



felix

The award-winning student newspaper of Imperial College

"Keep The Cat Free"

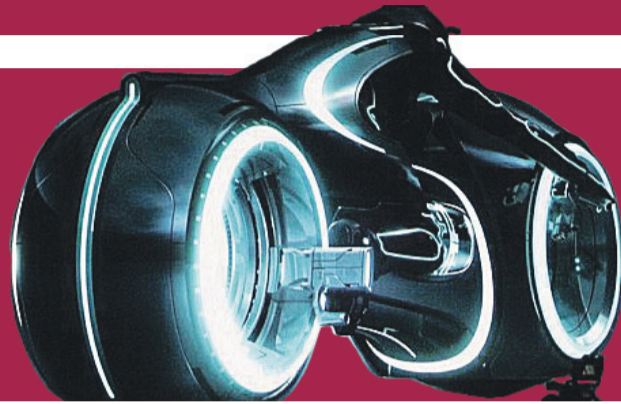
Issue 1,451

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I voted for

Ashley Brown

as ICU President

So

what's

changed?

We interview Union President Ashley Brown on the successes and failures of his term, Pages 4 & 5



Smoking stubbed out on campus?

Alice Rowlands

John James, Deputy President (Welfare), presented a controversial paper to central Union's Representation and Welfare Board (RWB) last Thursday, calling for a ban on smoking on all Union premises, including Beit Quad. The paper asks the Union to: Implement a ban on smoking in any part of Union premises and a ban on the sale of tobacco by the Union and to lobby college to implement a smoke free campus.

During the meeting, concern was expressed that a ban on smoking in the Quad would result in smokers congregating by the entrance on Prince Consort Road or at the back of the Union building near the Albert Hall. Anyone entering the Union would still have to walk past smokers, as would pedestrians using the pavement.

John Silver, Deputy President (Education) expressed his dislike of people smoking in the Quad, implying he felt unable to ask them not to smoke near him. He said that he was put off going into the Quad because he "gets a face full of smoke" every time he walks

through. This reporter wonders whether Mr Silver's dislike of walking through the Quad may go some way to explain his sporadic attendance at the office.

A lot of people feel a student of Imperial College ought to be able to ask another to alter their behaviour, if they see it as offensive. As pointed out by non-smoker, Jess Poore: "If it's got to the point where we can no longer rely on common courtesy and the ability to ask someone to move away from you if you find them smoking unpleasant, and instead need to enforce school-like rules, we should be concerned about the general conduct of our student population rather than a bit of smoke."

Talking to students around campus, it appears there is little support for a full ban on smoking in the Quad, even among non smokers. Amanda Cheung told *felix*: "I think a full ban is a bit extreme but it would be nice if people who don't smoke could sit outside without having to breathe in cigarette smoke, especially with the summer coming. How about implementing designated smoking in the Quad?"

Smoker Matt Kaufeler joined a number of students in questioning the sanity of the motion telling *felix*: "If this is anything more than an attempt to stimulate a debate on smoking, then it is idiocy. A short term ban would probably be accompanied by a short term boycott, which may lead to a long term loss of custom"

The meeting resolved not to pass the paper, but to ask Council to vote on whether to hold a referendum on



whether students want a smoke free campus at the next Council meeting on the 15th February. Any student may attend Council and voice their opinion, though only Council members can vote on whether to pass a paper.

Aside from soothing the sensitive nose of our DPE, many question the motivation of the paper and whether this is really one of the biggest Welfare issues affecting Imperial students. If the aim is to improve the atmosphere of the Union, the pools of snakebite and vomit, odour of student and general decor, should probably be attended to before smoke in the Quad. Alternatively, if the aim is to stop selling students products that may harm their health, I'm sure the Union has served me 'meals' that pose a far more imminent danger to my health than a few cigarettes would.



Deputy President (Welfare) John James is proposing a campus-wide smoking ban



Imperial Business School climbs up the Financial Times rankings
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This issue of *felix* was brought to you by:

Editor-in-Chief
Dan Wan

Deputy Editor
Kadhim Shubber

Deputy Editor
Gilead Amit

Copy Chief
Sasha Nicoletti

News Editor
Kadhim Shubber

International Editor
Raphael Houdmont

Science Editors
Brigitte Atkins
Nathan Ley

Sports Editors
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Indy Leclercq

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Lucy Harrold

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What's On Editors
Rachel D'oliviero
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(APPLY NOW!)



The world beyond College walls



Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka's first presidential election since victory in the civil war against the Tamil Tigers, the incumbent Mahinda Rajapaksa has been declared winner with a majority of 57.8 percent.

Being the first President to have led a successful campaign against the Tigers, it may have seemed that Mr. Rajapaksa was in no threat of losing his post. But his main rival in the race was General Fonseka, the head of the army during the war, who got 40% of the votes.

Soon after the results were announced by the Electoral Commission, troops were deployed around the hotel where General Fonseka was staying. The General has since lodged a complaint to the Electoral Commission alleging vote rigging.



Switzerland

The five day World Economic Forum has opened its doors in Davos, Switzerland, where 2500 leaders in business, government, and civil services are expected to meet.

Already there has been confrontation between bankers and regulators. Barclays head Bob Diamond, and Lord Levene, chairman of the insurance market Lloyd's, have both lashed out at Barack Obama's plans to break up banks 'too big to fail'. Mr Obama's proposals, which need congressional approval, would also prevent banks or financial institutions that own banks from owning hedge funds and bar them from proprietary trading. Lord Levene was quoted as saying that "We need good regulation, better regulation but not more regulation."



Nigeria

Days of violence between Christians and Muslims in the city of Jos, Nigeria, have left nearly 500 people dead.

The riots started in Jos, but then spread to neighbouring towns, and dozens of houses, churches, and mosques have been burnt down. Police are still removing bodies from wells and pits, whilst residents are fleeing to military camps set-up around the city. This is not the first time the city has experienced such trauma. Indeed, an estimated 200 people were killed in religious clashes in the city in late 2008.

The political situation in Nigeria isn't helping the situation either. It's President, Umaru Yar'Adua has been in hospital in Saudi Arabia for two months, and the Senate has called on him to concede his powers to his deputy, to allow him to take up presidential duties.



United States

Under mounting political pressure, Tim Geithner, U.S. Treasury secretary, testified on Wednesday for the bailout of AIG, the world's largest insurer.

Specifically in question are AIG's payouts of collateralised debt obligations (CDOs) at full value to undisclosed counter parties, who were comprised mostly of large banks. As a result, many politicians and pundits are labelling the bailout a further opaque hand-out to banks. Geithner defended the bailout of AIG and the measures taken to uphold its credit rating as "absolutely essential." This testimony and the uncertain confirmation of Federal Reserve chief Ben Bernanke for a second term come amid a rising wave of populism in the U.S. and elsewhere, affecting global politics and economic reform.

By Raphael Houdmont & Tom Greany

Guilds Vice President AWOL? Not likely, he says

Dan Wan Editor-in-Chief

In a long line of mishaps involving the City & Guilds College Union, their Vice President (Finance & Societies) Rikki Norris has been criticised for his absence about College, but has now spoken to *felix* to clarify the situation.

On 21st January, the CGCU's news website Live! reported that Jenny Wilson had to take up some the slack created by Norris's absence by processing nearly £2,000 worth of claims. Mr. Norris has since said he has been ill for an "extended period of time", and feels that the Live! article is largely unfair to

Mr. Norris found his [Laurence Weetman's] reluctance to update the article "somewhat unnerving."

him in light of his illness.

His disappearance has been largely condemned by the news website and its readers leaving comments on the article, even citing comments from Union officers such as Deputy President (Welfare) John James. It read 'John James explained to Live! that he was awaiting a claim of £200 for items he bought on behalf of a Guilds Club at



Left: The 'offending' Live! article, and right, CGCU Vice President visits the *felix* office to announce his return

the beginning of December'. He was reported to be 'absent without leave', and many members of the Union and CGCU unaware of the whereabouts. However, Mr. Norris says that he had made contact to explain himself and this matter took some time to transcend through the offices.

"Some of the Union officers were aware that I had been ill, but I don't think that they were aware of the extent of my situation until it became apparent that I had been absent for an extended period of time. As such, the message would not have been passed down to CGCU until the higher echelons of the Union had realised what

was going on." Live! also reported on the amount of outstanding claims that Mr. Norris hadn't been able to process, claiming to



Live! Editor Laurence Weetman refused to update an insensitive article about CGCU Vice President Rikki Norris

have 'found them [claim forms] piling up in the CGCU pigeonhole in Student Activities Centre'. Mr. Norris admitted he needed some assistance in this matter, but has himself been playing catch-up after returning the College.

"The DPCS, Jenny Wilson, very kindly carried out a cheque run in my absence to try and reduce the strain on Guilds clubs.

"By the time this has gone to print, I have also carried out a cheque run which should have cleared out all valid outstanding claims."

Mr. Norris took the opportunity to talk to *felix* to admit he was "rather disappointed" with the Live! website

when "no indication of sympathy" was given towards his situation, despite immediate contact and a full explanation.

"Upon seeing the article I immediately contacted the editor to request that he temporarily took the article down, and that upon my return I would happily go through the issues he had raised in order to present a more accurate interpretation of what had been happening to the clubs in CGCU, rather than mere speculation.

After Live! Editor Laurence Weetman refused to take down or alter the article, stating that the article was "factually accurate." Mr. Norris found his reluctance to update the article "somewhat unnerving."

Mr. Weetman was unrepentant about his actions claiming "Rikki [Norris] is more than capable of coming to Live! and posting a comment. If he believes that anything in the article is unfair or untrue then he may, as always, follow the correct complaints procedure or email the editor."

Mr. Norris has since decided to speak to *felix* and issue a formal statement. He stated that he is now around College.

"I'm around again, not in full capacity, but I'm around and will be operating as Vice President (Finance & Societies) for the CGCU once again. I've been in contact with those affected. Normal service will resume shortly."

A Big Show relaunch for STOIC

Simon Worthington

Last Friday Imperial College Union's own television station relaunched itself with the airing of the first live broadcast of the year. STOIC (Student Television of Imperial College) transmitted live the first episode of their new flagship magazine programme 'The Big Show' directly to the JCR and on-line. Featured on the show was a tour of the Queen's Tower, a live scientific experiment in the Beit Quad and an exclusive interview with Carol Vorderman, all presented and filmed by members of the society.

STOIC has fell on hard times in recent years with a select group of hardcore members keeping the society going, and it is hoped the relaunch will get more people interested in making content and getting involved. "It's taken us a term to get to this stage," says Dominic Rees-Roberts, executive producer of The Big Show, "but the station is open for business."

However, the first broadcast did not go off without problems. At the scheduled start time of 1pm, viewers were greeted with a colourful placeholder and informed that the station was experiencing 'technical difficulties'. The wait continued for almost an hour until the show was ready to air, and by the time the program began many viewers had left the JCR to get back to work. While investigating the cause of the



If you have that many TVs, why put Channel 5 on every single one?

issue, *felix* was told "the great thing is we've got forty years of history, but some of our equipment is forty years old too. Though that is part of the fun of it, on Friday we were particularly tested."

When asked about what the future holds for STOIC, Dominic mentions that the relaunch continues with other events. STOIC is running a film competition, challenging students to make a film in a week using a prop, character and line of dialog set by the judges. All films will be shown in collaboration with FilmSoc and there is a prize for the winning entry. Ciné Division is an

other new direction giving students the chance to shoot on Super8 film, a format used by many professionals today.

Work has already started on the next episode of 'The Big Show', and the society is looking for interested students to help out. "What we need are people who have got ideas for the next show or want to film with us. We're looking for students who can be committed, but most importantly want to have fun doing it."

If you missed the live broadcast of 'The Big Show', you can catch-up online on the STOIC website at www.stoictv.com.

Ultimate Imperial storming through Field Trip

Alex Karapetian

Five teams of Imperial students who entered BP's Ultimate Field Trip competition are through to the semi finals, in which they will compete by presenting their ideas on tackling the carbon challenge to a panel of BP experts. The fifteen students are competing for the opportunity to receive a paid internship with BP in their North Sea business unit this summer.

The five teams were selected from fifty two entries after grabbing the attention of the judges with their initial five minute pitches. The expert panel, formed of some of BP's leading scientists and CCS experts, were especially satisfied with the ideas presented and the concepts proposed.

The teams are: SINCE, formed of Chia Wei Hong James, Aw Seng Sean and Yuen Yu Leng, who are first years studying Chemical Engineering; Melt-down, consisting of Lizzie Riley, Chris



We don't know what they mean either

Hunter and Ben Said, who are second years, studying an MSc in Geology; IC Engineers, made up of first year Chemical Engineers Eugenia Ho, Eileen Brandley and Yan Isis Xie; Hot Carbon, with second years Tom Wesby, (MSc in Geology & Geophysics), Carmen Pinto-Ward and Miriam Wright (MSc in Geology); and West 3, formed by first years Patrick Delaney studying Geology & Geophysics, Lee Shyen Lee studying Chemical Engineering and Mikaela Bryant-Meisner studying Physics.

The students will have to compete against teams from the University of Cambridge, Durham, University of Aberdeen, Robert Gordon University, University of Oxford, University of Nottingham and the University of Manchester.

The Imperial teams will present their ideas in February at the semi finals, where up to six teams will enter the final on April 12th at the Natural History Museum, hosted by BBC broadcaster, John Humphreys. Progress can be followed online via the #BPFieldTrip Twitter.



The BP Ultimate Field Trip is an annual competition that gets students across the UK involved with climate change problem solving

THE STATE OF OUR UNION

KADHIM SHUBBER INTERVIEWS UNION PRESIDENT ASHLEY BROWN ON HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AND FAILINGS AS PRESIDENT SO FAR



Beit Redevelopment



Kadhim - Let's start by talking about the third phase of the Beit Redevelopment. What's the vision?

Ashley - Our aim is to create an atmosphere where people feel like they've got a high quality product but not extortionate prices. We want to have a venue that's for students but that's also really good quality.

K - You've been asking for student input into the redevelopment. How has that been?

A - I've found that people just doodle or draw jacuzzis on the plans; we haven't had a lot of positive input. If students want to have input then they should give proper ideas, otherwise we'll do what we think is right, and if that turns out to be wrong, well we've given students a chance.

K - Don't you think that if the union actively went out, face-to-face to get student input, it would work better?

A - We did actually go around the JCR with the plans for the redevelopment showing them to students. We got some good ideas but most people, like I said, just messed about. The feedback hasn't been as good as we'd hoped but if students don't submit ideas then there's no way we can take it into account. We're still working on the plans so there's still a lot of space for student's ideas and comments to be worked into it. We also have a working group of around 10 students which has provided good feedback so it hasn't all been bad.

K - Do you think that the problems with say, dBs, are a bit overblown?

A - The bar service capacity, even with the mobile bar, is terrible. With the redevelopment, the bar will be twice as big so on busy nights there won't be a problem with getting drinks. In terms of getting students into dBs, it's been much busier this year on Wednesdays and Fridays since we've tweaked the

music lineup. Once you've got completely pissed, you just want cheesy music and to dance around. So we've given them that and it's been a lot busier in dBs.

K - A large part of the renovation of dBs involves turning it into a high quality live music venue, but what's the point when like you say, it's drunken cheesy music that's pulling people in?

A - One of the key things that came out of the Trading Survey 18 months ago was that students wanted to see more live music. And we also want students to be proud to come over here and say "Well, actually we've got a really good Union". Which means, on Sports Night, then we cater to the situation but on say, a Friday, we can put on some good live bands.

K - Well this year a "Freshers Festival" was held, with live acts. It wasn't a wild success you might say. You're aiming to have more live music, but does that sit well with the failure of the "Freshers Festival"?

A - The problem with the Freshers Festival was that it was a week after a heavy freshers week. We should have lumped it in with Freshers' Week, included it with the marketing for that and dropped the price, then it would have worked a bit better. And there's a difference between doing a live gig on a Friday night and doing a whole week-end of music.

K - One of your manifesto points has been to have more student input into the planning of Union events. What have you done so far to achieve that?

A - At Southampton university, their executive committee (which is made up of students) receives the term planner in advance and can say we want this to change or we want to tweak this. So we're going to bring that method in. But what I've wanted to do, which is the best way to ensure that students are getting what they want, is to get clubs to hold events at the Union and support them doing that.

K - How's that worked out?

“ I know people won't notice much change this year and the next President will get all the credit. You don't do it for credit though, you do it so that you can make a difference. ”

A - Not as well as I hoped if I'm honest, mainly because I've been running around doing so much other stuff. What I've found is that I've got less than a day a week, if that, to work on my manifesto points, and the rest of my time is spent trying to stop the Union crashing down around me.

K - So you've found that the demands of your job day-to-day mean that it's quite hard to reach out to students?

A - Yes, much more difficult than I imagined. During Freshers Week we connected well with a lot of students. I must have spoken to hundreds of students that week. But then term starts and everything kicks off. You've got to help individual students with problems and there are committees to go to; you find that you're running around all the time. After the initial burst in Freshers' week it's been more difficult.

Union food



K - Let's talk about the changes in daVinci's. What's happening there?

A - We're going to change the design of the kitchens because we don't need them in their current state. The Tower Rooms has damaged our lunchtime trade. The idea is to have a grill kitchen like the Prince Regent, which doesn't take up a lot of space, but they can still cook a lot. But we're still discussing what that lunchtime trade will be, and actually that would be quite a good thing for students to have input in. I think we still need to keep some form of lunchtime food at the union, but it's whether we stick with hot food or just a sandwich bar.

K - The catering is quite a financial burden on the Union right?

A - Lunchtime catering was losing us around £80,000 a year, we've made some changes which reduced this to around £40,000 a year but it's getting better still. If we were making a profit, then we'd keep it in its present state but with a new venue it's a good time to

think about what students want.

K - Why do you think that students would rather eat at say, the Library Cafe, than the Union?

A - I think it has something to do with the location, and what we are capable of serving. The kitchens are so old and knackered we cannot produce something of the same quality as say, the Tower Rooms. When I was a fresher there would be a massive queue in dBs for baguettes at lunchtime, but then the JCR started offering baguettes and people didn't come over anymore, so our location is a disadvantage.

K - Let's talk about food in the evening. When you campaigned you wanted to re-introduce table service. Why hasn't

Look out in next week's felix for the chance to rename dBs and daVinci's

Promises kept?

Table service in the evenings



Better induction training for bar-staff

Coming Soon

Student input in events planning

Coming Soon

Support for club events at the Union



Remove entrance fee on Sports night



Find the plans for the re-development online on the Union's website

union.ic.ac.uk

that happened?

A - The problem with table service is that people move around and then the bar-staff waste loads of time looking for them, and then your food gets cold. On busy nights we can't spare the staff to do table service. We're discussing, with the re-development, to introduce hand held buzzers which will tell you when you can collect your food.

K - Why isn't it coming in this year?

A - I didn't expect the refurbishment to happen this year, we were told that we wouldn't get any money from the College, but we put together a good business plan and reduced the scope of what we're doing to the point where we can afford it. So now it makes more sense for a lot of the stuff that I wanted to do this year to be included with the refurbishment.

K - Another thing that you promised in your manifesto was to have "secret shoppers" to report on the quality of service in the Union. Is that happening?

A - It's starting this term. I haven't selected the secret shoppers yet. Basically you'd go to the Union, get a meal, fill in a form about it and we'd refund you so you get a free meal. Anyone who's interested, give me an email. We actually did it over the summer, with the barbecue that we had outside and we identified some problems which were fixed. I wanted to start it straight away at the beginning of term but I found that there was no need because even as President at times I was getting poor service. We've got to the point where I think the service standards have come up, so now maybe I'm too close to it and so hopefully the secret shoppers will help to iron out any problems that I'm unaware of.

Bar service



K - In terms of motivating student staff, what can you actually do to, say, speed up bar service?

A - What I want to do is hold on to experienced bar staff, which you can only do by offering them money. We're trying to put in a training program. What the Union does quite badly is that we throw people in at the deep end and then people complain that they can't pour a pint properly, well what can we expect when we don't train them properly. That said, we do have some excellent bar-staff who could be part of that training process.

K - When is that going to come into action?

A - We're trying to get an intern from College because we don't have the staff resources to do it ourselves. If that happens, then we'll have someone starting in March to build this training package for about six months. There is training at the bars already, which needs refinement also. The problem is that we didn't do this in October so we didn't train all the new staff as we would have liked. So it's behind where it should be. We also want to review pay-scales so that student staff that progress through the training and stay on longer will see an increase in their wages.

K - At the moment, the bar-staff get paid near enough minimum wage. Do you think that acts as a disincentive to really care about the job?

A - Yes. But it's not as simple as that, because we have to structure it to be fair. It's great to give people extra pay if they're experienced, but how do you define if they're experienced? There's the basic pay when you first start and that wouldn't go up because there's quite a high turnover, and you don't want to invest resources if staff aren't going to stick around. Hopefully this will start coming in around March.

Drinks prices



K - The price of drinks usually increases every couple of years, is this going to happen next year?

A - It will go up this summer, probably by about 10p. We managed to avoid putting the prices up last summer because we had a deal with a new supplier, but as result of that it has to go up this summer. Obviously there's another issue with the wider crackdown on cheap drinks. If the government decides to introduce minimum drinks pricing then our prices could go up, but then prices could go up everywhere.

K - In your manifesto you promised to do more deals on spirits. But that hasn't happened.

A - Nope. We did some deals at the beginning of the year, but part of the problem is that alcohol license holders are being told, in no uncertain terms, not to encourage excessive drinking. If we introduce, for example "double up for 10p", as a new promotion, then there'd be issues with the licensing people. I would like to see some deals on spirits, but squaring it with licensing authorities is a problem.

Smoking ban



K - Do you think that students should care about what goes on at the Union?

A - It depends on what's going on. For example, there's a motion coming to Council this month asking for a referendum on a smoke-free campus. Now if students think that's a good idea, or a bad idea, then they should come and have their views heard. If people want things changed, then they should come to Council.

K - Will a smoking ban have a positive impact at Imperial?

A - It will definitely cause problems in some areas. For example, if you're in the bar, you'll have to go all the way out to Prince Consort Road, which is quite inconvenient.

K - Do you agree with the principle of a smoking ban?

A - Students are adults and if they want to smoke, that's their choice. I'd be in favour of more rigorous controls to stop people smoking by doors, but not a complete ban. Of course, policing that sort of thing is a right pain.

“ It takes a long time to get into the role. If I could go back to September knowing what I know now, then I would get a lot more done. There's a lot of stuff that you don't necessarily imagine as taking up a lot of your time but you get into the job and you ask yourself "Where's all my time gone?" **”**

Faculty crisis



K - The RCSU and CGCU Autumn Balls attracted a lot of controversy last term. Did they spend too much money on their events?

A - They lost money, so you'd say yes they spent too much money, but it's not as black and white as that. The FUs have two main roles. One is welfare for their students, which is the most important thing that they should be doing and they should be spending time on that. If you get people involved and comfortable about talking to the FU by throwing parties, then great. The other role is to foster a community spirit with the FU, which is the reason for the parties, but I'm not sure that you want to be spending extortionate amounts of money on that sort of stuff.

K - The CGCU President last term, Kirsty Patterson, responded to criticism about the amount of money spent on the CGCU's Masquerade Ball by referencing Rudyard Kipling's poem 'If'. Do you think that was an appropriate way to explain to engineering students why money was spent in the way that it was?

A - No, basically. I'm fairly laid back and if people think that I've screwed something up, I should talk to them and explain why things have or haven't been done, which is why I'm doing this interview. I think that you have to do that because people have voted for you.

K - Also, the CGCU's Welfare Officer, Alice Rowlands criticised the amount of support that you provided to the CGCU in an article in Felix. Do you feel that her criticism was fair?

A - The problem with the CGCU was that nothing was written down. I told them that we'll support it and we'll find an act for it. The Union Entertainment team offered them a number of acts that they could choose and they went for an expensive one. That's their choice. Our role was not, and was never going to be, to run their event for them and give them the profit. The situation was that we'd support them in their event and on the Friday before I was with the President of Guilds getting things prepared for the Ball. The support was there, they just had to ask for it, not just sitting there and whingeing. They should have come and said 'this is going wrong, what can you do?'

K - Regarding the Freshers Festival, Dan Fowler, the organiser said they didn't get enough Union support either.

A - That was our fault like I talked about before, and they did get less support than Guilds did. But we learned a lot from that and I wouldn't say the Guilds didn't receive enough support. When I asked them to really lay out what they expected from us, and what we didn't give them, they didn't respond. I can't do anything about that if they're not going to tell me what they expected.

K - What is your main aim for the rest of your time as President?

A - Getting the re-development done properly. Even if I do nothing else, I want to make sure that we get that

Tuition Fees

The Union's policy is to oppose a rise in tuition fees. When you're representing the Union externally what do you say when someone asks 'how are we going fund education without raising tuition fees?'

That's never come up actually! So far, no one has actually come up with an alternative model. If you look at the NUS model, that involves graduate tax, which we're opposed to, because our policy also opposes it. My problem with this question is that I can only say what the Union's policy is and we don't have a policy on this. We're working quite closely with the other non-NUS universities to bring about an alternative model for funding. There's going to be a survey of students this term which will help form a policy on this so hopefully next time I'm asked that question I can say our policy has an alternative model.

Accommodation

Are you worried that the price of accommodation at Imperial excludes students?

My main worry with accommodation prices is that you end up with a sort of class system with halls. You've got the really rich people in premium rooms and less well off people in triple sharing rooms in crappy halls. There is an idea with some people at college that Imperial shouldn't do anything second-rate, so all accommodation should be of a very high standard. Which is great, if they're affordable, which they won't be. My argument is that to ensure that everybody can afford to be at university, then you have to provide a range, which includes lower quality, affordable, accommodation. There won't be any more re-development for quite some time after Eastside and Southside so for now we can keep the balance that we have at present. I mean, when people can afford to pay £37,000 a year in fees then you might say that you can afford an extra £150 a week for accommodation, but if you're paying those fees and over-stretching yourself then you need cheap affordable accommodation.

right, because we don't get the opportunity to spend that kind of money very often.

K - The elections for next year's sabbatical will be starting soon. What do you think next year's President should be focused on?

A - There are probably two things, firstly pushing Phase 3 of the re-development through smoothly. But also making students aware of the representation network and the changes that have been put in place. Students fill out surveys and then wonder what's been done but for example, we have a new Dean of Teaching and Learning to deal with student's issues. The university created a whole new position specifically for that and the challenge I think is to ensure that students know about and are able to take advantage of these changes.

