms of sport. For starters, the winter Olympics are set to kick off in Vancouver next month.

From skiing to figure skating (not forgetting everyone's favourite sport, curling), it should be a month of dizzying stuff in chilled conditions-and that's just the Jamaican bobsled team.

My special mention goes to the Ghanaian alpine skier, Kwame Nkrumah-Acheampong, nicknamed "the Snow Leopard". He's Ghana's first ever participant at a winter Olympics, but picked up skiing in...Milton Keynes. Oh, and he was a safari guide before that. Some people, I swear...Before you know it, he'll be a champion base-jumper after trying it once in Watford, or something.

He's not the only African to be in the sporting spotlight this year. The African Cup of Nations is going on this week and next, and is generating much interest in the run up to the football World Cup held in South Africa. Some pundits think this is the year an African team could go all the way, on their own continent...but the likes of the Ivory Coast and Cameroon will have to deal with heavyweights such as Brazil, England and favourites Spain. In any case, spectacle awaits. The World Cup rarely disappoints.

Another first this year is the initial Youth Olympic Games, to be held in Singapore this summer. I suppose it's a chance for all the young'uns to strut

their stuff on an international stage, and you never know, we might get to see the next Bolt-in-the-making. Some of the participants will definitely turn up in the London games in two years time, so be sure to keep an eye on the small city-state come August.

Closer to home, a new term means it's time to run off all that turkey/Christmas pudding/mince pie ingested during the holidays and get back down to business.

The various leagues continue, and pretty soon all the cup matches will kick off, leading to the BUCS championship finals in Sheffield towards the end of term. Not to mention this year's Varsity, which will be bigger than ever.

Looking at the felixSport league table, the men's volleyball and women's fencing teams are as yet unbeaten. Let's hope that run of form continues; having said that, I wish the best of luck to each and every one of our teams. Keep doing your best, keep having fun; most importantly, don't forget to write match reports and take plenty of pictures so we can tell everyone about your glorious victories (or not-so-glorious defeats-we want everything).

Thanks to everyone who sent something in last term. We need your words, and if we haven't got anything to put in you'll be subjected to more of this...so for everyone's sake, help us out! We're also working on making felixSport that much more interesting, so look out for upcoming sports features and interviews with the people who make Imperial's clubs tick.

Right, that's done, I think I might go for a run now. That is, once it stops snowing.



Kwame Nkrumah-Acheampong (top right) : so much cooler than Apple's new Snow Leopard



## FIXTURES & RESULTS



in association with Sports Partnership

### Saturday 12th December

**Fencing (BUCS)**  
Men's 1st 123 - 114 Oxford University 1st  
Men's 1st 133 - 115 University of Bristol 1st

### Football (ULU)

Men's 1st 1 - 2 UCL 3s  
Men's 2nd 0 - 1 Queen Mary 1s  
Men's 4th 3 - 1 RUMS 2s  
Men's 5th 5 - 0 King's College 3s  
Men's 6th 4 - 1 King's College 4s  
Men's 7th 2 - 4 SSEES 2s

### Sunday 13th December

**Fencing (BUCS)**  
Men's 1st 135 - 78 UCL 1st  
Men's 1st 115 - 122 University of Cambridge 1st

### Football (ULU)

Women's 3 - 1 SOAS 1s

### Lacrosse (ULU)

Mixed 1s 9 - 4 UCL 1s

### Volleyball (ULU)

Mixed 1 - 3 vs UCL 2s

### Monday 14th December

**Badminton (ULU)**  
Mixed 1s 8 - 1 King's College 1s

### Basketball (ULU)

Women's 1s 46 - 45 Queen Mary 1s

### Tuesday 15th December

**Squash (ULU)**  
**Challenge Cup**  
Men's 2s 3 - 2 St Barts 1s

### Wednesday 16th December

**Football (ULU)**  
Men's 6s 2 - 0 St Barts 3s

### Hockey (ULU)

Men's 1s 3 - 2 Imperial College Medicals 1s  
Men's 5s 3 - 7 Imperial College Medicals 3s

### Volleyball (ULU)

Mixed 1s 3 - 1 UCL 1s

### Friday 18th January

**Squash (ULU)**  
Men's 4s 3 - 2 St Barts 1s

### Saturday 16th January

**Football (ULU)**  
Men's 1s vs SOAS 1s  
Men's 7s vs St Barts 4s

### Sunday 17th January

**Hockey (ULU)**  
Men's 3s vs Imperial College 4s

### Challenge Cup

Women's 1s vs St George's Medical School 1s  
**Reserve Cup**  
Women's 2s vs King's College Medicals 3s

