



# felix

The award-winning student newspaper of Imperial College

"Keep The Cat Free"

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## The Sound of 2010

*felix's* alternative guide to who you'll be listening to this coming year, see page 14.



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## Boris Johnson squares up

The Mayor of London visits Imperial to open Prince's Gardens this week, see page 3



# Game, set, match Imperial College



Some of you may want to marry these men, now. I'm swooning just writing this caption about them. Too la....

**Kawai Wong** News Reporter

On Monday, Imperial won the quarter-finals match against Edinburgh University in the latest University Challenge. Imperial needs one more win against either University of Manchester or St John's College Oxford to secure a place in the semi-finals.

The University Challenge team, led by MSci Theoretical Physicist Gilead Amit, previously beat Southampton University and St. Hugh's College Oxford with scores of 175-135 and 280-80. The team sustained the winning track to triumph 240-110 over Edinburgh University.

Chemist Ciaran Healy picked up half of their fourteen correctly answered starter questions with Amit six, and physicist Simon Good one.

In the first picture round, the contestants were asked to identify the winning team, the host country and the year which the FIFA World Cup took

place from a diagram of the knockout stages of the tournament. Healy successfully identified the starter diagram together with three bonus diagrams leading to a 75-0 lead in the first 7 minutes of the competition.

Simon Good correctly identified Puccini as the composer of a piece of classical music during the first music round. Although the team failed to give any correct answers for this bonus round regarding 19th century Italian operas, Imperial was 105 points ahead of Edinburgh University after the eighth starter question.

Edinburgh University Brechin answered all the questions to the bonus of 'identifying the Nobel Prize winners in Chemistry from the committee's official citation', closing up the gap briefly. Imperial won 240-110 as the gong sounded. Imperial's team of Gilead Amit, Simon Good, Ciaran Healy and Ben Nicholson and Ed Brightman will be in the second round of the quarter-finals next week.

## Imperial's Bonus Round Topics

1. British History (2 correct answers)
2. Shared Names (1 correct answer)
3. Long Walks (1 correct answer)
4. Picture Round – FIFA World Cup (3 correct answers)
5. Girl's Names Invented by Writers (1 correct answer)
6. Historical, Administrative Subdivisions – (3 correct answers)
7. Terms Begin with the Prefix Poly – (2 correct answers)
8. Music Round – 19th Century Italian Operas (0 correct answers)
9. Literature – (1 correct answer)
10. Picture Round – Identifying paintings depicting Greek philosophers (0 correct answers)
11. French Cathedral with UNESCO World Heritage Site Status – (3 correct answers)
12. Subscripts and Superscripts in Scientific Notation – (1 correct answer)
13. Archaic Place Names – (1 correct answer)
14. Wine Grapes – (1 correct answer)

# The world beyond College walls

## Haiti

**T**he most powerful earthquake to hit Haiti in two hundred years caused devastation in the country's capital Port-au-Prince and the surrounding area. As many as 200,000 people are feared dead.

At least 70,000 of the dead have already been buried, but accurate figures will take weeks to emerge. The Haitian parliament was destroyed during the earthquake, as were a third of the buildings in the capital, and lines of most communication. The government now convenes daily in a run-down police station near the airport. The UN mission in the country has also suffered heavily, losing many of its staff, including the head and deputy head of the mission. Aid started arriving several days after the incident, and has since gained momentum, with the United States sending troops and aid throughout the country.

France and the US almost got themselves embroiled in a diplomatic row after a French plane carrying a field hospital was turned back from the airport at Port-au-Prince by the American forces running the overcrowded airport. France's International Co-operation Minister Alain Joyandet said "This is about helping Haiti, not about occupying Haiti." French President Nicolas Sarkozy diffused the tension during a talk with President Obama, in which they pledged to "unite their efforts to confront the urgent humanitarian situation."

## Japan

**A**sia's biggest aircraft carrier, Japan Airlines (JAL), has filed for bankruptcy protection on Tuesday this week, in what is one of the country's biggest corporate failures.

The airline owes more than \$25 billion to its creditors, and has vowed to cut 15,700 jobs. A state-backed turnaround organisation has taken managerial control of the company, and injected 1 trillion yen (\$11 billion) to keep the flights in the air.

Shares of JAL, have fallen more than 90 percent since the start of the month, and with a market value of about \$150 million, JAL is now smaller than minor carriers like Croatia Airlines, and is worth less than one Boeing 747. The bankruptcy has also had an impact on Japan's politics. JAL's problems can fairly be blamed in part on past Liberal Democratic Party policy, but the recently elected Democratic Party of Japan will have to take the blame if the reborn carrier fails to soar.

## Somalia

**T**he discovery of a second uranium enrichment plant near the city The Maran Centaurus, a Greek-flagged supertanker captured by Somali pirates on November 29th last year, has been released for a record ransom.

Several reports about the ransom have emerged. One put the sum at \$5.5m, while the other said two separate sums of \$7m and \$2m had been paid. Both sums are far larger than the \$3m generally believed to have been paid in January last year for the release of the Saudi-owned Sirius Star, the largest ship seized by pirates.

The pirates have become increasingly bold and ventured ever further from their shores since the international community has dispatched as many as 20 military ships to defend cargoes passing through the area. Despite this, last year saw another increase in the number of ships seized – 47, compared to 42 in 2008. 11 ships, along with 266 crew members continue to be held off Somalia's coast.

By Raphael Houdmont, International Editor

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# Political heavyweights visit Imperial

Imperial is increasingly the go to place for leaders from a wide variety of political backgrounds, and as several visit the South Kensington campus this week, **Features Editor Afonso Campos** reports

The last week has seen a flurry of big political honchos visiting our South Kensington Campus.

Boris Johnson, the floppy haired Mayor of London, has officially opened the £160 million project of revitalizing Prince's Gardens which was initiated in 2002 and finally concluded this September with the completion of Eastside, ready to welcome students for the beginning of the 2009/2010 academic year. Imperial has owned the site since 1956. The site is now comprised of nine halls of residence, a state-of-the-art sports centre, a shop and a brand new restaurant/bar that is highly popular with both students and staff.

Having arrived by bicycle, the Mayor looked around the site and spoke to students living in its newest hall, Eastside. Mr Johnson was also cooked food for by some of the students there, be-

fore moving on to officially open the residence and the square. Of note in his speech was the description of Imperial as "amongst the very finest of universities", adding that he also wanted to "see more Nobel Prize winners cut their teeth in South Kensington". Humorous as always, Mr Johnson exclaimed that penicillin, invented in London, can be "very useful after a night out in Praed Street".

The new Acting Rector, Sir Keith O'Nions commented that as an institution, "We're all honoured that the Mayor is joining us to celebrate the completion of the work". Ashley Brown the Union President, added that the entire area has been "transformed from a rogue's gallery of architectural disasters into a magnificent square".

The College was also privy to a visit from Kapil Sibal, India's relatively new Minister of Human Resource Development. He is Minister of Science

and Technology as well as Minister of Earth Sciences. The visit comes as part of a week-long tour of a mission to further the educational bonds between the United Kingdom and India. India is looking at ways in which it is able to improve its higher education system and is planning to create institutions

**"[Imperial] is amongst the very finest of universities"**

that go by the name of "innovation universities". Initially, these will focus on the prominent issues of health, environment and reusable technologies in the power generation arena. The main reason for the visit to Imperial College

itself however, was to observe how our university operates its processes of transferring technological and scientific research into applications that can be commercially viable and applicable to real-world scenarios.

Imperial Innovations is headed by Dr Martin Knight, is a technology transfer company owned partly by the university and it is based at the South Kensington Campus. It has spawned over 80 companies in the last decade and was the main focus of Mr Sibal's visit.

Sir Keith, mentioned that he was "delighted to welcome Mr Sibal to Imperial, and to discuss with him his very exciting and far-sighted approach to higher education in India". He added that as a university, Imperial has an obligation to turn "research into tangible benefits to society".

While unrelated to Imperial College directly, two heavyweights did spend time on campus last Saturday.

As part of the Fabian Society's new year conference, Gordon Brown and Peter Mandelson delivered what the media have started describing as the first "keynote" speech of the new election year. Gordon Brown's speech was delivered in the morning, in the Great Hall (Sherfield Building), kicking off a day of other very high profile speakers, including Peter Mandelson, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, Ken Livingstone and former leader of the Liberal Democratic party, Vince Cable. Mr Brown stated that the party was "fighting to win", making full use of pathos, in what is already considered a crucial speech that outlined his party's strategy of increasing social mobility - a theme that is due to become the central issue of the campaign. Given that this was a private event, merely held at Imperial, *felix* was unable to reach any of the speakers for comments.



Kapil Sabal explains where Liverpool's tactics have been going wrong in recent weeks



London Mayor Boris Johnson is disgusted by the miniscule size of the curtains

## Boris Johnson

- Born in New York City
- Educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford
- Elected as MP for Henley in 2001
- Former Vice-Chairman of the Conservative Party
- Became Mayor in 2008

## Kapil Sabal

- Born 1948 in Punjab
- Masters in Law from Harvard Law School
- MP for Chandni Chowk in 2004
- Current Minister of Human Resource Development and Minister of Science and Technology

## Gordon Brown

- Born in Glasgow, Scotland
- Elected as Labour MP in 1983
- Was Chancellor of the Exchequer 1997-2007
- Became Prime Minister in 2007 after Tony Blair stepped down

## Prince's Gardens

- Acquired in 1956
- First residences opened in 1963
- Ethos opens to students April 2006
- Southside reopens September 2007
- Eastside opens September 2009

## Fabian Society

- New Labour associated think tank
- Founded in April 1884
- Prominent former members include: Imperial alumnus H.G. Wells, George Bernard Shaw and Virginia Woolf

# NOT WHO YOU THINK WE ARE

DAN WAN SPEAKS TO ISLAMIC SOCIETY'S PRESIDENT, SALMAN BUTT, ABOUT THE SPOTLIGHT THAT UCL'S DETROIT BOMBER HAS BROUGHT

**S**hockwaves of anger and relief reverberated across the world on Christmas Day 2009 on the news of Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab's failed bombing of Northwest Airlines Flight 253, en route from Amsterdam to Detroit.

As news reports covered Boxing Day's press, it was revealed that he was an Engineering graduate of University College London (UCL), and during his time there, became President of the university's Islamic Society.

Abdulmutallab became the fourth Islamic Society President in London to be arrested in four years, and with this latest case being so high-profile, it is only inevitable that student Islamic societies are increasingly subject to the media's magnifying glass.

## TERRORISM AT IMPERIAL?

Imperial is one of the closest universities to UCL, both academically and geographically, and in 2005 was listed by the Guardian as one of the many UK universities that had extremist groups operating within its ranks.

This came after Babar Ahmed, a member of College IT staff was accused of having detailed plans for attacking a US warship on his personal computer. Ahmed was arrested in 2004 and remains behind bars without a conviction to this day; he currently stands as the longest detained-without-trial British citizen whilst fighting a court case to prevent his extradition to the USA.

## THE 'IRRESPONSIBLE' MEDIA

In light of recent events, *felix* spoke to Islamic Society President, Salman Butt, and asked him how the media's attention on student Islamic societies has changed his experience as the leader of what he believes a peaceful and open society.

He is seemingly most perturbed by how the 'irresponsible' national media are portraying student societies like his, and what impression that gives to the public.

"Islamic Society at Imperial is very different to the media's impression of us, that it is a breeding ground for terrorism and there's strange things going on. But if you have a close look at any Islamic society at any university, you'll find they're just normal people as such and they're not up to any mischief."

He is very understanding of the situation he finds himself in, but realises the potential detriments it might bring the society.

"Its quite funny but when you think about it, if that's the only exposure people are getting, people get scared. The sad thing is parents might tell their children not to come to us and not get involved. That just leads to them being loners and not being incorpo-

rated into the community at Imperial."

## IMPARTIAL IMPERIAL

The week after Abdulmutallab's failed bomb attempt, Anthony Glees, Professor of Security and Intelligence studies at the University of Buckingham was quoted as saying that "all British universities must look at their Islamic Societies and demand assurances that no radicalisation will be allowed. If they can't give those assurances, they should be disbanded."

After hearing the argument, Butt takes time to consider his immediate thoughts, and is eventually inconclusive. Demanding assurances that nothing questionable is going on within a society is not as clear-cut as Professor Glees demands.

"I find it difficult to prove that someone isn't breeding radicalisation, because how can you prove something doesn't exist, how can you assure someone that nothing is happening? You have to show something is happening as the opposite, or otherwise?"

We move onto matters closer to home, and I ask how he'd deal with members of the society that harboured views that wouldn't hold well

**"...there is obviously a lens which people look at Muslims through."**

in the public eye. I get the impression that he has encountered such perspectives, but they are not ones that he particularly shares.

When I ask him if he thinks that extremist views are flying under his radar, and hence also the College's, he states that he sees the Islamic Society as place for dialogue and a source of advice. He feels that it is not his, or the society's, place to shut anyone's mouth by force, including one that may be spitting nails.

"I don't condemn people for having certain views or opinions, but if there were radical opinions like that, we would discuss them."

Even though Imperial College Union have little in the way of a political agenda, free-speech is traditionally important for students' political weight in society. Butt recognizes this and reiterates his standpoint. "That is what university is about, we can't just force these people to hide their views and go underground; everyone has an opinion. It's not a sin or anything to have one opinion," he says. He makes the point that it is not a matter of wrong or right, but difference in opinion. I feel he'd make an excellent politician, and there is something to admire

as he avoids demonizing people with extremist views, just like the British press have done, but never gives the impression that he agrees with these views either. It is almost like he is caught in two minds over defending his fellow Muslims and condemning their views and actions, which are deemed widely unacceptable to have. However, he strikes a fine balance in doing both.

He states, "There's no reason why we should harbour any ill feelings towards anyone that doesn't agree with us on certain issues. Everyone should have the right to have an opinion on certain atrocities that have happened, as long as they don't break the law doing it. That's a whole different kettle of fish."

His open-mindedness is not something he feels national authorities are appreciating. As he talks, he is obviously frustrated by the fact that national authorities, the media and hence the public are taking a such a heavy hand in their dealings with suspicious student societies. To prove a point, he likens the Islamic society to any other society at Imperial on several occasions, and you can see why he does it. The term 'Islamic society' carries an unfavourable stigma, and replacing the description 'Islamic' with something like 'knitting' serves the argument extremely well.

"Someone could use an Islamic society, or even a baking or knitting society to promote any agenda," he jovially answers when I ask him if extremists are using student societies as platforms for promoting dangerous beliefs.

## UNDER THE MAGNIFYING GLASS

"People in Islamic societies are now those who get the finger pointed at them in the media," he sighs. "A lot of members of Islamic societies may get arrested and get charged under certain anti-terror rules that we have in this country, unfortunately. That doesn't mean they are actually terrorists or have committed anything." The mention of Babar Ahmed is lingering in the air. He is quite clearly famous for all the wrong reasons, and his strong connections with Imperial College, the institution we are both sitting within, suddenly gives the conversation a very realistic twist.

"There are so many people in prison without having a sentence put on them such as Babar Ahmed, from Imperial. He's still in prison and hasn't been convicted of anything. I know it's because there's an atmosphere of fear and so on, but when it comes to Islamic societies there is obviously a lens which people look at Muslims through."

The metaphorical idea of a lens which the public think they have the right to look at Islam through resonates greatly with me. There is no reason to distrust an honest man

like Butt, but yet people are inspecting others just like him a bit too closely. "I know several people whose houses have been raided for no reason and haven't been charged. They're just regular people like you and me."

Throughout our 40-minute conversation, Butt is eager to push the idea of criminal activity, not just terrorism, away from student societies like his at Imperial. His point is that just because the guilty party is part of his society does not mean the society is guilty.

"If you see it from our perspective, the vilification of Islamic societies harbouring terrorists is like if someone went to Sainsbury's and then accused them of harbouring terrorism; the link is tenuous. We don't train people to go break the law! If someone commits a crime, it's upon them. They're also at Imperial, live in London, shop at a certain place, are part of a certain mosque and part of a certain society, it doesn't mean they've been influenced by all of these things to do something."

## WHO'S RESPONSIBLE?

Many fear that a way student extremists are influencing others with their radical beliefs is via the invitation of guest speakers to events held by student societies. In 2008, Imperial saw a fiasco unfold as ex-Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir bin Mohamad visited Imperial on the invitation of Political & Philosophical Society. His controversial opinions as a terrorism-sympathiser sparked off many security and censorship concerns, and it ended with a high-up College authority banning all external media and attendance from the event twenty minutes before it was due to commence. UCL have been criticised by the media for not monitoring their students' activities, namely Abdulmutallab's, closely enough, including the guest speakers he invited as part of a now well-publicised War on Terror week he helped organise.

Since Mahathir bin Mohamad's visit, College and the Union screen any guest speaker invited to the university. Students must have a Guest Speaker Form approved by security before their event planning can proceed. I asked Butt what he thought of the protocols used by College, and the pride of his response almost renders it a statement.

"I guess they're effective. We've never had any problem. Our society's axiom of everything we do is to prevent any harm before you attain any benefit. This is something from Islamic principles that we encourage. So if there is a speaker that was deemed controversial, though there might be a benefit bringing him in, regarding freedom of speech and he may have some good ideas,



**Top: Islamic Society President, Salman Butt says, "The Friday sermon is in the Union Building (pictured)! Everything's out in the open. We're not having any secret gatherings."**

**Middle: Headlines reporting the aftermath of Abdulmutallab's failed bombing on 25 Dec 2009**

**228**

members of Islamic Society in 2008/09

**12**

lifetime memberships of Islamic Society bought in 2008/09

**"If you see it from our perspective, the vilification of Islamic societies harbouring terrorists is like if someone went to Sainsbury's then accused them of harbouring terrorism; the link is tenuous."**

ideas, the controversy that could be caused is enough for us to raise a flag and so we wouldn't invite them. If the speaker is Muslim, they will understand, it is a well known axiom in our religion."

Alongside his own judgment, Butt also believes the healthy relationship he has with College authorities creates a "really good balance" at Imperial. He adds, "We've got the freedom to operate but they also have the safety procedures such as speaker clearance checks by security. Also, we have such a close relationship with Andrew Willson, the Chaplain, and Sir Keith O'Nions, the Rector. We regularly exchange emails. They do keep an eye out on us but its not spying. It's a healthy exchange of information. If no one knew about us, and we weren't doing events, that harbours suspicion."

Butt also feels the detriment of the public attention Muslims have received in the past decade has added another dimension to Muslim students wanting to live a politically pro-active life at university.

"Some people might hold political views, I don't myself, but we live in a climate that if Muslim people are interested in politics, and a non-Muslim person is interested in politics, they won't really be seen the same. For example, if someone disagrees with UK Foreign Policy, if he's a Muslim, it's questioned," he says.

**SAFETY NETS**

A thought crosses my mind, and I wander if he comes across any unprovoked hostility on campus.

"Not really personally, there's an odd post on a forum here and there and you have to live with that. If you give someone a platform like that, if they have hostile views, they come forward," he confesses. My mind flashes back to Live!, Imperial's student news website that allows users to post feedback anonymously. What Butt has pointed out certainly rings true when it comes to the message board posts relating to the stories of Babar Ahmed's arrest in 2004. He does however, encourage people to report any "physical or verbal abuse", especially if they are not confident enough to report it due to intimidation. With a cautious smile, presumably of relief, he adds, "Although thankfully Imperial isn't a place where people lower themselves to that degree." Whilst the media broadly announces that terrorism is being developed under the safety blanket of university campuses, as in Abdulmutallab's case, Imperial's campus and community is Butt's own safety blanket away from the public's spotlight of condemnation. He then adds, "But then there's still the surrounding community."



**Dealing with controversy**

*felix* quizzes Union President Ashley Brown on the Union's policy regarding guest speakers

**How would you come to a decision if a contentious Guest Speaker Request Form was put on your desk?**

Google, consultation with the College secretary and Pro-Rector (education), or Dean of Students. However, there's nothing wrong with students hearing from contentious speakers in fact, university should be a place where people's views are challenged. The issue comes where a speaker tries to recruit or radicalise.

**How do you pre-empt a speaker looking to push his extreme beliefs on students?**

Well, in a lot of cases you can't tell until they're here, but there's not much you can do about that. Unless you want to ask the security services to give you a yay or nay, which a bit too close to an authoritarian government for my liking.

**Surely you have to question the motives of the students inviting such a speaker in the first place?**

What if I decided, say, to invite Nick Griffin to speak? Should the assumption be that I'm a big racist, or that I wanted him somewhere where he could prove what a complete cock he is? I would, though, expect a responsible club or society to organise balanced discussions, so if they wanted someone with a contentious viewpoint, they had someone there to argue against it too.

**Would you not be then concerned that he could get through to even a tiny percentage of his audience? Even if it was just one person believing things that would detrimental to society if they were to come to fruition.**

But much like we can tell that Nick Griffin is bad, you can't tell that about some extremist people. We could just as easily find that one of our clubs had invited someone associated with the BNP that no-one had information on. How would you know? The only way to be absolutely sure is to stop clubs inviting external speakers or monitor what all of them say which is clearly ridiculous. What is important is to maintain a good dialogue with clubs who want to invite speakers who might be considered contentious.

**So, what's the solution?**

If you want to keep universities as places where conventional views are challenged, there isn't one. Keeping an opening dialogue helps, but things can always slip through. That's the insanity with the UCL situation.

**Standpoint of London's students**

**President of the UCL Islamic Society**

Mojeed Adams-Mogaji, on Abdulmutallab and student extremism

*"As a society, we unequivocally and in very clear terms denounce all acts of terrorism and violence regardless of the perpetrator. It is important to realise that as long as this expression [of extremism] does not incite violence or break the law, then it should not only be permissible but fostered for academic student debate. Never has a speaker invited by the UCL Islamic Society espoused views on campus which would incite violence or would have broken the law."*

**A member of LSE Islamic Society**

Regarding Reza Pankhurst, a regular speaker with radical views

*"He preaches every other week and is constantly bringing the subject around the need to establish the Caliphate [Islamic state]. Only last week he was talking about the Detroit bomber and saying the guy was not radicalised in London and it was all to do with foreign policy. Last year he recommended we should attend a conference which I later discovered was organised by Hizb ut-Tahrir [a government-monitored hardline Islamic group], but he never mentions the party by name."*

**College staff member attacks student's guest at Union**

**Dan Wan** Editor-in-Chief

Violence erupted at the Union on Friday night after a guest of an Imperial student was left with a bloody face after being attacked by a member of College staff on his last day of work.

Reports from the night suggest the attack was unprovoked and sudden, and occurred at around 1.30am as the Union event wound down.

The situation ended well after closing time with the attacker being escorted into a police car on Prince Consort Road. The confrontation was said to have risen in dB's nightclub when the guest and his group of friends, whom were all Imperial students, left the sofa they were at to buy drinks. Shortly after, the unnamed guest was approached by a man described to be in his early thirties wanting to use the sofa. His immediate behaviour was described as drunkenly aggressive, and when he was politely refused permission to use the sofa, he lashed out with his fists at the guest.

Understandably shocked, the guest was led out of the Union building as security started the search for the attacker. After some first-aid treatment to a several-inch long cut above his right eyebrow, the guest was interviewed by Union security and stewards. He decided to press charges, and the police and ambulance were subsequently called. The victim was later taken to hospital.

The man arrested has since been found to be a former member of College staff who works in Registry. He was at the Union celebrating his last day of work at Imperial.

**"The situation ended with the attacker being escorted into a police car on Prince Consort Road."**

The College Registry regularly deals with student welfare matters including admissions, financial hardships and examination procedures.

A spokesperson for Imperial stated, "Imperial regrets to confirm that on Saturday 16 January at approximately 1am, a former member of staff was allegedly involved in a physical assault on a guest in one of the College's student union bars. Union staff and stewards promptly called an ambulance and the police and administered first aid to the victim, who was subsequently treated in hospital for cuts to the face.

"The incident is now being investigated by the police, and the College has no further comment to make at this stage."