If you have any comments or queries regarding the issues discussed in the interview, Ashley is happy to hear them. Email president@imperial.ac.uk

The smoking ban referendum will be debated at Council on the 15th of February in the Union Dining Hall at 6:30pm

Somali jihad recruitment at universities

Alex Karapetian

Around a dozen British Islamic students from some of Britain's top Universities are travelling to Somalia to join Al-Shabaab, an extremist rebel organisation with links to Al-Qaeda. The organisation has been blamed for many deaths, and Somali leaders in the UK say students from LSE, King's College London and Imperial are among those who have been recruited within the past year.

Following the case of Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, the engineering graduate accused of trying to blow up almost 300 passengers on a transatlantic flight on Christmas Day, investigations have shown that this terrorist "pipeline" to Somalia suggests Britain may have become a breeding ground for Al-Qaeda.

Al-Shabaab, Arabic for "the youth", is engaged in a violent struggle against Somalia's western backed government. Experts consider it an African franchise of Al-Qaeda, and religious leader Sheikh Mohamed Ahmed warns that Al-Shabaab is exploiting a loophole



The Sir Alexander Fleming Building: A medical student from Imperial is said to have travelled to Somalia

in order to recruit students from London. Although many of them were born in Somalia, they are British citizens and have grown up in the UK. "It's unbelievable", Ahmed remarked, "the group's supporters and recruiters are free to do what they want."

Students are leaving for Somalia with suspicious reasons, an ample being the wor-

rying case of a 24 year old woman studying biomedicine at UEL leaving Britain telling friends she was joining Al-Shabaab's "medical team". Two students from west London are also believed to have travelled to Somalia for similar reasons, one of which was a 23 year old Law graduate from King's College and the other a 25 year old finishing a Medical degree at Imperial.

This is not the first time Imperial has

been linked with extremism. In 2004, Babar Ahmed, a College IT employee was arrested for a second time due to suspicious material on his computer. He has yet to be charged and is now fighting extradition to the US.

King's College, LSE and Imperial said they had no record of the mentioned students, but Britain's Somali community use a variety of names to refer to them.

Not Imperial's first run-in with terrorism

Babar Ahmad, a former employee of Imperial College, was first arrested under anti-terror laws in December 2003. He was released without charge but arrested again in August 2004 and charged in a US court two months later.

Babar allegedly used US-based websites to recruit fighters for causes in Afghanistan and Chechnya. He was also charged with maintaining e-mail contact with a Chechen rebel leader. He remains under arrest due to an extradition warrant from the U.S.

Babar is a former Imperial College student staff member in the IT department and has remained in custody since 2004, without trial. To this day he is the longest detained-without-trial British citizen held as part of the 'war on terror'.

ICU passed policy in 2004 fully supporting Babar Ahmad and his fight against extradition and maintain their stance that he is entitled to a fair trial.

I, Science
Winter 2009

OUT NOW

I, science
The Imperial College science magazine

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Bioterrorism and Botox

Nathan Ley Science Editor

It's pretty much February now so understandably you may be reading this whilst depressed and/or fed up with life, especially in light of how much work you claim to have to do. But you should see it as a positive thing. It's not unfair to say that the times where the going gets tough define our character. England cricket players don't have their greatness measured by how many test match double centuries they pile up on a concrete road against Bangladesh, nor is a football team's success for the year determined by how far they go in a domestic cup competition. Nope, nothing good ever came easily. So get your head down, stick at it, and don't give up. If you do bottle it, it says a lot about you. Anyway that was just a point I wanted to get across.

Topically speaking, "Bioterrorism" was an official line spouted by governments for a fair while, although it has died down recently (in light of, you know, nuclear stuff). This is the threat that we may all die at any given moment as a result of terrorists using germs or other biomaterial as weapons of mass destruction. To this day no such thing has quite materialised. 2001 brought the US anthrax attacks, wherein letters containing anthrax spores were sent to various news offices, killing 5 people. But even this is considered by many to have been nothing other than an inside job, rather than the work of a terrorist threat.

This week, however, *New Scientist* reported on a new threat from none other than our favourite facial enhancer – Botox. It stands for the Botulinum toxin produced by *Clostridium* bacteria, and it is the most poisonous known natural substance. It paralyses muscles, and can kill you in minute

quantities (80 mg). If carefully regulated between a few licensed companies it doesn't pose a threat to our safety, but a cheap unlicensed version has allegedly been produced in Chechnya, an area frequently associated with Muslim extremism. Put two and two together, and we have the next episode in the story of "Bioterror".

In a tenuous but not totally unrelated link to this, the news came last week that Heidi Montag recently underwent 10 plastic surgery treatments (including botox) within one day, at the age of 23. On the one hand we have here a sad story about an American celebrity that is totally insignificant; on the other we have a remarkably dangerous precedent. Consider not only the irreparable damage to her young body that she's inflicted, but also the knock-on mental and social effects. You think she'll be happy with these looks forever? Not likely. It is just the thin end of the wedge, a wedge which commits her to a lifetime of regular cosmetic alterations.

The worst thing is that as these things occur more frequently, they'll become seen as more acceptable, and will be catered for by a more accessible industry. How long until we reach a stage where it will no longer matter if you are born with something you don't like, because you can just change it with a commercially available product? Before you dismiss this idea, you cannot say that societies don't change and embrace liberal ideas. You only need to look at the change in public opinion on topics such as abortion, homosexuality and the voting rights of women. Unlike in these cases though, change will not be for the better. These are worrying times for society, on one front more so than on the other.

Reversing the arrow of time

Forgotten what happened last night? Now you know why

Arjun Hassard

This may end up in the bullshit graveyard of sensationist physics speculation, but seemingly impossible occurrences – such as a shattered pane of glass returning instantaneously to its original form, a Latte separating back into pure coffee and milk, or Megan Fox replying to my emails – are not as conceptually absurd as they may appear at first glance.

Take the Starbucks Skinny Cinnamon Dolce Latte for example. Intuition tells us that once you have mixed the key ingredients of coffee, milk, cinnamon and pretentiousness, you can never recover them in their pure form. Yet the laws of physics that we worship and occasionally tattoo on ourselves are for the most part 'time-invariant' – in lay-douche terms, that means they work just as well going forwards and backwards in time. They are fundamentally symmetrical equations. So why can't the chav unbreak a library window and un-verdict himself an ASBO?

The reason is that in the real world (i.e. the one where Mr T is not allowed to randomly murder warlocks) – the majority of physical processes are 'irreversible'. This is governed by the super-exciting 'Second Law of Thermodynamics', which states that the change in entropy of a system is always positive. The entropy of a physical system is its extent of disarray, essentially the number of ways in which the system can be arranged. Windows can be shattered, which increases disorder, but will never spontaneously un-shatter. Gases disperse naturally (especially in crowded elevators), but will not spontaneously compress themselves. Therefore the 'entropy of the universe' always increases. (Disclaimer: for every macroscopic system there IS a finite possibility that the entropy can decrease, but the probability of this happening is so small that it is unlikely to have occurred once since the beginning of the universe.

Even if you had a million baboons conducting thermodynamics experiments all day since the dawn of time. No toilet breaks. I'm serious.)

So what this clown Lorenzo Maccone reckons is that counter-intuitive decreases in entropy happen all the time, the snag is that we just fail to remember them! Before you sigh and flick to the centre page (I've seen it already and I can quite sincerely say unless you are bulimic it's not worth it), Maccone claims his findings do not violate any laws of quantum physics. Plus he went to MIT, so he can't be a complete head case (MIT is almost as good as Imperial right?).

His argument is based on the premise that according to quantum mechanics, if anyone does observe an entropy-decreasing event, their memories of the event "will be erased by necessity". Your memories will form and then be subsequently erased. Witnessing a system or process means you enter into a "quantum entanglement" with it (there's scope for yet another dorky chat-up line here). In other words, you and the system are entangled and cannot truly be described independently. The entanglement, according to our amico Lorenzo, is between your memory and the system. The crucial step is the removal of this entanglement, and "the disentangling operation will erase this entanglement, namely the observer's memory".

This all sounds a bit like something Morpheus would say to Neo, before re-adjusting his ridiculous specs and scratching his ass. Nevertheless the thought experiment Maccone uses to elucidate his idea is fairly easy to understand (Medics...don't worry about it):

'An experimenter, Alice, measures the spin state of an atom sent by her friend Bob, who is otherwise isolated from Alice's laboratory. The atom is in a combined state (superposition) of spin-up and spin-down until Alice measures it as either up or down.

From Alice's perspective, her lab gains a single bit of information from outside,

and it's then copied and recorded in her memory and on her computer's hard drive. That information flow from atom to lab increases entropy, according to Alice. Because Bob doesn't see the result, from his perspective the spin state of the atom never resolves itself into up or down. Instead it becomes quantum mechanically correlated, or "entangled", with the quantum state of the lab. He sees no information flow and no change in entropy.

Bob has total control of the quantum state of her lab. To reduce the entropy of the lab from Alice's point-of-view, Bob reverses the flow of that one bit of information by removing any record of the atom's spin from Alice's hard drive and her brain. He does so by performing a complicated transformation that disentangles the lab's quantum state from that of the atom.

From Bob's perspective, the quantum information of the atom plus Alice's lab is the same whether or not the two are entangled – there is no change in entropy as viewed from the outside. Such reversals could happen in real life but because the Universe – like Alice – would retain no memory of them, they would have no effect on how we perceive the world.

You might say that since this thought experiment is attempting to portray Maccone's ideas as viable in the real world, he's doing himself no favours by pretending one of the physicists is actually a girl. Alice? More like Alan. Either way, my opinion is that his logic seems to hold. Whether it applies to our universe is incontestably another question altogether. But, like a cup of coffee getting cold while you argue with the Library cafe staff about the necessity of a tray, or a pint glass shattering into hundreds of pieces due to reasons unrelated to Snakebite, it would be 'sick-mansick' if these things did happen in reverse. And memories of events being erased by necessity, especially if that event is Sports night, is something you are all familiar with.

In brief

Climate panel credibility in question

The head of the International Panel for Climate Change (IPCC), Prajendra Pachauri, has told critics he does not intend to step down following a mistake made in the fourth annual IPCC report released in 2007.

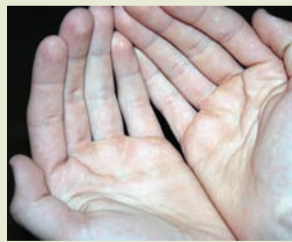
The error which sparked the row is the date of 2035 being set in the report as the milestone for when the Himalayan glaciers could have disappeared. In an interview with the BBC he stressed that despite the data in the report being questionable, it "does not detract from the fact that the glaciers are melting." This news comes at a time when the credibility of climate science is still uncertain following the leaked emails from the UEA Climate Unit late last year.



Ambidexterity linked to hyperactivity

A new study at Imperial College London has revealed that ambidextrous children are twice as likely to be hyperactive and struggle at school.

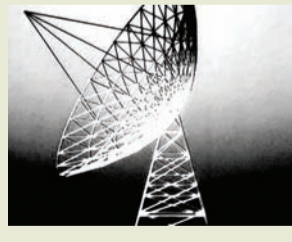
Dr Alina Rodriguez, who led the investigation, said that "differences in the brain might explain these difficulties, but there needs to be more research." Not only were the ambidextrous children found to be more prone to learning difficulties such as ADHD, but the severity of any such condition was increased amongst this group. Dr Rodriguez stressed however that the results "should not be taken to mean that all children who are mixed-handed will have problems at school."



Hidden by the digital revolution

In a talk entitled "The detection of extra-terrestrial life and the consequences for science and society", Dr Frank Drake has warned that our technological development may hinder our progress to find extra-terrestrial life. During the analogue TV age, transmitters surrounded the Earth with a 50 light-year-wide 'shell' of radiation. The digital signals used to transmit information now would be virtually indistinguishable from background level radiation.

Dr Drake of "Drake Equation" fame believes that there could be up to 10,000 detectable civilisations within our galaxy. However, 50 years of scanning the skies has failed to confirm their existence.





David Stewart has diet tips for the fat and lazy



"Imagine you have a tapeworm, whom for the sake of argument we'll call Terry"



Suppose you're worried about your weight. Perhaps you feel you could lose a few pounds. The modern way to deal with these feelings is to smother them with anti-depressants, so you could take a fistful of Prozac washed down with a tub of Ben and Jerry's and call it irony.

Still, some people are picky and may entertain certain objections with this advice. If you're one of these people, you will have to investigate other medications. There is a panoply of substances you can take these days, which might seem daunting to the prospective pill-junkie, so I've reviewed a few of the current offerings on the market.

Alli is the latest drug to be released, and unusually, it's actually legal as well, which is of course a bonus. Alli is a lipid-absorption blocker. In other words it's a Fat-Shitting Drug (FSD). Because fats aren't absorbed by the digestive system, they will appear in your faeces. This means that you will be curling out

oily turds, which, depending on the amount of fat you've eaten, can make them so greasy and loose that they can actually slip out during the day. Eat enough KFC and your rectum can get so full of grease that a fart will splatter oil all over your underwear. In combination with white shorts, this is a great idea for a dare.

2,4-Dinitrophenol (DNP) was one of the first to be invented and remains the most effective, some consider it a 'wonder drug'. Your cellular currency for energy is called ATP. Once it is spent, it becomes ADP, which must then be recharged again. The process for doing this, 'chemiosmosis', involves a huge cylindrical molecule, rotated about by the passage of hydrogen ions across an electrical potential. As the molecule spins round it adds a phosphate group onto the ADP molecule, turning it back to ATP again. DNP blocks this process, allowing protons to flow unhindered across the potential, doing no work and simply generating heat.

Your body then burns more food to replace this energy. Upshot: you get hot, you lose weight. This might make you sweat like a pig. In fact it was banned when people took so much of it that they died of a fatal fever. Also associated with cataracts in women.

Next, there's Ephedrine. Your nerve cells can't tell the difference between this drug and adrenaline. However, Ephedrine causes your nerve cells to fire much more rapidly. Upshot: ephedrine makes you hyper, suppresses your appetite and helps you concentrate. Sounds good except you might be busting for a piss which you can't squeeze out and paranoid that people are laughing at your inability to urinate. Also you can get acne. Or die. Often mixed with caffeine and aspirin to form an 'ECA stack'.

Get a tapeworm. (Warning: Don't read this while eating). A Big Mac shared is a Big Mac halved. Imagine you have a tapeworm, whom for sake of argument we'll call Terry. Terry is

like a mate who follows you around all day with a fork picking at your plate of food. The only difference is that he lets you eat it first. He gets fat so you don't have to. Terry can grow to a metre in length inside your guts soaking up all your Snickers' and stuffed crust pizzas. The only trouble is that you'll need to abort Terry before he gets too long because otherwise you might find him burrowing his way out of your abdomen or the walls of your anus. If this happens, wave a banana around your bum-hole, grab him when he comes out to investigate and then slowly wrap him around a pencil. You can decide how lavish to make the funeral.

Try the Atkins diet. The idea is to cut all carbohydrates out of your diet, thereby teaching your body to metabolise fat and protein. So you can eat as much meat as you like. Have the burger, not the bun; the sausages, not the mash. Kebab vendors can be very helpful, and there's nothing quite like

ordering a box of meat. Also, as it's a carbohydrate, this also means you can't drink alcohol, which is probably the main reason you actually lose weight. Unfortunately, since your diet will be essentially that of a desert jackal, you can expect to smell like one.

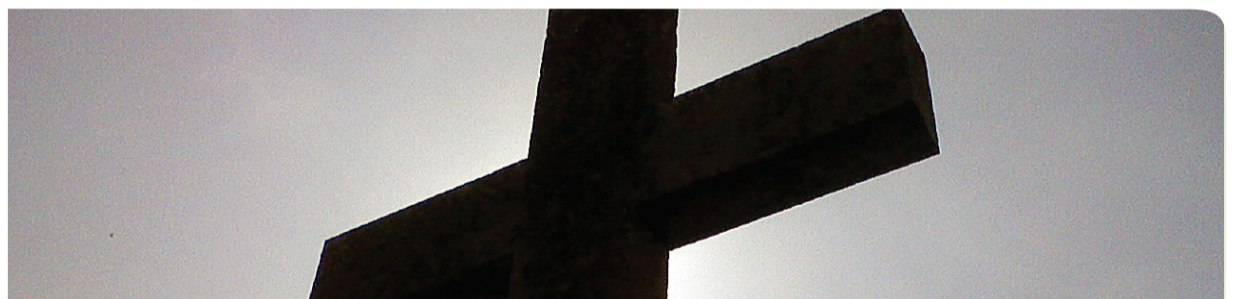
Now, the real boon comes from combining all these at once. Get yourself infected with a tapeworm, start swallowing your FSD, DNP and ECA and don't even look at a potato. Then you can expect to find yourself pimple-covered, taking a sweaty winter stroll through Hyde Park in your underwear, while you munch your way through a can of Prince's hotdogs, farting grease into your increasingly transparent briefs so that the seething mass of worm heads poking out of your rectum are on view to passers-by, who will be vomiting in horror and calling the police to have you taken away and sectioned.

But of course, if you find such a prospect horrifically depressing we have a solution for that...

Rory Fenton worries for Irish politics



"Ireland has a painful history of religious intolerance"



This New Year, the media's focus was back on Northern Ireland, my home country. Only this time it wasn't about bombings, shootings or kidnappings, but the extra-marital affair of NI's First Lady, Iris Robinson.

Good old normal politics had finally returned to Northern Ireland. But while an affair between a 59 year old and a teenager could happen anywhere, the response to the affair was uniquely Northern Irish. Nowhere else could such an incident have triggered the threat of increased sectarian tension. And yet this is exactly what is at stake in a frighteningly fragile peace process. The slightest hiccup could bring the whole house of cards crashing down and threaten to restart the longest civil war in world history which claimed over 3,500 lives during the last 40 years and has left many living in segregation,

still viewing 'the other side' through a prism of suspicion and fear. The causes of the 'Troubles' are complex but religious intolerance is clearly the main culprit.

Ireland has had a painful history of religious intolerance dating back to the infamous Penal Laws, banning or attacking anything Catholic in predominantly Catholic Ireland, the denial of soup to those who would not convert to Protestantism during the Famine which was to claim a million lives and vicious retaliations leading to the slaughter of innocent Protestants. And yet there is nothing whatsoever in the teachings of either Christian denomination that justifies this; nothing that should have led to such violence. Rather, it has been ignorance and political opportunism that has caused so many of these tragedies; and continues to threaten them today. The ability to

turn religious difference into religious intolerance relies on the ability to misrepresent differing opinions while alluding to political and social prejudice. I remember a ten year old Catholic child boy telling me that of course he knew Protestant beliefs, "Don't they believe in God the dog and God the cow and all that?" Reverend Ian Paisley himself denounced the Pope as the antichrist to his face. It is when religion ceases to be about God and turns tribal that religious intolerance thrives. Catholicism means being a Republican and Protestantism means wanting British rule; these are hijackings of religion. There was never a petrol bomb thrown in the name of the Sacrament of Confession or a bomb in defiance of papal authority; rather it was people abusing religion for their own ends.

This is not just an Irish problem. Increasingly, being a Muslim can be seen

to mean simply being against 'American Imperialism'. A no doubt insulting thought for true Islamic believers and yet Islam was so clearly abused in the case of the failed December bomber Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, ex-president of the UCL Islamic Society. It is against such people that all religions must unite. We cannot deny the immense and powerful beliefs common to all our faiths. We cannot allow prejudice to cloud our view of other religions. Yet it is people such as Abdulmutallab who claim centre stage - just as with Northern Ireland it has often been the extremists whose bombs spoke louder than the prayers of others. As the great Irishman W B Yeats said, "The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity".

But the 'best' are out there; challenging religious intolerance and promot-

ing interreligious understanding. This year saw the birth of Imperial College Interfaith; a new society, comprised entirely of students, set up to do just that. Uniting Christians, Muslims, Baha'is, Jains, Hindus, Jews, Sikhs and Buddhists, the society is taking apart misunderstandings between faiths by encouraging dialogue. The fantastic opening event in November (Unifaith) was a perfect example of this, bringing together speakers from six different religions under the one banner of understanding. This coming week marks the Union's One World week, at which Interfaith is set to have a large presence with stalls on Monday and a massive Question Time style event on science and religion. This is Imperial students standing against religious intolerance, creating not just passive tolerance but dialogue and understanding. This is Imperial College Interfaith.

Ken Wu on how rubbish TV is these days...



"I have managed to find 5 hours of quality TV I would watch, most of it being comedy"



Anyone who has lived in the new Eastside/Southside complex of halls in Princes Gardens (of which I am one!) would know that every kitchen comes with a flat screen plasma TV. To achieve superiority, this fact would be bragged about countless times in conversations with friends of other universities or even with the older years at Imperial.

I think having a plasma TV is a lot less impressive than it sounds. Many, if not most of my fellow friends sharing the same kitchen as me would humorously mention that the envious TV would only ever show a mixture of Friends, Scrubs, The Simpsons or Top Gear repeats on either E4, Channel 4 or Dave (or E4+1, Channel 4+1, Dave ja vu). Occasionally BBC Breakfast, as its name suggests, is shown in the

mornings, serving more as a waking up mechanism than anything else. Although this circadian pattern has been disrupted by the Australian Open in the past week or so, I am certain that once Roger Federer has won that, all will return to normal again.

Even though I am massive fans of all 4 programmes, I find this peculiarity very depressing. I would have thought British television could conjure up some form of mass entertainment appealing to the lazy, procrastination-prone university students of today. I was wrong. Briefly scanning the "Favourite TV Programmes" of my Facebook friends, I noticed a distinct pattern: people either liked the American programmes of the present or the British comedies of the past, myself included.

Having also had a look ahead to

what will be on the main TV channels (BBC1/2, ITV, C4/5) in the following week, things didn't look any better. Being an Imperial student I will bring some mathematics into this. If prime-time is defined as the period between 7pm and 11pm, it would give 28 hours of supposedly worthwhile TV to watch. Excluding films, I have managed to find 5 hours of quality TV I would watch, most of it being comedy and including an hour of the aforementioned Top Gear. This is a poor reflection of British TV and it is hardly a surprise. With Saturday prime time dominated by so called "Talent" shows, it is no wonder the quality of TV drama has deteriorated so badly over the last decade, catalysed by the conception of Big Brother whose life will shortly end and will serve as a massive relief for many people who literally "couldn't care less".

Soaps, which in their wonder years could pull in more than a third of the population of Britain are increasingly diluted by eye-candy and improbable reincarnations of old characters. The only genre worth watching has been the comedy programs, and even though I still find the classics such as Blackadder better, the comedies of today are still compelling enough to watch. I do often wonder, with the money from the licence payers, why Britain cannot produce good quality TV. Maybe it is true that Jonathan Ross has pocketed all of it!

It may seem unfair to compare the British television industry to the military might of Hollywood who seems to effortlessly churn out the law, crime and medical dramas that we know so well. It may be down to the fact that the American TV season is normally 24

episodes long where as our TV season is only 8-10 episodes long.

Extending the TV season could mean that good programs such as Spooks or Hustle can last longer and attract more of an audience but there is still a lack of quality programmes. I had hoped, when I was about 12, that when I get to university I would finally be able to escape the parents shouting for me to tear myself away from the TV and get to bed. Well the day has come and how frustrating is it that there is no good TV to watch in defiance! I hope, with the economy now out of recession, that the BBC can actually use some money to make some good programmes so that students can use the plasma TV to good effect rather than relying on a laptop screen. But for now, I really couldn't care less: my 7-season West Wing Box Set arrived in the post today!

Gilead Amit and the abuse of sympathy



"One must try to look beyond emotions and beyond the feelings of sorrow"



This has been a busy week on campus. Imperial Christian Union have been hosting their free thinking week, and the Palestinian Society have organised a Gaza awareness week. And being a conscientious, participating member of the Union, I've tried to get involved with all these conflicting activities as best I can. I came to some of the Christian Union events, ready for an argument and the free doughnuts, with my fists clenched and my cheeks turned. I even went to some of my lectures.

But I haven't gotten involved with Gaza awareness week, even though it's a subject closer to my heart than Richard Dawkins or even the Foundations of Quantum Mechanics. And the reason for my silence is there hasn't been anything for me to say. One year ago, hundreds of people were dying in a horrendous and avoidable war. Thousands of others suffered and the cause of peace has been irreparably harmed. There should be time to grieve.

But grief cannot be isolated. Tragedy does not occur in a vacuum. We must learn from horror and atrocity, and do our utmost to ensure it is never repeated. And when it comes to the Middle East, I think the world is learning the wrong lessons.

Israel is far from irreproachable. It

makes political, strategic and humanitarian mistakes, and in my opinion it needs to accept its share of the responsibility. But when we discuss the human rights situation in Gaza, we need to direct our criticism appropriately, and not be blinded to the central issues at hand. Sympathy with suffering, and indeed even suffering itself, are not certificates that guarantee one is telling the truth. One must try to look beyond emotions and beyond the feelings of sorrow we automatically and instinctively extend to those who have been abused.

Those who style themselves as pro-Palestinian speak very eloquently, and in great detail, of the human rights violations Israel inflicts upon the residents of Gaza. We constantly hear how the Gazan population must endure Israeli security checkpoints and searches, Israeli blockades on necessary goods and services, and the constant threat of Israeli bombardment.

We rarely hear of the ongoing feuds between adherents of Hamas and followers of Fatah, feuds which in the duration of Operation Cast Lead alone killed dozens and wounded many more. We are seldom told of the plight of the Palestinian families who wait in terror lest militants commandeer their property or use their children as

human shields to protect themselves from Israeli reprisals. Few stories reach us of the Palestinians whose buildings explode when a next-door neighbour makes a mistake in calibrating an explosive device; a device intended for detonation among Israeli schoolchildren.

Over the past twenty seven years, over 6 billion dollars in aid have been poured into Gaza and the West Bank. Even during the Gaza war, Israel imported thousands of tons of medical supplies, fuel and grain into Gaza. Even when the ceasefires convoked to allow the safe passage of medical supplies were broken by Hamas militants. Even when aid lorries and ambulances were hijacked and hospitals used as safe zones by gunmen. Even when the tunnels leading out of Gaza were used to import weapons and explosives instead of medicine and food. The total aid received by the Gazan population is over five times as much per capita as post-war Europe received under the Marshall Plan. And the Palestinians need it. They deserve enough money to build the finest schools, maintain the most advanced hospitals, and develop a flourishing Palestinian economy.

So why hasn't this happened? Why, in the years since Israel pulled its settlers out of every square inch of Gaza,

has the region not developed the best schools in the Middle East? Why are there no hospitals in Gaza to rival those across the border in Israel? Why have gardens left behind by the Israelis not been urged to give fruit to new masters?