### Monday 18th January

**Badminton (ULU)**  
Mixed 1s vs LSE Mixed 1s

### Basketball (ULU)

Men's 1s vs UCL 1s  
Men's 2s vs St Barts 1s  
Women's 1s vs LSE 1s

### Netball (ULU)

Women's 1s vs UCL 2s  
Women's 2s vs Royal Holloway 2s

Women's 3s vs St Barts 3s

### Squash (ULU)

Men's 1s vs Imperial College 2s  
Men's 3s vs Royal Holloway 1s

### Water Polo (ULU)

Mixed 1st vs UCL Mixed 1s

### Wednesday 20th January

**Badminton (ULU)**  
Men's 1st vs University of Portsmouth 1st  
Men's 2nd vs Kingston University 1st  
Women's 1st vs University of Kent 1st

### Basketball

Women's 1st vs University of Westminster 1st

### Football

Men's 3rd vs Imperial College Medicals 2nd  
**BUCS Cup**

Men's 1st vs University of Reading 1st  
Men's 2nd vs LSE 3rd

### ULU

Men's 7s vs Heythrop College 1s  
Men's 5s vs LSE 4s

Men's 6s vs Royal Holloway 6s

### Hockey

Men's 2nd vs Canterbury Christ Church Uni 2nd  
Men's 4th vs University of Westminster 1st  
Women's 2nd vs Buckinghamshire New University 1st

### ULU

Men's 3s vs Goldsmiths 1s  
Women's 1s vs King's College Medicals 1s

### Lacrosse

Men's 1st vs University of Portsmouth 1st

### Netball

Women's 3rd vs Canterbury Christ Church Uni 4th

### Rugby

Men's 1st vs RUMS 1st  
Men's 2nd vs Imperial College Medicals 2nd  
Men's 3rd vs Royal Holloway 2nd  
Men's 4th vs RUMS 3rd

### Tennis

Men's 1st vs University of Brighton 1st  
Men's 2nd vs UCL 3rd  
Women's 1st vs Brunel University 1st

# Sailing Club venture onto Welsh waters



Sailors sail near Swansea and probably away again. It is Swansea, after all.

Chris O'Donnell Sailing

In December Imperial Sailing Club ventured into the land of sheep and dragons for their first away event of the year- The Welsh Dragon. With two days of sailing and a sheep themed social the event hosted by Cardiff University was set to be a good one.

Day one saw a frankly abysmal performance from the 3 boat Imperial team in the mini-league. In their first race, against Portsmouth Firsts, Imperial got 4th 5th and 6th, giving Portsmouth 1st 2nd and 3rd. Imperial's second race, against Exeter Ladies, wasn't much better. Imperial had a fighting chance until the second mark when Gavin MacAulay got a penalty turn from trying a risky overtake then crashing into an Exeter boat. Chris O'Donnell was forced the wrong side of the mark, trying to push his way into a gap that was too small and which he had no right to be in, leaving Fiona Wall to battle all three Exeter boats by herself. This ended up with Imperial getting another 4th 5th 6th.

The second lot of the days racing was marginally better, but still unsuccessful, with Imperial getting a 3rd 4th 6th

against Swansea in a race which was closely fought to the end. The last race of the day was against the hosts- Cardiff. The Imperial team fought hard, but a mark trap from Cardiff at the last mark put the hosts in 1st 2nd 3rd - a winning position and so stealing the race from Imperial. In Imperial's defence three of the teams they raced got through to the semi-finals, and Portsmouth won the league.

Day two brought much more wind and with it, a fresh chance for Imperial with a King Of The Hill competition- a royal rumble style competition where the worst placing teams from the league start off at the bottom and fight their way to the top. Lose one race and you're out.

In a major (non-Imperial related) incident on the first day, one of the boats was damaged and put out of use. In the interest of fairness it was decided that racing would just be 2 v. 2.

Miraculously, Imperial didn't start off at the very bottom of the Hill, that honour went to UWE and Bristol Fourths. Bristol walked over their opponents getting 1st and 2nd, knocking UWE out of the competition. Imperial then raced Bristol and in turn, Bristol were crushed, giving Imperial 1st 2nd

and putting them ahead of two teams- Bristol and UWE. Imperial continued in this manner, beating anyone who came their way with a 1st 2nd.

Imperial's luck started to turn when they came against Brunel. Chris O'Donnell got off to a very poor start -only just crossing the line when the other boats were reaching the first mark, and with Gavin MacAulay in 2nd things were looking bleak. On the downwind leg Gavin sped into first and put himself in a perfect position to mark-trap the two Brunel boats. Gavin cut across the path of the Brunel boats, shouting wildly, forcing them to keep out of his path. In the confusion the two Brunel boats crashed, taking each other out of the race allowing Chris to sail past, giving Imperial another 1st 2nd. Remarkably, after this race Chris realised he'd been racing all day in a boat with two holes in it, requiring a change over before the next race...