Roger loved standing in doorways alone whilst his friends went drinking

# Exhibition Road Project opposed by charities

Sina Ataherian News Reporter

The Exhibition Road Project has come up against a hurdle still standing after a group of 30 charities are looking to carry on fighting their case to stop the removal of pavements on Exhibition road, creating a shared space for pedestrians and traffic.

On Friday they applied for a second High Court hearing to challenge the legality of the £25 million plans, which one of the charities, Guide Dogs, claims will endanger the safety of visitors, particularly the blind, disabled, elderly and children. The charities are hoping to reverse a High Court ruling made last month that the application for judicial review of the pavement removal project was "premature." Guide Dogs claims that the plan is "dangerous and unlawful."

The charities serve disabled people and are concerned about the possible safety implications of the project, particularly for these vulnerable groups. It is not hard to see why some people may be concerned about creating a zone for joint use by both cars and pedestrians, especially when the areas attracts more than 11 million visitors a year. The council has sought to alleviate these fears by reminding concerned individuals and groups that the boundaries of a pedestrian zone would be clearly marked by a "tactile corduroy delineator" and that traffic will be

restricted to 20mph. Guide Dogs, in leading the group of 30 charities in applying for a second High Court hearing, responded that tactile boundaries are "untested."

In December, when interviewed by *felix*, Project Leader, Councillor Nicholas Paget-Brown from the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea argued the removal of formal pavements would benefit disabled people.

He said, "the kerb itself is a trip hazard and is not actually an ideal barrier for people with physical disabilities. So removing the kerbs can be very helpful."

He was also certain that guide dogs would be able to distinguish pedestrianised and motorway sections of the surface, stating, "It is certainly possible to train guide dogs to recognize a strip of corduroy paving all away up."

Tom Pey, from Guide Dogs, said: "The council has repeatedly ignored our research and representations from other organisations, as well as our 'Say No to Shared Streets Campaign' which is supported by 30 disability groups."

There is currently academic research being done on the concept of shared zones for use by both pedestrians and traffic. The government has delayed giving advice on the issue until the results of that research are published. An alternative proposal, which has not received much support, is for Exhibition Road to be closed to traffic during periods of heavy pedestrian use, such as during the day and at weekends.



Artist's impression of what Exhibition Road will look like come 2012. No guide dogs pictured. COINCIDENCE?!

## Imperial College ranks top university for LGBT employment

Joanna Cai News Reporter

Imperial College London has been listed among Stonewall's Top 100 Employers 2010 for being one of the top employers of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) people. The Workplace Equality Index, released on 13th January, places Imperial at number 79 ahead of the only other HEI (higher education institution) in the list, Liverpool John Moores University, which follows at 85.

Rector Sir Keith O'Nions welcomed the news by saying: "Imperial's great strength lies in the people who work here and we can't afford to let talent go to waste due to ignorance or prejudice." He added: "Making it into Stonewall's Index of Top 100 Employers is a real milestone for us and sends a strong message that discrimination based on sexual orientation has no place on our campuses and will not be tolerated." Imperial was one of the first HEIs to take part in Stonewall's Diversity Champions Programme which allows employers to work with Stonewall in promoting equality for LGBT people in the workplace.

Since 1989, Stonewall has been a professional lobby group aimed at preventing the stigmatising and attack of LGBT people. Over the years, Stonewall has successfully campaigned on numerous fronts which include lifting the ban on lesbians and gay men serving in the military, as well as helping to



secure civil partnerships. Stonewall is part of the Equality and Diversity Forum which is a group of organisations with an aim to address and progress on age, disability, gender, race, religion and belief, and sexual orientation issues. In January 2009, Imperial relaunched the staff advisory group Imperial 600 which ensures that all College policies afford the same right to LGBT people as everybody else. Rector O'Nions pointed out, "My thanks and congratulations go in particular to the members of Imperial 600 for leading the work that has made this success possible."

*felix* spoke to Chris Darby who is the President of IQ, the LGBT society at

Imperial. He welcomed the good news but also stressed that although "this is fantastic for the staff, there is a long way to go for the student body". He admitted that if there was to be a Top 100 list of LGBT-friendly universities, Imperial might well not feature.

Unlike the staff advisory group Imperial 600 who received a boost in funds accompanying their relaunch, as well as increased efforts towards achieving diversity and equality, the student LGBT community has seen no such additional support.

Hostility towards LGBT students at Imperial remains a problem, and Chris feels that the diversity that exists at Imperial is bittersweet. Issues of race,

disability, religion and gender are all widely accepted as deserving equality but according to Chris, there remains a certain "taboo" associated with sexual orientation.

Nevertheless, Imperial's place on the Top 100 Employers list is an official indication that Imperial is striving towards equality for LGBT staff, and hopefully the recent efforts among the staff will also be seen within the student community.

Please visit [www.stonewall.org.uk](http://www.stonewall.org.uk) for more information on their work. There is a Graduate Recruitment Guide available on [www.startingoutguide.org.uk](http://www.startingoutguide.org.uk) which features organisations that work alongside Stonewall.

### Stonewall's Top LGBT Employers

1. IBM
2. Hampshire Constabulary
3. Ernst & Young
4. Brighton & Hove City Council
5. Goldman Sachs
6. Home Office
7. London Borough of Tower Hamlets
8. Manchester City Council
9. Kent Police
- 9 Nacro
- 11= Environment Agency for England & Wales
- 11= London Borough of Islington
- 13= Merseyside Police
- 13= Transport for London
15. Simmons & Simmons
16. Gentoo Group
- 17= East Sussex County Council
- 17= Foreign & Commonwealth Office
- 19= Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust
- 19= West Midlands Police



# Democrats lose seat

The election of a Republican in Massachusetts shows US public anger at Obama's economic and healthcare policies



On Tuesday, the Massachusetts Senate race was won by the Republican candidate, Scott Brown. His Democratic rival Martha Coakley put up a pathetically weak fight. Her official campaign literature misspelt the word Massachusetts, and she confused the Boston Red Sox with the New York Yankees (Boston is the capital of Massachusetts). Brown was able to win the seat despite Republicans being outnumbered three to one in the state. His victory sends an especially clear message about Obama's falling prestige and the Democrats' momentum heading into the 2010 campaign season, because he had chosen to make signature issues out of the key dividing lines in US politics today.

Massachusetts Republicans had feared that voters may choose the Democratic candidate out of pure habit. The seat has been in Kennedy hands for over half a century and Democratic since the early '20s. Seeking to address this issue Brown had noted that, "this Senate seat belongs to no one person, no one political party. This is the people's seat."

John Walsh, Chairman of the Massachusetts Democratic Party, blamed the Party and the campaign that it ran, "we have to get better at describing

what we believe in and why."

Brown's victory comes on top of decisions by five House Democrats since November, to retire instead of face potentially tough races later this year, as well as Democratic losses in the New Jersey and Virginia gubernatorial races in that month. The Republicans now have 41 seats in the Senate, which allows them to filibuster legislation. Crucially, it should allow them to block the Democrat's proposed socialisation of healthcare.

Given the signals that this has sent about the current political sentiments of the American people, Brown's election should make it less likely that moderate Republicans, such as Olympia Snowe, will back the Democrats on key current issues such as the Democratic healthcare proposals, which are being held in the Senate.

It could even encourage some of the moderate Democrats such as Blanche Lincoln to vote with the Republicans on such matters. The Senate Democratic leadership may now try to force through the Healthcare Bill before Scott is seated. However, there is opposition to that, even from some Democrats such as Senator Jim Webb, who said in a statement that it would be "fair and prudent" to suspend further votes on healthcare legislation until Brown is seated.

Brown has been running as an independent, going around the state in a pick-up truck and asking famous Republican politicians not to actively campaign for him. This led Massachusetts' former Republican Governor Paul Cellucci to conclude that, "the message for the national Republican Party should be, even though people aren't happy with the Democrats right now, if we get back to power we can find ways to be independent and be bipartisan. People are sick of this partisanship."

Brown will serve the rest of the late Senator Ted Kennedy's term, until January 2013. He replaces Paul Kirk, a close friend of Ted Kennedy who was appointed by Democratic Governor Deval Patrick on Sept 24 to temporarily fill the vacant seat.

Ironically, Mr. Kirk could have served out the remainder of Ted Kennedy's term but for recent Democratic legislation that requires special elections for vacant Senate seats in the Commonwealth.

That legislation was passed at a time when a Democratic state legislature feared that then Republican Governor, Mitt Romney would appoint a Republican to fill John Kerry's seat. A seat which was supposed to be vacated by Kerry winning the 2004 United States Presidential elections.

## Goldman Sachs employees earning healthy bonuses after strong profits

Goldman Sachs has received much criticism for paying large bonuses even after being bailed out of bankruptcy by the American taxpayer. But with so many students here at Imperial thinking of going into investment banking after their degrees, it might be nice to reflect on how well you can do, even after your firm and industry fail big time. Below is a list compiled by ABC News of 10 Goldman employees likely to earn bonuses of more than \$10 million this year:

### Traders

**1** – Pierre-Henri Flamand is a French-born 39-year-old who was rumoured to have been paid \$100 million a few years ago (Goldman denied it). Flamand is the London-based global head of Goldman's purely proprietary trading group, Goldman Sachs Principal Strategies. Goldman CEO Blankfein has said pure prop trading is only 10 percent of the firm's trading revenues and profits.

**2** – Ashok Varadhan, one of Goldman's top fixed-income guns, is the global head of foreign exchange trading in North America. Varadhan, who was made partner in 2002 at age 29, owns luxury digs in the same New York apartment building as Blankfein. Varadhan's dad, Srinivasa, teaches math at New York University. He had a brother, Gopal, who worked as a trader for Cantor Fitzgerald and was killed in the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

**3** – David Heller joined Goldman in Asia in the late 1980s. He has risen within the firm, becoming the head of global equity a few years ago. Last year, he was named co-head of the Securities Division. Goldman's equities division delivered \$2.8 billion in revenues in the third quarter alone. "Heller is possibly the one person other than Gary [Cohn, Goldman's president] who could someday succeed Blankfein," said one Wall Street headhunter.

**4** – Ed Eisler is head of interest rate trading, which is part of Goldman's most profitable division, Fixed Income Commodities and Currency. The FICC group contributed the lion's share of the firm's \$24 billion in trading revenues recorded through the first nine months of the year.

### Asset Managers

**5** – Raanan Agus, 41-year-old manager of Goldman Sachs Investment Partners, a \$7 billion hedge fund created at the start of 2008. Agus, a world-class chess enthusiast who is known to prefer Honda minivans to Hummers, runs the GSIP fund within Goldman's asset management division, which has nearly \$1 trillion under management. Through the first half of the year, Agus' GSIP, which had a rocky 2008, was said to have had gains of around 6 percent.

**6** – Marc Spilker, who helps run Goldman's entire massive investment management business, recently made the kind of headlines his bosses hate. He got into a vitriolic public dispute with his East Hampton neighbour, hedge fund heavyweight Jim Chanos, over a shared pathway to the beach near their homes. Spilker's area produces nearly \$1 billion in revenues each quarter.

### Salespeople

**7** – Harvey Schwartz, Goldman's head of global sales and a co-head of the firm's securities division. "People don't realize how much sales drives Goldman's business," said one Wall Street headhunter. "Harvey is always among the firm's best paid people."

**8** – Isabelle Ealet, London-based global head of commodities and who runs the sales team for this hugely successful trading operation. She ranks No. 32 on Fortune magazine's list of the most powerful women in business.

### Bankers

**9** – Gordon Dyal, global head of mergers and acquisitions. According to Dealogic, Goldman ranked No.1 in global M&A transactions through the first three-quarters of the year. Its investment banking division had produced \$3.2 billion in net revenue. In one of the biggest fee-generating deals of the year, Goldman advised Burlington Northern Santa Fe when the railroad was bought out for \$44 billion by Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway.

**10** – Richard Friedman, 51-year-old head of Goldman's merchant banking division. A few years ago he helped pull off the historic initial public offering of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China. Goldman has maintained a modest investment stake in ICBC, which continues to produce eye-popping returns – ICBC shares yielded Goldman \$1.1 billion worth of revenue through the first nine months of 2009.

The complaints about excessive bonuses at the big investment banks, especially Goldman, have not just been coming from politicians and the media. The Security Police and Fire Professionals of America Retirement Fund has filed a shareholder lawsuit against the bank, naming its CEO Lloyd Blankfein and other leading executives as defendants. The suit is seeking to recover billions of dollars that Goldman has paid to its employees in bonuses over the past couple of years.

Although the bank has repaid its TARP money, its critics claim that it has also unfairly benefited from its bonds being backed by the government at no cost, as well as from the bailout of AIG, in which it was a major shareholder. However, even in recent years, the US government has gained vastly more in tax revenue from the bank than it has spent bailing it out.



## Ali Jawad on the lack of human rights in Gaza



"Damage to the economy is not as serious as its effect on living conditions and health services"



24th December, 2008. Many of us were most likely sitting at home with the family, enjoying a peaceful night in, or out partying with friends, as Christmas Eve should be. Yet some 2000 miles away, the mood could not be more different. On a 25-mile strip of coastal land steeped in history, controversy and conflict, fighting had once again broken out. This foresaw more tears and bloodshed in the area famously dubbed 'the world's largest open-air prison' – a fitting name for the territory, walled-off and under strict constant surveillance, encapsulating a million and a half people, many innocent children unknowing of what would befall them. War had once more struck Gaza, Palestine, already decrepit from years of repeated battles.

Yet this recent conflict, referred to as 'The Gaza War', spurred tragedies unprecedented on these grounds, with an estimated death toll of 1400 Palestinians, over 900 of whom were civilians, as reported by the Palestinian Centre

of Human Rights. However, this contrasts drastically with figures presented by the opposing Israeli Defence Force, with 1100 Palestinian mortalities, and the ratio of civilians to militia reversed. The discrepancy between statistics, not to mention the barring of reporters from entering the war zone, highlights the shrouded nature of this particular clash. Channel 4 news stalwart John Snow, viewing the clash from a hilltop outside the Gazan borders, reported: 'As with every military conflict, the inevitable first casualty is the truth... caught in a pincer movement of lack of access, and our own regulations'. Even UN Representatives were restricted from investigating accounts of numerous war crimes and severe breaches of humanitarian law, such as the shelling of a former UN school-turn-refugee camp, resulting in the reported deaths of 40 Palestinians. Statistics can only show a small portion of war – the true horrors, such as countless bodies lying in blood-spattered rubble, or a hysterical mother rushing through the streets

carrying the remains of what used to be her living, breathing child, had to be seen to be understood. As John Snow also stated: 'Wrapped remains and wailing women shock, but do not connect in the same way. We see the image, we know it's bad, but we do not experience the emotion. When the Israelis exclude the media, they know what they are doing.'

As we look back on history, we only need to go as far as the new Millennium to gather a veritable number of past conflicts, setting aside the countless wars dating back to the historical formation of the State of Israel in 1948. The years 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2003 have all hosted major clashes between Israeli Forces and Palestinian Militia, with the unavoidable involvement of the densely-populated Gaza. Yet it was 2004 that marked the first of a series of Gaza-centred urban skirmishes, with reiterations in the second half of 2006, 2007-2008 and, most recently, the 17-day massacre of December 2008 to January 2009. Major fighting

has become more than a regular visitor to the region; it is almost routine, and residents' hopes for a positive future are undoubtedly deteriorating day by day. Yet war does not stop at 'mere' fighting – 2006 is notable for the Israeli sanctions on Gaza, which in the following year manifested into a merciless blockade that has yet to be lifted, despite calls from major powers and figures worldwide. The damage to the economy is not nearly as serious as its brutal effect on living conditions and the health services. Without running water and electricity, and lacking supplies, Gaza slowly began to wither, with hospitals producing horrific numbers of mortalities. Yet amidst the cries, Egypt, once a sympathiser with the victims, sealed off passage and aid with a barrier of their own, leaving what seemed to be almost no way out. Finally, the impoverished enclave was struck further when the Gaza War inflicted another \$2 billion worth of damage. And Human Rights? The great papers of Declaration now

lay tattered amongst the smouldering remains of war.

Yet the 2008/2009 war was also different in another sense; it resonated uncomfortably with a public previously apathetic to the goings-on in the territory. Support from all over the globe has poured in, and people, a vast proportion of them students, have rallied in their furious shouts for 'something to be done', for 'Human Rights to be acknowledged', for 'the murder to cease'. Aside from major charities such as UNICEF and British Red Cross pledging their aid, numerous smaller charities have sprung up to play their part. The recent conflict in particular saw a nationwide student backlash - student activism took hold of the universities, in a manner somewhat reminiscent of the days of the Vietnam War. This January will herald Gaza Awareness week in Imperial College London, orchestrated by Ahlul Bayt Society, providing an opportunity for you to get involved or even just to educate yourself about this worthy cause.

## Ken Wu on the glamour of American democracy



"...like Pamela Anderson, American democracy is unfortunately all show and no



The American campaign trail is a thing of beauty. An exhibition of pure democracy at work, it really encapsulated Churchill's quotation: "It has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all the others that have been tried". Nowhere else would you find an Ivy League elitist engaging in high level debates with the farmers, steel workers and college drop-outs of the American heartland. The idealistic virtues of politics are exemplified and the devious natures of political manipulation are forgotten. "...5 minutes with the average voter", rather than the "best argument against democracy" (again Churchill) I think it perfectly demonstrates the essence of it. With the addition of Hollywood glamour, the

alluring factor of election season becomes irresistible. If anyone has seen/iPlayered the film about the election story of Barack Obama last week, they will have seen the struggles, hopes and triumphs of a Presidential election. A story any Hollywood producer would have been proud of, the "American dream" has never been more enticing, much like the silicone infested body of Pamela Anderson.

However, like Pamela Anderson, American democracy is unfortunately all show and no substance. Take the case of Barack Obama, a person so full of hope and promise, destined to lead America out of the depths of despair and into a new age of glory. One year after "Obamaina", it is difficult to see what he has actually done to change America let alone deserve a Nobel

Prize (ironically "Change" essentially won him the election). Obama has just about tried everything to make an impact but even the air of promise has been suffocated by the poisons of Washington. The much hyped healthcare reform so central to his campaign finally passed the Senate on Christmas Eve and after going through the reshaping of the US Congress, it has been maimed beyond recognition, a far cry from Obama's initial dream of government funded universal healthcare. Countless other Obama initiatives, foreign and domestic including key campaign issues such as Guantanamo Bay, Iraq and Afghanistan, Climate and Economy are stuck in the monotonous grinding processes of the House and Senate and it is difficult to see how long it would be until any re-

sults are seen.

It is easy to criticise the US Congress on delaying issues for the sake of political shenanigans but I think the US Democratic system is to blame. Yes the very democracy that I championed at the start of the article is indeed the root of the problem. Herein lies the problem and it is a wonder that anything ever gets done in American politics: 4 years in a presidency, 2nd year midterms, 4th year re-election therefore need to campaign therefore nothing substantial gets done; 3rd year is after midterms which means Congress has changed therefore new people can appear on the scene to satisfy or you might have lost the majority and you need to think about re-election therefore minimal things get done. This only leaves the first year to get any-

thing done and if it takes 11 months to pass a healthcare bill then how can a president deliver on his promises highlighted so poetically in the campaign?

I really do hope the idea of democracy in America in more than mere debate, great rhetoric in campaigns and political manipulation in government. Mario Cuomo said that "You campaign in poetry. You govern in prose" and I wish more life-changing prose can be written from the Oval Office. In fact American democracy could not be simpler: either run for elections or delay actually governing until another one comes along! Like Pamela Anderson, American democracy entices you with its tantalizing appeal of elections, but Hollywood surgery only serves to look good and nothing more.



# Rhys Davies welcomes you to Wales



"...West Wales. There are caravans here, and puffins, and holiday-homes for people in Surrey to visit on the weekend."



I am a stranger in a strange land. As much I adore this sprawling metropolis, the inkblot on the cosmic sketchbook that is London, I know in my heart that it's not home. You see, I'm not from round these parts. I'm not even English – not that should shock one the most multi-cultural student bodies in the country. If you have been at all confused by my somewhat uncommon nomenclature, I can assure you it is peculiar to my home country. I come from that beloved corner of Britain where the grass is greener and the rain is wetter. Wales. That old land of my fathers, where there are more sheep than vowels and where people communicate across the valleys with scores of male voice choirs, is where I call home.

Here's a joke for you:

What do you call a sheep tied to a lamppost in the middle of Cardiff? A

leisure centre. Haha.

As devastatingly funny as that paragon of humour was, it is not an accurate depiction of my country. And yet this is what people think of when I tell them I'm from Wales, which is a shame of the highest calibre. Wales is such a lovely country, rich in culture and history; at least, that's what I think but, hey, maybe I'm biased. Anyway, consider this a whistle-stop tour of the real green and pleasant land.

First off, the sheep. Yes, we do have a lot of them. In fact, they outnumber the people four to one, which is why I hope and pray they never revolt. We would be screwed! Keeping the sheep peaceful is one reason why we don't shag them. The other reason is because it's weird, and not the least bit icky.

Next, castles. Wales has lots of castles. If you don't have a castle, you're nothing. The reason we have so many

is because they're useful things to have when you find yourself being invaded. And people like invading Wales; Romans, Irish, Vikings, French (though we beat them) and it's like a hobby for the English or something. If you're ever in Wales, try and find your nearest castell, I promise it won't be far. I once found one on a golf course.

By the way, castell isn't a misspelling, it's Welsh. Yes, Wales has its own language. It's what everyone used to speak before the English invaded (I can't remember which time) but now, sadly, it's the reserve of the Gogledwrau (the people of North Wales) and those know-it-all who paid attention in GCSE Welsh. But I digress. Welsh is a lovely, musical language, filled with grammatical tomfoolery. For a start, we have more vowels than English, because we're bohemian libertines like that. There's also a few double-letters

like ll, ch, ff, in case we need sounds that English people can't pronounce (and not for lack of trying. I spent a year training a captive Englishman, nothing).

Onto the two big Rs: rugby and religion. In Wales, these are one and the same. Though he may be accused of being ignorant in many things, a Welshman knows his way around three things; a bible, a rugby ball...and a sheep, of course. These two facets are so intimately intertwined, so deeply ingrained in the Welsh identity that the well-known revival hymn Bread of Heaven often echoes round the Millennium Stadium during the pitched battles of the Six Nations. Indeed, the passion behind that anthem far outstrips the paltry quaverings of Jerusalem.

A word on the geography. There's South Wales, where all the shiny, interesting and downright useful stuff,

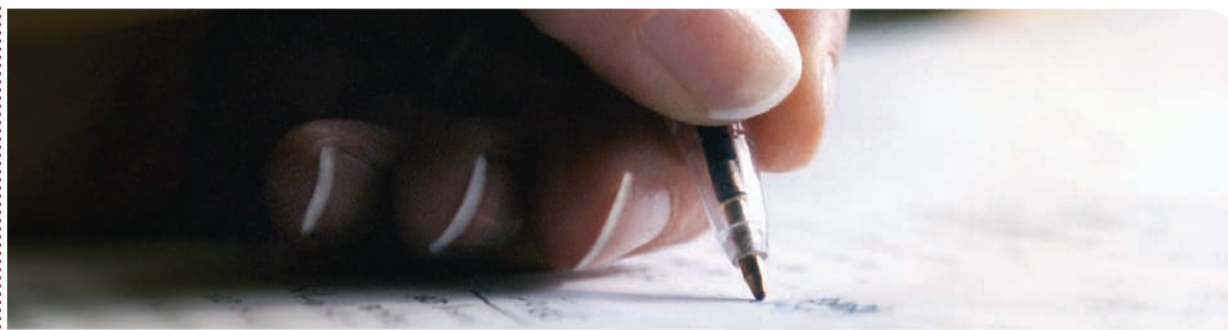
like Doctor Who and my house, for example, may be found. Then there's West Wales. There are caravans here, and puffins, and holiday-homes for people in Surrey to visit on the weekend. Then there's Mid Wales, which is full of mountains. I'm not sure what else is there...it's quite a "here be dragons" place. And those are real dragons. Lastly, there's North Wales. It's like another country, completely alien in every way. They speak Welsh there... properly, I mean, not just as an easy way to chat up women. The only thing I can tell you for certain is that they hate South Wales with the passion of a thousand suns. I don't why...it's probably because we're better.