The simple and depressing answer is that munitions are expensive. One cannot build up an arsenal of rockets and explosives while at the same time improving the education of one's children. If the choice is guns or better living, we know from experience which way the Palestinian leadership always swings.

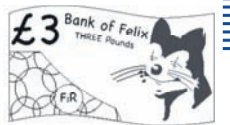
And why should they choose any differently? The less well-educated their people's children are, the easier it will be to fill their heads with extremist, anti-Israeli dogma. The fewer hospitals are functional, the more obvious it will be to all in the sensitive, caring West that the Israelis are irredeemably in the wrong.

There are thousands upon thousands of innocent Palestinians whose suffering is so great as to make description impotent. But they have been callously, cynically and relentlessly abused at the hands of their supposed leaders. But if the self-proclaimed Palestinian advocates are to be believed, it is the sole responsibility of the Israelis to ensure the well-being of those living in Gaza. Their suffering is Israel's failing.

But why? Gaza does not only share a border with Israel; it shares one almost a fifth as long with Egypt: another Arabic-speaking, Muslim region. Surely, then, the assistance across that border must exceed anything received from Israel? Surely the welcome received at the Egyptian border is one of sympathy and even brotherhood?

One need only look at the way in which ethnic Palestinians have been treated in Egypt, Jordan and Lebanon to get an understanding of how the Arab world regards the people of Palestine. It is all too easily forgotten that areas of Gaza were under Egyptian control for nearly 19 years, during which time the Palestinians were subjected to brutal oppression and appalling conditions in the refugee camps were allowed to perpetuate. If only the flow of genuine assistance were as bountiful as the flow of anti-Israeli rhetoric. At least, then, people would not be dying for the sake of hypocrisy.

The systematic abuse of the Palestinians by their leadership and the rest of the Arab world has to end, and this can only be achieved by removing the joker from the pack. The instinctive, ritualised demonisation of Israel must cease, or else the motivation to provide aid to the suffering will drop, and the manipulation of the weak will continue.



IC Business School climbs FT rankings

As Imperial College Business School continues to gain international acclaim for the quality of its academic teaching and research, and the success of its alumni, *felix* interviews its Principal, Professor David Begg



ICBS Principal, Professor Begg, who is frequently commissioned to advise national and supranational governmental organisations such as the Bank of England and the IMF, is pictured here meeting UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown.

The Financial Times World Rankings is one of the most respected international league tables for Business Schools. In their latest annual assessment, released this week, Imperial College Business School has moved up seven places to 32nd place in the world. Its Principal, Professor David Begg, has given *felix* Business his thoughts on the School and its future plans.

Although ICBS's overall FT ranking for 2010 is 32nd, Professor Begg points out that, "within the last two months, the Business School's Masters in Management has been ranked the best Masters programme in the world for entrepreneurship - and also the sixth best for economics and the seventh best for marketing."

It is clear that applying entrepreneurship to Imperial College's academic strengths across science, technology and medicine is central to the Business School's vision. Professor Begg believes that its main commitment is to "creating a world-class business school that is as distinctive as Imperial itself. This means three things - rigour, translation of scientific thinking into managerial applications, and acknowledged excellence."

Of the School's plans for the fu-

ture, Professor Begg said, "we pursue improvement through having a clear strategy - to focus on Imperial's areas of strength, drawing on engineering, medicine, and science - and by creating a culture in which our faculty enjoy creating excellence in education and research. In addition to our teaching strengths, we also beat both Oxford and Cambridge in the last assessment of research excellence. Students gain a distinctive edge in the marketplace, and Imperial is a worldwide brand."

The higher education sector across the world has been criticised in recent years for focusing too much on league tables at the expense of less measurable marks of quality. Professor Begg explained that the Business School has avoided this: "We continue to enjoy forward momentum, and the spread of our reputation, but rankings are not the whole story. For example, if we specialised in investment banking, our students would get even higher salaries and our education ranking would rise as a result. But successful strategy entails being true to one's roots. We will always have a strong role for innovation and entrepreneurship, even if this prevents us getting to the very top of the MBA rankings."

Given the School's commitment to enterprise, it is ironic that like all universities, it depends on the Government for much of its funding. Professor Begg claimed to recognise the

advantages of working with the private sector: "Imperial's avowed policy is to build other funding sources [than the state] as quickly as possible, and the Business School is at the forefront of development of deep commercial relationships."

Another issue that many prospective students have with business schools is their high cost. Many studies have suggested that with so called 'degree inflation' caused by increasing numbers of students at universities, they may no longer be a good investment. The ICBS Principal, however, begged to differ, describing the Imperial MBA's £34,000 price tag as "tremendous value" and countered the idea that the degree only makes sense if someone else pays for it: "Few of our full-time MBA students are sponsored. Most work for a few years, then come back to achieve a step change in their subsequent career."

He added that he is looking forward to greater achievements in the future for the Business School by aiming to take advantage of, and supporting, Imperial College's existing areas of expertise: "The Business School has been growing at 15 to 20% a year, and we intend to continue to build on our recent success." By 2020 he sees the Business School "working much more closely with other faculties - on digital business, on risk, on sustainable energy, and on advances in healthcare management."

Imperial College Business School: FACTS AND FIGURES

The School is mainly active in four areas of research - entrepreneurship and innovation, organisations and management, finance and accounting and healthcare management. Of these, it is particularly renowned across the world as a leading academic center for entrepreneurship and innovation. ICBS maintains strong international links and has especially strong connections with India, whose 7th Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, is a notable alumnus of the College. The School takes particular pride in its diversity and international outlook:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Women faculty | 19% |
| Women students | 16% |
| Women board | 36% |
| International faculty | 74% |
| International students | 72% |
| International board | 55% |
| International mobility rank | 47 |
| International experience rank | 75 |

Of course there are many problems with facilitating so many students from so many countries (and one in particular). But Professor Begg is confident that the School is right to expose its members to this level of international diversity, "our students will have to survive in a world of increasing cultural diversity and we cannot shield them artificially. We have however embedded more pedagogical techniques - recording of lectures, web-based environments, that allow students to review lecture material in what may not be their first language." Despite the School's commitment to maintaining its breadth of expertise rather than specialising in investment banking, its students still have fairly good career prospects:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Average salary | US\$120,306 |
| Salary percentage increase | 107 |
| Value for money rank | 17 |
| Career progress rank | 35 |
| Aims achieved rank | 71 |
| Placement success rank | 51 |
| Employed at three months | 85% |
| Alumni recommend rank | 67 |

Some departments such as Electrical Engineering include compulsory management modules delivered by the Business School. The School also offers a range of optional courses on management, finance, accounting, enterprise and innovation to third and fourth year



France to ban the wearing of the niqab

James Lees Politics Editor

France, a country known mainly for cheese, wine, surrendering, gourmet food and the Eiffel Tower, is not a country I often praise. There is, however, one thing which I envy about France: the way the French Republic sticks to its principles – mostly.

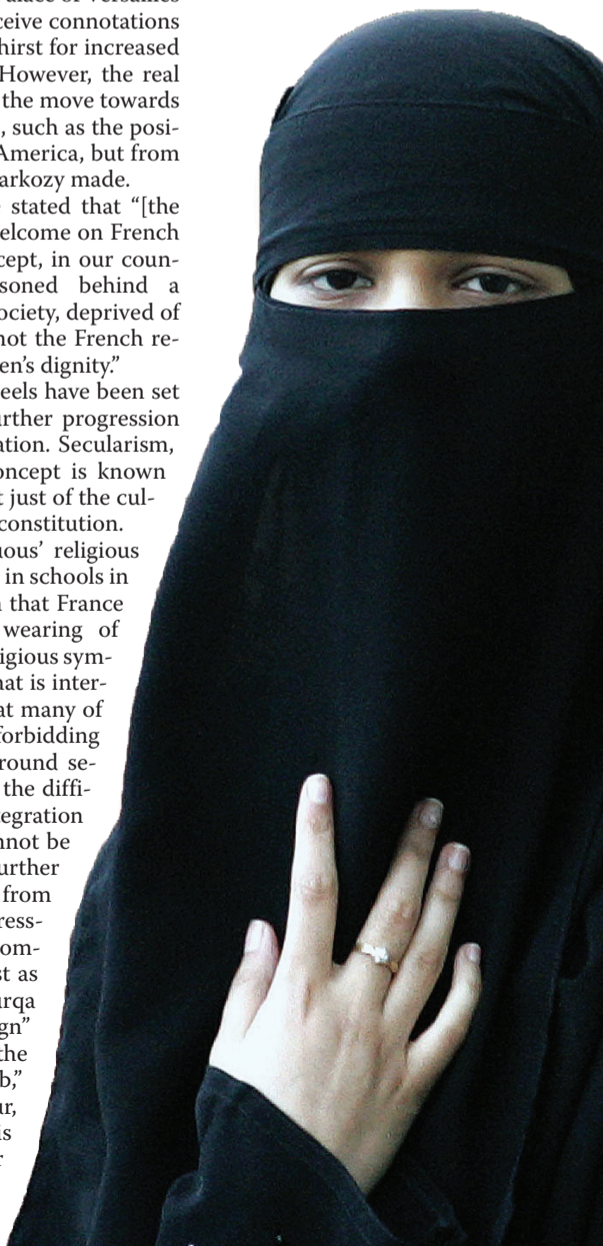
This week, a French parliamentary committee published its report recommending a ban on wearing veils which cover the face in public places. This is the latest episode in a movement within France to stop the wearing of the niqab, which the French press and government is belligerently, and wrongly, calling the burqa. The niqab is a full body veil with slits for the eyes. The burqa, a full body-and-face covering garment with a mesh allowing the wearer to see, is from Afghanistan and all but unseen in France.

Last year, President Sarkozy made the first presidential address to parliament in 136 years. The speech was broad and wide-ranging, and until that year had been banned to protect the separation of powers in France. This alone sparked controversy, especially as it was held at the Palace of Versailles leading some to perceive connotations of monarchy and a thirst for increased presidential power. However, the real controversy was not the move towards a king-like president, such as the position has become in America, but from a few remarks that Sarkozy made.

In his address, he stated that “[the burqa] will not be welcome on French soil... We cannot accept, in our country, women imprisoned behind a mesh, cut off from society, deprived of all identity. That is not the French republic’s idea of women’s dignity.”

Since then, the wheels have been set in motion in this further progression towards a secular nation. Secularism, or ‘laïcité’ as the concept is known in France, is part not just of the culture, but part of the constitution.

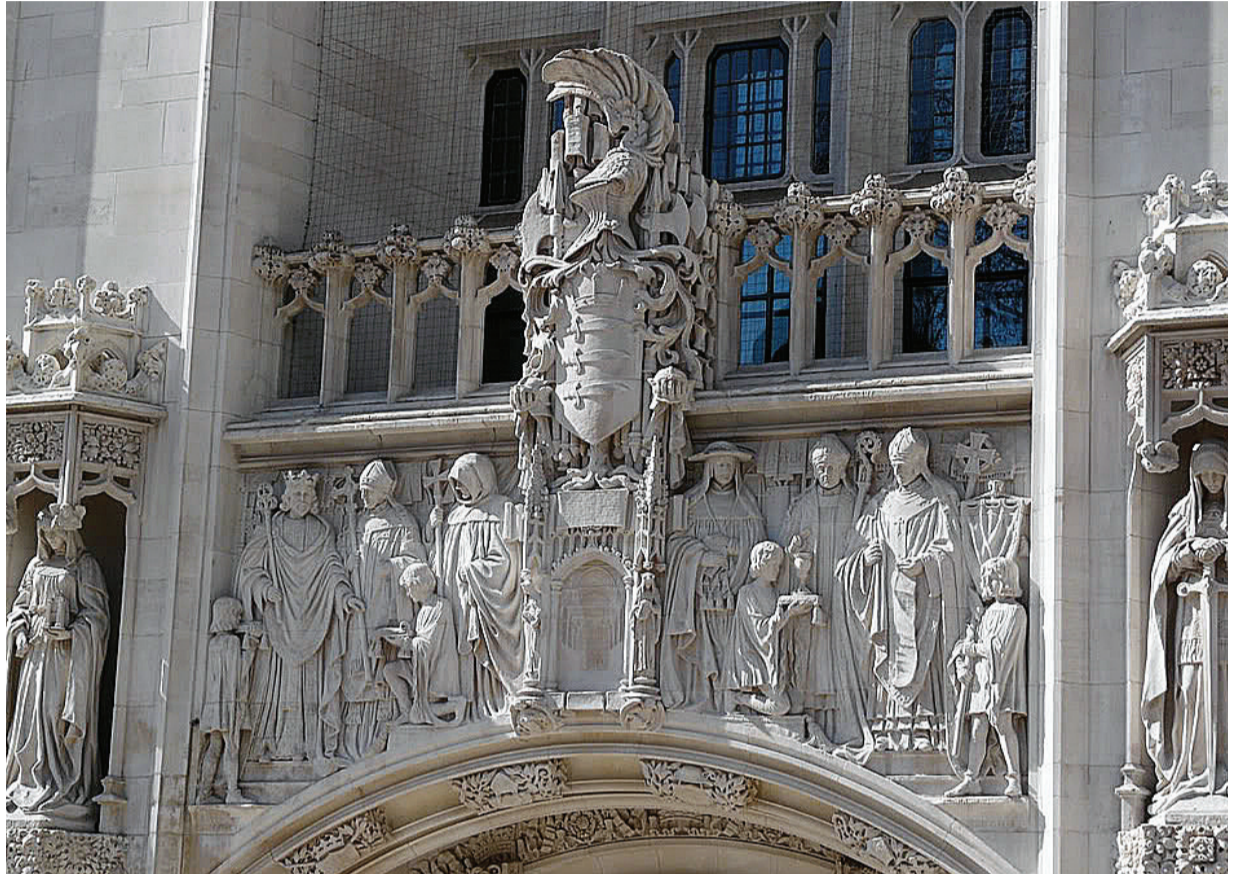
Wearing ‘conspicuous’ religious symbols was banned in schools in 2004. It follows then that France should forbid the wearing of such a prominent religious symbol as the niqab. What is interesting, though, is that many of the arguments for forbidding the burqa revolve around security concerns and the difficulties in cultural integration of someone who cannot be seen, rather than in further removal of religion from the state. People pressing for the ban commonly point out, just as Sarkozy has, “The burqa is not a religious sign” and that “neither the burqa, nor the niqab,” as Dalil Boubakeur, rector of the Paris Mosque says “nor any all-over veil, are religious prescriptions of Islam.”



France is currently home to over 5 million Muslims, the largest Islamic population of any European nation, most of whom are ethnically descended from North Africa where Muslim women don’t typically wear veils that fully cover the face. Reports suggest there are approximately 1900 women who currently wear the niqab or burqa in France. Sources claim that 90% who do are under 40, 2/3 are French nationals and nearly ¼ are converts. This means that the vast majority of those wearing the full veil are women whose mothers did/do not wear the full veil, from which it has been concluded that the increase in women wearing the veil in France is not from immigration of people from the Gulf, but from the growth of ultra-puritan Islam amongst the population.

Whether the ban will actually materialise is another matter. The expected course is for the report to be followed by the drafting of a bill and a debate in parliament. The main opposition party has stated it is against the ban, and the far-right movement led by Jean-Marie Le Pen has said a ban is unnecessary as French law already prohibits being out in public with a mask on.

Supreme Court terror ruling



The unlawful decision to freeze the assets of five terrorism suspects has been overturned by the UK Supreme Court

James Goldsack Politics Editor

The UK Supreme Court has ruled that the government exceeded its powers by unlawfully freezing the assets of five terror suspects.

The court said the government should have obtained approval for asset freezing from Parliament. The

“We must be careful to guard against... encroachments on personal liberty”

five men at the centre of the case have been living off £10 a week in cash and require special permission for other expenses. The judgement has been suspended for a month by the court, allowing the government to change the law to lawfully freeze alleged terrorist assets. The two orders to freeze assets were brought in by Gordon Brown when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer.

In the ruling, the Supreme Court justices said that if the government wanted to take “far-reaching measures” to combat terrorism, then approval from Parliament is needed. Lord Hope said: “Even in the face of the threat of international terrorism, the safety of the people is not the supreme law. We must be just as careful to guard against unrestrained encroachments on personal liberty”. He continued that the Treasury had exceeded its powers in how it had devised and implemented

the Terrorism Order. “This is a clear example of an attempt to adversely affect the basic rights of the citizen without the clear authority of Parliament,” he said.

Lord Hope said that one of the five men, Mohammed al-Ghabra, had been denied a basic right to challenge his restrictions.

In the explanation of the judgement, Lord Phillips, president of the Supreme Court, said: “Nobody should conclude that the result of these appeals constitutes judicial interference with the will of Parliament. On the contrary, it upholds the supremacy of Parliament in deciding whether or not measures should be imposed that affect the fundamental rights of those in this country.”

A spokesman for the Treasury said that it would attempt a change of legislation as soon as possible but would abide by the ruling.

“It’s important to be clear that this ruling does not challenge the UK’s

“This is an attempt to adversely affect the rights of the citizen without the authority of Parliament”

obligations under the UN Charter to freeze the assets of suspected terrorists, which we will continue to meet. We will introduce fast-track legislation to ensure there is no disruption to our terrorist asset-freezing powers.”

The Suspects

All five have now been named:

Mohammed al-Ghabra

Hani el Sayed Sabaei Youssef

Michael Marteen, formerly Mohammed Tunveer Ahmed

Mohammed Jabar Ahmed

Mohammed Azmir Khan

Mohammed al-Ghabra, a 29-year-old British citizen born in Syria allegedly provided “material and logistical support to al-Qaeda and other terrorist organisations”. He lives in east London and used to publicly campaign for the rights of Muslim prisoners. He has denied involvement in terrorism.

Hani el-Sayed Sabaei Youssef, known as Dr Hani al-Seba’i, is director of the Al-Maqrizi Centre for Historical Studies in London.

An Egyptian Islamist dissident, he sought asylum in the UK claiming he had been tortured by his country’s security forces. This was rejected because the British security services believed he was a member of Egyptian Islamic Jihad, an organisation behind a number of attacks against ordinary citizens.

| Event | Tasks | Theme |
|----------------------|---|---|
| Monday 1 February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silent Documentary light-hearted yet thought provoking documentary broadcast round campus tackling sexism in the lab • Interfaith Interactive 1200-1400 JCR Slightly out of context on the Monday; come along and find out about different faiths at Imperial. Hosted by the Chaplaincy. | Gender Equality |
| Tuesday 2 February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film: Milk 1200-1420 Meeting Room 3 Union, FREE POPCORN!! • Quiz: 2000, da vincis, Union | Sexual Orientation |
| Wednesday 3 February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum: 'Religion and Science Question time?' 1800-2000 SAF LT1 | Religion |
| Thursday 4 February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Film: A Beautiful Mind 1630-1900 Meeting Room 5 Union, FREE POPCORN!! | Disability |
| Friday 5 February | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Night 1930 £5 Students, £8 Non-students, Great Hall • After party 2200 Union, ½ price with iNight ticket, free for performers/society members. | Race Equality / Internationalism |

one world

more articles and information at
imperialcollegeunion.org/oneworldweek

Gender

by Charlotte Ivison



What if an object had a gender? After all, 'male' and 'female' electrical components are commonplace. Say we're in a lab. If we're going purely on appearance, then a pipette would be, for obvious reasons, male, and a test tube would be female. Similarly, a laser could be masculine, whilst a telescope could be considered to be more feminine. But is this right? Have I made assumptions about the gender of the equipment based on stereotypical gender-defined roles? Would the objects wish to be primarily viewed as male or female, or would they rather be considered first and foremost just as people? This is the focus of a documentary created for Gender Equality Day, part of One World Week, by Women in Science, Engineering and Technology, a group run by female students for female students at Imperial. In the semi-comic documentary, WSET use the idea of gender possessing lab equipment to tackle the issue of sexism in the lab, an ever present issue given that the laboratory is a traditionally male dominated workplace. Billed as being 'light-hearted yet thought provoking', it aims to challenge preconceptions about the roles of male and female scientists in the lab, and questions whether the lab is currently truly a gender neutral environment in which to work.

Women in Science, Engineering and Technology is an Imperial College Union society dedicated to supporting the growth and development of female students at Imperial. Created in 2007 by Eirini Spentza, Ellin Saunders and Milena Peric, three Imperial graduate students, its aim is to encourage female students from secondary school to graduate level to pursue careers in science, engineering and technology.

The activities of the group are multifaceted, and include teaching, challenging preconceived gender-based notions about scientists and engineers, and inspiring by

providing identifiable, successful female role models in the scientific field. Regular events include networking events with leading female scientists as guest speakers, workshops tailored for female scientists focusing on developing Curriculum Vitae, application and interview skills, and open days for schools.

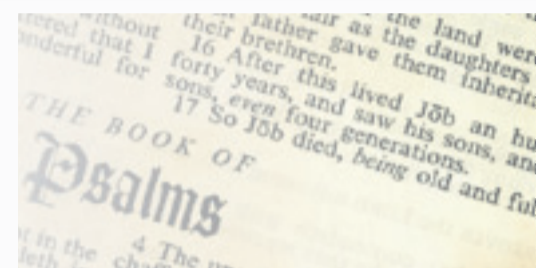
One WSET created initiative, 'Robogals', is specifically designed to encourage female school students to pursue a degree in science. Female Imperial students, trained in using LEGO robot technology, go into schools and teach the female students to use the robotics. As well as fostering a sense of scientific achievement, the workshops encourage female students to view a scientific career as being both attainable and interesting.

Another project, entitled '100 Women, 100 Visions', saw British Professional Photographer of the Year Jackie King taking portrait photos of 100 female students and staff members to produce a series which celebrates the diversity and talent of female scientists at Imperial. An exhibition of these portraits will be held in London City Hall in March and February, and an online exhibition of the photos is available at imperialcollegeunion.org/100women100visions. This year, as part of International Women's Day on the 8th of March, WSET are encouraging Imperial students and staff to get behind the lens to take pictures representing women at Imperial, as part of a photographic competition and exhibition run in collaboration with PhotoSoc.

The documentary produced by WSET for Gender Equality Day will be shown on the day (1st Feb) on televisions around campus and projected onto the Queen's Tower. To get involved, or for more information about WSET activities, contact women.set@imperial.ac.uk.

Religion

by Rory Fenton & Obadah Ghannam



This New Year, the media's focus was back on Northern Ireland. Only this time it wasn't about bombings, shootings or kidnappings, but the extra-marital affair of NI's own First Lady, Iris Robinson. Good old normal politics, it seemed, had finally returned to Northern Ireland. But while an affair between a 59 year old and a teenager could have happened anywhere, the response to the affair was uniquely Northern Irish. In nowhere else could so isolated an incident ever have triggered threats of increasing sectarian tension. And yet this is exactly what is at stake in a frighteningly fragile peace process; the slightest hiccup could bring the whole house of cards crashing down, leaving in its wake the threat of restarting the longest civil war in world history which claimed over 3,500 lives during the last 40 years and has left many living in segregation, still viewing 'the other side' through a prism of suspicion and fear. The causes of the Northern Ireland 'Troubles' are many and complex but in a province divided between Catholic and Protestant, religious intolerance is clearly a large culprit.

Ireland has had a painful history of religious intolerance dating back to the infamous Penal Laws, banning or attacking anything Catholic in predominantly Catholic Ireland, the denial of soup to those who would not convert to Protestantism during the Famine which was to claim a million lives and vicious retaliations leading to the slaughter of innocent Protestants. And yet there is nothing, nothing whatsoever in the teachings of either Christian denomination that justifies this; nothing that should have led to such violence. Rather, it has been ignorance and political opportunism that has caused so many of these tragedies; and continues to threaten them today. Religious difference need never to turn into religious intolerance, but does so when groups misrepresent

differing opinions while alluding to political and social prejudice. I remember a ten year old Catholic boy telling me that of course he knew Protestant beliefs, "Don't they believe in God the dog and God the cow and all that?" Reverend Ian Paisley himself denounced the Pope as the antichrist to his face. It is when religion ceases to be about God and simply turns tribal that religious intolerance thrives. Catholicism means being a Republican and Protestantism means wanting British rule; these are hijackings of religion. There was never a petrol bomb thrown in the name of the Sacrament of Confession or a bomb in defiance of papal authority; rather it was people abusing religion for their own ends.

This is not just an Irish problem; it is evidenced in Britain as well. Increasingly, being a Muslim can be seen to mean simply being against 'American Imperialism'; a thought that is no doubt insulting to true believers in Islam and yet Islam was so clearly abused in the case of the failed December bomber Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, who had been president of the UCL Islamic Society. It is against such people that all religions must unite. We cannot deny the immense and powerful beliefs held in common between our faiths. We cannot allow prejudice to cloud our view of other religions. And yet it is people such as Abdulmutallab who claim centre stage, whose voices are shouted from the mountain tops- just as with Northern Ireland it has often been the extremists whose bombs spoke louder than the prayers of others. As the great Irishman W B Yeats said, "The best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity".

But the 'best' are out there; challenging religious intolerance and promoting interreligious understanding. That's why

imperialcollegeunion.org/oneworldweek

Week

1-5 FEBRUARY 2010

Disability

by Hannah Theodorou



It's all too easy to associate wheelchairs and hearing aids with the word disability, as they are so visible. However the majority of disabilities in the young are 'hidden', including things like specific learning disabilities, mental health disorders and chronic health disorders. Disability is defined as any physical or mental impairment that has a substantial, adverse and long-term effect on his/her ability to carry out normal day to day activities. For example, conditions that are classified as a disability can include:

- Mobility difficulties
- Aspergers and autism
- Chronic health conditions, for example asthma, diabetes and epilepsy
- Deafness or blindness
- Depression, schizophrenia and eating disorders

It's not about labelling- if someone with chronic depression doesn't want to call it a disability, that's fine. However, acknowledging it as a disability means you may be eligible for additional support. It's about knowing your rights, and specifically that you are not discriminated against because of your condition and that you have equal opportunities to resources that your peers do.