Imperial's final race of the day was against Portsmouth Seconds. In a closely fought race Portsmouth dominated on the final leg and won with a 1st 2nd, knocking Imperial out of the competition and going on to win the whole King Of The Hill. Overall, Imperial got to the middle of the Hill.



## felixSports League

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	felixSport Index
1 Volleyball Men's 1st	6	6	0	0	12	1	11	5.00
2 Fencing Women's 1st	5	5	0	0	668	465	203	5.00
3 Badminton Men's 1st	8	7	1	0	46	18	28	4.63
4 Squash Women's 1st	9	6	3	0	28	8	20	4.00
5 ICSM Rugby Men's 1st	9	8	0	1	332	116	216	4.00
6 ICSM Netball Women's 2nd	6	4	2	0	238	184	54	4.00
7 Lacrosse Women's 1st	8	7	0	1	145	21	124	3.88
8 Table Tennis Men's 1st	8	7	0	1	107	29	78	3.88
9 Squash Men's 3rd	7	6	0	1	15	6	9	3.71
10 Rugby Men's 1st	9	7	1	1	271	65	206	3.67
11 ICSM Badminton Men's 1st	7	5	1	1	42	14	28	3.29
12 Netball Women's 2nd	7	5	1	1	245	137	108	3.29
13 Lacrosse Men's 1st	5	4	0	1	50	34	16	3.20
14 Volleyball Women's 1st	5	4	0	1	8	3	5	3.20
15 Fencing Men's 1st	5	4	0	1	639	544	95	3.20
16 ICSM Hockey Men's 1st	9	7	0	2	38	17	21	3.00
17 Football Men's 1st	8	5	1	2	26	17	9	2.38
18 Hockey Women's 1st	7	4	1	2	36	7	29	2.00
19 Tennis Men's 2nd	6	4	0	2	33	27	6	2.00
20 ICSM Hockey Women's 2nd	7	3	2	2	10	18	-8	1.57
21 Hockey Men's 2nd	6	3	1	2	12	11	1	1.50
22 ICSM Hockey Men's 3rd	6	3	1	2	15	13	2	1.50
23 Squash Men's 1st	7	4	0	3	19	16	3	1.14
24 Squash Men's 4th	7	4	0	3	12	9	3	1.14
25 Tennis Men's 1st	7	4	0	3	43	27	16	1.14
26 Netball Women's 1st	9	5	0	4	364	301	63	1.00
27 Football Men's 2nd	8	4	0	4	15	12	3	0.50
28 Basketball Men's 1st	6	3	0	3	387	388	-1	0.50
29 ICSM Netball Women's 1st	6	3	0	3	212	201	11	0.50
30 Fencing Women's 2nd	8	4	0	4	819	988	-169	0.50
31 Badminton Men's 2nd	6	3	0	3	24	24	0	0.50
32 ICSM Hockey Women's 1st	6	3	0	3	23	17	6	0.50
33 Squash Men's 2nd	6	3	0	3	12	18	-6	0.50
34 Rugby Men's 3rd	6	2	1	3	77	118	-41	0.00
35 Hockey Women's 2nd	7	2	1	4	11	26	-15	-0.57
36 ICSM Football Men's 1st	7	2	1	4	9	14	-5	-0.57
37 Badminton Women's 1st	8	1	3	4	28	36	-8	-0.63
38 Fencing Men's 3rd	6	2	0	4	603	744	-141	-1.00
39 Football Men's 3rd	5	1	1	3	4	17	-13	-1.00
40 Rugby Union Men's 2nd	6	2	0	4	117	81	36	-1.00
41 Tennis Women's 1st	8	1	2	5	23	57	-34	-1.38
42 Hockey Men's 1st	7	1	1	5	14	24	-10	-1.86
43 ICSM Netball 3rd	7	1	1	5	169	248	-79	-1.86
44 ICSM Hockey Men's 2nd	6	0	2	4	5	26	-21	-2.00
45 Rugby Union Men's 4th	6	1	0	5	59	168	-109	-2.50
46 ICSM Rugby Men's 3rd	6	1	0	5	79	147	-68	-2.50
47 Netball Women's 3rd	6	1	0	5	108	220	-112	-2.50
48 ICSM Rugby Men's 2nd	7	1	0	6	84	253	-169	-2.71
49 Football Women's 1st	6	0	1	5	2	34	-32	-3.00
50 ICSM Hockey Women's 3rd	7	0	1	6	5	59	-54	-3.14
51 ICSM Football Men's 2nd	6	0	0	6	4	33	-29	-4.00

## Medals at fencing individuals

Continued from back page

pointing result for the foilists, then, who were hoping for more.