The Welsh are a completely downtrodden yet eternally optimistic people. We're the underdog of the British... and everyone loves an underdog. Hywl Fawr!

# Gilead Amit takes up underwriting as a hobby



"I've wasted enough time already. Right - time to sit down and finally batter out this week's



Can't I put it off for a few hours longer?

No, I've wasted enough time already. Right - time to sit down and finally batter out this week's comment piece. Maybe I should just clean the living room again? Some more dust may have accumulated under the sofa in the two minutes since I put the vacuum cleaner away... Maybe putting the vacuum cleaner away *caused* more dust to accumulate under the sofa? I'd better go and check...

No - I should sit and write.

Maybe just polish the computer screen one last time...

No, No and No. Get a grip on yourself, turn on the computer, mute the sound, and open Microsoft Word. Right. I've opened a new blank document and it just looks so pretty. So clean and white - it's almost a shame to spoil it by writing anything on it. Anything short of perfection, that is. So the first line must leap out of the starting blocks like Usain Bolt being

tasered. It should welcome and arouse with the elegance and charm of Lauren Bacall putting her lips together and blowing. The page should vibrate to the pulsating rhythm of the very first Flaubertian mots justes.

"There is a fine distinction between the artistic and the artisanal."

Hm. That might work. At least it's not actually grammatically incorrect. Still, there's no point in getting this worked up over the first sentence, or I'll never get around to writing the second one. That's what happened to the last few novels I tried to write. Ok, let's move on.

Ctrl+S.

Oh - I need to give the document a name. "Art and artifice." Nope. "Flowing through our Arteries." Hm. Maybe I'm better off simply calling it "Term 2: Comment II". That'll do for the moment. I'll just write that out at the top of the document and then I can move on. There. Doesn't that look pretty? OK, where was I.

Hold on - shouldn't the title be cen-

tralised? Give me a moment, I'll be right back. There we go. Maybe italics... and bold font? No, definitely not - far too crass. How about a subtle underline? Much better.

Great. Back to the text.

How about changing the font?

Stop it! I can change the font later. Once I've actually written something...

So:

"There is a fine distinction between the artistic and the artisanal."

Maybe that should be:

"There is a fine line separating the artistic and the artisanal."

Aha! I know:

"The line separating the artistic and the artisanal could be drawn with a 7H pencil." Or doesn't that quite work? Never mind, never mind! Keep moving forward, that's the key.

Ctrl+S.

Do I really want to say 'separating'? How about 'dividing'? I wonder what thesaurus.com has to say about it.

Might as well open a new browser, wait for thesaurus.com to load... Oh

look! A new e-mail in my google account. Well, a new e-mail in my spam folder, at any rate. Make that 374 new e-mails in my spam folder. I wonder what procedure my account uses to separate (or should that be divide?) between spam and genuine e-mails? Surely there can't be an algorithm that faultlessly makes the distinction every time? I mean, I have been expecting that e-mail from the BBC people... It surely wouldn't hurt to have a quick look.

Hm. No e-mails from the BBC here... Just a lot of people looking to sell me viagra. Or viazqa. Or xiagra or even vpagja - whatever that might be.

Oh good - thesaurus.com is fully loaded. 'Splitting' isn't bad... but 'between' is so much better! Right:

"The line between the artist and the artisan could be drawn with a 7H pencil. The former devises concepts, whereas the latter sets up constructions..."

No - 'sets up' is no good. 'Builds'? 'Constructs'? Too clumsy with

'constructions'.

I know - 'erects'! Why didn't I think of it before...

"The line between the artist and the artisan could be drawn with a 7H pencil. The former devises concepts, whereas the latter erects constructions distinguished more by technical ability than artistic merit."

Ooh - I've got a new facebook message... 'Someone has beaten your score in Elementz - would you like to play again and show them what you're made of?' ... Don't be silly, I've got a comment piece to finish writing.

I'm not sure I like writing it in Microsoft Word - too many formatting options are a big distraction. I should just start a new google document and write it there.

Ctrl-C. New browser... Opening google docs.

Ctrl-V. Right. Fresh start. Good, good. I've definitely made the right choice - Verdana is a far more attractive font than stuffy old Times New Roman. Now where was I...



# ICE - The way forward?

Environmental justice - not yet out of the woods, no matter what you think

Harry Brinch

When Ethiopia commenced construction of a dam on the Upper Omo river in 2006, groups downstream in Ethiopia and Kenya made their opposition clear. The dam, they said, would affect communities and wildlife by interfering with the annual supply of nutrient-rich floodwaters that nourish grazing areas and wetlands.

The Ethiopian government argued a pressing need for hydro-electricity, dismissing environmental effects as "minimal". There is little recourse for opposing groups. Although in August 2009 a lobby group managed to persuade the African Development Bank (AfDB) to review their financing of the project on environmental grounds, construction is ongoing.

The controversy surrounding the Gibe dam is redolent of an era in which environmental challenges are increasingly complex and trans-boundary. The drivers of problems such as water use, deforestation and pollution are diffuse and complex, no longer confined to local actions that can easily be addressed.

What responses have we crafted to meet this challenge? Global environmental protection consists of little more than a handful of narrow bilateral and multilateral treaties, underpinned by enforcement mechanisms that relate only to states – whilst interested parties as well as transgressors include NGOs and private actors.

There is an apparent mismatch between the interdependence of global environmental problems and the absence of global governance to address such problems.

Witness the difficulties in securing agreement in Copenhagen, where countries struggled to agree a coherent and legally binding response to the potential threat of climate change. Consider also hapless attempts to rescue the blue-fin tuna from commercial extinction even as the last viable stocks are depleted. International companies are currently free to conduct their most polluting activities in countries where environmental controls are



**Above: The Gibe III dam is under construction on the Omo river in Ethiopia, 300km southwest of Addis Ababa. The dam will provide 1,800 megawatts of electricity. This will more than double the country's current generating capacity in one hit, and according to Prime Minister Meles Zenawi, solve a national energy crisis. Below: projected flooding effects of the Gibe dam, shown as a before and after situation.**

least stringent, with a good chance of impunity.

Enter the International Court for the Environment (ICE), offered as a leap towards multi-lateral, trans-boundary stewardship of the environment.

Proponents envisage an international court constituted for the adjudication and enforcement of existing and future environmental treaties, underpinned by a robust lawmaking institution and permissive of access by a range of parties including states, non-governmental and private actors.

These are ambitious aims – but then the court is meant to address an urgent challenge. Current environmental protections have failed to stem the tide of pollution, deforestation, species loss and other environmental degradation.

But creating such a court outright is unrealistic and so the ICE Coalition, which is pushing the proposal, envisages that the ICE could evolve slowly by starting out as a voluntary dispute tribunal.

An "interim" court would allow state and non state actors to seek ad-hoc clarifications and judgements on environmental disputes, on a voluntary basis. The coalition hopes to make the interim ICE a tribunal of choice to resolve trans-national environmental disputes, generating momentum towards a more universal and binding court in future years.

A post-Kyoto agreement, if agreed in Copenhagen or thereafter, might make a useful testing ground for an interim court. At present, Kyoto is enforced by a committee branch with recourse to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) – in whose chambers no environmental dispute has ever been heard. There is an opportunity for an ICE to fill this gap in the legal architecture in future agreements.

However constituted, the ICE will face the challenge of convincing states to surrender judgement on environmental matters. Notions of supranational justice are already problematic – the International Criminal Court (ICC) has been labelled biased by some developing nations for targeting states opposed to Western interests and val-

ues. The Chinese government rejects the ICC, whilst the US will not ratify the agreement because it supersedes the US constitution.

The interim ICE would be an entirely different animal, but some states will undoubtedly view the idea of a global legal authority on environmental matters with great suspicion.

Anticipating this, the coalition argues that developing states would have the most to gain from an ICE, providing them access to justice against government and private actors who cause environmental harm to their territories.

Providing locus standi to non-state actors is an ultimate aim, though the

**"an interim ICE could be created in much less than the ten years it took to create the ICC"**

coalition hints that in order to secure support from states, private parties might only secure declarations and non-binding remedies. This sounds rather toothless, yet the threat of embarrassment before an international body is a potent lever.

The ICE coalition is optimistic, and hopes that against the current backdrop of increasing environmental awareness an interim ICE could be created in much less than the ten years it took to create the ICC. An interim court might not yet forcibly hold states to account, but it may change the manner in which international environmental disputes are approached, a so-called "game changer".

Reaching the end state will require hard lobbying, backed up by a successful interim ICE and support from certain key states. If successful, the position of groups like those in the lower Omo valley might be better heard and understood in future.

## In brief

### Call for butter ban

A leading heart surgeon at UCL Hospital has claimed a ban on butter would save thousands of lives each year. Shyam Kolvekar has said forcing a reduction of saturated fat could see a fall in the number of cases of cardiovascular disease and save the economy around £8 billion in the process. The claim stems from Kolvekar's treatment of patients as young as 30 with heart conditions typically found amongst the 50-60 age group.



Whilst an outright ban on butter seems a little extreme, it's not an idea without support. In North Karelia, Finland an 82% reduction in heart disease amongst men since 1969 has been largely attributed to switching butter for lower fat alternatives.

### Nutt's replacement announced

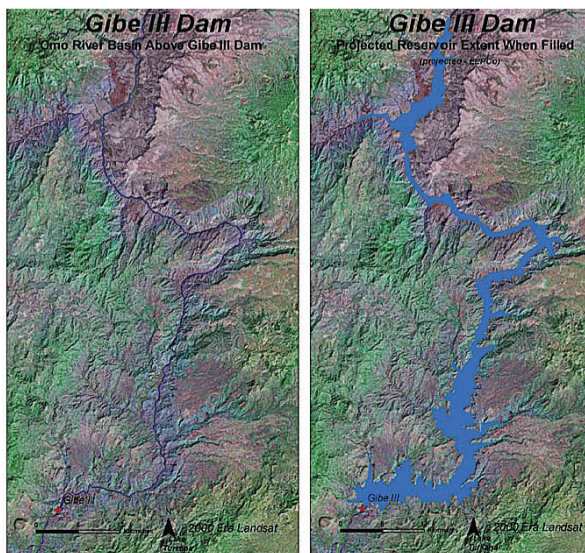
Professor Les Iverson has been named as the new chair of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs following the sacking of Professor David Nutt last year. Prof. Iverson is a retired pharmacologist and former Oxford academic who himself once expressed views on cannabis similar to those held by Prof. Nutt. He is even quoted as having said in the past 'cannabis should be legalised' although he maintains his view on the subject has since changed in light of updated scientific evidence. Iverson was the obvious choice for the position having chaired the council's meetings since Nutt's dismissal.



Meanwhile Nutt and those sympathetic to him are continuing to set up an alternative drugs advisory body.

### Nick Clegg pledges libel law reform

In a speech to the Royal Society this week Nick Clegg has criticised UK libel laws for being a 'legal farce' and having a 'chilling effect' on scientific enquiry. Clegg dubbed the current group set up by Jack Straw to look into the case for libel reform as 'dithering' and has promised commitment to greater protection for scientists and doctors questioning claims made by organisations. He stressed that 'scientists must be able to question claims fearlessly especially those that relate to medical care, environmental damage and public safety.' The speech is particularly relevant in light of the ongoing high-profile libel case lodged by the British Chiropractic Association against science writer Simon Singh.



# A possible glimpse of dark matter

Physicists observe events characteristic of possible dark matter components, but is it enough to prove its existence?

**Kelly Oakes**

In early December last year, the particle physics community was abuzz with rumours of a discovery made by the Cryogenic Dark Matter Search (CDMS-II) collaboration in the US. Announcement talks were scheduled for 18th December, all seminars before that cancelled and there were rumours of a paper submitted by the collaboration to Nature (a rumour, however, that was refuted by a Senior Editor at Nature shortly after it was started). The CDMS had, it was said, found evidence of the existence of dark matter.

It would have been the last major physics breakthrough of the noughties - but sadly, it was not entirely true. The CDMS were announcing their latest results, but those results did not show irrefutable evidence of dark matter's existence.

Nevertheless, that does not mean that what they have discovered isn't important. In a paper submitted to arXiv on the same day as their an-

nouncement talks were held, the CDMS team reported that they had seen two events characteristic of a particular class of possible dark matter components called weakly interacting massive particles, or WIMPs.

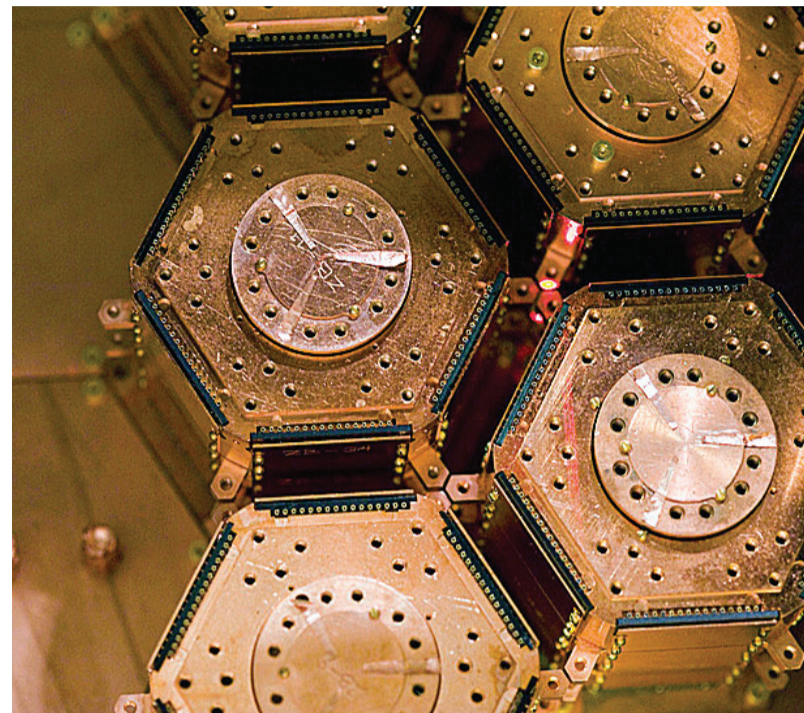
WIMPs are likely to have masses similar to that of atomic nuclei. Despite having never been seen, they are considered one of the main candidates for dark matter, with the appropriately named massive compact halo objects (MACHOs) as their main rival. As WIMPs only interact through the weak nuclear force and gravity, they rarely interact with normal matter, making them very difficult to spot.

The CDMS experiment is located half a mile underground in the disused Soudan mine in Minnesota, and uses germanium and silicon detectors cooled to almost absolute zero. This low temperature means that if a WIMP does pass through these crystals, the heat it generates will cause a charge to move in an applied magnetic field, and this in turn will cause a signal to be sent to a computer in the lab. Once the

data has been collected, it is analysed to distinguish the background events from the interesting ones.

What the CDMS found was two interesting events, showing characteristics that would be expected from WIMPs. However, there is still a 23% chance that these events were merely due to background particles such as cosmic rays or radioactive decay. For there to be no reasonable doubt of a discovery, i.e. a less than one in a thousand chance that the events seen were not WIMPs, there would need to have been five events present in the data rather than two. Despite not showing absolute proof, the results will help to set new upper limits that may rule out certain theories currently proposed to explain the dark matter problem.

The CDMS collaboration are now in the process of upping the sensitivity of their experiment by trebling the number of detectors. The upgrade should be finished by summer 2010, then all they can do is sit back and wait patiently for some WIMPs to come along.



The CDMS uses five towers of six detectors to detect dark matter

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## Brown announces new anti-terror plans

James Goldsack Politics Editor

In the wake of the attempted Christmas Day bomb plot, Gordon Brown announced new measures to better track terrorist suspects and strengthen airport security in the UK. The plans involve the setting up of a "no fly list" to prevent suspected terrorists travelling to the UK and other individuals will be forced to endure more extensive checks. All direct flights between the UK and Yemen are to be suspended indefinitely due to concerns over Yemeni links to international terrorist organisations. Mr Brown said that the UK faced "active" terrorist threats from over the world.

Mr Brown ordered a review of airport security measures following the attempted attack on a flight from Detroit. This review and further intelligence briefings have led to the development of these plans. Brown told MPs that the government would introduce various measures in order to protect the UK's borders and strengthen aviation and airport security up to the levels needed in these times. He said that the Home Office's current watch list of terrorist suspects would be extended and two new, complementary watch lists are to be created.

A list of those individuals banned – the "no-fly list" – will deal with the greater threats to national security and a further list of individuals under suspicion will be used to subject those to "special measures" and more extensive screening before being allowed to travel to the UK.

By the start of next year all UK airports and ports should be covered by the e-borders scheme which allows information that passengers provide when initially purchasing tickets to be checked against the watch lists. Mr Brown stated that improved interna-

tional co-operation will lead to suspect individuals, including those in transit between flights, to be subject to additional checks against the watch list 24 hours before boarding a flight to, or via, the UK.

The new measures would ensure that individuals "posing the greatest risk" could not travel to the UK, while terrorist movements would be "seamlessly tracked and disrupted" said Gordon Brown.

Mr Brown, who said he had discussed the measures with US President Barack Obama on Tuesday, also announced that the controversial new full body scanners will be introduced in airports across the UK next week.

The Conservative Party welcomed the new measures and the introduction of a "no-fly list" but went further, calling for a specialist border police force to ensure higher levels of security are reached. Conservative leader David Cameron said that the man responsible for attempting to detonate the Christmas Day bomb was radicalised in the UK before travelling to Yemen.

The concerns surrounding Yemeni links to terrorism led the Foreign Office to announce on Wednesday that all UK flights to Yemen would be suspended. The Nigerian man arrested for the attempted bombing on Christmas Day told officials that he was given the device by al-Qaeda operatives in Yemen and Gordon Brown claimed there was evidence of links between Yemeni groups and al-Qaeda.

The Prime Minister said the UK would give Yemen £100m in financial support this year to endeavour to counter radicalisation.

He said that UK aviation officials were currently in Yemen to discuss improving aviation security in the country and hoped that flights between the two countries would resume as soon as possible.



The new plans announced by Gordon Brown focus on airport security

## Iraq inquiry warms up for Blair



Blair, soon to serve as a witness at the Chilcot inquiry on why he took us to war

"...unless the world confronted Saddam Hussein at that time... there would be a bigger day of reckoning"

utes is one of these things that could have been made "clearer" according to Mr Campbell, who insists that the claim was only to do with battlefield munitions.

This is also the line that Geoff Hoon, who was Defence Secretary at the time of the Iraq invasion, is taking about the 45 minute claim. So that's two of the people involved who have wriggled out of the claim. Mr Blair should not find it so easy though; the way he presented the information did not leave Parliament with the impression that the claim was only to do with battlefield munitions.

Indeed, why would he use that evidence to persuade Parliament? 45 minutes is actually a long time for the leader of the country to have battlefield weapons ready. Hoon also took the opportunity to have a quick stab at Gordon Brown, suggesting that Brown had hampered the planning and funding of the war.

James Lees Politics Editor

Tony Blair will be called to give evidence for the Iraq inquiry on 29th January. The Iraq inquiry, otherwise known as the Chilcot inquiry, was set up by Gordon Brown to investigate the British involvement in the Iraq war, and has so far called in several prominent figures – though none as important as the then Prime Minister, Mr Blair.

Many people regard the Iraq war as being illegal – the conclusion of a recent inquiry in the Netherlands, so the 6 hour grilling of the man who took the nation to war, against the wishes of the majority of the British public, should prove interesting. So many people want to see what could prove to be a truly important moment in history that a ballot was set up to get seats in the audience at the enquiry, though the number of applicants is far fewer than might be expected if Mr Blair were to go on trial as the war criminal so many of us suspect him to be.

In the run up to the star attraction, the inquiry has been warming up on some of the others involved in taking the country to war. Alistair Campbell, the Labour spin doctor, successfully spun his way out of embarrassment.

When questioned about why Blair went to war his response was that "Blair was somebody who fundamentally believed that unless the world confronted Saddam Hussein at that time... then there would be a bigger day of reckoning later and I think he still believes that".

What everyone else in the world negatively refers to as regime change, Alastair Campbell is proud of his involvement, and believes that all of Britain should feel the same. He defended "every word" of the 2002 dossier that made all the spurious claims about weapons of mass destruction. Apparently it could have been "clearer", but did not "misrepresent" the evidence.

The claim that Saddam Hussein could mobilise weapons in 45 min-



Campbell wanted to go to war



Geoff Hoon never shot anybody



Brown may face the inquiry soon

### 29th January

The day Tony Blair will face 6 hours of questioning on why he took Britain to war in Iraq, whether he misled the public and the legality of the war.

Until very recently it had seemed that Brown would not be appearing before the inquiry prior to the general election, though in Prime Minister's questions on Wednesday he yielded that he would appear before the inquiry whenever he was called.

The panel is expected to publish its findings late 2010 or early 2011. However, unless George Bush is called, it is unlikely that anything will prove more interesting than the 29th, and the events of that day will be reported rapidly after the event.

### 179 dead

The number of British soldiers who died in the Iraq war. The inquiry seeks to understand why they were sent to war and will soon call Tony Blair – the man who ultimately took the decision to take the country to war.

# Man imprisoned for delivering letter

Rory Fenton

A 29 year old American-Korean crossed the border from China into North Korea on Christmas Day, entering one of the most closed and oppressive societies on Earth, and prepared for the worst.

Crossing the frozen Tumen river on foot, Robert Park of the group Freedom and Life for All North Koreans, was armed only with a letter addressed to the country's president Kim Jong-il calling for the Premier to 'open your borders so that we may bring food, provisions, medicine, necessities, and assistance to those who are struggling to survive.'

North Korea has, according to Amnesty International, one of the worst human rights records in history. As many as one million North Koreans languish in its prisons, enduring forced labour, starvation and torture.

This is a fate which likely awaits the US citizen who was arrested on crossing the border; the maximum sentence for which is 3 years – assuming he isn't laden with any other charges (the very fact that he is Christian is a crime in North Korea).

Park himself is unconcerned, saying that he is prepared to be a martyr for his cause and insisting that he is not looking for the Obama administration to step in, as they did when two American journalists were imprisoned there last year.

Knowing that he could easily have been shot on his crossing, Park's aim is nonetheless to raise awareness for the

**"Park himself is unconcerned, saying that he is prepared to be a martyr for his cause"**

plight of North Koreans of whom he says '7,000,000 people are starving to death'. There is certainly evidence that many millions have starved under Kim Jong-il's watch.

The timing of his move can only be especially displeasing to the Pyongyang government, as the country enters a new stage of dialogue with the US over its nuclear program.

It is essential that the reality of the North Korean state be recognised and with this one man drawing unwelcome attention to the gravest crimes committed by the Stalinist state, his fate is not expected to be a promising one.



Kim Jong-il rules North Korea and has done so since he inherited the role from his father. His reign has been problematic for the international community.



28 year old Robert Park has been imprisoned by North Korea. The banner reads "Immediately release political prisoners"

# Political parties want to make drinking more expensive

Phil Murray Politics Editor

Over the coming months the regulations regarding the sale & taxation of alcohol is set to change, to curb the rising drink-related illness & crime rates.

Over 40,000 people every year die with a drink-related illness, and the annual costs associated with drink-related crime & disorder are between £8bn and £13bn.

Labour are proposing a ban on organised 'all you can drink' nights and drinking games in pubs – bad news for the Union – and tougher measures to ensure alcohol isn't sold or served to under-18s.

About the ban on such promotions, Alan Johnson, Home Secretary, said "These practices have a real impact on society, not to mention the lives of those who just want to enjoy a good night out."

Tory proposals include a levy on premises selling alcohol after a certain time and an increase in alcohol duty. More bad news for the Union...

A minimum price per unit of alcohol is being called for by the Liberal Democrats – could this spell the end of Cheapskates???

Liberal Democrat Home Affairs spokesman Chris Huhne said "Boozy

Britain is ruining lives and costing the country billions, but Labour has not only failed to tackle alcohol misuse, it has allowed an epidemic of drink-fuelled crime and illness to take hold.

Now the government is ignoring its own expensive advice and experts, who say the best way to reduce alcohol misuse is to stop booze being sold at pocket money prices."