Things that may be available to disabled students at Imperial, depending on their circumstances, include:

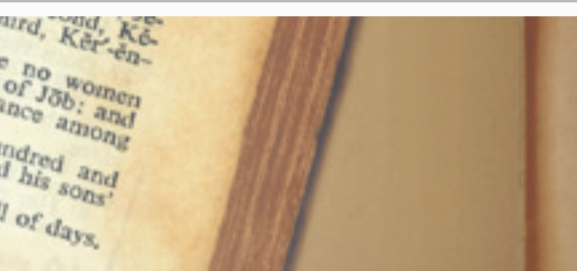
- access to lecture notes in advance
- special examination arrangements
- financial support from the Disabled Students Allowance
- continued eligibility for accommodation in halls

Things like depression and specific learning disabilities are surprisingly common in the student population and it's a shame that few people will talk about their experiences of it and admit they may need help. There are a number of services available but the first point of contact should be the College's Disability Advisor. Every person's requirements are unique so support will be tailored to you, and they will be able to suggest other services which may be of benefit and advocate on your behalf.

Having a disability shouldn't hold you back! Below are some famous people and their disabilities.

Do you each of their disabilities?

The answers are underneath.



this year saw the birth of Imperial College Interfaith; a new committee, comprised entirely of students, set up to do just that. Uniting Christians, Muslims, Jews, Baha'is, Jains, Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists, the society is taking apart misunderstandings between faiths by encouraging dialogue. The fantastic opening event in November (Unifaith: Road to Dialogue) was a perfect example of interfaith dialogue, bringing together prominent speakers from eight different religions under the one banner of understanding, and coincided with the UK's first ever National Interfaith Week. Rodney Eastwood, the College Secretary, was also present on the day on behalf of the Rector. He gave testament to the religious and cultural diversity of the college community, which thus necessitated the endorsement of such events. We can only truly learn the reality of others religions by speaking to those who practice them.

This coming week marks the Union's One World week, at which Interfaith is set to have a large presence with stalls on Monday and a massive Question Time style event on Religion and Science. The aim is to bring different faith perspectives together to address the clashing notions of faith and science: do they conflict or complement each other? Can the morality we derive through religion also be drawn from science, or is religion exclusive in providing this? Can we be scientific about spirituality, prayer, consciousness, good works, God and our intrinsic beliefs? Regardless of our conclusions, we will still be able to work together towards common objectives.

This is Imperial students standing against religious intolerance, creating not just tolerance but dialogue and understanding. This is Imperial College Interfaith.



1 Heather Mills - Amputee 2 Michael J Fox - Parkinson's Disease 3 John Prescott - Bulimia Nervosa
4 Billy Connolly - ADHD 5 Stevie Wonder - Blind 6 Stephen Fry - Bipolar Disorder
7 Richard Branson - Dyslexia 8 Steven Spielberg - Aspergers 9 Halle Berry - Diabetes



Bloggin' on a sunny afternoon

Lucy Harrold Arts Editor

It's a rather miserable Tuesday lunchtime. Yep it's January, its bloody freezing and this is your first arts section since Christmas.

How was your Christmas? Mine was alright, strangely my favourite present was a pair of red ballet shoes from my parents. I don't do ballet but they will be put to good use scrambling around the floor pretending to be a hippy for our spring show Hair.

I also finally got to update my blog over Christmas as exams tend to get me thinking about anything other than Chemistry. Yes, I have a blog and yes it is about theatre (what else did you expect?) Its mainly a chance for me to vent my anger over things like John Barrowman's sorry excuse for a Saturday evening show "Tonight's the Night" and the plight of British Musical Theatre thanks to Andrew Lloyd Webber and co. I also tend to put reviews for shows I've paid for on there which tend to be the more obscure choices. I love looking on Google analytics to see who

actually looks at my blog, although it is, of course mainly my friends.

My little sister has now decided she wants one too, this time about art and craft, so I've had her asking how to do the coding for it. Finally a reason to be a geek who can do html!

So if you like theatre, you're welcome to check the blog out at <http://the-atregirlinascienceworld.blogspot.com> and if you don't, you should still check out the arts section as you might find something you do like.

This week, Christopher has been immersing himself in Russian Literature and the life of Mikhail Bulgakov and his mate Stalin. This takes me back to A Level history, studying Stalin and "consolidating our notes" (my teacher's favourite phrase).

Rox Middleton takes us on a magical journey through the world of comedy songs and shows us how they can be used to pass Chemistry exams (umm, bit late for me Rox) and I've been out to see Legally Blonde the musical. Finally. A new musical!

From Russia with Satire

Christopher Self explores Russian Literature... and Stalin

Artists are fascinating creatures, the drive and natural ability to create something in which others find genuine meaning is an incredible power. And one that seems to attract characters whose own lives are as noteworthy as any of their great works.

There's a Stalinist era Russian author called Mikhail Bulgakov who exemplifies this phenomenon, a young doctor with a bourgeois intellectual background whose life became embroiled in the turmoil of the Russian Revolution. Unable to escape the new soviet nation and having been forced into combat as a frontline medic in the civil war he eventually found himself in communist Moscow writing reports and satire for some of the leading publications. The state was new, just finding its feet, and censorship was not the all powerful controller it would become. He eventually began to write books successfully, publishing a few that, though well received, began to earn him a reputation as a counter revolutionary, something particularly dangerous for a person with his background. While writing his fourth satirical work *The*

Heart of a Dog, the censor cracked down, confiscating the manuscript before he could publish it. He never got another book published during his life time, falling with his wife into a state of poverty. This unimaginable sense of entrapment eventually led him to write to Stalin himself begging to be allowed to leave the country.

Bulgakov's relationship with Stalin is truly surreal. Stalin was the first reader, the censor in chief, and at this time was probably well acquainted with Bulgakov's works. Following his letter the first citizen personally called the author and Bulgakov talked frankly with the autocrat about his personal and political problems, a conversation that ended with Stalin arranging work for him as a director. He publicly criticized Bulgakov's works but never denounced him as an enemy of the state; Bulgakov was never threatened with the gulags. Indeed when he penned a play that depicted Stalin as a kind and gentle wartime leader in the civil war, that too was banned as an executive decree from the leader himself, who declared that Bulgakov was just trying to win him over. But satire is a subtle thing that is often done with a heavy

hand; just because a book has a message doesn't make it a good read, and this is one of the reasons I particularly love Bulgakov's books. Written as they were under the oppressive atmosphere of the Soviet Union, the satire in *The Heart of a Dog* and *The Master and Margarita* is always veiled. There is an added depth to a good story that genuinely leaves you sitting back thinking "Well I bet that character symbolises...". More than just a critique of Soviet life his books reflect his own existence and are genuinely imbued with a fantastical sense of magical absurdity.

The Master and Margarita in particular has become one of my favourite books, an incredible tale that Bulgakov never finished re-writing that draws on all of his experiences and frustrations and is packed with satire so cleverly interwoven into the story that it can be read entirely in abstraction from it. It always seems odd to talk about how well written one finds a translated foreign novel. But let me just say that this is one of two foreign books I've read that have actually made me want to learn the parent language, just to see if the author's prose were really as breathtakingly good as they appeared.

Comedy Comedy Comedy...Tonight!

Well, comedy songs. Rox Middleton shares some of her favourite examples from Lehrer to Minchin.

Is comedy art? There's a certain snobbishness, I think, which says no. There's a tendency to consider comedy merely cheaply scoring laughs, compared to the magnificent themes of True Art. But is this so fair? Everybody likes to be made to laugh; dramas are praised for their ability to joke whilst heaving towards their epic goal. Sculptural or

graphic jokes are common; the idea is that they make you laugh, but then make you stand around to really think about what the artist is really trying to do. Because heaven forbid the artist should be really trying to make you giggle. Comedy has such physical and emotional power that it is absurd not to admit that it has artistic merit. In fact, brilliant jokes take such originality and skill that the best are surely some of the world's most beautiful things.

Well, some hyperbole perhaps, but a particularly exquisite specimen of comedy is a subject dear to me; the comic song. Although nominally music, the tune can vary from catchy melody to a repetitive riff for the lyrics. Ideal to sing or to listen to, perfect for the musical and non-musical alike, they are more than the tameness and cringey innuendoes of George Formby's *Little Stick of Blackpool Rock* (or is he just pleased to see you type...) or even my Granny's favourite, Bernard Cribbins, who said *Right Said Fred*. Good comic songs are a rare substance because their creators tread a fine line between edgy and obscene, whimsical and twee. So for this purpose, as so often is the case, Youtube is your friend (especially if you like your friends slightly fuzzy and with low quality slide-shows).

I plan to make the following a pleasant potter through the genre of comedic song with absolutely no sense of

objectivity or rigour. So let's start with *The Best*. I don't want to make this ramble through comic songs to be all about Tom Lehrer, so it won't be; but it'll be tough. Tom Lehrer is a mathematician whose songs you may have heard, what chemist worth their salt could have missed *The Elements Song*, which lists every element of the periodic table (of the time) to a galloping jingle? Most of his songs are still fresh as ever, although he left the public eye to return to mathematics and teaching - having written only 37 songs, in 1960. His subjects range from STDs to sociology, bombs, scouts, plagiarism and masochism besides much more. The lamer ones can't take much repetition, but in general they are miles ahead of most comic songs in originality and energy, and are still setting the standard for the next generation.

For more musical whimsy there is also Flanders and Swann, very much more old-fashioned and wordy with some slightly outdated topics. Although a few have not stood the test of time, others are addictive, even catchy; amusing songs are the *Song of the Reluctant Cannibal* (If the Juju had meant us not to eat people, he wouldn't have made us of meat), and the brilliant *First and Second Law of Thermodynamics* (Heat won't pass from the cooler to the hotter, you can try it if you like but you far better notter). Try *Have Some Madeira M'dear* for the bizarre sound

of two very quaint men singing about date-rape.

For something a little more modern, you probably already know *The Flight Of The Conchords*, whose ingenious flashes, like the binary solo, or hip-hop-opotamus, make up for the sometimes rather tediously adolescent sentiments. For something more exciting, *Weird Al Yankovic* is pretty good; I love *Amish Paradise*, a parody of *Gangsta's Paradise* but with an excellent video of an Amish town (Tonight we're gonna party like it's 1699). Tim Minchin is a rising star with some really good material, like a song in which he points out to his girlfriend that while he thinks she's special she obviously falls within a bell-curve. Mitch Benn is another comedian songwriter with pleasantly weird imaginings, but surpassing most others by singing about topical news as well. There are also Imperial graduates *The Amateur Transplants*, with very funny medically themed songs in their repertoire and their *Black and White Menstrual Show*. And these acts nestle amongst gazillions of funny musicians, ready to be discovered or perhaps discarded.

I haven't mentioned comedians like Bill Bailey, Victor Borge or Kit and The Widow, whose comedy is focused more on the music itself than the lyrics, and are all definitely worth a watch. Then there are also so many comedians who have dipped into comic songs



Grandad of cringe Cribbins, I just put him in because I love Doctor Who.



Minchin, the new God of comedy song

now and then, notably Victoria Wood, Hugh Laurie and also Monty Python, whose *Every Sperm Is Sacred*, and *The Lumberjack Song* are gems from their smallish offering of humorous tunes. This article is futile in attempting to convey the brilliance of these comedians without their music, so I say go and get some culture down you today.

Omigod You Guys, like a New Musical!

Lucy Harrold finally gets to see a new show after a long theatre draught and luckily it's a rather awesome choice

You know how it is, you wait all term for a new musical to open and finally one does. Two days before my exam. See what I sacrifice for you dear reader; who am I kidding? I needed a break and Legally Blonde the Musical was the perfect excuse.

The Savoy theatre places host to the show and is possibly one of the ugliest theatres in London, built in a tribute to Art Deco it is more a lesson in dodgy concrete and tired looking velvet curtains. I was hoping that the show would be good enough to make up for the eyesore it played in and luckily I was right and even the many crusty old critics around me agreed!

If you've seen the film of Legally Blonde, the general storyline is the same; Elle Woods, a sorority queen from Malibu strives to get into Harvard Law School in an attempt to win back her ex-boyfriend Warner Huntington III but instead finds herself fighting to fit in and be taken seriously. She is helped in her quest to become a lawyer by the dowdy but sweet Emmett and love-lorn Paulette. The play takes this storyline and bulks it out a bit, adding a back-story for Emmett and expanding Paulette's love life. This makes for a much more satisfying book and well-rounded characterisations lifting the story from shallow and girly to smart and funny.

The movie really suits musicalisation, certain scenes were just screaming out to become large production numbers and luckily the creative team have chosen the right situations to receive this treatment. The Bend and Snap has naturally become a hip-hop inspired anthem with additional

dance breaks and Elle's discovery of a key witness's perjury is now emphasised in "There Right There" (guess what that's about).

Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamins' score is catchy and captures the fun of the show without being superficial and the lyrics are very witty with a sense that they are in on the jokes too. Music wise, highlights for me were the ballad "Legally Blonde" which I must admit nearly made me cry and "So Much Better", the act one finale that, in the hands of Sheridan Smith, gives Wicked's "Defying Gravity" a run for its money. I must give a little shout out to O'Keefe's orchestrations, full and brassy is how I like my shows and full and brassy is what he gave me.

Jerry Mitchell's direction is fun and bouncy and makes great use of some brilliantly designed mechanised sets, including a dormhouse frontage and a very cleverly designed judge's podium cum toilet suite! His choreography is vibrant and incredible intricate, a stand out being "Whipped into Shape". This was a complex number involving some amazing jump rope (or skipping rope for us Brits) stunts and a strong performance by Aoife Mullholandow to the matter of the cast. I must admit that when first announced, I was incredibly sceptical- three TV personalities, two reality TV hopefuls and a popstar does not fill one with much hope. For some reason in England a musical cannot be successful without having a *star name* to entice Joe Public in. Why can't a musical be sold on the merit of its book and songs!? Rant over. On the whole I was very impressed with the casting and should learn to be less sceptical. Sheridan Smith stole the show as Elle Woods,



The incomparable Sheridan Smith as Elle Woods bags herself possibly the cutest guy ever in Alex Gaumond as Emmett

she was phenomenal and even better than Laura Bell Bundy on my well worn out cast recording. Her comic timing was perfect yet did not hamper any of the more serious moments and boy has that lady got a voice! I loved Alex Gaumond as Emmett; his high note and little dance at the end of "Chip on Your Shoulder" sent me into a frenzied moment of "awww, he's so cute". Another revelation for me was Peter Davison as Professor Callahan, who I'd never

seen in any other role other than the fifth Doctor Who. "Blood in the Water", a song I would normally skip on the album was well executed by Davison who even added a jazzy lilt to this patter song.

My cynical predispositions were not entirely unrealised as I felt Jill Halfpenny, although a fine actress, was totally miscast as Paulette. The part can be taken in two ways- sassy yet vulnerable or playing for laughs. Halfpenny didn't do either and didn't really have the belt to pull off Paulette's showstopper "Ireland". Duncan James, although he well suited the part and sings very well, just didn't seem right in the cast- whether this was because he looks too old to be at Harvard or that James isn't yet comfortable in the theatre surroundings is yet to be seen. It doesn't help that he has one of the weakest songs in the show and little else to do yet has been the main feature of publicity campaigns.

Despite these few niggles I was really impressed with Legally Blonde, the cast were full of energy and genuinely appeared to be having a good time. The play stays faithful to the fabulous film yet adds a new dimension and the music is infectious without being grating.

The show's unexpected draw was its heart. I truly did feel all warm inside by the end and this is a testament to the entire package- writers, production team and cast. Perhaps a winter opening was a bonus to entice freezing shoppers off the streets and into the theatre and I say good on them!

If you only have the opportunity to see one movie musical this season, make sure it is Legally Blonde, you'll feel better for it. Plus it offers a lottery system where by turning up two hours before the show your name is entered into a lottery. If you are pulled out you can bag yourself some very cheap front row seats. Yay for cheapness!



Lets play "One of these things is not like the others", any ideas? I'll give you a clue: Duncan from Blue doesn't count.

Want to go to a show but its too pricey?

Every winter the Get Into London Theatre Initiative offers tickets to top shows for under 26s for bargain prices- £10, £15, £25 or £35! And these aren't just any old shows, these are top West End Shows. Current offer include £60 Legally Blonde tickets for £35 and £50 Hairspray tickets now at £25. For this you'll get a nice stalls seat and an awesome view. www.getintolondontheatre.co.uk

Don't forget the "A Night Less Ordinary" Scheme where you can get free (yes free!) tickets to shows at selected theatres including the National and the Donmar Warehouse. Again, all need to be under 26.

www.anightlessordinary.org.uk. Or we'll get you tickets if you want to review a show, email us at arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk



This *Prophet* is hardly a heavenly type

A Prophet

Director Jacques Audiard
Screenwriter Jacques Audiard
Cast Tahar Rahim, Niels Arestrup, Adel Bencherif

Stefan Zeeman

A Prophet is the latest masterpiece that has emerged from France. The story focuses on Malik El Djebena, a 19 year old Arabic man who is given a 6 year sentence in a corrupted French jail. He enters the prison with no family, no religion, and no friends. His only distinctive previous home was a juvenile hall, and is now left alone in a cruel new world.

With a six year stretch ahead of him, Malik is clearly vulnerable within the prison walls. At first, the naïve Malik has every intention of keeping his head down in the prison where he is noticeably out of his depth. Unfortunately the prison has other plans for him. He is approached by a group of Corsican inmates, who control everything that happens within the prison. In exchange for their protection, he must complete a series of tasks for them and soon becomes caught in the criminal cobweb that fills the prison.

He is first told to kill an enemy in-

mate or be killed. Upon accepting the mission, he is told he must hide a razor blade in his mouth to be allowed access into the inmate's cell where he can take the victim's life. He must initially overcome his conscience before he can kill a stranger. The scene is gut twistingly intense yet vividly real.

Malik is played by Tahar Rahim, who was relatively unknown before the film, but has shot into the limelight with a fantastic debut. Rahim produces a gritty performance, evolving brilliantly from timid teenager to criminal mastermind.

During Malik's stay, the prison's demographics change, to which he takes full advantage. He slowly gains the trust of Corsican kingpin César, whilst involving himself within a group of Arabic prisoners, who aim to take control of the prison. Battling between the politics of prison life and his own survival, Malik mercilessly attempts to climb the criminal ladder in and out of the prison. The film constructs a brilliant insight into life within a prison, and makes anything conjured up in films like *The Shawshank Redemption* look like a weekend stay at a Holiday Inn. The brutal dog-eat-dog world never forgives or takes a break.

Kingpin César is played superbly by Niels Arestrup. The cold hearted man slowly deteriorates to desperation as the world that he previously ruled crumbles around him. César's evident weakness becomes Malik's strength in

his path to glory. Malik is reborn within the prison where he experiences a new type of paradoxical independence which he could not experience in the outside world. The film is made with near perfect execution. Director Jacques Audiard produces a claustrophobic view of prison life, whilst maintaining a gripping portrayal of Malik's rise in the prison hierarchy. Jacques Audiard won the 2005 Best Director award for *The Beat that my Heart*

Skipped, a Parisian criminal thriller about an aspiring pianist. Audiard will be undoubtedly a commanding contender for this year's prize and is certainly a name to look out for in the future. *A Prophet* won Best film award at BFI London film festival and Grand Prix at the Cannes film festival, and it's clearly visible why. This powerhouse production contains a potent formula for a fierce prison thriller that's definitely worth seeing.



The Road

Director John Hillcoat
Screenwriter Joe Penhall
Cast Viggo Mortensen, Robert Duvall

John Park

The cause of the mass destruction is never explained and the audience is never encouraged to care. The point is everything has died. No plants or animals have existed for the past few years. It's only the humans who have survived, and since all we make is trouble, this sets the perfect apocalyptic scene. An unnamed man (Viggo Mortensen) and his son (Kodi Smit-McPhee) struggle on, heading south, hoping it will be warmer and more habitable. Their journey is never easy

since man has turned against each other, resorting to theft, murder, rape and cannibalism. The naïve son, who still has his youth and innocence intact, is desperate for them to be "the good guys." And the father doesn't have the heart to tell him that not everything works that way. But of course, when society has been damaged to such an extent, survival involves getting your hands dirty, an idea never fully grasped by the boy who was born during the most unfortunate times.

Smit-McPhee is convincing in his purest, boyish form, shocked and horrified at every dishonesty and moral corruption from his surroundings. Mortensen gives a truly moving performance as the father who will do literally anything to protect his son; he's even prepared to shoot the boy himself to spare him the misery and pain of being captured by a hungry band of can-

nibals. The relationship between the two is never over-done. The boy is by no means too vulnerable to be cute, and the man is not portrayed as the omnipotent superhero who is capable of saving his son time after time. There is a raw, genuine connection between the father and son who aren't perfect. As the film progresses the conflict of ideals between the two becomes more apparent. The man is prepared to steal and kill for survival whereas through the eyes of the boy, one should never do such things no matter what the circumstances.

A couple of equally talented actors play minor roles. Charlize Theron plays the wife in flashbacks and Robert Duvall plays an old man who is also wandering aimlessly. They have very little screen-time and although it's easy to think that their acting abilities were under used, *The Road* reminds us that

this is strictly a film about Mortensen and Smit-McPhee and doesn't deviate away from that.

The scenery couldn't be more depressing. Dead trees and crops line the pathway and there isn't even an inch of greenery in sight which is the truly terrifying nature of the film. The bare, grey emptiness constantly reminds us of death and destruction all-round. Even when we do see humans, it's never a welcoming sight, since they're most likely to be violent gangs of cannibals who will stop at nothing to eat a bit of flesh.

The Road is a truly heart-felt portrayal of love, pain and human values during the chilling days of a devastating apocalypse. The brutal reality of human nature is never easy to stomach, but what the film shows is the ugly, inconven-

ient truth. Hillcoat's take on the 'end of the world' genre may be quieter and more subdued but it's hard to deny that *The Road* is more intense and effective than anything else we have seen before.



News Strip



Avatar robs No.1 spot from Titanic

James Cameron has lost to err himself! That's right *Avatar* has now totalled \$1,846,179,737 making it the most successful film of all time. Though if you count in inflation, *Titanic* still beats it, however, *Gone with the Wind* would total a staggering \$3.5 billion!!!

Hobbit film delayed until 2012?

Peter Jackson is producing and Guillermo del Toro is directing but rumours are being passed around that financial woes are hampering production of *The Hobbit*. New Line Cinema have stated the most probable time we'll get another dose of hairy feet is the last quarter of 2012.

No end in sight for vampire films

Sam Worthington, last seen as a 12 foot smurf in *Avatar*, is in talks to star in Universal Pictures' *Dracula: Year Zero*. Apparently an origin story in which Vlad the Impaler is granted powers to repel the invading Ottoman Empire but transforms into *Dracula* as a result. Interesting.

George Lucas' new musical with CGI fairies

News from Lucasfilm has leaked onto the blogosphere regarding a top-secret project. Singing Tinkerbells may not be everyone's cup of tea but that's what Lucas has planned probably involving millions of dollars worth of CGI constructed fairy cityscapes.

2010: A film odyssey (hopefully)

Ed Knock takes a look at the most anticipated films of the year



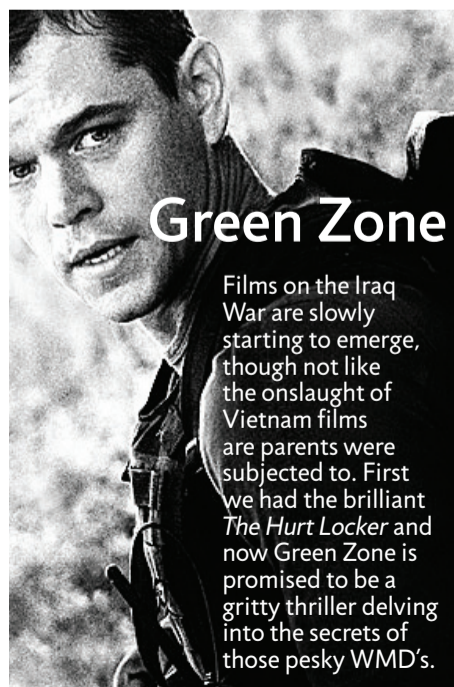
Precious - January 29

Let's ignore Oprah Winfrey's endorsement who jumped on the bandwagon after *Precious* won the Grand Jury Prize at Sundance. The film's subject about child abuse is apparently very harrowing but inspirational none the less. Critics have raved about all the cast's performances including the screen debut of Gabourey Sidibe and a tender appearance by Mariah Carey.



Shutter Island - February 29

2010 is already a better year than 2009. Why? Because the great Martin Scorsese returns with his latest masterpiece since *The Departed*. Scorsese turns his attention to the horror/thriller genre, an interesting choice for the veteran director famous for his 'Mob' films. The film looks fantastic from the trailer, my only fear is that Marty may use too many stupid camera tricks which nearly wrecked *The Departed*. Alas still no Bobby de Niro but Leo de Caprio is a great stand-in.

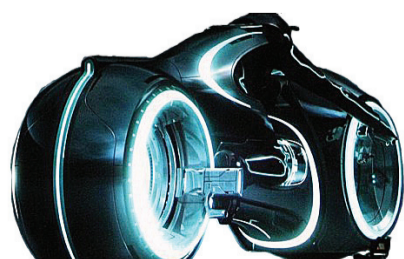


Green Zone

Films on the Iraq War are slowly starting to emerge, though not like the onslaught of Vietnam films are parents were subjected to. First we had the brilliant *The Hurt Locker* and now *Green Zone* is promised to be a gritty thriller delving into the secrets of those pesky WMD's.

Tron Legacy - December 26

Rumours of a sequel to the 1982 cult film *Tron* have been circulating for years, and now a film has materialised. Jeff Bridges is back, he has a son and might be a baddy. But who cares? The light bikes are back too and look awesome! A teaser trailer is already online for the film which should contain your excitement...for now.



Spring

February 12 - A Single Man
A gay professor in L.A. struggles with the death of his long term partner.

February 12 - Ponyo
Hayao Miyazaki will delight the world once again with his latest anime.

February 19 - Crazy Heart
Jeff Bridges plays an alcoholic ex-country music star who tries to get his life back.

March 5 - Alice in Wonderland
A sequel to *Through the Looking Glass* instead of the original book. Mental.

April 2 - Kick Ass
Another fresh take on superhero genre. Looks very watchable though.

April 7 - Cemetery Junction
New Ricky Gervais and Stephen Merchant 'insurance salesman' comedy.

May 14 - Robin Hood
Ridley Scott's serious take on the legend, it looks terrible from the trailer.

Summer

May 28 - Prince of Persia
What? Jake Gyllenhaal in an action film based on a computer game? Yup!

June 11 - Get him to the Greek
Russell Brand resumes his role of Aldous Snow. Guaranteed laughs.

July 23 - Toy Story 3
Buzz and Woody are back! Andy's grown up and the toys are thrown out. Oh no!

July 30 - The A Team
Bum buh bum buhhh! Da dan daaaaah! BA and friends pity some fools.

August 27 - Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World
Michael Cera has to battle the six evil exes of his new girlfriend with a sword!