In the epee, Helen Pennington was knocked out in the 128 and club president Emily Bottle in the 32. Another day, and still no medals! The mood was decidedly dampened after the day's matches and the Saturday night Nottingham pub crawl was perfectly timed to lift everyone's spirits!

Of course, the people fencing on Sunday didn't partake in the alcohol-fuelled revelry and were all bright-eyed and alert on Sunday as they took to the pistes. Six girls were competing for Imperial in the Women's foil and three guys for the Men's Sabre. After two fruitless days, the last two events brought some promising results in the poules, and before too long, there were

three foilists in the last eight and two sabreurs in the semis!

Alice Mitchell got knocked out in a close quarter-final match; Outi Supponen and the ever-dependable Hannah Bryars made it to the semis, meaning Imperial were guaranteed at least four medals...Unfortunately, kit problems led to Supponen's defeat in her semi-final: the all-Imperial final was not to be. In the end, though, Bryars came through with her usual mix of style and grit to clinch the gold for the fourth year running. Adding to the medals, Maiyuran Ratneswaran banished the demons of last year's Staircase Incident with a convincing 1st place, while Henry Gann confirmed Imperial's domination of the day with a bronze medal.

One medal more than last year, and a great time had by all: bring on next year!

## felixOnline.co.uk relaunches

Read the latest sports reports online.

We still need your opinions. There's a little bit more to do, you'll see when you're on there, but we need your thoughts before we have our polished final version.

Email us your feedback to [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)





## Fencing grab the gold(s)



### Indy Leclercq Fencing

It was a weekend of mixed fortunes for the IC fencing club at the BUCS individual championships in Nottingham. Held annually, the competition brings together the best university fencers from around the country. Last year Imperial had three podium finishes, with Hannah Bryars taking the gold in women's foil. Could we do better this

time?

The sun had hardly risen on Friday morning as the fencers crammed into a union minibus and made their way north to Nottingham Uni for the first two events: Men's epee and Women's sabre. Stumbling off the bus and into the sports hall, the competitors still managed to shine, with Marcello Colombino building on his silver medal from last year by emerging as top seed after poules. Fellow 1st-team epeeist

Ed Gilhead also got off to a promising start, and hopes were high going into the knockout rounds. However, after a relatively easy progress through the early stages, they both faltered in the last 16 and lost their matches by the narrowest of margins, 15-14. Ultimately, Colombino finished 9th and Gilhead 16th, with Chris Gilliam also finishing 39th out of 118 participants (not bad for a foilist!). At the same time, Clare Harding grabbed the 17th spot in the

Women's Sabre. No podium finishes, then, but a good effort by Imperial on the first day.

Saturday dawned, and the trusty minibus ferried the bleary-eyed bunch to the hall for the second day of competing. It was the men's foil and women's epee this time, with ICFC providing 6 foilists and 2 epeeists. Gilliam breezed through his poule and topped the seedings, displaying some very good fencing in the process. The

other foilists also posted fine performances, with both Rob Shaw and Colin Auclair winning all their matches and no-one losing more than two. Unfortunately this success in the poules did not translate very well to the direct eliminations as Ed Collier, Indy Leclercq and Alex Morris all got knocked out in the round of 64; Auclair in the 32 and Shaw and Gilliam in the 16. A disap-

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## Men's first team miss out on top spot at Oxford

**A** week after the individual championships in Nottingham, the men's first team drove up to Oxford for their initial round of Premiership matches. This was the first major test of the season, facing up to the Oxford, Cambridge UCL and Bristol teams.

The day began against a somewhat ragged (not to mention late) UCL team. Despite a slow start, the IC fencers made short work of their fellow Londoners, winning by relatively large margins in all three weapons. Imperial's first victory in the Premier-

ship was clinched on a final score of 135-78. The next match up was against Bristol, who on paper were going to be a tougher test. Good fencing by the foilists set the stage for the sabreurs, trailing by a single point; the epeeists wrapped up the match nicely, dominating their bout all the way through.

In high spirits after their two successive wins, the fencers then took on Oxford. A nail-biting sabre match saw Imperial score the final hit to win 45-44; the foil match was even tighter and lost by a single point.

With the score evenly tied, the epeeists had to wait for the following

morning to finish the match, and did so emphatically, sealing victory with a nine-point advantage, 133-124.

All that remained was Cambridge, however with Ratneswaran absent the sabre team suffered a heavy loss to the experienced Cambridge side, and victories in the foil and epee could not overturn the deficit: the IC fencers lost by seven points in the end, 122-115. Imperial came away from Oxford with a well-deserved second place and confident that they could beat anyone. Next up: the return leg of the tournament, at Ethos on the 30-31st of January. With the top spot firmly in sight.