This is after the publication of a report earlier this month which concluded that setting a 50p minimum price per unit would save 3000 lives per year.

What! You can still buy a unit for under 50p? Show me where!

With an election looming, and the NHS, crime and public spending high on the agenda as always, expect to see some of these measures soon.

**40,000**

The number of people who are believed to die as a direct result of drink related illnesses each and every year in the United Kingdom.



Any move to increase the cost of alcohol will hit students hard, but will increasing the price really solve any problems?

## MUSIC

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# The *felix* office's own Sound of 2010

Never mind what the BBC, Mixmag, or Kerrang thinks, here's what we like the sound of this year and think has been overlooked by most of the music press.



## Alex Ashford's choice

JJ

JJ are a little known Swedish band who released a little known album called No. 2 last year. Despite getting an 8.6 rating on Pitchfork, it somehow evaded almost every other music publication. It is pure ambient pop loveliness with influences from tropicalia to gangsta rap. One of their songs is a slowed down dreamy cover of Lil Wayne's "lollipop" with the lyrics changed to an ode to MDMA. JJ are a bit of a mystery; they never play live, and you won't find a single picture of them on Google. Pretty much everyone I've played this album to thinks it sucks, but I stand by its strength as bringing the sound of '90s twee indie pop into the future. This is a slap in the face of anyone who thinks pop music is all un-original mass produced noise pollution.



## Kadhim Shubber's choice

## The Strange Boys

The Strange Boys are a garage rock band from the musical mecca that is Austin, Texas. Formed in 2001, they released a series of EPs before finally recording their debut 2009 album "The Strange Boys and Girls Club" with the recently deceased Jay Reatard. I can't really claim to know whether they'll be huge or not, but their timeless guitar melodies and strained, to point of breaking, vocals come together to form the kind of Southern drawl rock that you'd want to hear on a road trip through the Deep South. A few tracks and harmonica solos into their latest album "Be Brave" and I was hooked. They've signed to Rough Trade for their second album so perhaps at least a few people will be talking about this band in the coming months.



## Luke Turner's choice

## Django Django

Inexplicable in a way that will blow your mind, if you thought music now is generic, think again. Meeting at art school in Edinburgh, this Scottish four-piece are drawing huge attention to themselves. Trying to describe Django Django's sound is an art, even in their own words, the music is, "The triple distilled essence (and sensibility) of an artistic huddle of mischievous musicals". How I see it, the lack of words to summarize what these wild tribesmen do is a compliment to their creativity. I would say that it is a nonsense mix of instruments and electronics intertwined, a primeval tendency to beat inanimate objects and the flare of red-indian chanting vocals. It is safe to say that they are far from average, which is what I hope the music of 2010 will be.



## Dan Wan's choice

## King Charles

In 2010, King Charles will bridge the gap between the indie-pop movement of 2007 and the folk movement of 2009. After a year of sing-alongs and waving lighters, the devout fans of Mumford & Sons and Fleet Foxes will probably appreciate the jump-start to their legs as they itch for a dance.

He's a showman with a guitar and he has an abiding penchant for any kind of music that he can make glorious noise with, from cappella operatics to sea shanties.

With only one E.P. to his name so far, his imposing hair and noble title will probably be moving upwards on this year's festival bills after performing on Glastonbury 2009's 'Introducing' stage.

I reckon he'll make some noise this coming year, how loud I'm not sure.

I'm excited. As the information and technology age expands, there is simply more and more of everything and more and more of everything mixed together. You want music that's a hypnotic mix of dubstep, old school house, and UK garage by a guy named after an American songwriting legend? You got it, Joy Orbison is there. You want pop singers who dress like robotic disco balls from the future and carry teacups around? You got it, Lady GaGa. You name the blend of musical elements and you will find it. Sadly this also means even more of I'm-literally-just-waiting-to-die-because-I'm-too-boring-to-kill-myself burlblings and croonings of Michael Buble and the X-Pop-Talent-Factor battery hens. Maybe in 2010 we can look forward to hearing Hannah Montana feat. Hadouken! remixed by Major Lazer. I can only dream.

## Your Sound of 2010

We asked people who've written for us in the past to tell us what they think should be looked out for this year.

### Memory Tapes

This lo-fi, chilled out, glitchy electronic dance-pop is just the kind of music you can float along to without caring about the rest of the world. The dreamy vocals sooth your soul and the languid guitar solos have a relaxing quality. Already held in high regard by Pitchfork and currently doing his first UK tour; don't let the fact that he needs a good shower detract from the quality of the music. – **Tom Jennings**

### Broken Bells

This band are of the 'supergroup' variety, containing producer-extraordinaire Dangermouse and James Mercer of indiepop group The Shins. Dangermouse is most famous for combining Jay-Z and The Beatles on The Black Album, being one half of music duos Gnarl Barkley and DANGERDOOM, as well as producing albums for Beck and Gorillaz. Their debut album is due in March and they promise to be a melancholic and psychedelic pop mix. – **Tom Jennings**

### Rolo Tomassi

With their second album Stolen Magic due in March, Rolo Tomassi will be exploding more minds than ever. Possibly the most entrancing live performance in the history of the world, the goddess that is Eve Spence will turn even the most dull brained popster into a raving fan of the insanity that is math-core. These Sheffield kids' fragmented and synthed-up sound is a kick in the face to everything you believed about music. And by God is it time. – **Kate Smith**

### Antlered Man

Prog. rockers Antlered Man, mix wistful melodies and heavy guitar riffs with delightful ingenuity, producing fresh and dynamic material. The lead vocals, strained and emotive, are enhanced by the softer backup, further enriching the sound. Although still unsigned and without a debut, these guys are sure for success for the simple fact that their music is fascinating and unlike anything that was on the market in 2009. – **Kate Smith**

### Ke\$ha

After the massive success of Tik Tok in 2009, her debut album Animal is sure to be a massive hit. The next two singles, Blah Blah Blah (ft. 3oh3!) and Your Love Is My Drug, are amazingly catchy pop tunes, and with her personal links to Britney and Flo-Rida, she's sure to be an artist to watch. – **Matthew Stringer**

### Glee Cast

OK, so you've heard about Glee, it's a TV show, not an artist, BUT: here's the link.

The songs from Glee are SO incredible that they've been all over the US chart, and 4 Glee songs will chart in the top 30 this week in the UK. With covers of Rihanna, Jordin Sparks, The Rolling Stones, Journey, Kanye and many more, the Glee kids are transforming classic songs from chart history, and making them a hell of a lot better.

So watch Glee on E4 on Mondays, and watch their songs climb the charts in 2010. – **Matthew Stringer**

### Jennifer Lopez

Yup, that's right, she's back, and bigger and better than ever. The first single Louboutins is an RnB/Pop classic if ever I've heard one. – **Matthew Stringer**



Memory Tapes album artwork. I think it's pretty.

# Brand New kicking back on Long Island

They'll be back in London this weekend though. **Dan Wan** chats to Brian Lane about Wembley, vinyl and getting old.

**A**s Brand New prepare for another stretch on the trans-global road they have become well-accustomed to in recent years, *felix* catches up with drummer Brian Lane at home in Long Island, New York. Home is clearly where the heart is for Brand New, but their first stop is London, a city they've found themselves in countless times. This weekend will be a little different though as they perform at Wembley Arena, the biggest venue they've played in the UK since starting out ten years ago.

**Dan-** How are you feeling about the reception that Daisy has received so far?

**Brian-** I mean it's been pretty good. We've basically been on tour since it's been out and we've been off for about a month and things have kind of cooled down because of holiday season and stuff. We're kind of all just enjoying life here, hanging out at home for a month or two. We haven't been to England since it's been out have we?

**D-** No, I don't think you have yet.

**B-** Yeah, so I'm excited to find out what the reception's like in England, we've just been touring around America for a while.

**D-** How much of the media do you read once you've released material, around the world, obviously being on tour, do you read the local media?

**B-** I try not to read about the band or the album at all. Sometimes my mom and my friends send me stuff, otherwise I don't really pay it much attention... I try not to. People's reactions to the latest record are kind of the same as our reaction to the record the first few times we heard it. It kind of settles in and you take it for what it is, you know.

**D-** Absolutely. You're coming to Britain for the first leg of your travels. When are you guys arriving in London?

**B-** I think we get there Thursday and we leave Sunday... We're just coming for the weekend because we have a bunch of make-up shows we got to do back in the States before. So we're going to do that and we're talking about coming back maybe sometime over the summer but nothing's concrete yet.

**D-** Are you going to head straight back home after the weekend in London then?

**B-** Yeah, we come back home for like two days and then we have to head out west to do a few shows where we got sick on the last tour that we have to make up for.

**D-** Wembley Arena is a much larger venue than most British audiences are use to seeing you in, have you got anything special lined up for that?

## A decade and counting

Brand New are an alternative band hailing from Long Island, New York that formed in 2000. Signed up to Triple Crown Records in 2001, they released their debut album, *Your Favourite Weapon*. For their second studio album *Deja Entendu*, with Interscope Records, there was a stylistic change for the band to post-hardcore and the album was a huge critical success. In 2008 the band founded their own record label 'Procrastinate! Music Traitors', on which they co-release their current records.

**B-** We ended up our last tour in America with our first arena headline, in America, over here in our hometown, and we just added a tonne of production to it. We're going to see what happens and kind of play it by ear but we're going to do the same kind of show and the same kind of production we did here, so we're hoping people like it. It's kind of a daunting thing to go to a venue like that, we're kind of new to it so we're feeling it out.

**D-** As a drummer do you prefer the smaller intimate venues or do you prefer the larger venues, or is there any difference?

**B-** There's definitely a difference, it's kind of a love-hate thing. I enjoy everything. I enjoy the smaller clubs a lot more but at the same time it's good to play the bigger ones sometimes. This year we're going to try and split it up and maybe do a tour of a bunch of smaller venues all around the world also, and then try and do the bigger ones, so it's the best of both worlds.

**D-** Do you consider coming to Wembley and playing an arena hitting your peak over here in the UK?

**B-** Maybe, we'll see, I'm not really sure how it's selling and how it's doing so...

**D-** I think it's all sold out.

**B-** Is it? No matter what, playing a venue like Wembley in general is something I never really thought I'd be doing so it's definitely a highlight of all our time playing in a band.

**D-** Have you always been quite confident about your popularity over here in the UK?

**B-** I think when we go over there we all feel like the kids get it a lot more over there than anywhere else. We enjoy playing there a lot more than playing anywhere else for sure... If we're confident about it I don't know, but we like it more.

**D-** I don't know if it's the same deal with America but over here your audiences are effectively growing up with you guys as a band, does it make you proud that the young teenagers that came to see you in 2003 when *Deja Entendu* was out, are still attending your gigs in 2010 as young adults now.

**B-** Yeah, that's something that I think we all appreciate a lot and something that we've noticed, touring on this record more than anything that there are

kids that are 16-17 but there's also adults that are our age at this point and I think that that's something we can all relate to and something that's pretty rad. I think we're all stoked on that.

**D-** Does that mean you'll never out-age your audience?

**B-** I hope, we'll see. I mean, so far we've lucked out with it.

**D-** So you don't think there's going to be a point when you guys are going to think 'Oh man, we're way too old to be relating to the audiences now' – and in time give up?

**B-** Nah, we never look at it that way. We make music however we want to make music and since we've been growing up we're just making the kind of music we have just because we're growing up and that's what it is, and we hope that people can relate to it because of that, you know.

**D-** It's a sort of natural progression with your music and whoever you relate to is whoever you relate to?

**B-** I think that's a big key, there's nothing forced with it, it just is what it is and hopefully kids pick up on that... or adults.

**D-** So you guys founded your own record label, Procrastinate! Music Traitors! in 2008, what's the thinking behind that? Are you setting up life after Brand New?

**B-** It's nothing we started to make money off of or anything, it's just kind of a name that we use; we can put on records if we want to help our friends out or if we decide to put our own stuff out, we're releasing our own vinyl on the label in March, or just for the future in general. If any of us want to put our own projects, we have something to do it on. There's no other intentions with it whatsoever right now. There's no plan to release a lot of records or anything like that, it's just for our use, with whatever we want we can slap a label on it and see what happens.

**D-** Are you aware of the other meanings of the acronym PMT?

**B-** No!?! What is it?

**D-** I'll let you figure it out for yourself afterwards! You released the track 'Fork and Knife' as a download-only single after your third album, *Devil and the God are Raging Inside Me*. Is the label going to be fronting any more of those kind of releases?

**B-** Maybe, at this point everything is up in the air, we're going to see. We don't know where our home is going to be in a few months and we don't know if we're ever going to release a record again because if it's something where we're doing our own thing I don't know if people even care about records anymore, because the physical part of having a record has lost its appeal, it's not that cool to us anymore. If we're going to be releasing digitally I have no problem with releasing 3 songs a week or 1 song a week because I feel like that suits what's going on now.

**D-** A lot of people argue buying a record isn't just about the music, it's about the whole package: the artwork and leaflet for example. Are you worried that it's going to become nostalgic to a point where you're going to be looking back at physical records and CDs?

**B-** I think there's something to say about having limited edition things also, it's special when bands release 2000 and something, or whatever it is and I think we're always going to be doing that because we're still into that, we're still into the physical aspect of music and artwork and I think we're always going to be into it. It's almost as big a part of putting out a record as the music is, so it would be a shame if we didn't release anything physical. I'm sure we will, I'm just not sure if it's going to be on the grand scale of a whole record with packaging, maybe we'll do 7" here or maybe we'll release a CD single here or something like that and not press 'x amount' just make it a special thing, I think that's what we're gearing towards more.



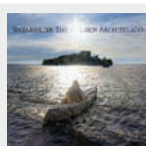
## MUSIC

**LINDSTRØM & CHRISTABELLE**  
REAL LIFE IS NO COOL  
SMALLTOWN SUPERSOUND  
ALBUM



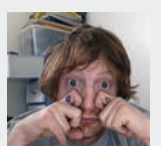
A flash of fluttering voices and 80's style groove. The sound is catchy with warm electrical vibrations, weaved perfectly with psychedelic vocal melodies and phrases, restoring my faith that all electro music isn't shit. The odd song turning easy-listening quite repetitive but magically saved by the occasional brass flare and disco vibe that keeps the album diverse. Using clever manipulation of a sweet voice gives this album a genuinely different feel. - **Luke Turner**

**TENEBOUS LIAR**  
JACKKNIFED & SLAUGHTERED  
TENOR VOSSA  
ALBUM



Charged with anger and grit, this album is for trudging through rain and mud, it will induce ferocity. It shows glimmers of great rock at the beginning to most tracks which then sinks away into a thundering, quite unimaginative, wall of distortion. It's an album of two parts, one being considerably more self-indulgent than the other. This music would be absolute heaven to play at full volume, but not half as fun to listen to I'm afraid. - **Luke Turner**

**BEN RAYNER**  
CRANKING TO SONIC YOUTH  
REAL GOLD  
SINGLE



Ben Rayner recorded this "diss" song about Sonic Youth at ATP festival. It's also the name of his zine. Cranking apparently means crying and wanking at the same time. If you didn't know that, you can add it to your subgenres of wanking along with shanking (wanking in the shower) and danger wanking (wanking in a situation where you are likely to get caught). This song is kind of a joke, and for a joke, it's a kind of an okay song. - **Alex Ashford**

**GUCCI MANE**  
SPOTLIGHT (FT. USHER)  
WARNER BROS.  
SINGLE



Whatever happened to Usher? Did he ever come out as gay or was that just a rumor? Honestly, if a really openly gay and camp rapper came out they would have that whole untapped market cornered. Anyway, this song is pretty unexciting. As with all rap/R&B, the lyrics are the best bit. "Simply I glaze the ass/Just like some churches biscuits/Beat her like she stole my Bentley/Swagger jackers pay attention." - **Alex Ashford**

**THE IRREPRESSIBLES**  
MIRROR MIRROR  
V2 COOP  
ALBUM



The debut album from this 10-piece theatrical orchestra is characterised by sweeping piano and strings arrangements. It could potentially be gentle, soothing background music if the singer didn't fluctuate between a low Antony Hegarty-type voice and piercing falsetto. The vocals are definitely an acquired taste and the band are at their best on songs where their erratic and creative use of orchestral sounds isn't overshadowed by the vocals. - **Tom Jennings**

**TELLISON**  
CONTACT!  
CONTACT!  
GRAVITY DIP  
ALBUM



Recently gaining a member becoming a 5-piece band, from Hammersmith, this is impure electric guitar wonder with pure fight. Their sound is of guitars, keyboards and cowbells. The songs are full of unbeatable hooks and intelligent lyrics, sang by all members in a complex whirlwind of vocal melodies and harmonies. Tellison make a humble kind of indie-rock; this is a refreshing change, and every song on this album is worthy of being a hit. - **Luke Turner**

## Most listened to this week by Felix Music members on last.fm

1. Radiohead
2. Muse
3. Florence + TM
4. Bloc Party
5. The xx
6. The Killers
7. Animal Collective
8. Kings Of Leon
9. Bon Iver
10. Vampire Weekend

So as predicted, Radiohead are topping this chart once again. I want to know who is responsible for this because with no disrespect to the wonder of Radiohead, after topping almost every 'Albums of the Decade' chart, they have had the glory they deserve. Branch out Imperial... Branch out.

-Luke Turner



Imperial College  
London



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## The Ramblin' Rucksack Man

Dylan Lowe Travel Editor

Today. Hope you've had a stress-free Christmas, not too pissed off with snow-related travel disruptions and what-have-you. And happy new decade to you all - may the following tens years be filled with travel joys and enlightenments.

And so here I am, your resident drifter reporting for duty. Great to be back from a wee semester at the University of Life on the road and further my education with the musing of the *felix* team. Well, if they would turn off the webcams and quit pondering about contraceptive sheaths.

Speaking of which, when I first started as travel editor around this time last year I was very much aware that, unlike my peers and co-workers here in the basement, I had very much been an epitome of technophobia. As though my sole purposes in life were to gallivant and scribble, it took Jovan weeks - months even - to hammer knowledge of *InDesign* functionalities into my perfectly organic head. And what was that you were talking about, Richard Lai, about *twitter* and gadgets and social networking? Jibberish.

And who said I'd need to mingle with fellow travellers online, consult travel blogs for advice and preview a hostel with a review? No thanks, a *Lonely Planet* and rucksack will suffice.

Little did I then realise how embroiled I have been in the world of social media since becoming involved in the *STA Travel Explorer* Programme.

As part of their social media campaign, the legendary travel agency created the programme to bring together its customers who would share their travel experiences through blogging, photo-sharing and video-hosting.

Sulking in the bleak winter - and immense boredom that were the outskirts of Auckland - I was once again dreaming of the mid-July heat I'd have been soaking up in the northern hemisphere. My trip to Fiji, at the time, remained distant in future tense. Catching the *STA Travelbuzz* website (<http://www.statravelbuzz.co.uk>) flickering across the monitor, reading stories written by other explorers and bearing in mind that I ought to establish a somewhat travel-journal-keeping habit through blogging, I was tempted into signing up for the programme.

Almost immediately, across 11 time zones, the charming Camilla and the *STA Travelbuzz* team recruited and welcomed me onboard with open arms.

Followed were the self-propelled tutori-

als on social media and the online tools it entails. Disregarding my old conceptions *twitter* and *flickr* - both I had condescendingly shunned like a plane passenger would shun a Nigerian - were within my grasp, as I willed them to promote my blog, generate readership and spread the word about my experiences in the South Pacific, as the guys had instructed.

Not that I was totally unprepared for this change of lifestyle - I've kept my *Facebook* account mainly to stay connected with the amazing characters I've met along my travels.

I was adjusting to hearing tales of incredible human feats on a daily basis. I learnt to appreciate the partnership integrating travel and social media, with examples no less real than my experience on *Tribewanted*: Vorovoro. I met fellow travellers not only in hostel lounges but also in the comfort of my home, whose experiences are of no less validity only because our encounter took place in the virtual world.

Through *twitter* I arranged a meeting with Matt Kepnes, more commonly known as Nomadic Matt, in a pub opposite Victoria Station - the American was in transit, on his way back to Thailand from Belgium. The same site enabled Paul Smith, the Twitchhiker as he likes to be known as, to travel from Newcastle to New Zealand entirely reliant upon the generosity of fellow 'tweeple'.

And so that was me, consuming mates' hospitality and weeping to Michael McIntyre for the thousandth time aside, either drowning in social media debauchery or in my own vomit (hope you've had a great New Years Eve as well) throughout the holiday.

All thanks to the *STA Travelbuzz* team who, to both my amusement and annoyance, decided to grant me the pseudonym Ramblin' Rucksack Man. Yup, laugh on.

But is it too much? Can social media become an obsession, lure its audience into the convenience and sense of safety and further detach them from reality? Why am I tolerating the deprivation of thrill, the adrenaline-clenching moments and unpredictability that I look forward to the most during my travels?

As I launch my new travel website, *TheTravellingEditor.com*, this coming Saturday. I must ask myself: have I gone too far? Have I plunged into the cradle of intelligence without protecting my ethics as a traveller?

Fuck this - I need to get out more.

Interview with the **Extraordinaire**  
by Dylan Lowe

# 'Nomadic' Matt Kepnes

A.k.a. *Nomadic Matt*, travel blogger and social media expert

Simply put, one simply cannot be a travel social networker when he's never heard of Nomadic Matt. What made his deeds remarkable - to the extent that *The New York Times* requested an interview with him - wasn't just his casting-aside of a steady career to embark on a nomadic lifestyle, one that has to-date lasted for three years. It was that the Bostonian is now generating enough income through running his travel blogs and other online ventures that he needed no other sources of revenue to fund his travels.

Now, the man who has brought tips on budgeting and long-term travel now sat before Camilla and I; over a pint in *Shakespeare* the travel talk commenced.

**Dylan Lowe** Hi guys. We have the legendary Nomadic Matt among us.

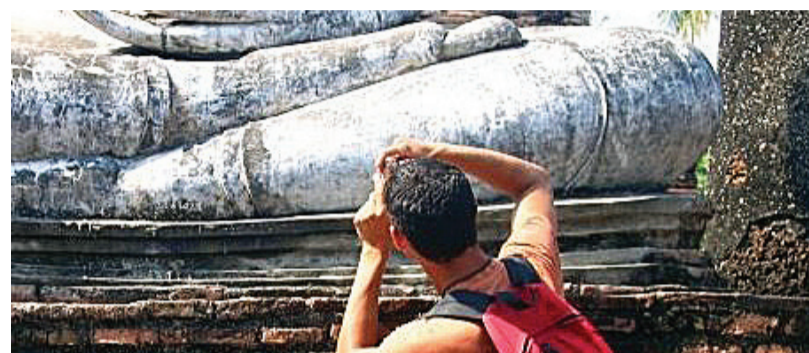
**Matt Kepnes** Great to be here.

**DL** Can I just say how much I admire what you've been doing. Truly inspiring - it's inspired me for sure.

**MK** Thank you.

**DL** So, what prompted you to quit your job and embark on a nomadic lifestyle?

**MK** I took a trip back in 2005 to Thailand. I met some backpackers then and I was fascinated with what they were doing. I wanted to do that. It seemed a lot of fun so I finished my MBA, quit my



job. I spent another 18 months travelling and decided to continue travelling - I haven't stopped ever since. All my life, the best decisions are made with the gut! It's worked out since.

**DL** You are the epitome of a social media guru. But how important, in your opinion, is social media in the world of travel?

**MK** Social media is very important. *Twitter*, *Facebook*, my blog, all allow me to get travel tips and advice to places I am going, meet locals, and meet other travellers. Without social media, travelling wouldn't be as fun. It helps you connect with people a lot more.

**DL** What are your predictions for technology in conjunction with travel?

**MK** More people will use devices like

their *iPhone* to get real-life travel information and facts while they are on the road.

**DL** Many people would have accused you for running away from reality - how do you respond to that?

**MK** To say that is ridiculous. We travel not to run away from life, or from reality - in fact we're running towards it. Cultures, places, people, they define life, not the office cubicle, marriage or children. And the freedom - it's the same freedom I found in the travellers I met in Thailand that inspired me to travel in the first place.