Winter

September 3 - The Other Guys
It all goes wrong when two cops try to attain the heights of their star colleagues

November 26 - The Fighter
A professional boxer's relationship with his older brother, sounds like *Raging Bull*

December 17 - Yogi Bear
Expect crazy antics as Yogi and Booboo piss off the park ranger.

The Scouting Book for Boys - March 19



There is lot of excitement about this directorial debut from Tom Harper whose short films have won awards from BAFTA. From the trailer it looks like traditional kitchen sink fare involving burning caravans and lost children. If you enjoy anything by Shane Meadows and Ken Loach then the chances are you're going to enjoy this film. Thomas Turgoose, the fastest rising star in British cinema, confidently fills the boots of the film's protagonist who finds himself out of his depth after a little lie goes wrong.



Invictus - February 5

Morgan Freeman finally gets his chance on the role he was born to play - Nelson Mandela. And with Clint 'never makes dud' Eastwood behind the camera, *Invictus* looks set for a lot of nominations in March. Feedback is positive, with Matt Damon's portrayal of Springbok captain François Pienaar being especially praised though some Rugby fans have been mumbling about the accuracy of the scenes involving the game.

Inception - August 13

I would be easier to find out the colour of Pope's underwear than to discover the plot of this film, such is it's secrecy. Christopher Nolan describes it as "a science fiction thriller set in the architecture of the mind" and that's all we know. However from the teaser trailer, *Inception* looks incredible involving crazy folding cities.





The latest on our new bars and nightclub taken from the Phase 3 Blog where you can get all the latest updates

Daniel Hill
Deputy President (Finance & Services)
dpfs@imperial.ac.uk

Pillar Problem

The big problem that has arisen recently is the presence of a steel pillar in the nightclub and its close proximity to the new stage. The pillar obscures part of the stage area and could be a problem when it comes to hosting live bands in the new nightclub. We are currently looking at ways of removing the pillar however they look set to be costly and very time consuming. Look at the image below and give us your views on what to do...

Do we really need to spend the time and money on removing this pillar?

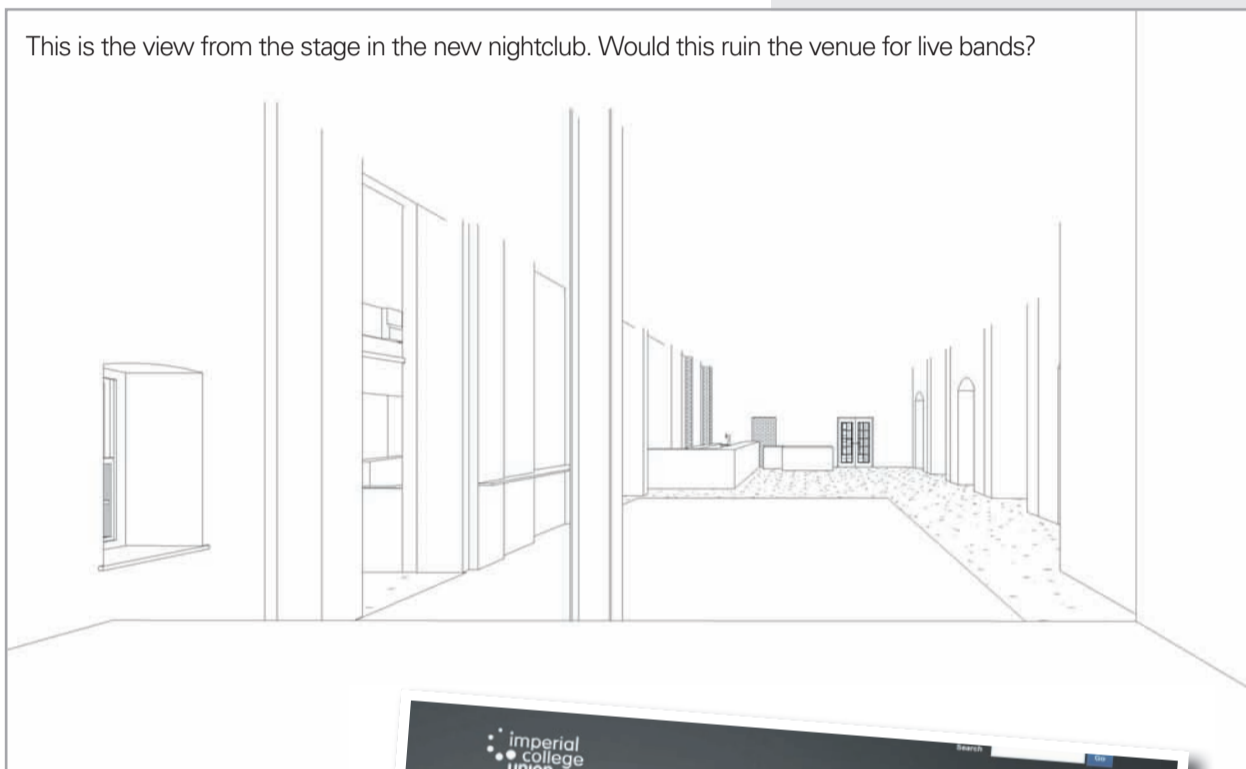
Will this pillar prevent bands from touring this venue?

Feedback

We will continue to keep you up-to-date on this project as it continues via the Phase 3 Blog – look out for videos and pictures when the building work gets underway.

Remember: it's your Union, so tell us what you want. You can send your views to Daniel Hill, the Deputy President (Finance & Services) on dpfs@imperial.ac.uk. Or include our #phase3 tag in your tweets.

This is the view from the stage in the new nightclub. Would this ruin the venue for live bands?



see all the proposed plans online at imperialcollegeunion.org/phase3



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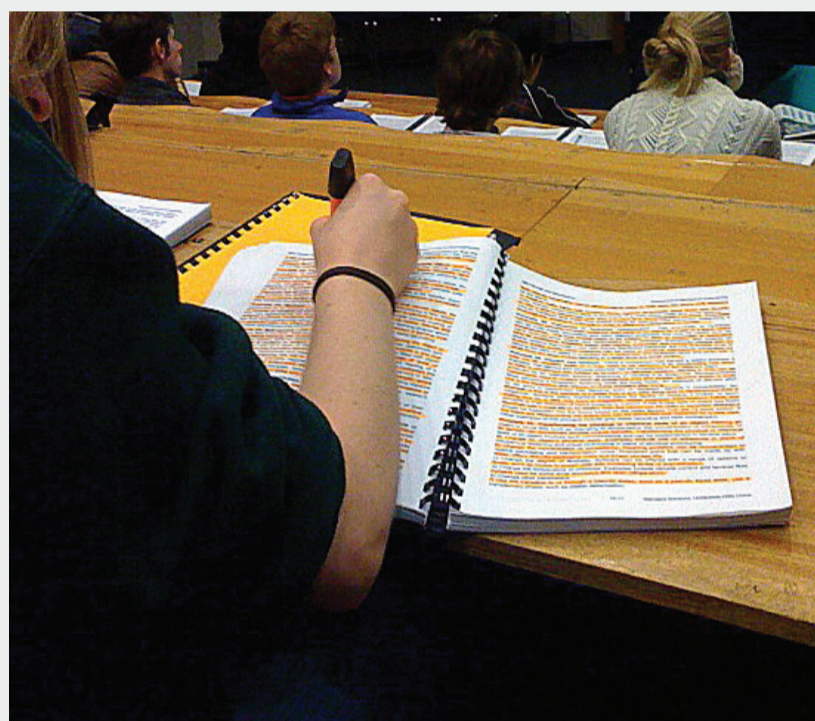
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We Need You! (Call Me!)

felix is a student newspaper. Specifically, it's *your* student newspaper. It can't go on without your support. And nowhere is this more true than Catnip. Without you, this page would be just blank. Now this means less work for me but it's boring. Boring doesn't belong in *felix*. Lectures are boring. Tutorials are boring. Coursework is boring. Exams are...terrifying! But *felix* will never be boring! But we can only continue to liven up your Friday afternoons and beyond with your help. We need your jokes, your letters and your opinions. And we certainly need the photos of your totally gazeboed mates in all their digital glory. And more than that, we want them!

So write in today!

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

I'm not sure whether this person is actually drunk or not but they must have a very good reason for turning this course guide into a colouring book. Maybe.

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

The Best And Worst Of Your Science Jokes

Catnip: Apparently no one knows any good science jokes. Either that, or your taste is just awful! These made us cry!

A neutron walks into a bar and asks, "how much for a pint?"
Barman says, "For you, no charge."

Physicist

In the pub, a man asks for a pint of adenosine triphosphate.
Barman says, "That'll be 80p"

First Year Medic

Why do chemists like nitrates so much? They're cheaper than day rates!

Second-Year Medic

How many guacs are there in a bowl of guacamole? Avocado's number.

Union Bar Staff

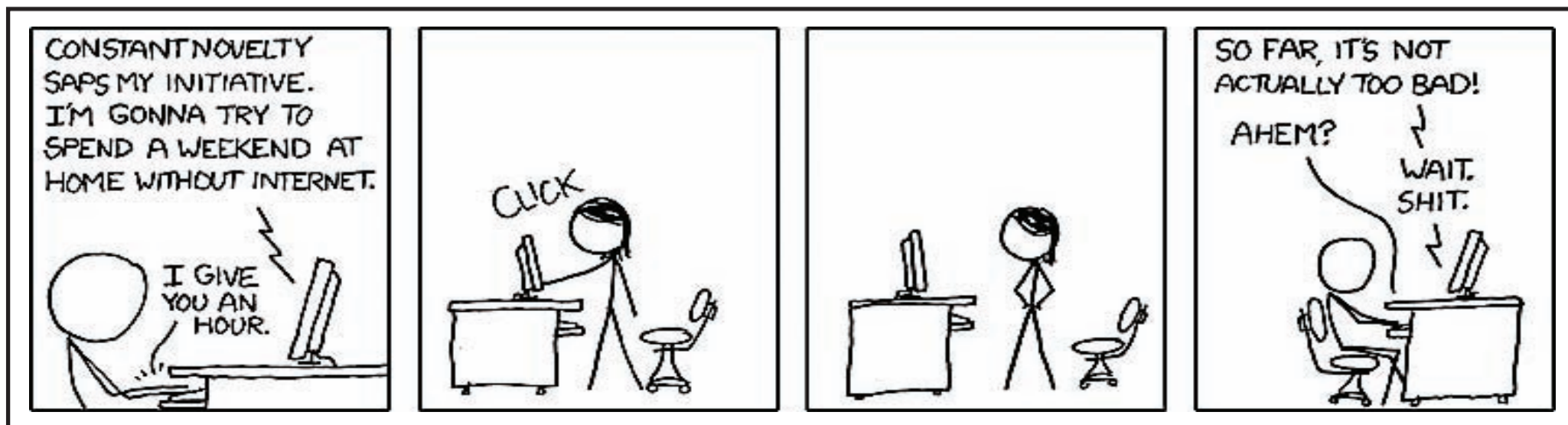
What is the fastest way to tell the sex of a chromosome? Pull down its genes!

First Year Biologist

A student comes to a young professor's office hours. She glances down the hall, closes his door, kneels pleadingly. "I would do anything to pass this exam." She leans closer to him, flips back her hair, gazes meaningfully into his eyes. "I mean..." she whispers, "... I would do... anything." He returns her gaze. "Anything?" "Anything." His voice turns to a whisper. "Would you... study?"

Third Year Engineering Student

xkcd.com



MUSIC

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



Who's afraid of the big bad wolf?

Luke Turner Music Editor

I'm afraid of the big bad wolf, the wolf in this context, it being the looming power of the music industry, in all its underestimated, dream crushing glory. It is an enormous hive of killer bees that meddles where it needn't meddle and seems to be ever growing. It feeds from the excitement and enthusiasm of pretty young things, before devouring them and leaving the carcasses for music journalists such as myself to pick at until a page in a newspaper is filled. To say I have no grudge against the music industry would be a painful lie but, a first hand account is surely worth more than rumours.

I once heard an amazing quote by Elvis Costello which said, "Music journalism is like dancing about architecture". This is something that almost can't be done, an art in itself because music is to express what words can't. This would be true if the raw musical material from so many recording artists was left as it was. Instead much of the music nowadays is subject to not only months, but years of being churned through the meat grinder by the killer bees, leaving it over-produced and soulless. Song writing, a demo, live performance, rehearsal and an album are the steps that ought to be taken that would allow the music someone makes to naturally develop. I'm not saying this shouldn't be a rocky road with an incredible amount of work put in, but it shouldn't be an ex-

ecution of creativity, as it is now.

There is a huge aura of fear that surrounds the 'top dog' of a record label, but in my opinion, fear arises from the ability for them to do harm to you in some way, and this is what happens more often than not. It's the musicians with the songs, the look, the influence, the passion and most importantly the creativity, everything these people probably lack. It's true to say that they have the power and don't need you, but they need new musicians and it shouldn't be them to decide who the musicians they need are.

A friend of mine was signed to a successful American record label (they will remain anonymous to preserve their dignity), as a drummer in a band and was set to record in their studios. Before the studio time, he was informed by them not to turn up to the sessions as they were going to employ a session drummer to record his part, however his name will appear on the record. This is the type of music crimes that are being committed by the big men in suits, who care not for the music, but the money, and how to make more of it by wringing out the wide-eyed, bushy tailed innovators.

What I want to see, is an album created by a handful of people, in one month without computers. If to you this seems impossible, come back to Earth, it's music not a shuttle launch. That will be the music that captures a generation, "That'll be the day".



The Bowie experience

Charming, experimental and British. Eliot Barford takes a retrospective look at the re-release of Bowie's debut album

So David Bowie's eponymous debut album is getting the re-release treatment, with a Disc 2 filled with A-sides, B-sides and stuff that didn't make it to release. Is it worth your time? Well, some have put it down as a misstep better forgotten, but I think it's more than that. That's not to say it doesn't have its blemishes though.

As Bowie's very first LP it should spark interest in any fan of the man. Its songs are a mixture of orchestrated ballads and music hall yarns with a few somewhere in between. The first, "Uncle Arthur", is a cheesy, innocent, characteristically British tale. The next, my favourite, is the melancholic "Sell Me a Coat" and its graceful vocal melodies. "Love You Till Tuesday" will make you cringe with its menacing refrain and reek of "light entertainment". "There Is a Happy Land" looks as Bowie's idea of childhood idyll. The album progresses thus, between good pop/rock songs coming more questionable tracks. Top of this pile is the B-side "The Laughing

Gnome", which almost needs no explanation. Terrifyingly, despite its pun on "London School of Eco-Gnomics", this song became a Top 10 hit after Ziggy Stardust came out!

What about the new stuff? While the stereo mixes eliminate the mono's period quality, they might enrich the experience if you ever want to revisit it. Most of the unreleased material and B-sides are mediocre, but "The London Boys" deserves note as a noirish look at Mod excesses. The BBC sessions largely rehash what is present on the album.

Verdict? I honestly quite like it, but lots of Bowie devotees will probably find it embarrassing. I think it's intriguing to see where this "pop genius" came from, and it's all there: the stories, the theatricality, even the dystopian messiah-fantasy ("We Are Hungry Men"). Above all, David Bowie shows the man experimenting with existing tropes to deliver more than just a sonic experience, and isn't that what made him famous when he transformed into Ziggy Stardust?

550

Approximately the number of songs David Bowie has written throughout his career.

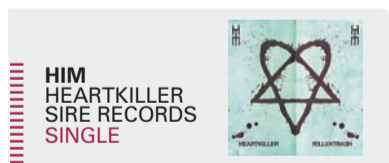
1966

The year David Bowie changed his name from David Robert Jones to David Bowie. He was 19.

1

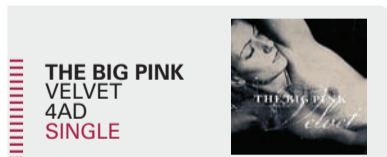
The number of O-levels David Bowie received at school. It was in Art from Bromley Technical School.

Reviews



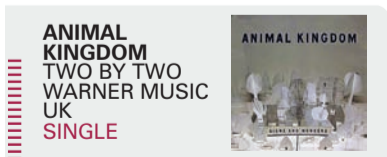
HIM
HEARTKILLER
SIRE RECORDS
SINGLE

This is classic HIM, with a touch more sanity. This single is extremely tight in all aspects. The sound of crunching guitars under an American pop-style vocal, with pauses to accentuate the lack of dynamics throughout. It feels to me as if this is HIM on a leash, out for a Sunday walk, but it can't be denied it does call for a night of rock. It must be said the lyrics lack something when 'come hither' is a theme. - Luke Turner



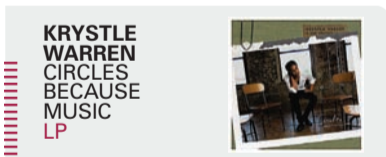
THE BIG PINK
VELVET
4AD
SINGLE

This new single writhes with dirty electronic sounds laid underneath a humble choir hum. A well structured song that catches your ears with heavy layering and distorted sounds. This is not breakthrough music, not hugely interesting but it has spirit and a feeling of fight. A nice follow-on from previous music of theirs. - Luke Turner



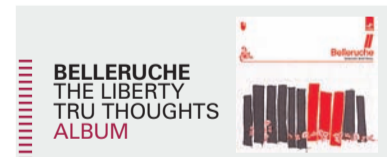
ANIMAL KINGDOM
TWO BY TWO
WARNER MUSIC
UK
SINGLE

Bringing back the quirky sounds of indie guitar, this song is filled with layered clean guitar riffs. It's pure in a dirty way, mainly due to the politely restrained vocals singing truths of the human race. This song is pretty guitars and a pretty vocals with impressive drumming. - Luke Turner



KRYSTLE WARREN
CIRCLES
BECAUSE
MUSIC
LP

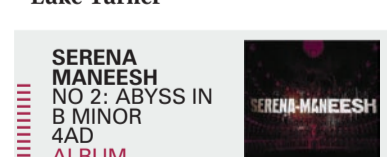
A jazzy fusion of Ray LaMontagne and Paulo Nutini, Krystle Warren uses her beautiful voice in a range of ways to vary her music. This is feel-good and laid back to its very definition, 'Three Women' a smile in musical form. Gentle acoustic guitar and crisp clear vocal matched up with an upright bass in 'Title Track' speaks soulful music. This is quite refreshing to hear whilst reviewing albums in the felix office during sports night at the union, maybe I'd rather be here when it's music like this that's my subject, and a pint of Guinness. Beautiful. - Luke Turner



BELLERUCHE
THE LIBERTY
TRU THOUGHTS
ALBUM

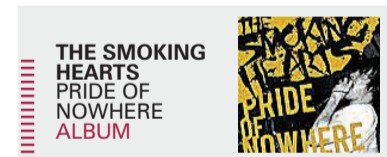
This is handmade hip-hop in a simple form with jovial uses of a sampler. Rapid vocals with laid back break-beat drums, this has a vintage sound despite its recent release. A gentle, sweetly contained album that is just the right amount of Belleruche, any more may bring on a repetitive itch, but a talented group of musical minds.

- Luke Turner



SERENA MANEESH
NO 2: ABYSS IN
B MINOR
4AD
ALBUM

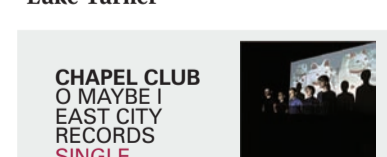
A blur of speed and distorted sounds, this album is musically intelligent but true to its album name, an abyss. A deep sounding melancholic mash of soups that quite often don't match well, full of discord; it is individual but not my cup of tea. - Luke Turner



THE SMOKING
HEARTS
PRIDE OF
NOWHERE
ALBUM

A powerful combination of musical rebels, amplifiers, and a damaged voice gives rise to The Smoking Hearts. This is angry punk rock which despite its clearly audible passion, fails to vary a huge amount throughout. This loud five-some are having a ball of a time playing this music, and metal-lovers will enjoy this true to the form album.

- Luke Turner



CHAPEL CLUB
O MAYBE I
EAST CITY
RECORDS
SINGLE

A song of confusion, uncertainty and love... The music is certainly not confused and has a bop-along feel. Bringing back memories of The Mystery Jets; it feels as though this music might be a few years behind. In all it's an enjoyable, docile sound. - Luke Turner

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Ten years of independence: Tru Thoughts

Founded in 1999 by Paul Jonas and Robert Luis, Tru Thoughts independent record label has been managing leading jazz, funk, soul and hip hop artists for the past ten years. **Kadhim Shubber** gets in a word with **Paul Jonas**

What were your aims when you founded Tru Thoughts? What was the label's raison d'être?

We started the label in 1999 from Rob Luis' stairwell and the reason for starting the label was that we were running a weekly club night (called phonic:hoop) and we noticed promoters were coming in and pinching our acts, so we thought that if we released their music then we would create a roster of acts for both club and label. Musically we wanted to release soul, jazz and funk, but in its more contemporary terms.

Has it changed at all over the last ten years?

I think our love of music and our dreams of running a label have remained, and the people we work with on the label, in the office and day to day follow that same philosophy. Musically it has been an enjoyable journey. We have always supported our key producers on the journeys they have taken. So Nostalgia 77 went from hip hop, funky 7s to winning the John Peel Play More Jazz Award with his jazz releases, Quantic went from bedroom producer to fronting a funk band (Quantic Soul Orchestra) and then moving to Colombia and making music with artists from South America (Quantic and his Combo Barbaro) and Lance from The Bamboos has done music as The Bamboos (funk and soul), Lanu (broken beat and dance music) and introduced us to Kylie Auldist (soul, jazz, funk singer). All of these journeys have happened organically and we have been involved all the way. We may not have planned all the stages, but we have enjoyed where they have gone and have supported them.

When you were running it from underneath Rob Luis' stairs, did you think that you'd reach your tenth anniversary?

Ha ha, no chance! I was running around trying to not get caught putting posters in illegal places and Rob was mostly buying and developing his huge record collection.

How did the label fit in with the music scene in Brighton around the millennium? Do you think nowadays that the Brighton music scene is assumed to just involve skinny jeaned indie pop?

When we started the label, the town was popular for the style of ourselves, Skint and Catskills Records. Trip hop, nu jazz, big beat, whatever the names were, it was a stage where people were sampling, looping, cutting up and mixing styles. Very hip hop in its base, but with a world of influences. Our weekly night (and our Mr Scruff monthly night) pulled in around 2000 people a month, so there were some amazing parties. We have changed things around over the years, moved

away from this level of club promotion and concentrated on selling music around the world and in that time also the licensing laws changed and clubs compete with bars; things have gotten more thinly spread over town. I think it was great that the clubs were packed. You couldn't book a venue in Brighton on a weekend night as clubs were so popular, and now you can easily go and get a club for a birthday party. Back then it meant people had to work hard to deliver something special and parties were bigger. But I am not one to dwell on how things used to be, as I am as excited about our music and nights as I ever was. Brighton is an ever-changing and developing music town and that remains strong.

When the label was smaller you must have been choosing your artists personally, has that changed?

When we started we did tend to sign people based in Brighton, or friends of people down here, so that meant Nostalgia 77, Natural Self, Quantic, Bonobo etc. Nowadays we get sent demos from all over the world. But in a way our scene (which doesn't really have a name) has a network across the world. So we are friends with the labels who do our music all over the world and so it feels like the same family in Brighton, but in a larger sense.

Considering your releases range from electronica and drum & bass to soul & funk, what is the unifying thread between all the artists you have signed?

Rob picks the acts based on something that he likes in their specific ear for a tune. So when we signed Flevans the first time around he was doing music on a 4 track, but Rob liked his quirky sounds and how he put them together. Flevans thought it was a mate pretending to be Rob, when Rob called him. Rob has never told me this, but Flevans mentioned that he thinks he told him in colourful language to um, go away. But all of our acts have a certain individual sound and that is what we are drawn to.

In which musical directions are you looking to expand the label?

Last year was our 10th birthday year and it was enjoyable doing the parties and our special 3 disc booklet. But we also sat at the end of the year and decided that we wanted to take the label back to its route of more future looking music. This year we have signed Maddslinky aka Zed Bias, who is collaborating with and getting mixes from people like Toddla T, MJ Cole, Omar, Skream, Mr Scruff, Blame and AtJazz, which is an exciting project with all these quality artists from a range of genres. We have also got a double compilation album form Zero dB (Ninja Tune) and then add



NOSTALGIA 77

"A fusion of mixed jazz & Hip-hop"



HOT 8 BRASS BAND

"A true New Orleans brass band"



QUANTIC

"Deep funk, jazz and tough drums"

to this the more classic sound of The Bamboos (check out the video of On The Sly on YouTube) and Quantic's Flowering Inferno project.

If you could sign anyone, who would you take on?

We have had the pleasure of working with a lot of the people we wanted to. There have been one or two acts in ten years that we have tried to sign and lost, but it is a pretty small percentage thankfully. We were sad to see Alice Russell leave the label, but this can happen when acts want to try a different route to selling music. It is complicated to explain, but people have different ways of looking to sell music and we have a certain model that has worked well for us and attracts some acts, but with Alice she wanted a different form. We hope she will record for us in some form again soon. In terms of others, well we would want to get some massive acts of course! I don't know maybe the Quantic/Stevie Wonder album is what we should aim at!

How did the Unfold/Tru Thoughts Covers album come about? Was that your idea or the artists?

When the Quantic Soul Orchestra album was being put together Quantic and ourselves felt that the retro cover version was an overdone thing, and so Will (Quantic) did versions of Mr Scruff, Sunshine Anderson and 4Hero. That theme has stayed throughout the label with Nostalgia 77 and Alice doing Seven Nation Army, The Bamboos doing Max Sedgley's Happy etc... and we got asked a lot to put them all on an album. We felt conscious of the whole Mark Ronson thing, but wanted to put them out anyway as we have ten years of them. It is a great album. Really handy for party DJing!

Tell us about Zebra Traffic. How did that get started?

We always wanted hip hop to be a part of our releases. We felt that it needed its own label (and hip hop buyers are a bit unforgiving if you mix genres!) but one of the key things was the potential of releasing music by Phi Life Cypher and Life, who remain one of the best crews the UK has seen.

Are there any plans for an album of hip hop covers by Tru Thoughts artists? We thought that Hot 8 Brass Band would sound good covering Snoop Dogg and maybe Alice Russell covering Wu Tang Clan. What do you think?

Nice idea! I might pinch that, Thanks!!! Alice doing Wu Tang would be classic.

Tru Thoughts has prospered in a time when independent labels and

recordshops also have been in decline. What has Tru Thoughts done differently?