**DL** Any spark of romance along your journey?

**MK** Lots of little romances.

**DL** If you have one secret craving for some kind of stable living, what would it be?

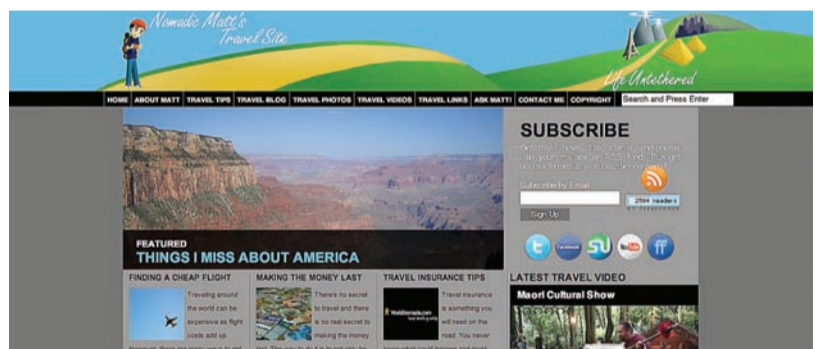
**MK** A steady girlfriend.

**DL** Thought so. The traveller's curse. Why don't you stop travelling and live that dream?

**MK** Because I'd much rather find the one, travel, and live the dream together.

**DL** What would you say to aspiring travel writers/bloggers hoping to do something similar to what you do?

**MK** Network. Get your blog up and running, write stuff, and network with everybody and anybody in order to get your name out there. Keep networking. It's going to take a lot of time before you get noticed but if you are persistent you will.



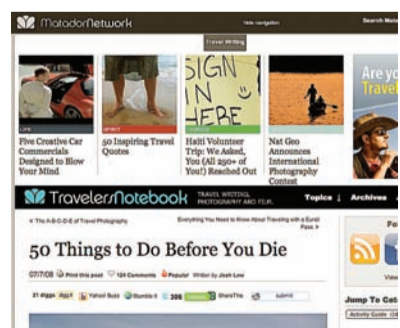
Check out Matt's site @ <http://www.nomadicmatt.com>

## Recommended: Online travel communities



**STA Travelbuzz**  
<http://www.statravelbuzz.co.uk>

Conglomerate of UK travel bloggers, from £10 Poms to the Mankini Challenge. Oh yeah, and the rucksack guy



**Matador Network**  
<http://www.matadornetwork.com>

Traveller's online community, uber-useful resources written by paid professional travel writers and entrepreneurs



**Lonely Planet**  
<http://www.lonelyplanet.com>

Tag your blog tweets with #lp; the editors at Lonely Planet will re-publish your post on their reputed website

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What's happening? 140

Have I gone too far? Send me your views to [travel.felix@ic.ac.uk](mailto:travel.felix@ic.ac.uk)

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# Welsh Society

Feeling sheepish about getting naked? Don't be!  
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FASHION

Fashion Editor Kawai Wong

fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Women and shoes

Kawai Wong Fashion Editor

Do you know that there are men out there who watch Sex and the City for research? Ladies, the game is up. They know the Game. They know how to make you go weak in the knees. So don't say I haven't warned you. Next time you go on a date and somebody tells you 'nice shoes', take it with a pinch of salt. Or grill him with an in-depth shoe conversation. Here, is how:

1. What do you think of the collaboration between Jimmy Choo and UGG?

2. Oh how do you say his name? That Frenchman who designs shoes with a red sole...

To be honest, 9 times out of 10 the man can't even tell the difference between a pair of pumps and heels. All that matters to them is colour.

Last week I braved the weather and wore a pair of pointy 2-inch Kurt Geiger court shoes for a change (normally? Subzero temperatures? UGG...). After 12 hours of milling about I could no longer meander the last 200 metres home. I phoned my brother...

'Bring UGG and meet me at blah...' 'A pair of what?' 'UGG, UGG boots!' 'What colour is it?' And the penny dropped.

Anyway, want a pair of good looking court shoes that you can survive in? Head to M&S. Their Insolia range moves your weight to the back of the heels so the balls on your feet don't ache as much as another pair at the exact same height. What's more, the insoles are leather and the bottom is water-resistant. £40. What more can you ask for?

Erdem's V&A Show - A Fashion Virgin's Perspective



Aditya Narayanan

The lights go out. A hush ripples across the audience. I tense in anticipation – it is my first fashion show, and with the innocence of a child I await a glimpse of Erdem's creations. Here I am – the outsider in my trackpants and hoodie – worrying that the nuances of fashion may soar over my head.

Since going solo with his eponymous label in 2005, Erdem Moralioglu has been heralded by such luminary organisations such as the British Fashion Council and Elle as one of the future groundbreakers of the fashion world. The introductory paper I have been handed says that the range of womenswear I am about to see was nominated for the British Fashion Awards Collection of the Year. The lights snap on and the music starts to play.

Although he has a clear penchant for floral patterns and lacework, Erdem's creations display a vibrant range of styles. A pristine white gown that invoked memories of Edwardian times gives way to a flowing smock reminiscent of the 1960's. A long dress in the style of the Vietnamese Ao Dai is my personal favourite, the shimmering black taffeta background offering a beautiful contrast to the red, yellow and pink pansies playing across the front.

The black lacework for which Erdem is famous appears more prominently on a few plain-coloured dresses, its intricacy dovetailing nicely with the sedate colours chosen. A selection of models sport his other speciality, floral prints – a profusion of green, cream, red and blue capturing the joie de vivre of a summer day. That is not to say that his work is flawless – a jarring maelstrom of different flowers in a sea of red provides one of few blots on his landscape – but the subtlety of much of this work is elegant.

The make-up, done by Andrew Gallimore, is minimalistic and suits the show perfectly. In fact, this aspect serves as a microcosm for the entire collection – high quality fashion you could picture any girl on the street wearing. It is proof that one does not have to be an expert to appreciate fine couture. As in music, drama or literature, something well-crafted appeals to experts and amateurs alike.

At the end of a fascinating fifteen minutes, the man himself walks out, accepting the audience's applause with the modesty and grace evident in his work.

The audience ghosts out to the strains of a violin version of Nirvana's Come as You Are - an unexpected and fitting end to a show that has surpassed all my expectations.

The Style Heroines of Our Time

These women inspire designs on the catwalks, of items, and of our wardrobes. Saskia Verhagen and Kawai Wong explain.

Lady Gaga



Is it ironic that I'm writing a fashion article about a woman who resides in a perpetual state of half dress? Perhaps, but this particular woman has had a profound influence over the couture runways worldwide since her debut last year. Known for her avant-garde, provocative style, Lady Gaga's latest video, Bad Romance, reads like a trends list for next spring-summer.

Between the various sets of Agent Provocateur lingerie and custom designed jewellery, Gaga models a great portion of Alexander McQueen's S/S 2010 collection – appropriate, since she chose to debut the single at his recent show in Paris this year – especially notable for some may be the infamous "armadillo" shoes!

Though McQueen appears to be the only designer who can feed her insatiable craving for all things extraordinary, her influence is seen at every haute couturier worth their salt – Gaultier, Chanel and Lacroix have all succumbed to her sartorial power on their catwalks. However most of the time Miss Gaga's getups are designed by her elusive young design team, Haus of Gaga, whose collective imaginations have created some of the most memorable stage costumes – and off-stage costumes.

An advocate for all things unique, outrageous and ridiculous, Lady Gaga embodies the fantasy involved in fashion – she provides an unexpectedly humorous take on an industry that is notoriously elitist, donning clothes usually reserved only for the catwalk...

No, I wouldn't personally wear any of her outfits, but I do admire her – she doesn't just take from fashion, she gives, and generously, providing inspiration and a vision that is new, not just dredging up what we've all seen before.

Anna Dello Russo



One of the grande dames of 21st century fashion, the Fashion Director At Large at Vogue Nippon is one of the women who, along with Carine Roitfeld, Kate Lanphear and Anna Wintour, form the Editrix Elite – an implicit panel of fashion luminaries who dictate exactly who and what happens in fashion today.

This is a woman whose fashion acumen has been nurtured by fashion's most incisive minds. Her style is über-luxe and full of texture: rich brocades, heavy silks, sparkling embellished fabrics and opulent feathers and furs create the foundations of her wardrobe, with all her outfits littered with her signature collection of vintage brooches and jewels. All this, plus arguably the most enviable shoe collection amongst the fashion world!

She shuns realism, residing in a culmination of impossibilities: criminally stylish and incredibly connected, she synthesises hemlines and bottom lines atop Kirkwood heels and swans through Fashion Month in a crimson Dolce and Gabbana gown paired with black opera-length leather gloves and patent YSL Tribute boots at 9am, strapless bejewelled emerald Balmain at lunch and sequined silver and green cutout Pucci for cocktails at 7pm. The Fashion Editor need not be any more realistic than the makeshift arid desert scene she created for the summer swimwear spread.

Anna Dello Russo takes fashion out of the ordinary. There is no one else who can convincingly take such avant-garde looks straight off the catwalk and carry them off with such panache. Completely different from the conservative English Wintour, the chic French Roitfeld and the monochromatic American Lanphear, Dello Russo is exactly what one might expect from an Italian – outrageous, flamboyant, and a warm, bubbling personality you can almost taste from just one photo.

Rihanna



You may think that she is vulgar. You may think that with what little clothing she wears, there's not much style in question. You have to look outside the tabloid images of Rihanna.

Her screen persona is hard and fierce; an alter-ego, the result of being a victim of domestic violence. She has come a long way since her girl-next-door days when she sang about puppy love and summer breaks.

RiRi's success is attributed to her brilliant mix of eclectic pieces with soft touches. She is forever bang on trend, but never an avid follower with no imagination.

At Met Gala 2009, Rihanna executed the masculine D&G suit with 100% precision.

She also worked the strong shoulder trend like no other. Be it an LV dolly uniform that was worn by Madonna and the de rigueur Balmain military jacket from last season... She annihilates the ridiculousness of an exaggerated outfit matter-of-factly with her hard edge confidence.

An advocate for all things edgy; neither Decarnin's rock trash, Gaultier's fetish, Margiela and Pugh's quirkiness, Dior's feminism nor Chalyan's minimalism will satisfy her fashion appetite.

In her Hard video, she sported Jeremy Scoot's Mickey ears helmet and the bullet bra. Alexander Vautier's creation followed her from the streets to her video. Rihanna's choice of using British designer Bryce Aime's spiky T-Rex top from her CSM graduate collection has received national newspaper coverage.

She does no fashion faux pas when it comes to accessorising. The fuschia bra under a knit top is a calculated move to add an edge to a comfy outfit. Her shades aren't RayBan. They are status glasses from Grey Ant; Beyonce is also a fan. Nothing about Rihanna is the norm; she wore a pair of laced lens glasses by A-Morir to spice up a Jasmine di Milo sequin playsuit. Russian Roulette? Not a game Rihanna plays when it comes to fashion.





# Pigs might fly as UK Pirate found innocent

UK's first piracy verdict boosts moral of the bruised and battered Torrent crowd as Alan Ellis trots free

Feroz Salam Technology Reporter

In the first major piracy verdict since the landmark Pirate Bay case, the owner and founder of the music sharing website 'OiNK's Pink Palace' was declared not guilty by an unanimous jury at the Teesside Crown Court. The case is also notable because it's the first music piracy trial that has delivered a verdict within the UK. While the case does not set a judicial precedent for future cases, it was a remarkable victory for Alan Ellis, who founded the sharing service during his studies at the University of Teesside.

His arrest in 2007 was highly dramatic, with police inviting TV cameras to watch as they carried out a dawn raid on Ellis' house, as Dutch police simultaneously raided his servers in the Netherlands. While Ellis' operations were much smaller than those of The Pirate Bay (with his case attracting much less attention), the invite-only website had developed a reputation for listing high quality recordings a long time before they were released. The website was even endorsed by Trent Reznor, who described it as "the world's greatest record store".

The prosecution told the jury that Ellis was found with nearly \$300,000 in his PayPal account and accused him of "large scale, professional, clever, tech-



nical ripping off", while Ellis countered that the money simply came from surplus donations and that it "had to be stored somewhere". Ellis was also able to successfully defend the allegations of fraud levelled against him by using a similar argument to the one used by The Pirate Bay - as a torrent tracker, his website merely indexed material uploaded by users and didn't actually host any of the illegal files. It's also clear that the circumstances around the case played a large role in the proceedings - The Pirate Bay was a large organisation supported by healthy finances, while OiNK's Palace was distinctly smaller, with Alan Ellis making little if any real

money out of running the website.

The verdict has little legal meaning - it doesn't set a binding precedent for all future cases - yet it's the first major legal victory for the now beleaguered torrent community and will probably serve as a morale booster at a time when many major torrent trackers are shutting down or sealing themselves off from the public. As for Alan Ellis, while it seems unlikely that 'OiNK's Pink Palace' is going to be restored to its former glory, he should be able to wash his hands of the affair in the knowledge that the case isn't appealable and he has emerged virtually unscathed from the experience.

## Touch sensitive front and back

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor



If you looked at the technology press this week you could be forgiven in thinking that Apple had unleashed some new revolutionary products. The thing is, Apple hasn't done anything this week apart from send out invitations to a press event to be held in San Francisco on January 27th. OK, when Apple holds a press event they normally unveil something, but the way that the news is saturated you'd think they were going to announce something that'll end world hunger, eradicate terrorism, bring world peace and all with a sleek white finish.

So an Apple event on the 27th. It's got the tag line 'Come see our Latest Creation'; if that doesn't scream Apple tablet I don't know what does. The curious thing about this event however has to be the inclusion of a select few members of the gaming press on the invitation list. Getting an invite out of Apple to one of its press events is like owning your own plane, it's simply not going to happen unless you're really, really important. But to invite some games press indicates that Apple thinks something it's going to unveil at this event is going to appeal to them.

OK, if you've ever seen an Apple ad you'll have heard the 'iPod touch is the best gaming device' rubbish they try and ram down your throat. The App Store has a lot of games in it and because they're relatively cheap, they've done well, but there's no way the iPod touch or the iPhone is as good an ex-

perience as a proper games console, portable or not. Now, that fabled Apple tablet might come with a bit more oomph in the processing department, maybe even fully fledged graphics, but unless it's got more buttons, some sort of expansion controller, it's not going to be any better a gaming experience than the iPod touch. At this stage Apple could be pulling a fast one on us with all this tablet nonsense and is actually prepping an Apple TV replacement games console. Until Steve pulls one out on the 27th we really don't know, anything could happen.

Another interesting yet mysterious take away from the event announcement is that there's no European repeat. Normally when Apple has had an announcement in the US they've piped the video into a venue in London in real-time. So what does that tell us? Well it could mean that whatever they have for us is going to be US-only, at least in the short term. It would be extremely disappointing, but that's the same tactic they took with the original release of the iPhone.

Speaking of iPhone, there are also rumours we're going to see iPhone 4.0 software at the event. Speculated highlights include multi-tasking, system wide multi-touch gestures (maybe even on the back for a June/July iPhone 4G revision), new syncing possibilities and UI changes. Could this be the end for the need to jailbreak for most users not seeking an unlock? Check out next week's coverage for all the information.

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

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

Wow, what a week in tech. Actually to tell you the truth, it's all more or less been rumour about Apple's flaming tablet. Thankfully a few other things happened this week, so let's get stuck in eh?

First up we've got a man killed by Avatar. Yes Cameron's 3D, supersmurf epic, not only shattered box office revenue but can also kill you. A 42-year-old Taiwanese cinema goer suffered a stroke likely brought on by 'over-excitement' triggered by the film. Remember kids, it's not real OK?

More ridiculousness in the form of 'TwittaBling' this

week. Apparently someone thought it was a good idea to get their Twitter name emblazoned on a medallion and wear it out in public. If that's not bad enough you can even get wedding bands with your Twitter handles engraved on the inside. Wow. I admittedly use Twitter quite a lot but come on, seriously? That's just sad.

Ever thought what a 7.5m disco ball would look like? Well take a trip to Paris and you can see one hanging some 50m above the ground sparkling under spotlight. The massive disco ball consists of 1000 mirrors and is part of a contemporary art exhibition called *Nuit Blanche* above the Jardin du Luxembourg.

More weird and wonderful news, this time from Britain. According to a recent

presentation by ComScore, Britain's most downloaded iPhone app is iPint. Yes, Britain shows their love of booze by downloading a pint simulation in their millions. If you don't know what iPint does, find someone with an iPhone. Chances are they'll have it.

More Apple related strangeness this week and no, not even about the iPad. Apparently 20% of people surveyed by Lewis PR in the UK when asked who Steve Jobs was, the enigmatic CEO of Apple, Inc., thought he was a footballer. Now, I'm sure you've all seen the 'Stupid American' YouTube videos where they go a survey the dumbest people on the planet, but this just goes

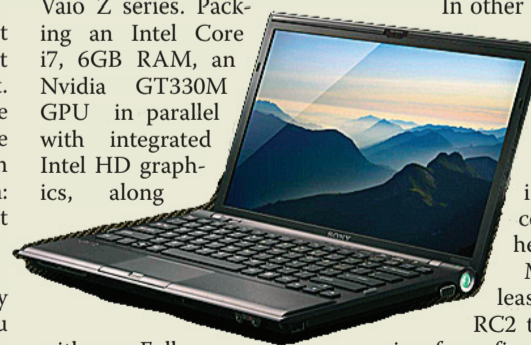
to show that even Brits can be morons. A footballer? I could forgive them for thinking he was a politician or a BBC exec, but not the nation's favourite past-time.

Talking of Steve Jobs, not everyone gets everything right and even he can be at fault. A shocking revelation came out this week about the name that Jobs would have given the iMac line if they'd let him: the Macman. Dodged a bullet there Steve.

Google has been in the news a lot this week one way or another. Something you might have missed however is that the next iteration of the Android operating system is going to be called 'FroYo'. Yes that's right, Frozen Yoghurt. Someone at Google obviously has a food obsession; first we had 'cupcake', then 'donut', with 2.0 called 'clair'. Perhaps someone's New Year's resolu-

tion was to eat healthier, FroYo indeed.

Sony got in on the post-CES news this week with its new high-end 'only the best will do' Vaio Z series. Packing an Intel Core i7, 6GB RAM, an Nvidia GT330M GPU in parallel with integrated Intel HD graphics, along



with a Full HD LED backlit display into a svelte 1.4Kg 13.3" frame, the Vaio Z is a PC users wet dream. A finger print reader, webcam, Bluetooth 2.1 and 3G modem also come along for the ride, making this machine spec wise, one of the best laptops ever made. It'll launch

in March with pricing unannounced, but be sure you'll have to sell a kidney to afford one of these bad boys. A trade worth making perhaps.

In other news Microsoft is urging XP and IE6 users to upgrade pronto following the Google hacking that's recently taken the headlines.

Mozilla also unleashed Firefox 3.6 RC2 this week prepping for a final release sometime in the next week or two.

The Winter Olympics is coming to Freesat from the 12th February in HD. This joins the World Cup, Six Nations, Golf Masters, Wimbledon and a boat load of European football broadcast in HD. A good time to be a Freesat user.

# Google's done with China's censorship

**Simon Worthington** takes a look at the story that has the technology press going crazy over censorship

**G**oogle and China have never really been the best of friends, and now finally it's all over. Following security breaches of Google servers by hackers thought to originate from China, last week Google announced that it would be removing censorship from all of its Chinese services. Although the future is still uncertain, it's extremely likely that we'll see the end of Google.cn and the company effectively exiled from the country. As is usual, Google claims the moral high ground and reinforces its "don't be evil" attitude, but other evidence suggests that Google may have another hidden agenda.

In mid-December, attackers were able to gain access to two Gmail accounts of Chinese human rights activists by using a previously undocumented flaw with Internet Explorer. Actual correspondence was not obtained, but the hackers were still able to get information on basic account details, including the subject lines of emails. Dmitri Alperovitch from computer security firm McAfee claimed that this was the most sophisticated hacking attack on a commercial company that he has ever been seen. The corporate servers of Adobe and at least 33 other companies were also targeted in the 'highly coordinated' attack, which Google says originated from China. The level of sophistication entailed leads many to suggest that the hackers were agents of, if not directly employed by, the Chinese government.

Google's local presence in China began in 2006 when the company launched Google.cn, which is to China what Google.co.uk is for us. Although the company was obviously very positive to be doing business in the country, the move attracted massive criticism after it was revealed that search results were being actively censored according to rules from the Chinese government. This included websites critical of the Communist regime and news and images from particular events, most famously the Tiananmen Square protests. At the time co-founder Sergey Brin still tried to emphasise that they were doing the right thing. Part of the agreement was that Google could tell users that their searches were being filtered and by doing so, Brin claimed, it would let Chinese citizens know that their government was trying to hide information.

Things continued in this way until 2009 when the Chinese authorities began to tighten their grip on internet access in the country. Along with the demand for all home PCs to run 'Green Dam', government censorship software masquerading as a parental control filter, the China Illegal Information Reporting Centre demanded that Google block several overseas websites of which many were sexual in nature. Then, in December, hackers infiltrated Google and tried to gain access to the Gmail accounts of Chinese human rights activists.

Following the incident, and in conjunction with what they call 'attempts over the past year to further limit free speech', on 12th January Google signalled the end to its censorship in



Google's Chinese head-quarters, perhaps soon to be an empty shell should the pull out go ahead.

China, even if it meant 'having to shut down Google.cn' and their Chinese offices. This does however seem a little suspicious, especially considering that some top security analysts have called the attack 'routine' despite its level of sophistication. Mikko Hypponen of security firm F-Secure said, 'this wasn't in my opinion ground-breaking as an attack. We see this fairly regularly.' Given also that Google has so far made no claim to be ending its compliance with US laws which limit freedom of speech, such as those which made it remove sites critical of scientology in 2002, it's easy to wonder if censorship really is the only item pushing Google's agenda. After all, if such attacks are indeed 'routine', then why has this particular incident made the company do such an abrupt U-turn on its censorship policy?

Clearly, a company as big as Google does not act on impulse when pulling out of a market as large and with as much potential as China. The evi-

**"Clearly, a company as big as Google doesn't act on impulse"**

dence may suggest that at least part of the reason for Google's actions is self-interested or economic. Google.cn is very much an underdog in China to Baidu.com, the government controlled search engine that is currently China's

## GOOGLE-CHINA TIMELINE

### Sept 2002

China blocks access to Google for 10 days. Traffic redirected to a government controlled search engine.

### Sept 2004

Google opens up its popular advertising program, AdSense, to Chinese text ads.

### June 2004

Baidu, a domestic Chinese search engine company, receives a 'sizeable' investment from a consortium of companies led by Google.

### Sept 2004

Google is found to be omitting news sources blocked by the Chinese government from its Google News China service.

number one visited website (which interestingly enough Google used to own a share in prior to setting up their own service). According to Alexa, while Baidu sits in the top spot Google ranks a paltry third, for once failing to dominate the search market. Given this relatively poor performance for the search engine giant it wouldn't be surprising if quitting China has been on the cards for quite a while. Google does stand to lose \$600 million annually from the move, but that is a tiny sum compared to their global revenue of \$22 billion.

What's more likely is that Google have decided their "don't be evil" image is worth more than the money they stand to lose. Indeed, although their stock price took a tumble after the announcement just days later it was back to its original position as if nothing had happened. In 2006 many called for a boycott on the search engine and said that the company had betrayed its ideals. Google will be hoping that this move will restore its position in the public eye as a 'nice' company and win it some favourable publicity which will have much more financial benefit in the West. This move also puts pressure on rivals Microsoft and Yahoo who continue to operate under censorship and have much more to lose from quitting the Chinese market altogether.

Although Google's decision does send a strong message about censorship and freedom of speech, it cannot be denied that Google has a lot to gain personally from it. Taken at face value, this decision certainly will cost Google money up front. But in the long term their reputation of being a 'nice' and 'good' company may serve them better and help them to succeed in the markets they currently do not dominate, such as their ever-growing Android phone business, whose China launch has recently been delayed by Google.

## GOOGLE-CHINA TIMELINE (cont.)

### Jan 2006

Google.cn goes live in China, complete with self-censorship of topics deemed controversial by the Chinese government.

### May 2007

Shareholders vote down an anti-censorship measure which would have seen Google closing its Chinese services.

### Feb 2008

Google goes head-to-head with Baidu by launching its own music download store.

### June 2009

Chinese authorities order Google to block all access to pornographic material.

### Dec 2009

Google servers are attacked by 'sophisticated' hackers thought to originate from China.

### Jan 2010

Google commits to ending censorship on Google.cn, even if this means leaving China.

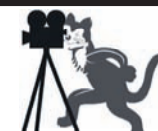
### Jan 2010

Google delays launch of Android phones in China.

## FILM

Film Editors Zuzanna Blaszcak &amp; Ed Knock

film.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## Sex &amp; Drugs &amp; Rock &amp; Roll

**Director** Mat Whitecross  
**Screenwriter** Paul Viragh  
**Cast** Andy Serkis, Naomie Harris  
**Running Time** 115 mins

## Tytus Murphy

A metamorphosis from Gollum of *Lord Of The Rings* to proto-punk cockney icon Ian Dury is seamlessly made by the sterling Andy Serkis in this biopic capturing the trials and tribulations of one of the most unique and distinctive things to rear its ugly head in 1977. Perhaps rekindling the spirit Dury could even be deemed a glamour role for Serkis after Gollum?

Director Mat Whitecross weaves together a colourful, raucous, moving account of Ian Dury, both as the east end wordsmith who's witty, frequently crude but always razor-sharp rhyming is still revered to this very day, but also poignantly capturing the difficulties Dury encountered as a child branded disabled. Polio ravaged his left arm and leg when swimming in his early school days and Whitecross tactfully fuses the trauma of this event and Dury's subsequent horrific early experiences in an institute for disabled children, along with incredibly powerful insights into Dury's relationships with his family and lovers to his unrelenting desire to succeed as an entertainer.

The film contains strong family input into conveying exactly how spiteful a bastard Dury really was, the end result leading son Baxter Dury to proclaim that he "bled internally" upon viewing Serkis bringing back the ghost of his father, whilst some members of the family feel the film does not go far not enough to expose his grotesqueness. Pitching Dury in the most objective light is a tough task, despite being a notoriously difficult man when intoxicated his charm, humour and in-

telligence make for an endearing character. Whitecross walks this tightrope between sympathy and contempt immaculately throughout, as Dury shines on stage his desperate, malicious antics towards his family and friends contrast purposely creating an immensely absorbing protagonist.

Intricately told among Dury's rise to fame and his subsequent decline are his relationships with his long-suffering wife Betty (Olivia Williams) and his young lover Denise (Naomie Harris) as they both fluctuate with pure anger at his selfishness to a loving fondness of his rare tenderness. However it his relationship with son Baxter which provides the most compelling of subplots, Baxter is played by the young Bill Milner who maturely and splendidly complements the wild antics of his father as he is taken on tour and placed under the sensible watch of the 'Sulphate Strangler'. Dury's relationship with his father (Ray Winstone) is also cleverly incorporated into film and adds yet another layer of depth to the complex emotional input of Dury who fables his respect for his father in the eternal 'My Old Man'. There is also a touching and thought-provoking side-story into Dury's contribution to the United Nations year of the disabled with his infamous song 'spasticus autisticus' that is pivotal to understanding Dury and is excellently embedded into narrative by Whitecross.

Do you need to be fan of Dury or *The Blockheads* to enjoy this?

Absolutely not, it is an absorbing, exciting and subtle tear jerker of a film that provides a wonderful insight into the life of one of the most unique individuals to emerge in the late 70s, irrespective of whether you love, hate or know nothing of Dury, it is a dynamic, human and buoyant film with an unprecedented kaleidoscope of energy in its protagonist that makes for highly charged viewing. In a final swansong Whitecross allows Dury to hit every viewer with his rhythm stick once more.

filled by several 40-something classic British actors give the film a *Reservoir Dogs* meets *Full Monty* feel, although unfortunately lacks the real gritty drama that was expected.

Ray Winstone gives an over-the-top heartbroken performance, and his overshadowed by his callous friends. Be prepared for a tedious masterclass of the four letter word from all the individuals, especially Jon Hurt's brilliant character 'Old man peanut'. The grumpy old git contrasts brilliantly to Ian McShane's suave personality, and their banter is comical throughout. Director Malcolm Venville applies his own bizarre element to the film in an attempt to deepen Ray Winstone's distressed character, but just makes him look foolish.

Considering most recent British gangster films involve Danny Dyer chucking bricks at West Ham fans, this a fresh change. But in general I doubt people want to see a bunch of criminals, well past their sell-by-date, tirelessly monologuing about marital problems.

Writers Louis Mellis and David Scinto last collaboration, *Sexy Beast* (2000), is much more memorable than this one. Only the darkly comic actors save this film from pure mediocrity.

## A dazzling taste of Italian style

## Nine

**Director** Rob Marshall  
**Screenwriter** James Cameron  
**Cast** Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana, Sigourney Weaver  
**Running Time** 162 mins

## John Park

Among the never-ending stream of modern musical films, there were some hits, (*Moulin Rouge*, *Hairspray*) complete critical/financial flops (2009's *Fame* and *Rent*) and those in between (*Evita*, *The Phantom of the Opera*). But before you say "Oh no, not another flashy, camp, musical film", *Nine* turns into a complex character study of one complicated film director.

*Nine* is based on an Italian masterpiece *8 1/2* directed by Federico Fellini, which incidentally is based on Fellini himself. Daniel Day-Lewis plays Guido Contini, a troubled but once talented film director who is failing to write a single word for his script even when the costumes are being made, the sets are being built, and the film is supposed to be shot in ten days. His writer's block is worsened by the complicated relationships he shares with the various women in his life. Day-Lewis' Contini is not Marcello Mastroianni's Guido in *8 1/2* but is a more confused, burnt-out, and most importantly, is an original character that does not try to mimic the old version in any way.

To be honest, who wouldn't be slightly distracted in his situation? He's surrounded by beautiful women; his wife Luisa (Marion Cotillard), his seductive mistress Carla (Penélope Cruz), his muse Claudia (Nicole Kidman), his confident Lilane (Judi Dench), Stephanie (Kate Hudson) a stunning reporter who wants to have a good lay with Contini more than anything else, memories of his Mamma (Sophia Loren), and a prostitute from his childhood, Saraghina (Stacey Fergie Ferguson) who taught him the art of love-making. All of these characters are introduced in a spectacular opening sequence where the women's relationships with Guido are briefly explained.

Reading the long list of fabulous actors can build up unwanted hype and expectations. We all know they can act full stop. Just between the eight of them they share seven Oscar wins and eleven further nominations. Cotillard gives a quiet but intense perform-

ance as the victim of Contini's numerous affairs, her intense rendition of "Take it All" making the audience truly sympathise with the situation this woman is in, Cruz is overflowing with sex appeal, more so when she's twisting and wrapping her body around ropes and curtains, Kidman blesses the screen with her angelic, beautiful presence etc... But the important factor is to remember that this is a musical and to ask the crucial question of whether they can sing. Well, of course they can.

The casting of Day-Lewis was considered to be an odd one when first announced. No-one knew whether he could sing or not, and no-one really knew whether he could be convincing as an Italian. But once again, he doesn't disappoint and his performance is flawless. He surprises all of us when he proves that his singing is just as powerful and effective as his acting. He only sings a couple of songs, but they're unforgettable ones. His scruffy appearance reflects his chaotic lifestyle and it's not surprising that he's struggling to write a script.

Hudson, although stuck with a character who doesn't end up being too crucial, is given her moment to shine with probably one of the best and memorable songs in the film, "Cinema Italiano." She sings and dances her heart out, as do the backing singers/dancers. The music is immediately catchy, as is the electrifying choreography that Hudson handles perfectly.

A special round of applause however, must go to Ferguson, who arguably delivers the best musical number in the film. For those who have seen the trailers, the song "Be Italian" will be quite familiar. But just wait until you see the big picture, when the big screen and sound systems capture Ferguson's bold, steady voice as well as the sexy, dangerous and captivating visuals. The song covers two very different time-lines and styles. There's Contini's intimate black-and-white flashback of Saraghina teaching the ever-so enthusiastic boys about sex, and then there's the more passionate,

full-coloured (very effectively in red and black) scene of Saraghina, various other women, sand and tambourines. What's more impressive is Fergie's perfect transformation into her character. She gained something like eight kilos and with her push-up dress, messy hair and glaring eyes, she looks exactly like someone who successfully sells sex for a living, promising to fulfill all the hidden male fantasies.

Due to the large cast, some actresses aren't given enough deserving focus. Loren, Dench and Kidman are all marvellous singers but are all underused. Giving each and every one of them the full attention would probably have brought the running time right up to the three-hour mark and could have been overly tedious. But it's just not that easy to forget all about the three fabulous actresses after their stunning but brief appearances.

*Nine* is a sophisticated, dazzling, savvy musical. Rob Marshall delivers a more stylish, focused film than his previous musical effort *Chicago*. There is a noticeable lack of memorable songs, and it won't be easy to hum the songs again outside the cinema but it's hard to care when you can remember the astonishing choreography and flawless performances in a heart-beat.



## 44 Inch Chest

**Director** Malcolm Venville  
**Screenwriter** Louis Mellis  
**Cast** Ray Winstone, John Hurt  
**Running Time** 95 mins

## Stefan Zeeman

From the writers of *Sexy Beast* (2000), *44 Inch Chest* gains cult status for a different approach to a British gangster movie. Ray Winstone plays Colin, a broken man who's been suddenly left by his wife, Liz (Joanna Walley). Initially blinded with rage, Colin seeks revenge by tracking down the 'loverboy' - a young man who has been having an affair with his wife. He calls upon several of his ageing gangster friends to help capture loverboy and keep him prisoner in an abandoned house in a dark corner of London.

The film is almost entirely shot in a single room of the abandoned house. The minimal storyline leaves the characters to do all the legwork to make the film half-decent. Fortunately, the cast is brilliant, and there is sufficient diversity so your attention shouldn't waver too much. The confined space

# The blaggers guide to being a film geek

With three pints down your throat, the conversation in the pub shifts to some deep intellectual shit. "Have you seen the new Ken Loach film?" a friend inquires and your heart sinks. Politics you can handle but when it comes to films, you don't know diddly squat. To save you from looking like an idiot again I've made you a present. So here's a nifty little guide for all you philistines who don't know your Soderberg from your Spielberg.

## Legendary Directors



**Alfred Hitchcock** - Although he turned out classic after classic Hitchcock never won an Oscar. When the Academy finally bothered to award him an 'honoury' one, he replied with the shortest acceptance speech ever - "Thankyou". He was a Londoner too.



**Akira Kurosawa** - The master of Japanese Cinema. *The Good The Bad and The Ugly*, *The Magnificent Seven*, *Star Wars* and *Vantage Point* are all rip-offs of his films. He also made Shakespeare actually entertaining with the epic film *Ran*.



**Vittorio de Sica** - During the 50s the Italians ruled the film world until the French stole their crown. De Sica's 'Neorealist' films were a breath of fresh socialist air against the glossy movies of the Hollywood studio system.



**David Lynch** - To be really cool you have to claim you enjoy this guy's films. *Eraserhead* was beyond surreal and then there is *Naked Lunch* which will haunt your dreams for ever. Play the Lynch card in a discussion on film and you will be worshipped by all.

## The 'Classics'

**Citizen Kane** - Old man dies and drops snow globe muttering 'rosebud'. News reporters try but fail to find out what rosebud means, turns out it's the name of his... Directed by and starring the great Orson Welles.

**Casablanca** - Humphrey Bogart is happy making money during WW2 but then his ex turns up with her hubby needing a favour. Bogey doesn't want to help but then he does and there's some drama and a happy ending. Oh and there are loads of Nazis.

**The Godfather** - Wedding, offers you can't refuse, sleeping with fishes, ba da bing, revenge, Sicily, dead wife, new wife, dead brother, dead dad, new godfather, lots of shooting, dead Dons, lying to the wife, kiss my ring!

**2001 A Space Odyssey** - Ape-men find a big rectangular rock, ape-man throws bone in the air. Jump cut to waltzing spaceship. Spacemen find another rock on moon. Jump cut to different spaceship, creepy computer goes crazy but fails to kill Dave. Jump cut to another rock in space, it's like the start of Doctor Who. Jump cut to a weird house, Dave gets old really quickly. Jump cut to Dave in space, he's turned into a fetus. The End.

## Speak the Lingo

**Method Acting** - The ultimate style of acting though personal experience to truly understand your character. For example; Robert de Niro drove a taxi for a year for *Taxi Driver*.

**New Wave** - Any movement in cinema in which a new ethos of filmmaking emerges, the French New Wave being the most famous.

**Auteur** - A director with his own unique style evident in all his films. Stanley Kubrick was one of the greatest auteurs.

**Female fatale** - A beautiful woman with hidden agendas who causes the downfall of a man.

**The Fourth Wall** - If a character breaks the fourth wall he directly addresses the audience like Michael Caine does in *Alfie*.

**High Concept** - Film's premise shortened to one sentence, think shark eats tourists for *Jaws*. High concepts are designed to appeal to big audiences

**Kitchen Sink** - British Socialist dramas about the working class usually set in north. The only reason why anyone has heard of *Barnsley*.

## How a pretentious film geek has different opinions on very popular films

### What you would say:

**Forest Gump** - Quality Film! The story is really good, I think it's really clever how Forest keeps on changing what he does to keep the audience entertained. Tom Hanks' acting is amazing!

**Saving Private Ryan** - The Normandy beach landing is incredibly realistic and gritty. The film is excellent at portraying the absurdity of war and the battle at the end is brilliant!

### What the film geek says:

**Forest Gump?** Moronic Gump is a more fitting title. The episodic format of the film is tedious and throws no surprises. Tom Hanks' performance is simply irritating. I recommend *If...* instead.

I agree that the Normandy landings scene is amazingly reproduced but Spielberg loses the plot soon after as the film becomes melodramatic and full of clichés. I recommend *The Thin Red Line* instead.



by Ed Knock Film Editor

### News Strip



#### No more Spiderman for Tobey Maguire

Sam Raimi has walked away from *Spiderman 4* due to problems with the script. Sony Pictures have now announced a franchise reboot without Maguire concentrating on Spidey's adolescent years. Raimi is rumoured to be now working on a *World of Warcraft* project

#### Avatar closing in on Titanic at the box office

James Cameron now holds the prestigious title of most successful filmmaker ever. *Avatar* has raked in \$1,624,059,398 in worldwide ticket sales putting it in second place to *Titanic* whose total sales amounted to a whopping \$1,835,300,000

#### Golden Globe voters agree with the hype.

James Cameron took the Best Director award for *Avatar* which also won Best Motion Picture. How the Academy will respond when the Oscars roll by will be interesting to see. Meanwhile Martin Scorsese was awarded the Cecil B. DeMille prize for being generally awesome.

## felix Online

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- Brothers  
- Late Autumn

[www.felixonline.co.uk](http://www.felixonline.co.uk)

# UNIONd's



**Friday 29 January**  
**22:00 - 02:00**

# SPORTS NIGHT

**free entry!**

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
**20:00 - 02:00**



Fosters,  
Blackthorn &  
John Smith's  
**£1.50**  
a pint

imperial  
college  
union

imperialcollegeunion.org

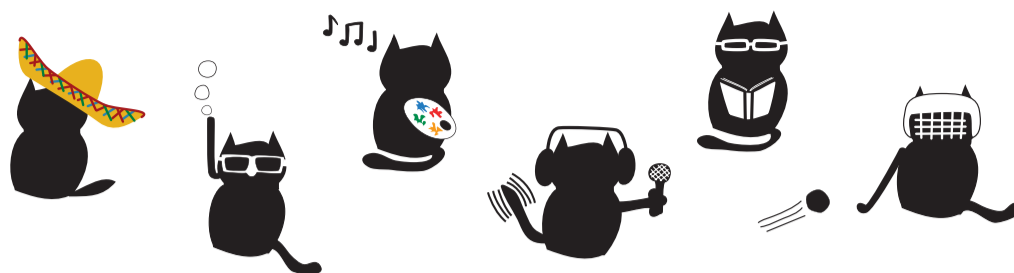


# What's on...

## Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editors – Lily Topham & Rachel D'oliveiro

whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk



### Sat 23rd Jan

#### Friends of MSF Collections

- Whenever you're available!
- Earl's Court, High Street Ken and Westminster tube stations
- Please email fomsf@ic.ac.uk if you're interested
- Completely free.....for you anyway...

#### IC Big Band

- 8-11pm, dB's, Union
- Free!
- Big Band host the Cambridge University Jazz Orchestra in a classic battle between two of the countries top university big bands. The mixture of jazz, latin and funk is guaranteed to get you dancing!



### Mon 25th Jan

#### Medecins San Frontieres at Mahiki

- 6.30-9.30pm, Mahiki, 5 Dover Street, near Green Park tube station
- Special guest MSF speaker Emily to start at 7.30pm
- £5 entrance with free glass of punch on entry!
- Step down into Mahiki for complete escapism and transport yourself to a Polynesian Paradise!

#### "The Wounds of Gaza"

- 6:30pm, G16 LT, SAF
- IC Palestinian Society presents an evening covering the medical situation in Gaza with guest speakers Dr Ghassan Abu-Sittah & Andrea Becker.

### Tues 26th Jan

#### IQ Bowling Extravaganza

- 6:30pm, meet in the Union
- Bloombury's Bowling Alley, Student night

#### Science & Society: Drugs, Politics and Policy

- 6:30pm, Pippard LT, Sherfield
- Special guest interviewer Dr. Stephen Webster interviews Professor David Nutt, the former chief drug adviser to the British government.

### Sun 24th Jan

#### IQ Spitalfields Market Trip

- Meet at noon at Adgate East Station
- IQ takes a trip to the world famous market in the East End.
- Call 07963005676 for more details!

### Weds 27th Jan

#### Snooker Club 8-Ball Pool Team Trials

- 1:15pm, Meet at entrance to Beit Quad
- Free (members), £3 (non-members)
- Team trials to find six 8-ball pool players needed to compete in the annual 8-ball Pool Championships.
- Email snooker@ic.ac.uk for more info.

#### IQ Postgrad Night

- 7pm, meet at the Builder's Arms, 1 Kensington Court Place
- Free!

### To Do....

- 1) Buy more Kleenex...damn infectious people....
- 3) What d'you reckon: events from Friday – Friday, OR events from Monday – Sunday??
- 3) Oh, and keep them coming in: **whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk** (Club name & event, time, place, price, pics...) **by end of Tues 26th Jan.**

### Thurs 28th Jan

#### Imperial College Consultancy Society

- IBM Global Business Services Event
- 6pm, 340 Huxley
- Interactive Case Study Session
- Light refreshments provided and opportunity to network.

#### IQ Games Night

- 7pm, Huxley Foyer
- Free!



### Fri 29th Jan

#### IQ 'Queer Question Time'

- 7pm, meet at the Union, Royal Vauxhall Tavern
- Come along for a great night out!

#### ICSM Cricket Club presents "Reggae Reggae Bop"

- 7pm-1am, Reynolds Bar, Charing Cross
- £3 entry with costume, £4 without

# Imperial Snowsports hit Arc 1800

THIS WEEK, **CHARLOTTE MORRIS** REPORTS ON THIS YEAR'S JANUARY SKI TRIP ORGANISED BY THE IMPERIAL SNOWSPORTS SOCIETY.

Setting off for the slopes on 2nd January, Imperial Snowsports had only just recovered from New Years Eve, and the prospect of a 16 hour coach journey to the Alps was pretty daunting. Snow reports had told us that it was going to be bloody freezing all week, so after a last minute trip to High St. Ken' for extra thermals, we were on our way!

Luckily for most of us, the coach journey flew by, which could have had something to do with the copious amounts of port and whiskey consumed on the ferry. After a pretty uneventful journey (except for the usual nakedness, megaphones and puking - we all know who's responsible), we arrived at Arc 1800 mid-afternoon, grabbed our ski's from the hire shop and - in true Snowsports style - started drinking, again.

I have to say, the way the trip was going by this point, I felt like I was in for a bit of a festival experience - partying so hard that I didn't actually do what I set out to do, which was to snowboard every day. Yet, as we were comatose in our beds after the first night out, the heavens opened and gave us an extra 50cm of snow. Waking up in the morning to so much snow, and snow still coming down, was enough to rid us all of our hangovers, and so we were out on the slopes! I seemed to be one of the only committee members for whom Imperial ski trip was my first week on snow of the season, and the boys weren't going to let me ease myself into it. The first morning meant some serious off-piste powder riding and some steep, powdery black runs, which meant a lot of falling and walking for me!

Les Arcs is actually a huge ski resort, and with the recent addition of the lift connection to La Plagne, a neighbouring resort, the ski area is one of the biggest in the world, with pistes available to all ski levels. But with the fresh dump of powder on the first night, the pistes were not what we were inter-



ested in. Following the rest of the committee, with a few extras, I was slightly out of my depth in skill level, which I realised when I ended up headfirst in the snow, with two other snowboarders running to pull me out.

You would have thought that, after playing in the powder all day, we'd all be far too tired to have another night out. But there's no rest for the wicked, and we were back on the lash again - and dressing up, cartoon characters theme. My favourite outfit was a certain Banana-in-Pyjamas, and some people went to a lot of effort; from all-

in-one baby-grows (Rugrats) to dying people's hair purple to look like Leela from Futurama.

The next couple of days were perfect skiing conditions, bright blue skies and excellent snow underfoot. We made the most of exploring the resort, which had plenty to offer. My favourite part of Les Arcs was in Arc 2000; you could take a gondola up and then a cable car right to the top of the mountain. Because the weather was so good, the views from the top were amazing. And the ski down to Arc 1600 was just as amazing; one long run, with a mixture

of terrains, from moguls to freshly groomed, wide-open runs, with no lift stops all the way to the bottom.

The highlight of my evenings has to be the Mountain Meal. For those of you who have never been on an Imperial ski trip, a Mountain Meal is where, at the end of a day's skiing, we met at a restaurant at the top of the mountain. We were given a bottle of wine each and ate a very filling meal of cheese raclette, a traditional Savoie dish consisting of lots of cheese, with a plate of meat (or salad for the vegetarians), potatoes and pickled onions. Cheese

raclette consists of a wheel of Reblochon cheese, cut in half and placed under a grill. You then scrape off the layers of melted cheese and add it to your plate. It's a very social way to eat, and after a bottle of red wine each, we were all a little bit tipsy. So when the DJ (a greying, old frenchman) kicked off the disco by playing Daft Punk, it was only a matter of time before we were all dancing on the tables in our ski boots. Dangerous, you might ask? Not as dangerous as the 'torchlit descent' afterwards, which involved us all skiing down to the village, in the dark, only lit by a few people who had lanterns of fire. Luckily for me, I managed to get down without falling, only stopping to light the way for a group of people who had managed to get themselves tangled in the orange safety fencing at the side of the piste.

With the snow conditions deteriorating after the first dump of snow at the start of the week, it came as a bit of a relief that the last day meant more snow. Unfortunately for many people, after the crazy night the night before (it was our last night in the resort - what can I say?) there wasn't a lot of skiing to be done, and a lot more loitering around bars in the village, eating pizza and kebabs all day.

What impressed me the most about this year's ski trip was how willing everybody was to get involved. The more advanced skiers and snowboarders were happy to teach the less confident ones, the freestyle experts were giving tips in the park and people offered to wax skis and snowboards and lend each other kit when they needed it. This led to such a friendly atmosphere within the group, which in turn, led to lots of fun skiing during the day and some brilliant nights out!