This comes down to where I mentioned the way that we run the label. We started with little money so we had to do everything ourselves, and this kind of stuck over the years. We are careful with money and let the music do the talking. If a country loves a certain album then we put money in to support that and so on and so forth. Some feel this is us being too cautious, but we have unfortunately seen so many of our favourite labels go down because they took big risks. We want to be around for the next 30 years and onwards.

Increasingly, records are being released through vinyl and mp3 only, do you think that combination is the future?

The business is ever changing. Vinyl was dead a few years ago and now people are saying it is becoming more popular (it is growing in the States for instance). We keep an eye on changes and consider each release on what we think will work. We still sell a good number of CDs worldwide and the album format does tend to be central to our ways of working music.

How do you think the music industry will overcome the problem of music piracy? Or continue to be profitable in a world where people download music for free?

It won't be able to overcome it I think, it is a rare business where the thing it sells – the CD – can be easily given out between people for free in the same quality. That will remain. For us we hope that enough people don't want to do that. I buy music when I want to get something as I want the artist to get paid and make more money. This attitude is shared by a lot of people I feel. Maybe we won't sell a million cds but we might just sell 100,000 and we can make a living and release more music for that.

Do you have any tips for musicians who want to copy Tru Thoughts model of starting a label to release their own material? Or for anyone brave enough to go about starting their own label?

I think it is all about promoting the music. The worst thing people do when they start a club night for instance is think that they can put a small advert in one mag and then their club will be full. You have to poster, advertise, do online promo, tell everyone you have ever met and go into every shop in Brighton and invite them. The same is the case for a label. The music bit is the simple bit. You then have to work hard. Don't be put off though. It is a great job to have. But maybe don't expect to make a huge living!

You can listen to Tru Thoughts artists on their regular radio shows on Brighton's Juice 107.2 Radio Station, or online at totallyradio.com.



AZAXX

"Brazilian beats and grooves"



THE BAMBOOS

"Drum-break driven grooves"



ALICE RUSSELL

"A soulful and timeless voice"

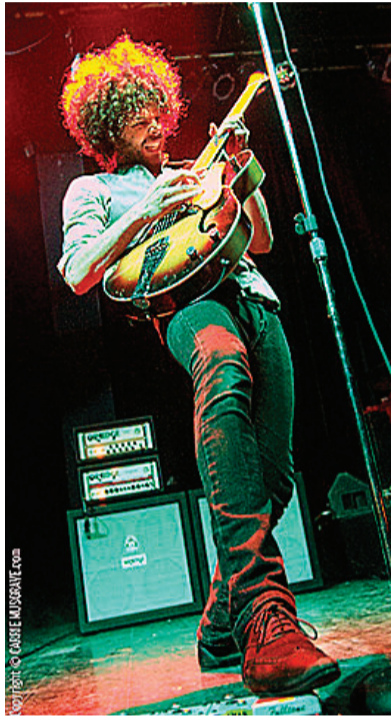
Tru Thoughts

An independent record label formed in Prince's party year of 1999, in Brighton, by Robert Luis and Paul Jonas. Specialising in electronic music they released their first records in 2000 they now have over 30 successful recording artists and counting.

I was running around trying to not get caught putting posters in illegal places and Rob was mostly buying and developing his huge record collection.

Wolfmother face-melt with 70's rock at the Brixton Academy

Jonathan Richens gets taken back in time with Wolfmother



Rock so hard his own face is melting

The Australian four-piece Wolfmother, returning to the UK for the first time since 2008, took to the stage at the Brixton Academy and could be seen performing songs from their new album 'cosmic egg'. This new album hails a U-turn in their music direction, with harder and faster guitar playing and an unmistakable Black Sabbath influence, clashing on stage with their old 'Led Zeppelin' style classic rock. Read any review of Wolfmother and you'll undoubtedly find a comparison to Led Zeppelin, and with good reason. All their riffs and singing styles, they seem to have borrowed from 70's rock royalty and then sold back at a reasonable price with an Australian twist. Its kind of like a subway sandwich doing low fat fish and chips, and something just doesn't feel right.

Anyway, although they're an easy band to musically tear apart, the truth of the matter is they deliver incredibly tight psy-rock and the punters

love it. The crowd is predominantly middle aged men in leather jackets and early teen greebo's, but they hang on every note like a spaniel dangling from a postmans arm.

The gig started with their rock and roll 'dimension', followed by a more moody, Doors-sounding 'carnival', showing that the band can display more diversity than the average rock band these days (whatever that statistic may be). Classical rock is a nice juxtaposition to the modern music scene, where new bands strive to make their music more punchy and fresh, and its appeal is obvious to any young soul ruined by dubstep. But I'm not quite convinced that the solution is to copy great bands and create dated music that makes the Brixton Academy feel like a pub gig.

Wolfmother
The O2 Academy Brixton
21st January
★★★★☆

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

1. Muse
2. Bloc Party
3. Radiohead
4. The Killers
5. Four Tet
6. Florence + The Machine
7. The Beatles
8. Foo Fighters
9. Coldplay
10. La Roux

The appearance of The Beatles in this top-ten is amazing, it shouldn't be amazing really, seeing as a top-ten chart ought to be the best available music to listen to at the current time. Seeing as The Beatles' music is available for free on lastfm, I'm surprised it's only charted now.

-Luke Turner



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FASHION

Fashion Editor Kawai Wong

fashion.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Fashion and Men

Kawai Wong Fashion Editor

You've always got to admire a fashionista's chutzpah. It takes courage to wear ripped tights while bar hopping. It takes courage to wear bold shoulders to college. When it comes to men's fashion, there's only a very thin line between looking stylish and looking like a tranny. A friend (male) almost died of shock when he saw a man wearing a pair of skinny jeans - turned up revealing a red pair of socks and kept snuggled with a knee length mink fur coat. He was definitely living at the fashion forefront in Shoreditch. Outside of Central London though, I'm not sure if he'd even survive...

The Shoreditch crowd, for some bizarre reason, always seem to don major trends two seasons early. Look at the trend dominating the Autumn/Winter 2010 runway - furs, furs, furs, furs - although they are pared down versions of the knee length coat seen on the tranny-looking man. (Tranny? Stylish?)

Anyway, there are more plausible ways of expressing your stylish self without selling out your manly de-

meanour. Saskia Verhagen returns this week to fill us in on the latest know-hows in order to look nonchalantly stylish. Nonchalance - a word that men should bear in mind while attempting any trend GQ may persuade you to follow...

Lastly, just a thought, are gay men generally more stylish than straight men? if so, are they are more prone to expressing themselves creatively and artistically in terms of outerwear? If so, why is this? Do they simply not care or if they do, are they afraid of the inner feminine side catching up with them?

Having said that, I'd much prefer to have the mirror to myself in the morning, rather than having to force a style-obsessed boyfriend out of the way just to get a slice of the mirror.

My good friend Igor Ostrikov offers his views on the straight versus gay issue on fashion: some gays dress over-the-top and they look hideous. Some of them go to fashion parties and they wear art but not clothes. On an everyday basis, ties are straights who dress as well as gays.

So there. The gays are still winning the fashion marathon.

Paris Couture Roundup

Kawai Wong Fashion Editor

The week of uber-elitist fashion shows is back. The Spring 2010 season of the highly exclusive Paris couture show ended on Thursday the 28th after a short schedule of only 5 days.

19 designers and classic fashion houses completed the first four days of the schedule with the last day of the week reserved for artistic jewellery.

At the time of going to print Valentino has just closed his show. The collection featured vibrant and youthful short dresses that featured a lot of the classic Valentino fine draping and spiral-cut organza. Valentino has renewed the idea of celebrating the womanly curve by the brilliant draped mummy-like bodysuit. The use of a fluorescent palette which diverged from the widespread candy floss colours that have infested Spring (ready

to wear as well as couture runways) is also very refreshing.

Jean-Paul Gaultier's creations were heavily influenced by ethnic tribes in different parts of the globe. Straws, chains, geometric origami, leaves, feathers, spikes and leather pleating with raw colours accompanied the usual Gaultier strong-edged, slightly fetishist style. Models looked like stylised tribeswomen coming straight out of an Amazon rainforest or a tribal conference in the rural part of Southeast Asia.

Even Chanel has moved on from the classic boucle and pearls. Models donned sheer metallic leggings and Lagerfeld-esque gloves in shiny silver-clad leather. Elie Saab continues to prove to the fashion world that he is the man to look to if wedding dresses are in question. Galliano again went back to the Dior archive and created a New Look dash Equestrian hybrid.

Fashion's Rugged Gentleman

In the aftermath of men's fashion week, Saskia Verhagen explores the secrets behind the enigma that is the well-dressed man.

Recently it has seemed like the popular choice of smart menswear has become rather banal. The looks are tediously cookie-cutter; it's close to impossible to differentiate one insipid middle-class estate agent with a bad suit and a worse personality from the next. My ideal personifies more than an external projection of 'smartness' - it requires a quiet confidence, a quirk and a bit of internal angst. This is not your awful generic city boy - this is a damaged hero, a man with a purpose; the man who left everything behind to explore the world, the cardiac surgeon who fixed someone's broken heart - a man who embodies exactly what a man really ought to be: this is James Bond, Rhett Butler, Rick Blaine - rugged heroes with a tainted past and a fabulous wardrobe.

The rogue returns, shuns his daily uniform, and dons instead a flawless bespoke suit - but the nonchalantly ruffled hair, the sense of insatiable intent, the subtle air of heroic arrogance are all maintained. He becomes the perfect oxymoron - sexily dishevelled and impeccably put-together; a man who seems not to care much for style, but knows enough about what looks good. He has sufficient confidence to carry it off with that enviable semblance of, "Oh this old thing? Had it for years..."

The men's runways for Autumn/Winter 2010-11 were littered with these haughty masculine heroes. At Louis Vuitton we saw

heavy tweeds and tailored trousers combined with heavy leather military boots, providing a hard edge to this otherwise classic men's look, all in a pared-down palette of black, grey and espresso. Raf Simons achieved a similar effect, taking a timeless charcoal grey wool suit and adding the textural variety of an acrylic black bomber jacket or a thick patent-effect overcoat effortlessly creating an easy, youthful, sexy synthesis of fabrics and concepts that ought to be totally incongruent.

At Cavalli we saw a type seemingly

"...this is James Bond, Rhett Butler, Rick Blaine - rugged heroes with a tainted past and a fabulous wardrobe"

inspired by the Gossip Girl character Chuck Bass - the brighter palette incorporating peacock blue and crimson requires that extra touch of intolerable conceit that Chuck seems to have nailed. A more casual look with a bit more rockstar appeal incorporated the luxury of a heavy navy double-breasted overcoat with a thick fur collar and a striped silk scarf with a rugged rubber-soled brogue.

Contrastingly, the clean, classic lines were unmistakable at Ferragamo; the perfect dove-grey wool Chesterfield coat and then the fabulous collared cardigan à la Steve McQueen in forest green - probably my pick of the season, and in a colour seen everywhere during men's fashion week - paired with a band-collar

shirt in a similar colour and tailored dark green wool suit trousers. Effortless, masculine chic at its very best.

Remember though, gentlemen, the key unifying factor in this timeless trend is confidence. Convince your potential damsels that you are the missing piece in their personal life epic without saying a word, and watch everything else fall into place...



Clockwise from left: Roberto Cavalli, Ferragamo, Ferragamo, Raf Simons, Louis Vuitton



Armani Prive
Inspired by Moon



Givenchy
Riccardo Tisci's first take on haute couture

.....



Thimister
This just hasn't got that haute couture look...

..

News Strip

Gabriella Gentilcore
Fashion Reporter

Chanel to raise price on handbags

From February the first, Chanel is to increase the price tags on its various lines of handbags of up to 5%. According to the Cut Blog, the classic jumbo caviar leather bag will go up to \$2,995 from \$2,650 if purchased in America. If you have got a few hundred or thousand quids to spare, now is the time to invest in a timeless piece that can be passed down the family tree.

Victoria Beckham's next step up the style food chain? A Lagerfeld-Beckham collaboration?

There have been rumours this week that Victoria Beckham has been approached to design a luxury hotel in Dubai. Karl Lagerfeld is a design development consultant for the development. If the story is to be believed then Victoria will be set to pocket £25 million for her input into the project.

Fashion Fringe winner recognised internationally

Shot to fame with a Fashion Fringe win with her gothic-esque draped layer designs, Jena Theo is heading to NYC, after Bloomingdales invited them to showcase their new collection at its Soho store. Fashion Fringe at Covent Garden director Collin McDowell says that he is thrilled that the designer's talent has been recognised.

Princess dresses exhibits at the V&A

Grace Kelly lived the dream of all young girls; she was the Hollywood starlet that went on to become a princess. Her journey and incredible personal style will be celebrated at a new exhibition at the V&A. The exhibition will run from April and will feature dresses, haute couture gowns and her amazing collection of jewellery.



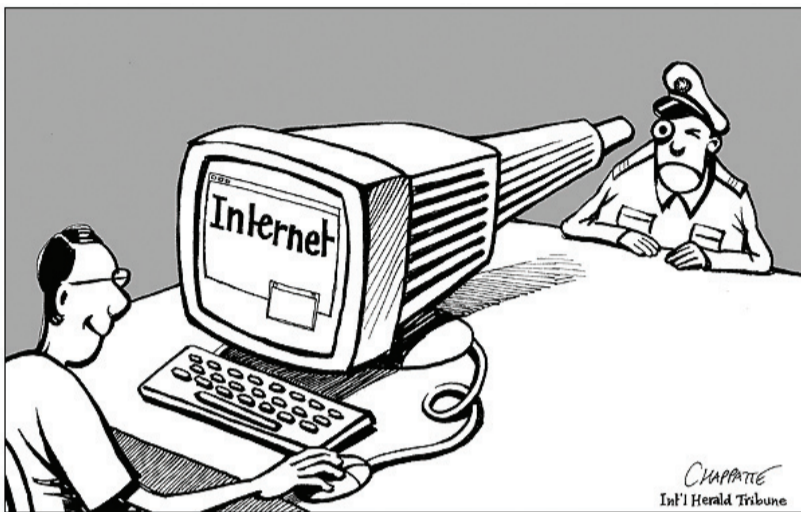
Big Brother Internet

Feroz Salam takes a look at the global state of internet censorship

China and Google have begun squaring off in what is bound to be a protracted political and legal battle that might take years to settle. Yet whatever the outcome, the furor over China's attempts to infiltrate Google has kicked up an issue which has been brewing for many years now – the effects of internet censorship. I spent the majority of my childhood in Saudi Arabia, where the state of the internet is markedly different from the rest of the world. Not only are the standard 'morally corrupting' websites blocked, but so are most websites that we take for granted here in the UK, such as Facebook and Myspace – the latter remained blocked when I last left the country in 2007.

As we enter a decade where perpetual internet connectivity isn't as much a luxury but a necessity and access to the internet is being legally defined as a human right in a handful of countries, the extent of global internet censorship is rather surprising. Most governments maintain some form of filtering; even in the UK all ISPs are required to monitor traffic for suspected child pornography. Yet a handful of governments take this much further, blocking access to a wide variety of websites, justifying the censorship as vital to their national or religious interests. The culprits tend to be monarchies, pseudo-democracies and the handful of communist nations that still remain – countries that have a lot to lose by allowing citizens free access to view and transfer information.

Of course maintaining censorship incurs quite a hefty economic cost as well as deterring otherwise profitable foreign investment projects. To put the task of internet censorship into perspective, one need only consider the fact that China has 300 million internet users, about the same number as the entire population of the US. To handle filtering of that kind of traffic, China spent five years designing the majestically named 'Golden Shield Project'. Mere preliminary work on the system cost roughly a billion dol-



Internet freedom, you take it for granted but should you?

lars. Saudi Arabia has taken a different approach to the problem, routing all traffic through a server farm at a university, where all requests are filtered with those relating to blacklisted URLs immediately blocked. This filtering is of course a major limitation on the national internet infrastructure. Saudi internet providers are among the few to still offer dialup connections, with their fastest DSL connections maxing out at 10 Mbps, costing a whopping 42 pounds per month excluding installation (makes BT in the UK look positively cheap).

The political nuances involved in reducing internet censorship doesn't help things either. While the US was quick to denounce the Chinese attempts to infiltrate Google, with Hilary Clinton warning of an 'information curtain' that is descending across the world, it's surprising that an American company maintains the blacklist that allows Saudi Arabia to block all websites "related to drugs, bombs, alcohol, gambling" and most vaguely, "pages insulting the Islamic religion or the Saudi laws and regulations". The close military and political relations between the West and Saudi Arabia also means that

many free speech related human rights transgressions go virtually unnoticed. Just three years ago a prominent Saudi blogger, Fouad al-Farhan, was arrested and held without charge, seemingly to set an example to those who might question the government about policy. The issue raised very little attention internationally, with 5 months passing before he was released without charge and being told to "tone down" his commentary by the authorities.

Whatever the result of Google's battle with China is and whatever Google's motivations, it's obvious that there's a deeper issue that's slowly coming to the fore in many countries that practice widespread censorship. The internet has changed from a luxury to a necessity. Globally, individuals need easy access to a good connection, while businesses require the confidence that they can move confidential information across the globe in a secure and quick manner. Without being able to provide these assurances, these countries run the risk of creating a data black hole, letting the pervasive computing bandwagon pass by without harnessing its potential for growth and possibly creating a connected divide.



Just the same
now bigger

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

It's here, the mythical Apple tablet, the saviour of the computing universe, the Apple iPad. Wait a minute, iPad, you having a laugh? You sure it doesn't come with 'flexy wings' and should be kept in a woman's handbag? OK.

Yep, the Apple iPad, not the iSlate or iTablet, but iPad. To be honest I'm not quite sure why Apple didn't call it the iPod touch HD or iPod Maxi, because that's essentially what it is. A giant iPod touch. I have to admit, I'm a little disappointed. I would have liked something more like an OSX touch tablet, not some iPhone OS running maxi iPod touch.

Anyway, the proof will be in the playing with it, as to whether it's any good or not. Apple's trying to slide this one in a space in between the laptop and the smartphone. I'm not entirely sure there's actually a market position in there for the iPad to fill. It's not as capable or cheap as a decent netbook and it's not as portable as an iPhone or Nexus One.

The iPad's also got a dock connector and it'll take accessories like an iPhone or iPod touch like the dock keyboard. Great a portable keyboard for the iPad, I've been after one for the iPhone for ages. Nope, Apple's dock keyboard is a full size keyboard that sits on your desk. Yes that's right next to my computer with its own full size keyboard. Who's stupid idea was that? I mean surely if it's full size and sits on your desk why the hell wouldn't you just use your computer? Novelty value? Now, if they made a docking a collapsible or mini physical keyboard now that might make sense, but no sign of anything that useful.

It may look pretty and it's apparently a pretty slick experience, but where's the need for it? Perhaps you could get it and buy a dumb-phone, forgo the

smartphone experience for the larger 'smart-tablet', but I don't know about you, if it won't fit in my pocket it's not likely to come with me.

Of course there's also the bog-computing segment. That one place where you sit but can't really have a laptop on your legs. Bit pricy for me, perhaps Steve Ballmer might be interested.

There's also the often lucrative medical or educational sectors that the iPad might be useful in. Of course, we fit squarely in the educational sector so can you see it in your work flow? Perhaps as a much more flexible and faster eBook reader for text books? But then there's no multi-tasking so no Spotify whilst you scan through Molecular Microbiology of the Cell.

Talking about eBooks, Amazon should be seriously worried at Apple's announcement of the iBooks store. It was bound to happen with the release of an Apple tablet device. iBooks could do for the eBook market what the iTunes music store did for music downloads. They're supporting the ePub format which is nice and they're making as many distribution deals as possible. OK, so the iPad may not be the best reader around as reading from backlit LCD is always much more tiresome to the eyes than print or E-ink, but I think the eReader is a dying breed. It's too limited and the refresh-rate of the E-ink display is far too low to support any intuitive UI. In fact I think if OLED screens ever get into a device like the iPad, reading from a tablet screen might just be good enough. I know I've been dreaming of an eReader device that's good enough to read journal articles and be able to scrawl notes on them. It sure would save paper and be a hell of a lot more portable than that stack of articles you need for that literature review you've got to hand in tomorrow.

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

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

You could be forgiven for thinking that this was an Apple only week. But the blackhole of non-Apple related news that is an 'Apple Event' let slip a few interesting tidbits which I've selected for your enjoyment.

Have you ever thought that your ordinary everyday RC car was looking a bit 20th century? Wondered what would happen if it was powered by sugar? Yeah, me neither, but Tomy has just unveiled the Ene Pocket. This hideous looking box of a RC car runs on the Sony Bio Battery which uses the energy

released from sugar breakdown to generate electricity. Of course efficiency is entirely dependent on what kind of liquid you feed it. Coke is good but grape juice is apparently the best. All you have to do to power this little eco-racer is top it up with soda and watch it fly. Don't expect it to break any speed records, but it's certainly an innovative (if somewhat odd) use of sugary drinks. No word



on when it'll hit retail but if it takes off we could see a whole host of sugar powered toys.

More weird tech hit the news this week including a pair of shoes that can Tweet. Obviously the makes of the Rambler Sneakers have a low opinion of the inane chatter that occurs on Twitter, creating a pair of shoes that tweets every time you take a step. What's next? A toilet that tweets every time you... Think I'll pass thanks.

Ever lost a small pet and thought, I wish I could carry my essays and presentations in 'Hammy'? OK, maybe not, but now with the Taxidermy USB stick you can put your dead ro-



does is identify and extract structured data and puts it right in your search results. Excellent if you want an answer quick, but it could be really damaging for content websites. Users won't need to leave Google to find the answers they're looking for and so they won't bother going to the original site. Rupert Murdoch has accused Google of 'stealing content' and this move by the search giant certainly seems like it.

Exoskeletons have always been the dream of the SciFi soldier, to be encased in a metallic fighting suit, able to lift enormous weights and possibly

more importantly fire enormous guns. Soon, the weight carrying aspect might actually reach reality if Lockheed has anything to do about it. Packing a 3-day capable fuel cell the HULC powered exoskeleton helps soldiers easily march with 200lb loads. Next up shoulder mounted auto-cannons!



Apple's latest creation named: iPad

Samuel Gibbs takes a look at the mythical device that's captivated the tech world & will be here in 60 days

If you haven't heard by now Apple had an event on Wednesday this week at the Yerba Buena Center in San Francisco. After all the hype, could the much rumoured Apple tablet possibly deliver?

Apple is aiming the iPad (not the i-Slate, iTablet or iPod HD/Maxi) to fit in between your laptop and smartphone, a device space that doesn't necessarily exist at the moment that is normally covered by the netbook or eReader. If you had your hopes pinned on a fully fledged tablet computer I'm afraid I'm going to have to disappoint you, the iPad is essentially just a giant iPod touch. It may have a few fancy features like a 9.7 inch screen and an Apple developed 1GHz processor named the A4, but essentially it's the same capacitive-touch screen experience you are already familiar with.

On-board the device you've got custom versions of the usual apps you've come to expect on Apple iDevices: iTunes and the iTunes store including the App Store, Maps, Calendar, Mobile Safari and email, each looking like a cross between what you find on a Mac and the iPhone. The main difference comes when you explore the greater real-estate provided by the new screen size. The Email app for instance provides an experience similar to that of a desktop with a two-pane view displaying a list and an email preview. Likewise browsing on the iPad is like that on the desktop with a fairly standard 1024x768 display.

Something that's brand new for the iPad is Apple's movement into the eBook market with iBooks. Essentially aiming to be the iTunes music store of books coupled with an eBook reader application on the iPad, the iBooks store allows you to buy and read ePub books. I'm not sure what the screen reading experience is going to be like on that LCD, but Amazon should definitely be scared.

Text is entered on iPad via a virtual chiclet-style keyboard which looks like a cross between that found on an iPhone and a MacBook.

The iPad essentially runs iPhone OS and therefore can run almost all App Store apps either at native or 2x resolution with more iPad specific apps in the works including an iPad version of iWork.

The iPad will be available with WiFi only in 60 days from \$499 and WiFi+3G in 90 days from \$649. International pricing and data contracts are TBA.



Key Features

9.7" IPS display

1024-by-768-pixel LED backlit capacitive touch-screen display with IPS technology, which helps enhance viewing angles especially for video.

1 GHz processor

Apple's own 1GHz 'A4' processor that came from the PA Semi purchase. 'Powerful yet power saving'

10 hr battery

10 hours of continuous playback and one month of standby quoted (real life battery life remains to be seen).

16, 32 or 64GB

Flash storage for photos, videos music and apps.

WiFi 802.11n

WiFi networking for web browsing, email, video and iTunes.

3G for data

GSM capable 3G modems built-in as an optional extra for on the go surfing (great, another contract).

Mic

A built-in mic for recording your grating voice and inflicting it on others across the world.

Compass

The iPad comes packing a compass as well as an accelerometer just like the iPhone 3GS.

Dock connector

The iPad sticks with the iPod style Apple Dock connector for accessories, charging/syncing and USB connectivity.

Speaker

A built-in speaker provides for impromptu concerts (just don't expect great quality). Of course there's also a 3.5mm headphones port for a more personal experience.

Bluetooth

Bluetooth 2.1 + EDR on board for streaming audio and headset connection

ATTENDANCE FREE

RELIGION & SCIENCE



Question time

SAF Building, LT1
Imperial College, SW7 2AZ

Wednesday 3rd February 2010
6pm

Come and have your say in the most contentious discussion topic of the modern era

Jay Lakhani
Quantum Physicist
HINDU

John Polkinghorne
Physicist and Theologian
CHRISTIAN

Mahbub Gani
Electrical Engineer
MUSLIM

Graham Walker
Consultant ENT surgeon
BAHA'I

Peter Cave
Humanist Philosopher
HUMANIST

Opening remarks: Prof Julia Buckingham & Prof Chris Isham



ONE WORLD WEEK



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Email us your feedback to felix@imperial.ac.uk





FOOD

Food Editors Chris Sim & Holly Cumbers

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Thai food has one too many choices

Chris Sim visits Addie's Thai Cafe and Thai Taste and found many treats were awaiting. But how did they compare?

The following waffle is my typical thought process upon scanning a Thai restaurant menu, and the confusingly colossal conundrum of choices which engulf my brain. 'I want something light, refreshing, and a bit spicy. Perhaps a salad. Actually I could go for something a tad heavier, so I'll go for something more rich and unctuous, packed full of herbaceous flavours. A curry fits the bill. On second thought, something more simple and punchy will do it for me, perhaps a stir fry. Ah, but I want that ubiquitous soup which encompasses sweet, sour, hot and salty flavours. Oh but that noodle dish always hits the spot... But they've got those crab cakes...'