**So if you haven't managed to get your fix of snow this season so far, come with us to BUSC's Main Event 2010, which takes place at Alpe d'Huez during the Easter holidays.**

## Our holiday in pictures...



unionpage

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THE UNION'S

# January Sale

SAVING YOU MONEY

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[imperialcollegeunion.org](http://imperialcollegeunion.org)

# 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?**  
**SEND US YOUR BEST (OR WORST) SCIENCE JOKES!**

**JOKES, LETTERS, OPINIONS – WE WANT THEM ALL!**

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

Facebook: Felix Fan Page

Text: 07832670472

Twitter: @felixcatnip

## Ten Reasons To Get In Touch With Catnip

- 1) **It's Fun!** At least more fun than Friday afternoon lectures.
- 2) **Your Name in Lights!** Well, ink, really. But it's still something to show your mum.
- 3) **Girls!** It's well-known that women love writers. Fact!
- 4) **Boys!** Guys like girls who know their way around a pencil.
- 5) **Get Involved!** Writing to the Student Newspaper is guaranteed to help pad out that CV.
- 6) **Get Even!** Were you the "Drunk Mate of the Week?" Take your friends out to the Union with a camera and a funnel.
- 7) **Get It Out!** Bad Lecture? Bad Day? Bad Week?! Vent your frustrations here – we're cheaper than any therapist.
- 8) **For The Cat!** *felix* can only continue on your contributions so remember to feed the cat.
- 9) **For A Laugh!** Texting Cat-Nip with your mate's phone that you just nicked could be the new Frappe. Cat-Rape today!
- 10) **Please?** See, I even asked nicely.

## Drunken-mate photo of the week



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

It's comforting to see a new level of responsibility in the drunks of today. He also had a first-aid kit and money for a taxi (or bail) secreted about his person.

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

## Snow: Winter Wonder or Wicked Whiteout?

It was fun to start with but now it's seriously pissing me off!!!  
**Frosty and Frustrated**

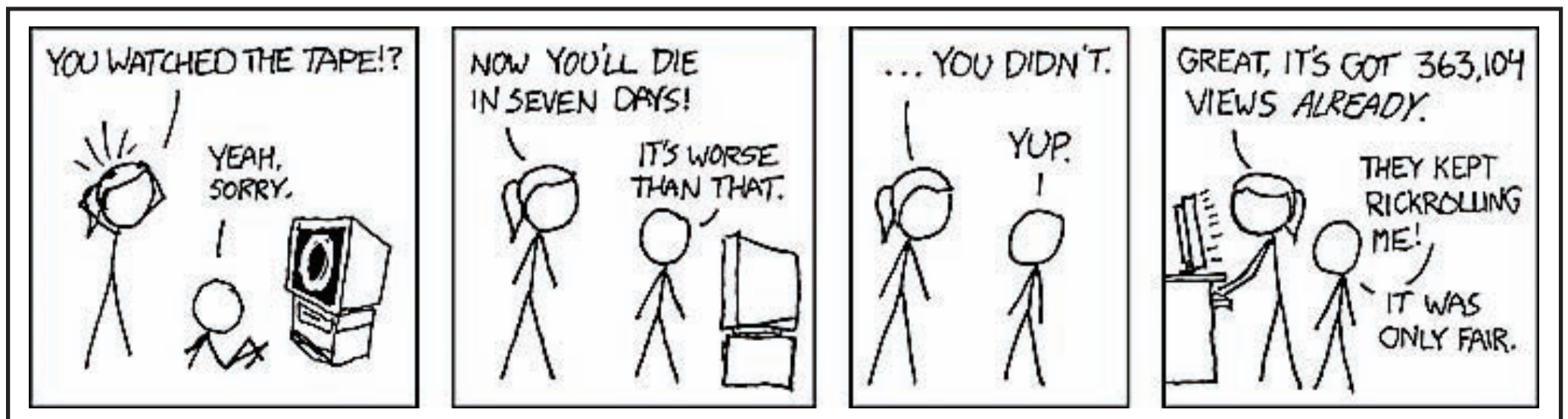
It was great! I made a girlfriend out of it - not sad at all. But now she's turned into a real drip. I think I'll dump her soon.  
**Totally Not Sad Computing Student**

What snow?! I had the greenest christmas in years and I get back to london and it's all gone! What a rip-off!  
**White Christmas?**

Why did it have mess with all the transport? It took me 4 days to get home!!! 4 days in St. Pancras sleeping on my dirty washing!  
**Chilly Commuter**

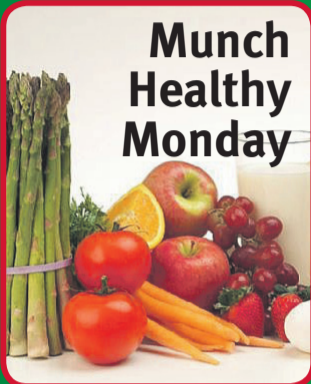
I like the snow. It makes it harder for them to find the bodies.  
**Well-Adjusted Medic**

xkcd.com



Imperial College  
London

# HEALTHY LIVING WEEK



**Munch  
Healthy  
Monday**



**Bike  
Tuesday**



**Wellbeing  
Wednesday**



**Try It  
Thursday**



**Finish with  
Fitness  
Friday**

...❖ free activity sessions on South Kensington Campus

...❖ free body health MOTs

...❖ free counselling and stress management sessions

...❖ free Bike Doctor services on Campus

...❖ healthy food options in College and Union outlets

**Find out more and see the  
week's full schedule at  
[www.imperial.ac.uk/sports](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/sports)**

imperial  
college  
union

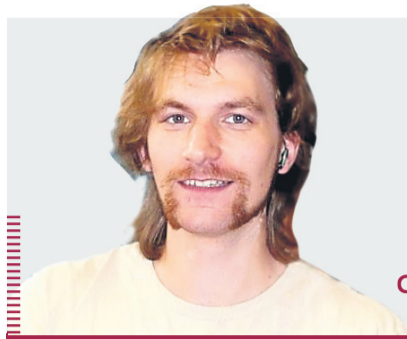
sport Imperial

# 25 - 29 January

# COFFEE BREAK

Coffee Break Editor Charlie Murdoch

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## Standing on the table?

Charlie Murdoch Coffee Break Editor

I assumed that during exams you would all be furiously masturbating over these puzzles. It turns out that I was correct. Like some sort of Claire Voyant. Have you ever thought about being a girl for a day? I have, and drew the conclusion that it would be a considerable amount of fun trying to fuck up some poor hockey fresher's mind. But then again I am a massive fan of psychological maiming. In the past it has regularly proved to be highly successful.

Moving on from maiming the general public, this week the Union has finally got round to installing the new Union Bar's Dignity Drainpipe. In a risky manoeuvre, Union President Ashley Brown decided that too many people were simple throwing their dignity away to anyone who happened to be in the bar drinking. Or vomiting. Or pissing- got to cover all the bases, the Rugger Bigger boys may be in. So, after a colossal fuck-up which saw College confuse Boris with a few diversion signs, thus sending him to the wrong bar, Ashley stepped in to unveil the new Dignity Drainpipe.

Standing on a table (fucking health and safety brap!), in the bar, packed

with sportsmen, on Wednesday night Ashley went mental. He started to scream at people like some sort of desperate paedophile 'I am the President give me your dignity. You common scum! I run this fucking place.' At first he received some strange looks, which for Mr Brown, is not unusual. But after a while the 'common scum' realised that what Ashley was doing was in fact being the first contributor to his new venture. Adding to the funeral pyre of dignity, a Rugby fresher mistook Ashley's rambling for some sort of sexual invitation. At this point Brown realised that he was probably a) making limited sense and b) a bit twatted. He took himself home, not to resurface until lunchtime the following day.

In other news, Haiti appears to have been fucked by a giant horse-come-stallion. Judging by the destruction it appears that this horse was on hardcore crack. Not good, it spoilt quite a few people's days. It brought me back to the (slightly less severe) flooding in Britain in the summer of 2007, when the Rt. Rev Graham Dow, Bishop of Carlisle pronounced that the flooding was due to an increase in pro-gay legislation. Arsehole.

## Stuff Imperial students like:

### 11. Americans:

Americans! They are back, and back in force. We love them, coming over here and learning about our culture. They are a huge amount of fun and all seem to be called by strange names like "Hope". Never-the-less they are a huge amount of fun, and game for a laugh. Or downing a pint. Slowly. Next one you see, just slip a casual penny into the glass

and yell 'GET IT DOWN' really loudly at them. Watch their little faces drop.

I digress. The point is that they really do contribute a lot to the life here at Imperial and it's amazing that we have the opportunity to share our experiences and relate the theirs. I personally really look forward to their biannual invasion.

Not really. I was shitting you. Just put a not in every sentence.



God bless America? You taking the piss?

## felix Lovestruck

07726 799 424



"my fuckin head is banging after the banging you gave me last night. Whoever you are English boy i want you to give me another going over"

Amy the American

"Dave. you penile cord. You owe me a new headboard after the thumping you gave that one. If you don't I am taking legal action."

Hard

"dan wan. You want me and I want you. Can't we just break down the barriers and dance, dance, dance the night away? over a copy of the felix tomorrow?"

Lucy

"god gave you a gift, and that gift was the ability to fulfill all my needs. and a little bit more! come see me again at some time. chat, maybe more?"

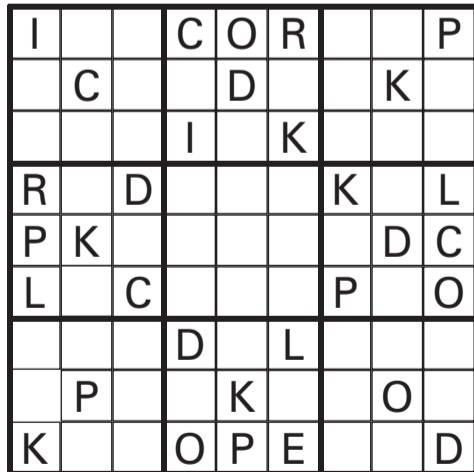
David the Duke

Quote of the Week

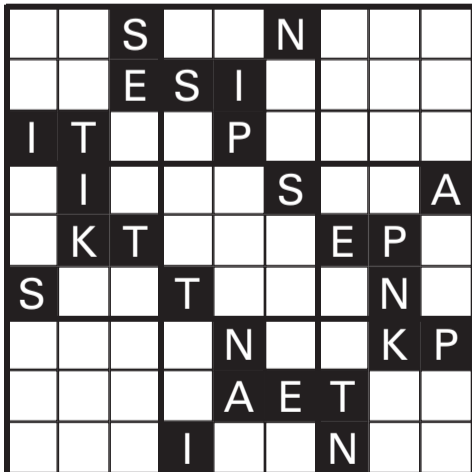
Aristotle: "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."

## Wordoku 1,450

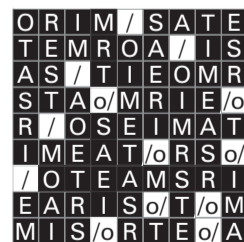
INTERMEDIATE



EVIL



Solution 1449



Last issues obligatory mistake was placing the 'E' in the bottom left box of the Evil Wordoku one cell lower than it ought to have been - producing two valid solutions and hiding the word MISEROTIA. Be rest assured I have received a sound beating. Big hand to winner of last week's easy-GL Tang, please provide a name. Can't remember the evil winner. Sorry.

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.

Scribble box

## Wordpath 1,450

ORIGIN:

**MOST**

DESTINATION:

**EVIL**

How to play:

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

**Letter Substitution:** Substitute just **one** letter.

e.g. WORD -> WARD

**Anagram:** Rearrange the letters.

e.g. WARD -> DRAW

**Wordslide:** Replace the current word with a new 4 letter word from any 5+ letter word that contains them both.

e.g. DRAW -> WING (via DRAWING)

No consecutive steps may 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 valid path between the two words. Dubious words will be checked against the OED. Send your solutions to [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk).

Solution 1449

**HUNT**  
UNTE via HUNTER  
TUNE (An)  
TONE (LS)  
NOTE (An)  
OTED via NOTED  
DOLE (An)  
DOLE (LS)  
OLED (An)  
DOLE via DOLED  
DOLT (LS)  
TOLD (An)  
**GOLD** (LS)

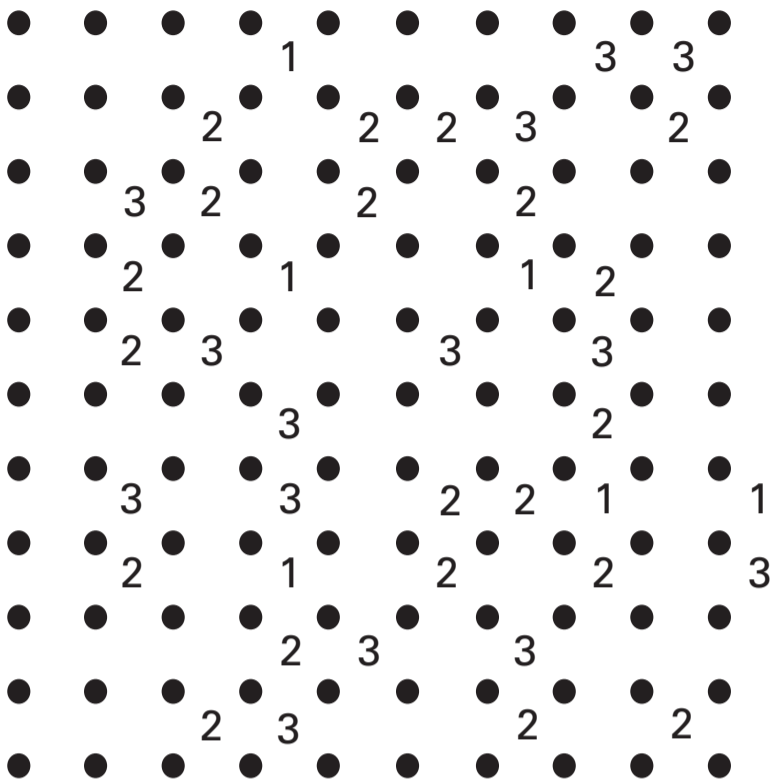
This clever solution was submitted by **GL Tang**. Think you could do better? Submit something!

Scribble box

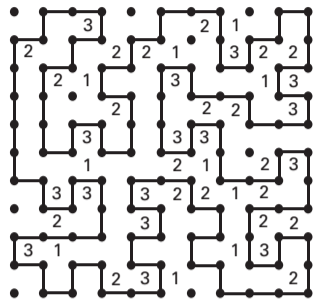
coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk

COFFEE BREAK

# Slitherlink 1,450



Solution 1449



Slitherlink saw only a few entries last week- was it that hard? Come on get yourselves in gear. Anyways, winner was **GT Lang**. Welcome to the hall of fame!

**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	113 Points
The Tough Brets	115 Points
The Cool Kids and Fergal	33 Points

**Individuals:**

Matthew Colvin	91 Points
Ying Liang	46 Points
Kelvin Wong	39 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.

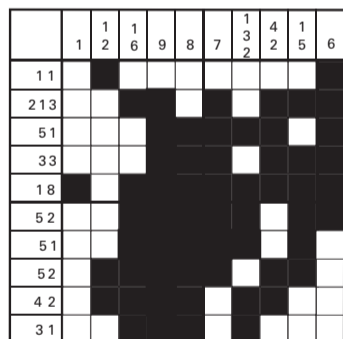
Now then FUCWITs, answers to [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk). Go!

# Nonogram 1,450

**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 1449

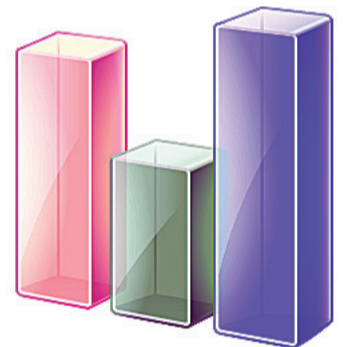


This is good isn't it? Lots of entries last week, first entry was at 1.07pm by **The Tough Brets**. Well done. The rest of you feel free to keep entries rolling in- try to include a alias you want to be refered to as, and what puzzle you are entering in the subject title. It makes the world go round a little easier. No srsly it does.

					1	3	3	2	2
	5	1	6	8	1	1	3	1	1
3 5									
1 6									
2 1 3									
1 1 1									
1 3 4									
6									
5									
3									
2									
4 3									

# Puzzle Poll

*felix* wants your opinion! Vote for your favourite puzzle of CoffeeBreak (past or current) by writing to us at [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk) Whilst you're at it, why not tell us which ones you hate too, or perhaps there's a puzzle you'd like us to do?

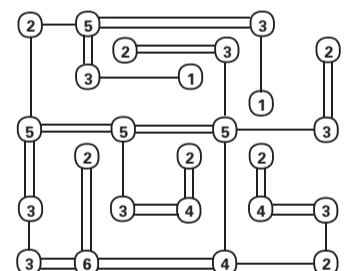


# Guest Puzzle

*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. We reserve the right to make changes. This puzzle will not be eligible for FUCWIT League points.

Solution 1449



# 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.

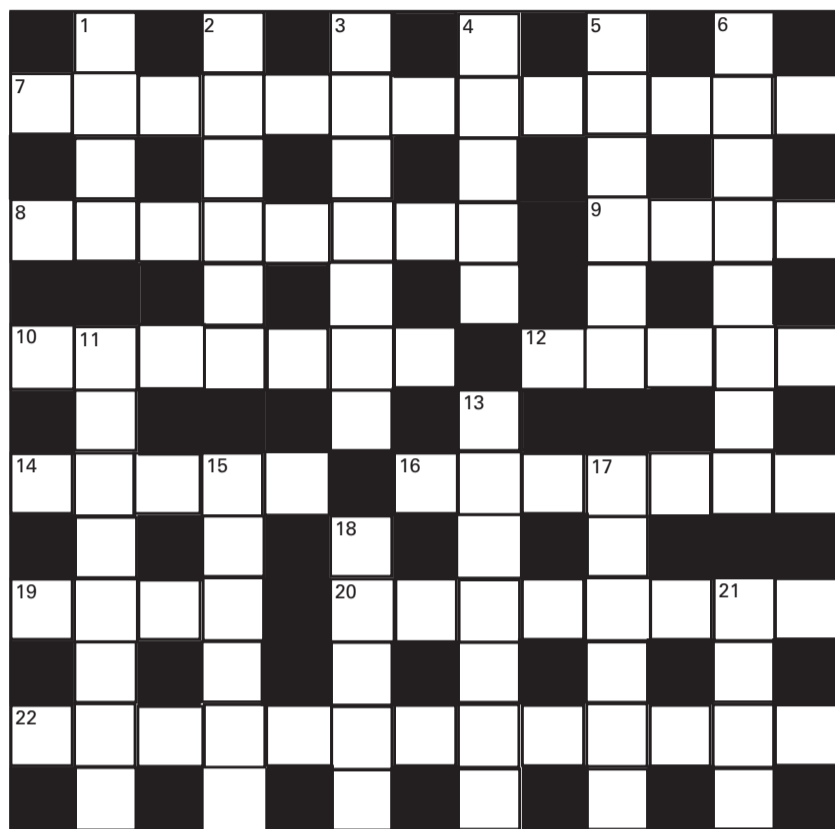
Email us your feedback to [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)



Sucks to be this guy:  
Best of lolcat



# A quickie (crossword) 1,450



## ACROSS

- 7 Typified by a willy/chopper, smack-bang in the middle - Hilltop cancer (anag.) (13)  
 8 Successfully complete - Stimulate genitals manually (5,3)  
 9 Poo (4)  
 10/20 Questionable children's TV sibling duo, born Rotherham (7,8)  
 12 Laughing dog (5)  
 14 Bottoms (5)  
 16 Long and technical solo passage (classical music) (7)  
 19 Proverbial drinker of Irn-Bru, devourer of shortbread, starter of fights etc...(4)  
 20 See 10  
 22 Horticultural labourer (like Willie?) (13)

## DOWN

- 1 Norse war-God (4)  
 2 Where one goes to get free johnnies, or for a "clap-test" (6)  
 3 Fancy ocular piece (7)  
 4 Full-blooded - Bovine (5)

- 5 What a stick is? (6)  
 6 Fancy ocular piece; almost a glamorous Sheffield featherweight boxer (5-3)  
 8 Devout members - Extreme punk sound - Very blue (8)  
 13 Rocket launcher (for verucas?) (7)  
 15 Dine at restaurant (or a lady?) (3,3)  
 17 Resounds (6)  
 18 Home (5)  
 21 Stagger - Big bobbin - Scottish dance (4)

Actually last week's crossword was by the superstar 'Imperial Amit'. Soz bro. Winner was **Tom A** of the **Three Kings**. Tidy.

Crossword by **Peter Logg**

## Solution 1449



## Scribble box

# Insecuri-scopes; everyone horos these, don't they?

This week's horoscopes: Selling your confidence by the pound. It's not making much profit, I'm not going to lie



## Aquarius

This week the dildo you use to keep you awake during lectures slips out as you get up to leave and slides down

the right leg of your jeans. You try to shake it out and merge with the crowd of lecture-note gathering latecomers. The lecturer calls out to you and everyone turns. She hands you back your dildo. There's a smear of blood on it.



## Pisces

Last week you were researching chaos theory and the butterfly effect. You thought the idea that that one flap of a

butterfly wing could set off a tornado in Texas was bullshit so you stamped your foot in protest. This week Haiti is not fucking happy!



## Aries

This week you're messing about with your friend's phone, and stumble across messages about you. They are all bitching

about you, and how they hate all the little things that you do, like clicking your fingers when you think, rubbing your legs as you eat and touching your corneas when you're nervous. No, actually, you're just bit of fucking weirdo.



## Taurus

This week you're bored. You hold a house party, but nobody turns up. Maybe everyone has coursework, maybe

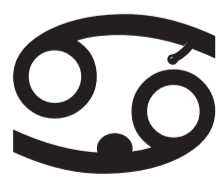
everyone was genuinely busy. You knew this was a bad idea. So, it's you, 5 litres of cheap cider and two crates of even cheaper lager. The next thing you know you've woken up with a tube down your throat. Stomach-pumped? Unlucky.



## Gemini

This week, you're on University Challenge, and you realise you need to do a No.2. You're in the middle of a round, and you're

prairie-dogging quite badly. Well, it's basically in your pants, so you let loose. Jeremy Paxman notices a smell from the Imperial desk and immediately eliminates your pooey team.



## Cancer

This week you make the ultimate sandwich. The ultimate sandwich consists of a sandwich, IN A SANDWICH! You foolishly leave

your ultimate sandwich on the table and when you come back, you find that your cat has eaten it. Then you realise that your ultimate sandwich is in fact still there, but your cat isn't. NEVER leave your ultimate sandwich alone with your cat!



## Leo

This week, ketamine takes over your life. You literally haven't done anything without some trace of ketamine in your

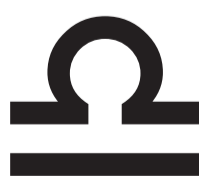
body. Everything seems so still for once, and you don't like it. The shaky tranquilised world you love beckons, and sniff sniff, you fall back into it's quivering horsey arms. Neighhh. Neeiiiigh.



## Virgo

This week, you're fucking a horse, whilst simultaneously eating shit vomit, whilst shitting on previously vomitted vomit.

Some guy is sitting in his car watching you and wanking. You're thinking about pissing and shitting in a mug and microwaving it just to see what happens when you come, the horse moans with delight and then you swap roles.



## Libra

This week you stay home and massage your sore arse. You make a mental note to stick to sheep. Later on, you're feeling

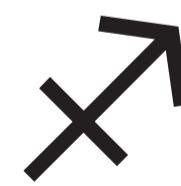
hungry and try to walk again. Your housemate returns to discover you sipping from her mug. The microwave still smells like hot piss and shit despite how hard you scrubbed. Perhaps you could stay with that man who drove you home?



## Scorpio

This week, as you walk into university, your friends are waiting in a room for you. They have a banner hung up, and you think it's a sur-

prise party. But your birthday isn't for another six months. It's an intervention, and they say the only solution to it all is if you didn't talk to any of them ever again. As they read out their intervention statements, you pinch yourself. It's definitely real.



## Sagittarius

Your friends decide to show some sympathy and take you on an adventure day out. Bungee jumping, sky diving, cliff-walking,

deep-sea diving. Wow, you're in for a treat. Except they won't turn up, and they've paid the instructors to sabotage any safety equipment you might come across and try to use.



## Capricorn

You're on the number 10 bus to Hammersmith. The bus hits an unsuspecting cyclist. You break the awkward silence by shouting

'TEN POINTS!' The bus driver swiftly moves on, before anyone can catch his number plate, but then hits a wheelchair person. You stand up and yell 'FIFTY POINTS!' You're now hated by every passenger, but fuck them you have 60 points! Pint?



# Hangman

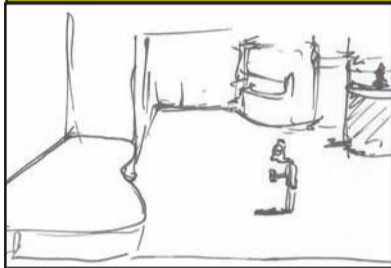
hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## THE LEGEND OF XYRON

That's right. Xyron's back. We're already fed up of this shit. So are you. We can't wait for more Xyron either!

Anonymous Hangman Editor

It's midnight and the Union club, dB's, is packed.



As Xyron walks from Gaz's house, he begins to wonder if it's all worth it. Does he really love Porsche? Will Porsche love him? What is love? Is love real? Is love imaginary? Does love lie in the complex plane? Shit did Hangman just make a maths joke? A biting January wind whips up his trench coat. A bad



Meanwhile, Porsche, the Union bicycle, is having a great time in BD's with the rugby lad.



It is only time before the club shuts and Xyron's fair maiden is walked home to bed. And Xyron knows that rugby players have the tendency to accidentally fall over and stick their penis in things.

It's now 12.59 and the DJ is sealing off the thriving party atmosphere with a song that nobody knows. The rugby lad is leaning in...



But before his tongue had reached her drooling mouth, Xyron kicked down the door! (He had obviously had his stamp checked first)



Xyron: Put my lady down! (To Porsche) I have come to rescue you fair Porsche! I am Xyron, defender of Galaxy 3, and leader of peoples, and I am here to protect you. Such exquisite beauty must not be violated by these brigands.

The Rugby lad gently places the slut on the floor



Rugby Lad: Rrrraaaaarrrrrr tits rrrrrrr beer rrrraaaaarrrrrr lads



Xyron: Giraffe I'm sending you through a recording of a primitive language: I need you decode it for me asap. I fear trouble is afoot.



Giraffe: Hmm this is a tricky one but I think it roughly translates to 'back off star war boy, she mine!'

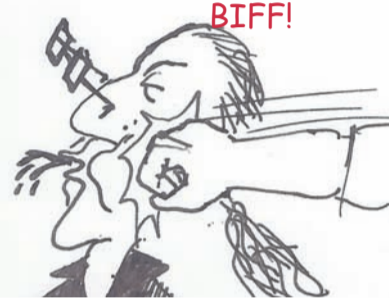
Xyron: Star Wars boy!? Lucas has no idea what really goes on out in space. In galaxy 3 there certainly aren't any stupid little teddybear people, giant slugs or Jamaican floppy eared lizard twats

The Rugby lad moves in closer. Xyron senses danger

Xyron: Uh oh... Giraffe quick, upload a Kung-Fu module into my belt. My senses say danger

Giraffe: What are you on about? What module?

Xyron: Just do it DAMMIT! (to Rugby lad) I'm warning you human, do not come any closer, for I possess the speed of the cheetah, the guile of the magpie and the dexterity of the gazel. Your brute force is no match for my confidence belt! Surrender now and -



BIFF!



The fight is over. Xyron is dead.



Xyron my child. It is I, Lord Fiddler Crab of Galaxy 3. You are not dead. This is a fucked up coma dream thing. I bring tidings of fortune in your time of great need. Peril is not your destiny Xyron. You must rise to the challenge of getting with Porsche the University Slut. It has been said that she is well fit. For this mission I bestow upon you the Fiddle of Truth. You will know how to use this when the time comes. Now I shall kiss you back to consciousness!



[SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87](#)  
Shit. We gota send aid to Haiti. ffs. it's only ricHter 7. I sleep through Richter 7!111!!!

[SexyOsama69](#)  
Try Africa. They hav lots of AIDS lol :p

[Barack\\_attack\\_l33thaxor](#)  
Sigh. Osie. AIDS jokes are so two thousand and late

[SexyOsama69](#)  
wat bout blak jokes?Ah mate was guna tell you well funny blak joke but Dan Wan wudnt let me. wat a chinese twat

[Barack\\_attack\\_l33thaxor](#)  
"Harro! Im Dana wan, feerix editar, and feerix do notta rike wacism" LOL



# FIXTURES & RESULTS



in association with Sports Partnership

## Sunday 17th January

### Hockey (ULU)

#### Challenge Cup

Women's 1s 3-2 St George's Medical School 1s

#### Reserve Cup

Women's 2s 4-0 King's College Medicals 3s

## Monday 18th January

### Basketball (ULU)

Men's 1s 77-71 UCL 1s

### Netball (ULU)

Women's 1s 18-17 UCL 2s

Women's 3s 22-9 St Barts 3s

### Squash (ULU)

Men's 1s 5-0 Imperial College 2s

Men's 3s 0-5 Royal Holloway 1s

### Water Polo(ULU)

Mixed 1st 9-10 UCL Mixed 1s

## Wednesday 20th January

### Badminton (ULU)

Men's 1st 7-1 University of Portsmouth 1st

Women's 1st 7-1 University of Kent 1st

### Football

Men's 3rd vs Imperial College Medicals 2nd

#### BUCS Cup

Men's 1st 1-5 University of Reading 1st

Men's 2nd 1-2 LSE 3rd

#### ULU

Men's 7s vs Heythrop College 1s

Men's 5s 2-3 LSE 4s

Men's 6s 6-2 Royal Holloway 6s

### Hockey

Men's 2nd 2-2 Canterbury Christ Church Uni 2nd

Women's 2nd 8-0 Buckinghamshire New University 1st

### Netball

Women's 3rd 37-12 Canterbury Christ Church Uni 4th

### Rugby

Men's 1st 38-5 RUMS 1st

Men's 2nd 42-5 Imperial College Medicals 2nd

Men's 3rd 14-20 Royal Holloway 2nd

### Tennis

Men's 1st 5-5 University of Brighton 1st

Men's 2nd 3-7 UCL 3rd

Women's 1st 0-10 Brunel University 1st

## Saturday 23rd January

### Football (ULU)

Men's 2s vs LSE 2s

Men's 7s vs St Bart's 4s

#### Challenge Cup

Men's 1s vs SOAS 1s

#### Reserve Cup

Men's 5s vs UCL 7s

## Sunday 24th January

### Basketball (ULU)

#### Cup

Men's 2nd vs St Bart's 1st

### Hockey (ULU)

#### Challenge Cup

Men's 1s vs Imperial Medicals 1s

#### Reserve Cup

Men's 3s vs Royal School of Mines 1s

Men's 5s vs Royal Free & University College Medical School 2s

### Lacrosse (ULU)

Mixed 1s vs Royal Holloway 2s

### Rugby (ULU)

Women's 1s vs St George's Hospital Medical School 1s

### Water Polo

Women's 1st vs University of East Anglia 1st

## Monday 25th January

### Basketball (ULU)

#### Cup

Men's 1s vs Imperial Medicals 1s

### Netball (ULU)

Women's 2s vs King's College 3s

Women's 4s vs London School of Economics 5s

### Squash (ULU)

#### Challenge Cup

Women's 1s vs SOAS 1s

Men's 1s vs UCL 1s

Men's 2s vs St George's Hospital Medical School 1s

#### Reserve Cup

Men's 3s vs King's College 2s

### Volleyball

Mixed 1s vs St George's Hospital Mixed 1s

### Water Polo(ULU)

Mixed 1s vs St Bart's 1s

## Wednesday 27th January

### Badminton

Men's 1st vs University of Kent 1st

Women's 1st vs University of Chichester 1st

#### BUCS Cup

Men's 2nd vs University of Kent 2nd

### Basketball

#### BUCS Cup

Women's 1st vs Queen Mary 3s

#### ULU

Men's 2s vs Imperial Medicals 1s

### Fencing

Women's 2nd vs University of Kent 1st

#### BUCS Cup

Men's 2nd vs Queen Mary 1st

Men's 3rd vs University of Portsmouth 1st

### Football

#### ULU

Men's 3s vs Royal Holloway 3s

Men's 6s vs SOAS 2s

Men's 5s vs King's College 4s

Men's 7s vs King's College 6s

Men's 4s vs Royal Holloway 4s

### BUCS Cup

Women's 1st vs University of Portsmouth 2nd

### Hockey

#### BUCS Cup

Women's 1st vs University of Reading 1st

#### ULU

Men's 2s vs St Barts 1s

Women's 2s vs St George's Hospital 2s

### Lacrosse

Men's 1st vs Canterbury University 1st

### Netball

#### BUCS Cup

Women's 1st vs King's College 1st

### Rugby

Men's 4th vs St George's Hospital 2nd

Men's 1st vs Imperial Medicals 1st

Men's 2nd vs St Barts 1st

Men's 3rd vs University of the Arts 1st

### Squash

Men's 2nd vs University of Surrey 1st

Women's 1st vs UCL 1st

### Table Tennis

Men's 1st vs University of Kent 1st

### Tennis

Women's 1st vs LSE 1st

Men's 1st vs UCL 2nd

#### BUCS Cup

Men's 2nd vs University of Essex 1st

## Overheard at Imperial

Heard something around College that has made you want to die inside? Submit it to the 'Overheard at Imperial' Facebook group

1. "A drunk chemist (is there any other kind?) staggering home but stopping long enough to inform the policemen standing next to their car that the Thames Valley slogan 'Reducing Crime, Disorder and Fear' was wrong because it contradicts the Second Law of Thermodynamics. Apparently they tried to arrest him..."

2. 4 undergrads sitting at a table in the library revising hard for a Maths exam, one says "I should have just gone to UCL".

3. Guy at Huxley building: "A Life? Cool! Where can I download one of those?"

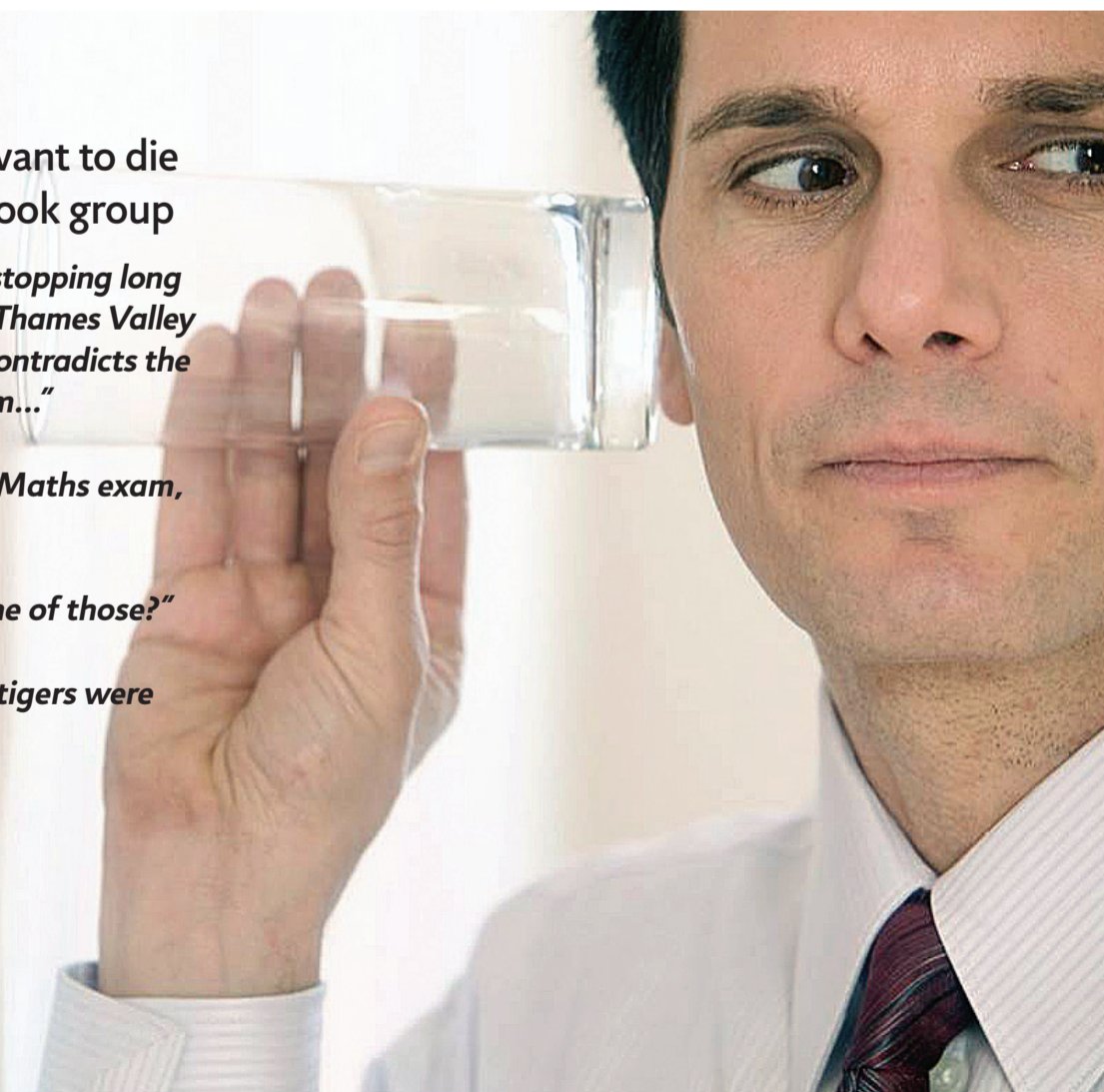
4. Girl talking to fellow biologist in Sherfield: "Shit man, I though tigers were female lions."

### SHIT ONE OF THE WEEK

Me to Chris: Are you serious???

Chris to me: No...I'm parallel!

Thanks to Adam Gill and Esther Kang



## Crackdown on gouging in attempt to clean up rugby's image

David Wilson Sports Editor

On Tuesday this week David Attoub, a prop forward for the flamboyant Parisian team Stade Francais, was given a 70-week ban for eye gouging, while team mate Julien Dupuy was banned for 23 weeks for the same offence. The recipient of both men's attention was Ulsterman Stephen Ferris, attacked during a hotly contested Heineken cup game in December. Both players denied gouging even in the face of photographic evidence, having the audacity to claim the evidence may have been edited by the Irish photographer. Stade Francais president, Max Guazzini, has been more than vocal with his views of the incident and subsequent bans even going as far to say that it is 'anti-French'.

The length of bans had been reviewed over the summer after the abysmal handling of similar gouging incidents involving Sergio Parisse and Schalk Burger where both men were sentenced to just an 8 week ban each. Gouging is seen to be the most damaging action for the reputation of rugby; use of performance enhancing drugs is very rare, aside from a few isolated incidents. Professional rugby players are perceived to be elegant, unspoilt men, unlike their football counterparts. However parents will understandably be reluctant to allow their children to play a sport which gouging is a part of. As a result the International Rugby Board felt it necessary to clamp down on offenders, although why it has taken quite so long remains a mystery. Gouging is a cowardly and unsportsmanlike act and has no place in the game and in addition the pros surely outweigh the cons for performing a gouge on an opponent; there is no obvious advantage gained from gouging and if seen by the referee a yellow or more appropriately a red card will be brandished almost certainly damaging the offender's chances of securing victory. Furthermore, television evidence can be used to find offenders once the

game has finished. The implementation of lengthy bans coupled with better than ever video equipment is seen to be the greatest deterrent to those who do gouge their opponents. Only time will tell if it works.

Ultimately the reputation of rugby and the players are the ones who suffer as a consequence of this underhand action: Dupuy would have been named in Marc Lievreumont's French squad for the six nations, announced yesterday. However in his absence others will now be able to showcase their talents; Dupuy may rue the decision but can blame no one but himself.

Alternatively, Schalk Burger, the Springbok flanker, grappled with Luke Fitzgerald's eye socket within the first 30 seconds of the second Lions test this summer. Although the assistant referee witnessed the event, Burger was inexplicably given just 10 minutes in the sin bin instead of being dismissed from the field of play. Had Burger been correctly sent off, the Springboks would probably not have won the second test and the lions tour that nearly was could have ended up with a different outcome. After the second test, the South African coach Peter de Villiers incredulously defended his player's actions much to astonishment of the rugby world.

Attoub's ban is the second longest to be given out for the offence since the game turned professional, the length is greater than that of Dupuy's due to previous records of ill discipline and the fact Attoub pleaded not guilty to the citing charges. The ban runs until wwwApril 2011 and with the game of rugby continuing to evolve at such a rate, a yearlong ban could be too long for a player to come back to playing at the top level.

The authorities have recognised that action must be taken and have begun to put in place the measurements to keep the rugby game clean and preserve the gentleman's game. The tragedy is that they shouldn't have to.



## 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 Squash Men's 4th	10	8	0	2	12	9	3	3.20
17 ICSM Hockey Men's 1st	9	7	0	2	38	17	21	3.00
18 Football Men's 1st	8	5	1	2	26	17	9	2.38
19 Hockey Women's 1st	7	4	1	2	36	7	29	2.00
20 Tennis Men's 2nd	6	4	0	2	33	27	6	2.00
21 ICSM Hockey Women's 2nd	7	3	2	2	10	18	-8	1.57
22 Hockey Men's 2nd	6	3	1	2	12	11	1	1.50
23 ICSM Hockey Men's 3rd	6	3	1	2	15	13	2	1.50
24 Squash Men's 1st	7	4	0	3	19	16	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

## Reading dump ICUAFC out of BUCS cup

Continued from back page

the Reading goalkeeper.

Reading gradually regained possession and after a few lukewarm opportunities, they restored their 3-goal advantage in a manner similar to that of the first goal. Imperial were again caught out in the middle and the Reading striker worked well to drag the centre backs out of their position to and was rewarded with a well-taken finish.

Imperial didn't give up and again created some chances with dynamic play from Matthieu Vallin and Nathan Ferrol, to no avail.

Reading completed their scoring with another counter attack, taking advantage of the fatigue of the outfield players and us the wings to stretch Imperial and then deliver a low cross which was met by the Reading striker.

The game was played out and the game ended 5-1 to the favourites. Cup matches often yield surprises but unfortunately it wasn't to be for Imperial who were against a team who scored 5 of the 6 chances they created. If Imperial are to rise up a notch and secure promotion into Reading's league, the discipline and concentration will need to improve over the 90 minutes, as will clinical ability of all members of the team.

A surprise did occur on the adjacent pitch in another 3rd round BUCS cup tie between Imperial's 2nd XI and LSE's 3rd XI. Questions were raised after a number of LSE players emerged on the pitch with '1st/2nd team' emblazoned on their tracksuits. Imperial went on to lose 2-1 and diminished the hopes of Imperial being represented in the last 16 of the cup.

The 1st XI nevertheless move on, and concentrate on aiming for promotion in the BUCS league and aiming for the final in the ULU Challenge Cup, with a promising quarter final against an as-yet-unbeaten SOAS side tomorrow.

## Medals escape IC pool players

Continued from back page

McMahon and Kwan beating Billy Moss 5-2. This success was repeated in the second match against Bristol 3 with Victor's 5-1 win against Dominic Knight and Kwan's 5-3 win over Eoghan Beamish. With such swift victories, Imperial proceeded to play the group winners match against defending champions Warwick, unfortunately losing 2-0 despite Kwan's 3-2 lead over Matthew Bradley in the uncompleted final rubber.

Nevertheless, this performance ensured Imperial's spot in the elimination round of the Team Championship, played after a further 2-1 loss against York 2 in the inconsequential

final group match.. Playing for a place in the quarters, Imperial contested a nail-biting showdown against Aston 1. Victor lost 5-3 against Pritesh Patel while Behnam beat Frank Deng 5-3. This meant that it all rested on the shoulders of Kwan. In a match watched by dozens, he and Aston's Amish Patel were on the hill at 4-4, with Kwan requiring just one more foul to exercise the rare three consecutive foul rule, which would force the opponent into conceding the rack and hence the match. Unfortunately, this was not to be and Imperial suffered a 5-4 defeat to bow out of the competition.

Although disappointed as our team had a real shot at medals this year, we did improve upon last year's performance, and we will endeavour to put in more practice to bring back medals from the BUCS-UPC Eight-ball Pool Championships in February. Team trials for this will take place on Wednesday 27 January and everyone is welcome! Just contact snooker@ic.ac.uk



No, we'd never seen a red, Coca-Cola sponsored pool table before either.



## BUCS cup over for football

Mustapher Botchway Football



Imperial College Men's 1st XI	1
Reading University 1st XI	5

The 3rd round of the BUCS brought a mouthwatering tie between the flagship footballing sides of Imperial and Reading University. With both ties securing promising results in BUCS it was set to be hard fought game.

Reading, currently 4th in BUCS South Eastern 2A were the favourites against the 2nd placed team in 3A. This showed with Reading early on controlling possession making Imperial chase shadows. Imperial kept their shape and discipline and were able to contain the opposition until the 30 minute mark where a loose ball in midfield initiated a Reading counter-attack and clinically making use of their 3 against 2 advantage to open the deadlock.

Imperial responded strongly and created a number of half chances after forging runs from central midfielder, David Hayes.

A disallowed goal by Leslie for a debatable foul at the edge of the box prevented Imperial from drawing level at the 35 minute mark and two minutes later Reading doubled their lead after a through ball from the Reading captain split the Imperial defence and made the strikers job of finishing easy.

It was 3-nil before halftime after a speculative set piece fortunately found the head of the Reading winger.

A halftime team talk by captain Mustapher Botchway and the experienced members of Patrick McMullen and Thomas Fryatt rallied the troops to continue their commitment and work rate and get an early goal to pressurise Reading.

Three minutes into the half Imperial scored a well deserved goal after the a teasing cross by William Swain met Theocharis Tofis who calmly slotted it into the near post of the Reading goalkeeper.

With the momentum now with Imperial, further half chances were created, and nullified by the presence of

*Continued on page 35*



## IC Snooker at nine-ball championships

Victor Loi Snooker

The pool season started off with a bang as ICU Snooker prepared for its first tournament of the year. With a strong team for the UPC Nine-ball Pool Championships, hopes were high. The team comprised of Kwan Ng, Ryo Koblitz and Behnam Najafi and was captained by Victor Loi. The tournament started with the Individual Championship. All our players were fortunate enough to receive a bye in the first qualifying round but that also meant they lacked tournament practice on the unfamiliar tables. This proved to be a critical point: of the four players, only

Victor managed to get through to the last 64 with a 5-0 win over Cardiff's Iwan Lewis. Imperial's fight for an individual medal came to an unfortunate end with Victor's 5-3 loss against Daniel Turner from cue sport stalwarts Warwick in a match that was riddled with controversy. Putting the disappointing results in the individual competition behind them, the team decided to focus all of its efforts in the team tournament.

The initial group stage got under way with a beautiful start for Imperial. We won our first match against Edge Hill 3 with Victor's 5-4 win over Liam

*Continued on page 35*



## Murray & co. Down Under

Indy Leclercq Sports Editor

Ah, the familiar pleasures of January. Slate-grey skies and precipitation that can't make up its mind as to whether it wants to be snow, or rain, or something in between. Without forgetting to mention the pervasive and inescapable COLD. Not so for everyone, though. If you happen to be a professional tennis player it is but a matter of rankings and qualifying rounds before you end up in Melbourne playing the Australian Open. Bright, sunny, sweltering Melbourne, I might add. (Of course, you

could be Australian, and actually live in Melbourne-but that's not something I would wish on anyone.)

Understandably, then, Andy Murray and his compatriots of the pro-tennis-player persuasion have decided to take refuge from the weather amongst the kangaroos (although the one million pound winner's prize money might count for something). With the three Brits in the main draw managing to get through to the second round, their time in Oz might actually be productive.

Murray's first grand slam, then? I wouldn't bet on it. Federer may not be

in the best of form at the moment, but him nor Nadal can never be written off. Not to mention US open champ Del Potro looking to show he's not a one-hit wonder, and upstart Nikolay "Federer-killer" Davydenko looking for a big win. The women's draw is also more interesting than it's been in a while, with Kim Clijsters and Justine Henin both recently back from retirement and shaking the (pretty parched) field up somewhat.

As much as the public is behind Murray, though, if he doesn't win we'll probably blame the weather anyway.