I'm normally a bit disoriented at this point so I just make my decision based on my gut feeling. Nine times out of ten, upon receipt of my delicacy, I'm pretty happy with it. But there is that odd occasion where I peer across at the delights on a neighbouring table and think that perhaps my decision wasn't the best one after all; a thought which is really hammered home when a whiff of those hot-off-the-wok scents meander their way into my nose. I don't like this feeling of leaving the restaurant wishing I'd chosen an even more mouth-watering alternative, or that I'd loosened my belt, emptied my wallet and tried a bit of everything. So I write



Som tam, sticky rice and grilled chicken, Bangkok style. Try it at Thai Taste.

this article with a view to helping make choosing the right dishes that tad easier, and to help others avoid that feeling of gastronomic regret. I'm going to keep it simple by picking out some noteworthy dishes at the two best locally-based mid-ranged Thai eateries, Addie's Thai Café and Thai Taste.

Neither restaurant has a particularly striking décor nor unique ambience, but both are pretty effective at doing what they set out to do. I like the chic-ness and informality of Addie's

and it's definitely the better of the two for gathering a lively group for some banter or as a pit-stop before a night out. Thai Taste appears more formal to the eye with its all-white interior, yet somehow feels more laid back. No matter which restaurant your foodie sixth sense has led you into, the arrival of the menu signals the commencement of that daunting challenge of choosing your tummy-fillers. Both restaurants have the spectrum of Thailand's culinary masterpieces pretty

comprehensively covered, but for me, each had one standout dish.

Som tam (papaya salad), sticky coconut rice and grilled chicken is just one of those combinations which makes you think that they should create a Nobel Prize for Gastronomy for the genius who conceived this immaculate trinity of joy. Since trying it on the streets on Bangkok I have craved to find a source of this pleasure closer to home, and fortunately for me, Thai Taste does a pretty good rendition of it. The slight crunch of the papaya and its spicy yet subtly sweet sauce, combined with the meaty chicken flesh and its beautifully caramelised skin is married with the mellow richness of the rice to create an uplifting flavour combination. True comfort food. Addie's star act isn't too bad either. The english translation of this dish's name doesn't quite do it justice. 'Grilled neck end pork with special sauce'. But it could be called anything to be honest, and it wouldn't take anything away from the tender pork with its distinctly barbeque-esque overtones, accompanied by a sweet sauce containing lively chilli and refreshing coriander.

Both do the classics pretty well too and whilst these dishes weren't quite up to the standard found in the Land of Smiles, they weren't too far off. Thai Taste's Pad Thai had an appropriate injection of tamarind, a touch of sweetness and was pleasingly comple-

mented with generously-sized prawns. At the same time, Addie's Roast Duck Curry comprised juicy duck pieces embalmed in a fragrant coconut sauce, created with an optimal amount of lemongrass and sweet basil.

You might've guessed from the above that the overall level of skillsmanship of both restaurants' culinary creations means that Thai Taste and Addie's are pretty much level pegging in the food department. Service is pleasantly efficient at both, and portion sizes are pretty agreeable considering most main dishes cost between £7-9. To conclude, whilst it is normally my job to name which restaurant triumphs over the other, on this rare occasion, it's too close to call. But at the very least, I do hope that this article has provided you with gastronomic guidance when paying a visit to either of these fine establishments.

Food: Equally Tasty: 9.0
Value: Equally Priced: 8.0
Service: Equally Efficient: 7.0
Ambience: Equally Average:
7.0

Overall: 8.0/10

A great way to beat the winter blues... indulge in some chocolate

Holly Cumbers shows that a bit of care and thought can go a long way in discovering the right chocolate

I have been making a promise to myself for the last couple of weeks now, to eat extremely healthily and to start going to the gym regularly to make up for all the fatty foods I have eaten over Christmas. But then I realised that not only was this impossible but also going to be extremely boring. So this week I have decided to write an article all about chocolate, (well to be more precise, about ways you can select the most mouth watering chocolate – even without blowing your budget at Hotel Chocolat) as a protest to the amount of articles in popular magazines at the moment about dieting! Articles which I personally think are a lot more boring than any revision we all have to endure over the following weeks!

The most important thing about ensuring you buy a chocolate to be proud of is to carefully examine its ingredients; these are the only things which determine whether a chocolate is to be left on the shelf or lovingly consumed. Dark chocolate is, I believe, the one you really have to get right; buying a horrible dark chocolate really isn't very nice and leaves you with a sour taste in your mouth. A good dark chocolate should include; plenty of cocoa, (bear in mind

that cocoa gives a strong flavour and therefore the more the cocoa, the stronger the flavour) sugar or other natural sweeteners and cocoa butter. Make sure you avoid buying any dark chocolate which includes vanillin, or artificial flavourings. Also, for all you health fanatics out there (and I am sure you will already know this) dark chocolate is by far the healthiest.

Getting a good milk chocolate is also very satisfying and there is a lot of difference between a good milk chocolate and the most basic you can get. The ingredients should include all those that are in dark chocolate and, obviously, milk. I personally prefer milk chocolate with cream, as I find this has a richer and smoother taste, however, it can also be in the form of milk powder or whole milk; it might be worth experimenting with different milk chocolates to see which one you prefer.

I have decided not to discuss the best ingredients for white

chocolate – after all, it can be disputed whether it is actually chocolate at all due to its lack of cocoa – in my mind the essential ingredient of chocolate. I have also found that most chocoholics I have met also tend to dislike white chocolate, claiming it is far too sweet. I am sorry if I have offended you in my neglect of white chocolate!

For all the fellow chocoholics out there, you can now buy a

chocolate pizza on the internet, which will surely help you through dooming weeks of revision and the depressing January blues! The pizza is available in five chocolaty flavours; dark chocolate with cranberries; smarties mixed with jelly beans and white chocolate; honeycomb; chocolate brownie and finally

marshmallows mixed with Belgium chocolate.

Trust me, the pictures alone are enough to get your mouth to water, let alone the taste. On a closing note, you shouldn't feel guilty when scoffing your face with chocolate – I think we all do deserve it!



"What a crock of shit."

Dan Wan, *felix* Editor

*"I'd rather be castrated
with a rusty nail..."*

Ravi Pall, Comment Editor

*"I think *felix* gave me
cancer"*

Alex Dahinten, RAG Chair

*"I'd rather listen to Barry
Manilow than read *felix*"*

Sasha Nicoletti, Copy Chief

*"I'm ashamed to be a part
of such an embarrassment"*

Carlos Karingal, Layout Editor

**Help us out, here.
Please?**

Send your articles in to:
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Hangman

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

THE LEGEND OF XYRON

What became of Lord Fiddler Crab? Will Xyron, our beloved hero, ever find love? Meanwhile...

Anonymous Hangman Editor

It's a Wednesday afternoon in the cold and unwelcoming 'Helix' basement. The Editor-in-Chief of the ex-award-winning student newspaper, Dane Wayne, is not happy with 'Executioner',



Dane Wayne: A cartoon!? A shitty cartoon!? What happen to the beginner guides? They were hirarious! No-one like shitty cartoon! It not funny!

Executioner: I wanted to do something different.

Dane Wayne: You pick on rugby team every week. how that different? You're running out of ideas. Can't you see you're ruining your reputation around corrage? Even your fellow Heerix editors are turning against you.



Executioner: Ha. Your imprudence humours me. You think I care about the thoughts of Helix editors? Executioner cares not for such simple-minded morons. The humour is simply above you Dane Wayne.

Dane Wayne: There are two things Imperial students like, peurile jokes about sex and puzzles. They fucking love puzzles. Why can't you be more rike coffee break?

Executioner: How dare you!

Dane Wayne: Sorry Executioner. That was unfair of me.

Meanwhile, Edgar Rock, the Helix film editor, is busy writing his review for Avatar



Dane Wayne: Stop cutting to unrerated scenes! That's the probrem with you Executioner. You're getting boring and predictable. I mean, a crab!? You resorted to a fucking crab?

Executioner: ...it was a fiddler crab!

Dane Wayne: I don't give a shit what it was! The fact is, you wun out of ideas and resort to a stupid talking animal!

Executioner: ...but it had a fiddle...and a moustache!

Dane Wayne: But that's not funny! It's just a crab with a fucking violin and a moustache!

Executioner: ...but it was floating about in a cloud



Dane Wayne: Look! This Xyborg character is too one-dimensional. He's just your architypal Sci-fi geek.



Executioner: There have only been two issues. You haven't seen Xyron's many depths. He really likes horse-riding.

Dane Wayne: ...Is that it?

Executioner:...no. He also likes...actually, yeah that's it

Dane Wayne: Well, let me see what you've written this week. Wait a second...Is that meant to be me!?



Executioner: Not exactly no. I may have loosely based some of my characters on people I know but they're completely fictional. That is apart from the film editor... I really did catch him wanking over Avatar.

Dane Wayne: But I'm not China Man! I From Watford. You're repracing the 'L's with 'R's. That's wacist! What have you become Executioner? You're not funny anymore. It's almost like you've rost interest in this article now. I suggest you give this shitty comic up and go back to writing funny stuff. Aggravated Nerd has consistently managed to deriver week in and week out, but you've lost your way. I've seen this happen to so many comedy writers. You've burned out. You resort to cheap racist humour and when you're struggling to finish the shit-piece of an article off, you just go for some incohent imprausible and eraborate - What the fuck is that sound? Oh no prease don't touch the Macs!



And thus everyone learnt to shut the fuck up and leave Hangman alone to do whatever the fuck he wants!



TWATTER



[Barack_attack_l33thaxor](#)

Hey Guyz, Gess wot Obie's doin? Only reformin da fuckin banks!! ;)



[SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87](#)

OMGZ, I'm gona copy and paste dat shit :p



[CAMer0n_DA_MAN3r0n](#)

We can't go on like this chappys. I'll cut the deficit, not the NHS.



[SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87](#)

FFS Dave u airbrushed twat! Ur policies r well gay and lame. ur just a big gaybo. Hope u don't get 2 b prime min >:(




[SexyOsama69](#)

Aw dw Gor. I can pull a few strings if dat posh gaybo wins ;) ;) ;) ;)

COFFEE
BREAK

Coffee Break Editor Charlie Murdoch

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Contains numerous rants and/or rambling

Charlie Murdoch Coffee Break Editor

I've been thinking, well, complaining and moaning is probably more accurate. Last Sunday, I frequented the bar with Mr. Philpott of the ground breaking quote-'who needs women? Women are for gays.' That, my friends, is what the elite firms of this world like to call 'blue-sky thinking'- whatever the fuck that really means, I'll leave it to you. In one fell swoop I had to re-evaluate my whole outlook on life, it didn't take long as it turned out that Philpott was being a phenomenal twat. I ramble... yes bar. So sitting in Da Vinci's after a day trying to splaff out Entrepreneurship revision, but in reality just pissing about, we took on the role of your classic peculiar old men grumbling in the corner. You know, there is always one per pub, and he usually has a few stories that he simply must bore your tits to the floor with. Unless you happen to be haunting the exclusive Public House that is The Goose on North End Road. That place is rammed like three fat men in a lift designed to take only two fat men. Seriously it's fucking weird. Last year there was an offer on giving you a free stab vest if you had nine pints- I could tell that things were about to kick off so I got out of there. I actually have

no real evidence to back that claim up, but it's that type of place, use your creative instinct. Besides it's their own fault that they attract such obscure clientele- with Foster's (or what they call Foster's) at £1.87 a pint you're going to get some Class A retards kicking about. What do they want? A slap round the head? Yes, they do.

I ramble... yes the bar. That place was a shitting train wreck. I don't claim to still have a fully functional brain, in fact I know a good chunk of it is missing and I'm partly unhinged. Nevertheless I have never, not even once, felt that I need to wear a lycra wife beater to the bar. Literally never, essentially, if I was asked to define acceptable bar wear, lycra would not feature highly on my list, if at all, not even if it weren't fucking snowing outside. This didn't anger me, because to be fair, he was up and dressed, so what more do you want? Now, if he'd flopped his wang out and started to exemplify the finer art of the windmill, without question, I would have been very much less than impressed. Actually, I'd have made the apocalypse look like a fucking sparkler.

Aside from that small episode my week, as I sure you are itching to know about, has been relatively nondescript.

Had a little think about the recession and the banking crisis because it tied neatly in with a rant at a certain company who can't be named. All I can say is that they provide loans, and generally to students. I should feel sorry for Lucy, but in fairness if she's going to act like a cunt, then I'm going to treat her like a cunt. In reply to my question 'how much is the maintenance loan for a final year student in London?' she gets back to me with 'I don't know'. Pressing her further I enquire- 'no idea at all?'; she helpfully replied 'no, none'; so I throw some figures down 'well, is it 10p or 10 grand?'. Communications were beginning to break down, that much was obvious, but Lucy in her infinite wisdom managed to come up with the fucking Mt. Everest of wank replies, 'I don't know, it could be either'. No love it can't. Even I know that you stupid fucking bint. So, generally, the reaction wasn't good.

I also got a complaint from an American about the 'What IC Students Like' piece. I know it was all in good humour, but I was in the bar. Drinking. So if you really don't like it, have you ever considered- you know, just considered- fucking off and reading something else?

Stuff Imperial students don't like:

12. "This bus is being held here for a short while to help regulate the service":

Sorry? You are planning on doing what to this bus? Holding it here for a short while? Well for how long is this proposed while? I want facts and figures. I have places to be, people to see, and things to fucking do. Besides, this bus smells of piss and if that kid doesn't stop crying I'm going to belt him.

You can't even drink on the bus anymore to try and get you through it. Probably a good thing, because I would assume that the number of glassing incidents would go up about ten fold whenever that message is played. What are they hoping to achieve by holding a bus for an indeterminate amount of time? The nature of the bus service is inherently to fuck up so no amount of 'holding' will ever 'regulate the service.' Besides, people expect a shit service so what's the point of trying to higher our expectations? It'll then be less of a chore to get the bus, and we won't be able to blame rocking up to a lecture 20 minutes

late on the shitting buses.

Funnily enough, I've never heard that message played on a night bus. No need to "regulate" services people hardly go on? I've almost been killed four times by fucking mental drivers who want to get back to the depot in record time. Apparently, that also includes picking up passengers, thus rendering the whole exercise useless.



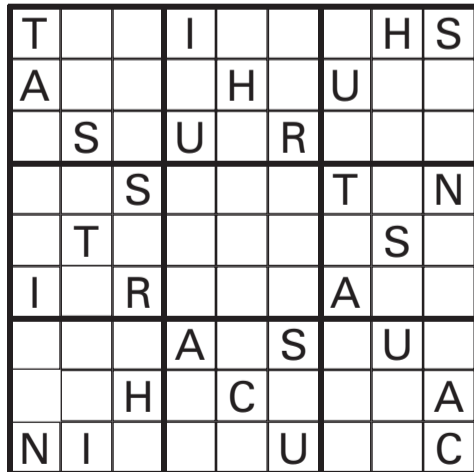
What the fuck is that? Shit! Americans

Quote of the Week

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

Wordoku 1,451

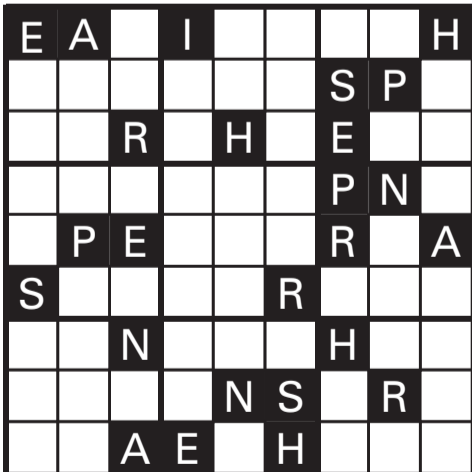
INTERMEDIATE



Last issue's Wordoku's had a shared solution phrase across both grids, hence: 'LICKED PROSTATE PINK' - We'll let you decide what it means.

Anyhoo, the winner of the Intermediate was the **Harry Potter Trio**, who also won the Evil one too. Well done. Maximum points from you.

EVIL

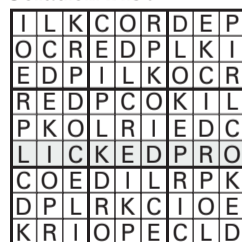


How to play:

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

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

Solution 1450



Scribble box

Wordpath 1,451

ORIGIN:

HEAD

DESTINATION:

TAIL

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.

Solution 1450

MOST
HOST (LS)
TILE via HOSTILE
VILE (LS)
EVIL (An)

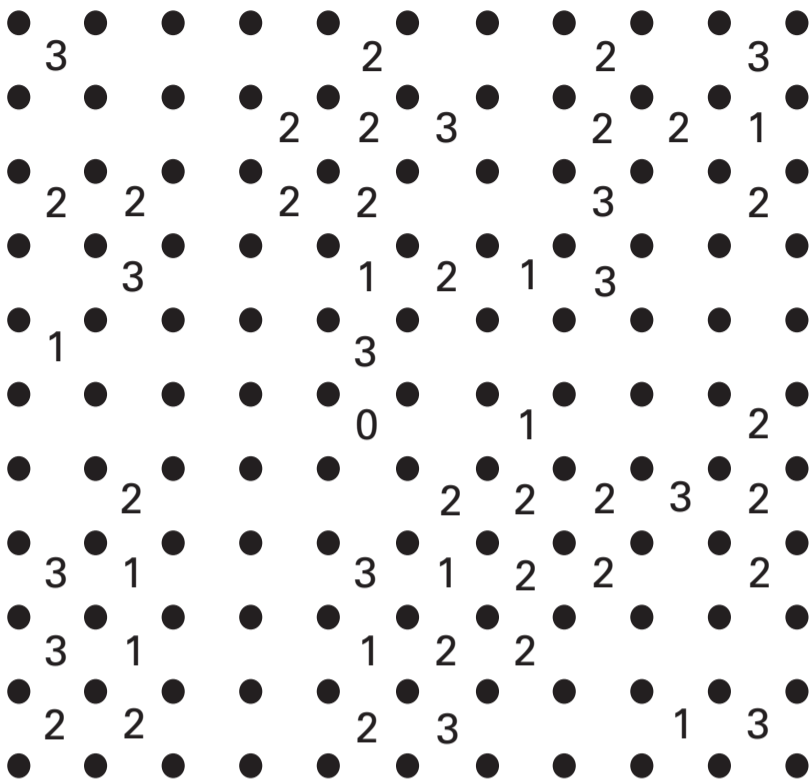
There were many solutions this week. On average 10 steps. That was until this 4 step solution was submitted by new face **Steve Malkin** and obliterated the competition!

Scribble box

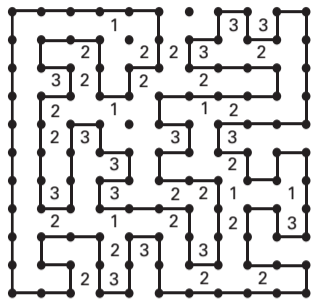
coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk

COFFEE BREAK

Slitherlink 1,451



Solution 1450



Well done to last week's winner **GTL** lots of positive feedback for this puzzle last week! Please keep the answers coming in so we feel good about ourselves.

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 131 Points
- The Tough Brets 119 Points
- The Cool Kids and Fergal 33 Points

Individuals:

- Matthew Colvin 110 Points
- Ying Liang 50 Points
- Kelvin Wong 43 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.

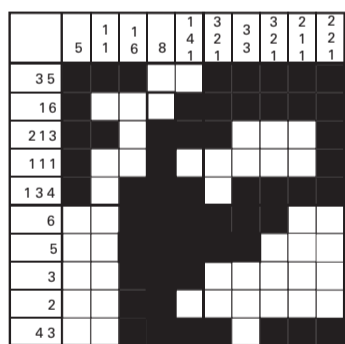
Now then FUCWITs, answers to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk. Go!

Nonogram 1,451

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 1450



Big competition her last week, but a new team have formed and are simply going by the name **GTL**. Well done toy you and welcome tot eh winners hall of fame.

Remember to submit as soon as you possibly can. I shit you not seconds really do count down here. Some people actually get answers in by 12!

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| | 2 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 |
| | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| 3 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 2 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 2 1 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 4 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 2 1 | | | | | | | | | |

Guest Puzzle 1,451

- 1 R. to R. T. A.
- 2 W. in a F.
- 3 G. make a H.
- 4 F., 1 T.
- 5 T. at H. A.
- 6 C. on a P. F.
- 7 D. S. and H. V.
- 8 P. in the S. S.
- 9 A. C. in T. P.

How to play:

Each clue represents an expression, or description with each capital letter representing a word beginning with that letter and each number representing itself.

- e.g. 1 S. S. for M. = 'One small step for man'
- 2 W. on a B. = 'Two wheels on a bicycle'

felix wants your puzzles! Just send them to us at 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.

Submitted by: Daniel Rice

felix Lovestruck



07726 799 424

"Armyboy. You look so goddamned good in your uniform- especially that hat. I hear that your weapon is awfully impressive- maybe you could show me sometime- maybe you could show me sometime. You're welcome to conquer me territory and day ;)"
Uniform Lover

"Dear sunitha, i know things have been a little tense between us but i want you to know that you mean everything to me and i love everything about you, even if there isnt that much of it! Meet me in my room later if

youre up for a bit of kamasutra"
Matt Lock

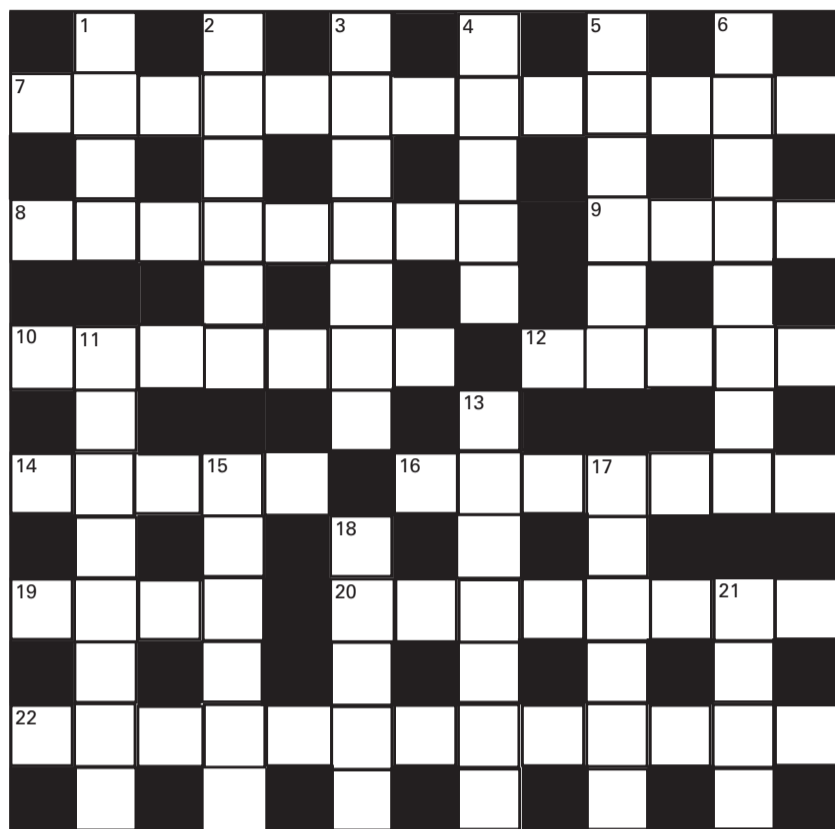
"Hey anyone up for a bit of fun no strings attached get in touch."
Laura Scott

"dan wan sucks off many little three year olds most days. normally three to four times per day to get the full sperm hit that he needs. What a horrible little china man. I wish he'd go back."
Coffee Break Editor

Sucks to be this guy: Best of lolcat



A quickie (crossword) 1,451



ACROSS

- 7 Demented bovine plague (3,3,7)
 8 Controversial gallic pâté (4,4)
 9 Babe ____; baseball star 1914-35 (4)
 10 Escorted (at cinema?) (7)
 12 Ditches/lesbians (5)
 14 Minute period of time (5)
 16 Heavy leathered formal shoes (men's) (7)
 19 Rudey-dudey (4)
 20 Slow-moving gallic dish (8)
 22 Skylab/Mir/ISS - "They're not moons - they're ____!" (5,8)

DOWN

- 1 Mexican tortilla dish (4)
 2 Plan (6)
 3 Dodged (7)
 4 Wimpish (5)
 5 Type of cockney king/queen (6)
 6 So to speak (2,2,4)
 11 Piste (3,5)
 13 Infinitely self-similar shape (7)
 15 Gallic (6)
 17 Gallic staple (6)

- 18 Club for smart-arses (5)
 21 Typical porcine retort (4)

Not too hotly contested last week, so please pull you fingers out for this one. We've tried really hard, and by we, I really mean just Peter. Anyway, the winner was **Matthew Colvin**, so it can be done! Make sure you tell us what puzzle you are entering in the subject line is submitting to sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Crossword by **Peter Logg**

Solution 1450



Scribble box

Follow-scopes; staring at you from behind a bush

This week's horoscopes wants your toes in its dutty mouth. Dat is bare sket, m8. His periscope sees them good



Aquarius

So, you've got a girl back to your flat. This is the first time you've managed to score since you've come to the inbred

shithole that is Imperial College. The night goes well, you last more than your record time of 47 seconds but you wake up and find she's dead. Like stone-cold dead. FUCK. You start to look for a turkey-carver.....



Pisces

This week, you're arguing with your mother when you get an erection. You're confused but there's something arousing

about your mother angry and ranting about the economic downturn ending and how she wants a new blender. Pon de Floor by Major Lazer starts playing in your heard, and you've spunked your pants. Your mum buys the new blender.



Aries

This week your landlord comes round demanding the last 6 months rent. Realising your house is a death trap anyway,

you shove him down the stairs. You tell the police that it was down to the shit state of the property and get free rent for the rest of the year. Then you realise you can't be arsed to write two more lines for this stupid horoscope.



Taurus

You're in the shower and you hear some rustling outside of your window. Your cheap landlord didn't install frosted

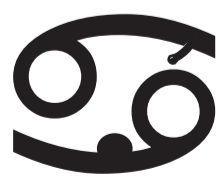
windows to your bathroom, and well, the blinds are pretty much see-through. You peer through them to see a travelling freakshow bewildered by the microscopic size of your penis. They offer you a job there. THE NO-PENIS MAN!



Gemini

This week things start moving around, and you think you have a demon in your house. You've just seen Paranormal Activity

and you're shit scared. You set up a camera and everything, just like the film. You're going to make millions. You look back at the 246 hours of footage you've got. Turns out it's just a feral goat loose in your house.



Cancer

You're checking your friend's statuses on facebook. 'Lizzie had a really good night :D', 'Mark had a bit too much to drink lol' 'Alex

has been bumraped by a lesbo'. You sigh. You've just realised how shit your friends are. You go back to myspace and take a cleverly angled photo to disguise the fat ugly truth. You customize your homepage with flowers and an illegible font.



Leo

You're really getting yourself into trouble with this ketamine thing. You're so desperate for a wobbly high that you've taken

up a Veterinary degree for seven years just so you can get real horse tranquilizer. Intravenous ketamine really hits the spot. Well, it's 2017 and you've found yourself a vet, shame you've lost your thumbs and sense of sour. OH, KETAMINE.



Virgo

This week your purple womb ferret decides it's going to talk to you. "Thrust me between the juicy beef flaps of your mother otherwise

I'll implode spreading the BAD AIDs throughout Madagascar." Enough cheek! You reach for the nearest sledgehammer. SPLATMONGS, the sound of your flaccid member crushed into oblivion.



Libra

This week you buy a cape. You put it on and feel the immense sense of power. You put your cape to the test and jump off Queen's

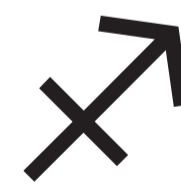
tower. You're dead. You're slightly annoyed at this revelation. You get to heaven. God turns out to be an atheist. You both laugh at the irony. God has a cape, but it's much better than yours. You get jealous. God has a really nice handbag as well



Scorpio

I WILL FUKIN' SHANK U LIKE DER IZ NO TMRW, M8. I IZ GUNA END U, HU DO U FINK U R, SUM BATTY BOI? LK

AT DAT FRINGE, LKE SUM MOSHER LITTLE SHIT. Sorry, I have Tourette's. What was I saying? Oh yeah. I AM GOING TO END YOUR LIFE BECAUSE I DISAGREE WITH YOUR CLOTHES. MY PEANUT OF A BRAIN ISN'T WORKING.



Sagittarius

You find some vaseline on the floor and you look around to see whose it is. There's no one about, so you open it up. There's an

imprint of someone's bellend in it. You're caught between being disturbed and unusually aroused. You see if your bell-end makes a bigger imprint, but it turns out it's actually your vaseline and your bellend-print in the first place. Oh.



Capricorn

This week you wake up and find yourself copulating a brick wall in the Irish countryside. It's a gritty affair, but you find it weirdly

comforting. The rawness isn't sexy, but it's definitely better than watching porn and wanking to dead-eyed women. You finish up and can't find your trousers. You see a cow in the distance and it's chewing away at your new khakis. Fuck. Pint?

Aunty McPickle loves seafood, but hates food and sea

Dear Aunty McPickle,

At a recent house party I spotted an opportunity to get with a reasonably fit, unsuspecting girl. I took her back to mine but hadn't noticed the rather bulbous spot on her chin, which half way through sex started to weep. The spot literally climaxed with a huge expulsion of pus. I am now tarred with spot sex nightmares. How can I make it stop?

Spence Spoonful

Dear Spence,

Crikey. I think you should only get with girls with decidedly perfect complexions from now on. Although it might be a bit shallow, it should help to get rid of your association.

Aunty McPickle xxx

Dear Aunty McPickle,

After a night out last week I stumbled into a bed harbouring one of my friends. I decided to try my luck and let my hands stray over to her; we were soon mauling away at each other.

It was quite a while before I realised she had previously thrown up a sea food risotto all over the pillow. How



Imagine this fella coming up as you pound ya missus. He's like the lobster of bad sex. You know you've pulled a munter when you get a glimpse of him.

do I ever cleanse myself?

Howard Henner

Dear Howard,

Mmmmmm I think the friend must be pretty embarrassed about this, it might be best to make a joke about the whole thing. Maybe offer to cook her dinner and conveniently serve up risotto. Also try to avoid taking advantage of wrecked friends or you may acquire a rapist nick name such as "Spooner".

Aunty McPickle xxx

Dear Aunty McPickle,

I am currently in the middle of particularly heavy revision sesh and desperately need some instant sexual satisfaction.

How should I go about this in the library? Please help, my balls on near bursting point.

Yours Baz

Dear Baz,

There is one simple answer GO HOME AND WANK. Please don't even consider pleasur-

ing yourself in the libraries hideous domains. I suggest picking yourself up some man kleenex on the way home too.

Yours, Aunty McPickle xxx

Dear Aunty McPickle,

I was having sex with possibly the fittest girl at Imperial and consequently was the "cum cliff" the whole time. She seemed to be enjoying herself until after an embarrassing 5 minutes I accidentally came, and to make things worse I also muttered the line "Whoopps I came". She seemed mighty disgruntled and will probably not invest any en-

ergy in attempting another shot. How can I last longer in the future?

Colin Cumbucket

Dear Colin,

I have heard many tips to help you control your load. Premature ejaculation is caused by a weakness in your sexual parasympathetic nerves and the muscle. I've heard that it helps to imagine repulsive people like your grandma? Or else from sex and masturbation until you see a significant improvement in your ejaculation control.

Aunty McPickle xxx

Take that London! You've been raided!

On Wednesday 27th January, ICU RAG teamed up with Cambridge, Loughborough, LSE and UCL to raid London for Barnardos childrens charity. A Rag Raid is a full day event where volunteers dress up and collect either at Tube sta-

tions or on the streets from the unsuspecting public. Best fancy dress definitely goes to our very own Imperial RAGgers Izzy and Jon who dressed up as pandas!

The day started off early for Loughborough and Cambridge, who began collecting at 7am in order to catch the morning commuters. It was, however, well worth it! At around midday, Imperial, LSE and one lonely UCL collector joined in on the fun. Although UCL was meant to provide 20-30 collectors, they once again proved that they are all a waste of oxygen. We've decided to pay them back during our RAG Week Raid in March, more information to follow...

After a long day which ended at about 10pm, the total sum raised was just shy of £4000. The night ended very drunkenly for most of us at the RCSU sports Night whose profits of £500 will be donated to the Haiti Appeal.

The theme for the night was "Cartoon and TV Show Characters", and we got a plethora of dis-

guises, ranging from classics, such as a gaggle of Smurfs to one man who was dressed as Man-with-a-Black-Hat from the xkcd webcomics. Chloe Man, however, walked away with an iPod Shuffle for making a lovely Sailor Moon.

On top of this, an epic bike auction was held on Tuesday, which raised £567, which will go to Haiti as well. A bake sale on Friday (29th January) at the JCR will bring our Haiti collections

to an end, so why not drop by and do something sweet for the victims of this terrible disaster.

Many thanks go out to everyone who donated and helped out with this week's collections!

In the pipeline this term, we have another raid coming up in collaboration with Kingston University, as well as our very own RAG Week in March, where there'll be five whole days of madness for charity. The highlight of the week

will be our very own RAG Raid, which will not only involve collections, but a to-do list full of stunts that will take you all over the city. Previous years have seen people swim in the fountains at Trafalgar Square, serenade Swedish tourists at Covent Garden, as well as streak through the Bank of England.

To keep informed about upcoming RAG events, drop us a line at rag@imperial.ac.uk and we'll add you to the mailing list.



Chloe Man, the winner of the best costume prize



Jon and Izzy looking cute for the commuters at Earl's Court



FIXTURES & RESULTS



in association with Sports Partnership

Saturday 23rd January

Football (ULU)

Men's 25 0 - 2 LSE 25
Men's 75 3 - 3 St Bart's 45

Challenge Cup

Men's 15 2 - 0 SOAS 15

Reserve Cup

Men's 55 3 - 3 UCL 75

(a.e.t. UCL 75 win 4-3 on penalty kicks)

Tennis

Men's 1st 5 - 5 LSE 1st

Sunday 24th January

Hockey (ULU)

Challenge Cup

Men's 15 6 - 2 Imperial Medicals 15

Reserve Cup

Men's 35 2 - 1 Royal School of Mines 15

Lacrosse (ULU)

Mixed 15 20 - 4 Royal Holloway 25

Water Polo

Men's 1st 21 - 1 University of East Anglia 15

Women's 1st 11 - 1 University of East Anglia 15

Monday 25th January

Basketball (ULU)

Challenge Cup

Men's 15 98 - 62 Imperial Medicals 15

Netball (ULU)

Women's 25 51 - 14 King's College 35

Wednesday 27th January

Badminton

Men's 1st 0 - 8 University of Kent 1st

Women's 1st 8 - 0 University of Chichester 1st

Basketball (ULU)

Men's 25 66 - 39 Imperial Medicals 15

Fencing

Women's 2nd 128 - 120 University of Kent 1st

BUCS Cup

Men's 3rd 135 - 93 University of Portsmouth 1st

Football (ULU)

Men's 35 3 - 1 Royal Holloway 35

Men's 45 2 - 2 Royal Holloway 45

Men's 55 0 - 2 King's College 45

Men's 65 2 - 3 SOAS 25

Men's 75 0 - 1 King's College 65

Hockey

BUCS Cup

Women's 1st 2 - 3 University of Reading 1st

ULU

Men's 25 2 - 2 St Barts 15

Women's 25 8 - 0 St George's Medical School 25

Rugby

Men's 1st 15 - 15 Imperial College Medicals 1st

Men's 2nd 5 - 24 St Barts 1st

Men's 3rd 0 - 12 University of the Arts 1st

Men's 4th 0 - 30 St George's Medicals School 2nd

Squash

Men's 2nd 1 - 4 University of Surrey 1st

Women's 1st 2 - 2 UCL 1st

Table Tennis

Men's 1st 9 - 8 University of Kent 1st

Tennis

Men's 1st 5 - 5 UCL 2nd

BUCS Cup

Men's 2nd 2 - 8 University of Essex 1st

Saturday 30th January

Fencing (Tournament)

Men's 1st vs UCL 1st

Men's 1st vs Oxford University 1st

Men's 1st vs Cambridge University 1st

Women's 1st vs Queen Mary's 1st

Women's 1st vs Oxford University 1st

Football (ULU)

Men's 15 vs St Barts 15

Men's 25 vs Royal Holloway 15

Men's 35 vs Imperial Medicals 25

Men's 45 vs Queen Mary's 35

Men's 55 vs UCL 65

Men's 75 vs Heythrop College 15

Sunday 31st January

Football (ULU)

Women's 15 vs Goldsmiths 15

Hockey (ULU)

Men's 15 vs St George's Medical School 15

Lacrosse (ULU)

Mixed 15 vs Royal Holloway 15

Rugby (ULU)

Women's 15 vs LSE 15

Water Polo

Men's 1st vs University Surrey 1st

Monday 1st February

Badminton (ULU)

Mixed 15 vs UCL Mixed 15

Basketball (ULU)

Men's 15 vs Royal Holloway 15

Netball (ULU)

Women's 15 vs King's College 15

Women's 25 vs King's College Medicals 55

Women's 35 vs RUMS 35

Women's 45 vs St Mary's University 15

Squash (ULU)

Men's 25 vs UCL 15

Men's 35 vs UCL 25

Men's 45 vs LSE 35

Women's 15 vs LSE 15

Water Polo (ULU)

Men's 15 vs Imperial College Medicals 15

Wednesday 3rd February

Basketball

Men's 1st vs University Westminster 1st

Women's 1st vs Buckinghamshire New Uni 1st

ULU

Men's 25 vs SOAS 15

Fencing

Men's 3rd vs University of Essex 1st

Football

Men's 1st vs St Mary's University 3rd

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

Women's 1st vs Royal Holloway 1st

ULU

Men's 45 vs King's College Medicals 35

Men's 55 vs St Bart's 25

Men's 65 vs King's College 45

Men's 75 vs Imperial College Medicals 4th

Hockey

Men's 2nd vs UCL 2nd

Men's 3rd vs Royal Veterinary College 1st

Men's 4th vs University of Portsmouth 5th

Women's 1st vs University of Portsmouth 1st

ULU

Men's 5th vs UCL 3rd

Netball

Women's 1st vs Queen Mary's 1st

Women's 2nd vs Buckinghamshire New Uni 2nd

Women's 3rd vs St George's Medical School 3rd

Rugby

Men's 1st vs University Chichester 1st

Men's 2nd vs University of Essex 1st

Men's 3rd vs St Mary's University 3rd

Men's 4th vs Thames Valley University 1st

Women's 1st vs University of Reading 1st

Squash

Men's 2nd vs UCL 1st

Men's 3rd vs SOAS 1st

Men's 4th vs Brunel University 2nd

Tennis

Men's 2nd vs University of Greenwich 1st

Rugby 2nds thrash medics in run up to Varsity

Tom Cotton Rugby

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

Wednesday afternoon saw ICURFC 2nd XV head to Teddington for an important encounter with the Medicals, looking to end a frustrating streak of close losses in the league and secure a vital edge before the upcoming Varsity match.

The beginning of the game saw an intense period of play, but despite some promising incursions by College into the medics 22, characterised by a strong display from the College back row of Andy McFadden, Ben Farrell and Miles Franklin, the score-line remained 0-0.

The deadlock was finally broken and College were put ahead by tries from Farrell and Tom, both resulting from finely executed rolling mauls. However the medics replied shortly after as a lack of communication led to a charge down not far from the College line, leaving the medic 9 to run in

unopposed.

The College players recomposed themselves with the forwards leading the charge and headed into half-time confident that the medics were there for the taking.

The start of the second half saw IC's dynamic game-plan finally come together with the medics being able to offer little in response. College took control of the set-piece play as Niall Watson, Captain Coggy and Fresher Toby bossed the scrum and Tom Chavas showed some typical Gallic flair in the line-out. Dave Blake's one man mission to take on the medic forwards single-handedly saw him justly rewarded with a hat-trick of tries as well as providing numerous breaks supported by Rob Dowden and Fraser James, allowing College to stretch their opponents around the park.

In the last 20 minutes, College stepped up their offensive efforts and neat handling from Hugh Jarman and fresher Alex led to Chris Lau scoring in the corner. Not content with seeing their teammates lead the way, the forwards also went on the attack and Colin Hill's try rounded off a powerful contribution from the sub.

Further contributions from subs Jack Goring and freshers Rob, Tom and Oscar led to College completing a magnificent 42-5 victory.

An exhausted yet ecstatic 2nd XV headed to the bar to reflect over a memorable win with Hugh Dingleberry, recently dropped from the firsts, entertaining the victors with some classic anti-medic banter.

Three medal haul the British target for Vancouver

David Wilson Sports Editor

Britain isn't really into Winter sports. The names Ed Drake, Elise Christie, David Murdoch do not have the same effect as those of Wayne Rooney, Lewis Hamilton and Jonny Wilkinson. But those three have, along with 40 other men and women been chosen to represent Great Britain at the Winter Olympics held in Vancouver this year.

Britain wouldn't be your first port of call if you were looking for world class winter sports athletes, after all the country grinds to a halt with a thin smattering of snow and every year there is the suggested Christmas break for the football league. As a nation I think it is fair to say we don't like the cold. We don't not have the geographical landscapes (really big mountains) needed to produce the top athletes for winter sports and thus the sports are dominated by men and women from Austria, France, Switzerland, Germany, USA and Canada. Therefore these countries would be expected to dominate the forthcoming games.

However the Brits do try and throw a spanner in the works when they can and have managed to pull off some monumental achievements in the past:

In 2002 at Salt Lake City, Alain Baxter won Britain's first ever alpine skiing medal but was subsequently stripped of it after testing positive for doping. Although Baxter still maintains it was the result of a decongestant. At the same games four British women won gold in curling (Bowls but on ice and with brooms) much to the acclaim of the British public, although most people would be hard pushed to remember a single name from that team now. At the last Winter Olympics Shelly Rudman won an unexpected silver medal in the skeleton event (jumping on a tea tray and speeding down an icy tube) and comes into these games as a top contender for a medal. Rudman's fiancé, Kristan Bromley, who also competes in the skeleton event will be hoping to be among the medals after securing the 2008 World Championship gold medal. In addition the two (wo)man bobsleigh team of Nicola Minichiello and Gillian Cook come into the Olympics as 2009 World Champions as do the men's curling team. Cook has become a youtube hit after her bobsleigh suit split just before a race revealing her backside to the television audience. Not a bad way to raise the profile of your Olympic quest one could suggest. Minichiello has only recently returned to racing after undergoing laser surgery due to the loss of sight in her left eye, this has hampered her and Cook's preparations

for the games somewhat. The funding body, UK Sport, have set a target of 3 medals for the upcoming games. This is an optimistic figure but one that is attainable nonetheless. It is better to over-achieve than underachieve after all.

Problems have struck the British team in the run up to the games however as the British Ski and Snowboarding Federation are in dire financial difficulties and many athletes have seen their funding slashed drastically in the past year. This has threatened the participation of some of the athletes at the Olympics, most notably Chemistry Alcott. Alcott is perhaps the most recognisable face of the team going to Vancouver, she has not set the world of ski racing alight, and her career could even be described as disappointing. However, her looks have helped her be the most recognisable British Winter athlete.

The Canadians will be looking to dominate their home Olympics, with Manuel Osborne-Paradis carrying the expectations of a nation in the alpine downhill events, while the Austrians and Swiss will be bringing strong and on-form teams to battle it out for the medals. The women's alpine events are dominated by the American Lindsay Vonn who, returning from injury this season, has dodged jibes about her weight.

The events may not provide a great opportunity for British victory, but they will be enthralling all the same and at least we are sure to beat the Aussie's in the medal table. Aren't we?



An editorial of sorts. Or something

Andy Leclercq Sports Editor

Right. As it turns out, annoyingly enough for a sports editor, predictions aren't my strong suit. Not giving much credence to Andy Murray's Australian Open bid last week turns out to have been a mistake. It seems now that the only player capable of halting Murray's scorching progress through the tournament (up to the quarters, the Brit had yet to drop a set) is the king of tennis himself, Roger Federer.

The equally superlative Swiss has so far played some very impressive tennis; it seems that the rough patch occurring towards the end of last year was simply Roger getting used to a slightly different style of play. By adapting a more upcourt position and striking the ball earlier, Federer reduces his footwork and gets across the court quicker. According to the experts this induces less fatigue, and means that Fed can look forward to many more years of high-level competition. Which can only be good news for us spectators. More spectacular games, more bitter rivalries and more broken records await.

Speaking of rivals, one thing has come to attention about this year's Aussie open. I'm talking about the demise of Nadal, who despite playing some very good tennis up to, and during, the Murray quarter-final was let down by his knees midway through the third set. The Spaniard has been bothered by injury for some time now, and I sincerely hope that this isn't the beginning of the end for him. Sure, he's already won six Grand Slams at the age of twenty-three. But for such a bright star to burn out so soon would be a loss to the world of sport.

Returning to Federer, if he does win this one he'll equal Andre Agassi's record of 4 wins down under in the

Open era. But (and somehow I know that I'm going to get it wrong again) I'll be rooting for Murray to be the first Brit to win an Open since 1936. C'mon, Andy.

All right, that's all I'm going to say about tennis for a while, I promise. The problem is that if I stop talking about tennis I'm going to have to start talking about football, which is a subject that tends to somewhat polarize a sporting audience.

I'm assuming you're a sporting audience, of course, because let's face it: the people who read this aren't the ones who spend all their free time staring at a screen. You are a geek, in your own particular way - don't deny it, you wouldn't be here otherwise - but you balance that geek with just the right amount of jock (or in the case of Rugby, perhaps a bit too much jock). Thank god this place actually has people who see the point of running after a football or a Frisbee every week while freezing your arse off or drowning in mud. That said, the only way Imperial will actually top the BUCS university league table is if they recognize MMORPGs as a sport.

In any case, thanks for turning your *felix* around every week, and even looking inside the back cover from time to time. If you have any suggestions, or requests as to what you'd like to see in the sports section, email us at sport.felix@imperial.ac.uk. (*Ed - Please send in your reports. We would love to hear from you! Though, when referring to people can you refrain from using nicknames. Though they're fun and mildly banterous at best, anyone reading it years later will not have a clue who these individuals are. Thanks!*)



felixSports League

| Team | P | W | D | L | F | A | Diff | felixSport Index |
|-----------------------------|----|---|---|----|-----|------|------|------------------|
| 1 Volleyball Men's 1st | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 1 | 11 | 5.00 |
| 2 Fencing Women's 1st | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 668 | 465 | 203 | 5.00 |
| 3 ICSM Netball Women's 2nd | 7 | 5 | 2 | 0 | 274 | 213 | 61 | 4.14 |
| 4 Squash Women's 1st | 9 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 28 | 8 | 20 | 4.00 |
| 5 ICSM Rugby Men's 1st | 11 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 362 | 141 | 221 | 3.91 |
| 6 Lacrosse Women's 1st | 8 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 145 | 21 | 124 | 3.88 |
| 7 Table Tennis Men's 1st | 8 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 107 | 29 | 78 | 3.88 |
| 8 Badminton Men's 1st | 10 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 53 | 27 | 26 | 3.80 |
| 9 Squash Men's 3rd | 7 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 6 | 9 | 3.71 |
| 10 Rugby Men's 1st | 11 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 324 | 85 | 239 | 3.64 |
| 11 ICSM Badminton Men's 1st | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 42 | 14 | 28 | 3.29 |
| 12 Netball Women's 2nd | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 245 | 137 | 108 | 3.29 |
| 13 Lacrosse Men's 1st | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 50 | 34 | 16 | 3.20 |
| 14 Volleyball Women's 1st | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 5 | 3.20 |
| 15 Fencing Men's 1st | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 639 | 544 | 95 | 3.20 |
| 16 ICSM Hockey Men's 1st | 9 | 7 | 0 | 2 | 38 | 17 | 21 | 3.00 |
| 17 Football Men's 1st | 9 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 27 | 22 | 5 | 1.67 |
| 18 ICSM Netball Women's 1st | 8 | 5 | 0 | 3 | 293 | 232 | 61 | 1.63 |
| 19 ICSM Hockey Women's 2nd | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 18 | -8 | 1.57 |
| 20 Hockey Men's 2nd | 7 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 13 | 1 | 1.57 |
| 21 ICSM Hockey Men's 3rd | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 13 | 2 | 1.50 |
| 22 Tennis Men's 1st | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 58 | 42 | 16 | 1.40 |
| 23 Hockey Women's 1st | 8 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 38 | 10 | 28 | 1.25 |
| 24 Squash Men's 4th | 7 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 12 | 9 | 3 | 1.14 |
| 25 Squash Men's 1st | 7 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 19 | 16 | 3 | 1.14 |
| 26 Badminton Men's 2nd | 7 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 32 | 24 | 8 | 1.14 |
| 27 Netball Women's 1st | 9 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 364 | 301 | 63 | 1.00 |
| 28 Fencing Women's 2nd | 9 | 5 | 0 | 4 | 947 | 1108 | -161 | 1.00 |
| 29 Tennis Men's 2nd | 8 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 38 | 42 | -4 | 0.50 |
| 30 Basketball Men's 1st | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 387 | 388 | -1 | 0.50 |
| 31 Squash Men's 2nd | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 12 | 18 | -6 | 0.50 |
| 32 Hockey Women's 2nd | 8 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 19 | 26 | -7 | 0.13 |
| 33 Football Men's 2nd | 9 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 16 | 14 | 2 | 0.00 |
| 34 Badminton Women's 1st | 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 35 | 37 | -2 | 0.00 |
| 35 Fencing Men's 3rd | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 738 | 837 | -99 | -0.14 |
| 36 Rugby Union Men's 2nd | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 159 | 86 | 73 | -0.14 |
| 37 ICSM Football Men's 1st | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 14 | -5 | -0.57 |
| 38 ICSM Hockey Women's 1st | 17 | 5 | 2 | 10 | 38 | 60 | -22 | -0.65 |
| 39 Rugby Men's 3rd | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 91 | 150 | -59 | -1.00 |
| 40 Football Men's 3rd | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 17 | -13 | -1.00 |
| 41 Netball Women's 3rd | 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 145 | 232 | -87 | -1.43 |
| 42 Tennis Women's 1st | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 23 | 67 | -44 | -1.67 |
| 43 ICSM Hockey Men's 2nd | 6 | 0 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 26 | -21 | -2.00 |
| 44 Hockey Men's 1st | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 15 | 27 | -12 | -2.13 |
| 45 ICSM Netball 3rd | 8 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 193 | 282 | -89 | -2.13 |
| 46 Rugby Union Men's 4th | 7 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 59 | 198 | -139 | -2.71 |
| 47 ICSM Rugby Men's 3rd | 7 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 84 | 185 | -101 | -2.71 |
| 48 ICSM Rugby Men's 2nd | 8 | 1 | 0 | 7 | 89 | 295 | -206 | -2.88 |
| 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 |

Imperial Handball breeze past Oxford

Continued from back page

expect this time around, since the visitors came with a completely different squad.

Well - let's face it - they never stood a chance.

Imperial started with a strong defence and forced Oxford to surrender the ball early in attack, allowing the hosts to run quick and very effective counter attacks.

After a mere five minutes, there was a four-goal cushion between the teams that increased all the way throughout the rest of the game.

The centre back players showed a lot of individual class and surprised all of the eight spectators with manoeuvres that would baffle the Royal Ballet.

Midway through the first half some rather questionable refereeing destroyed the last hopes of even the most optimistic Oxford players when their best defender saw a red card for an offence that none of the players from Imperial or Oxford actually saw.

The comfortable lead gave Imperial the confidence to attempt some more complex schemes in the second half in order to broaden their attacking pattern for the upcoming games against the best teams from England, Scotland and ultimately France.

At the end of the game a fifteen-goal gap separated the two teams, but "there is no room for complacency" said Coach Marc Fayemi, who described the game as "très bien!".

The Imperial Eagles are determined to work hard on their performance in the next weeks to ensure they can extend their unbeaten run by beating local rivals UCL in the London derby next week, before reaching for domestic and European glory, with a firm eye on those shiny silver trophies in Manchester and Lyon.

Hockey 1sts & 2nds in New Years' success

Continued from back page

the match was fitness, since this was the first time many had exercised in a month!

When the opposition arrived having taken the scenic route via Heathrow, the match eventually started.

Imperial dominated from the start taking an early lead and were 3-0 up at half time thanks to goals from Soraya, Ellie and Carina.

Our Christmas lack-of-practise unfortunately began to show in the second half with many tired legs.

Despite the fatigue, we still managed to score one more goal without con-



IC ladies' hockey 2nds. Of course they're smiling, they just won 8-0. You'd be smiling too

ceding, and the game eventually finished 4-0 to Imperial.

The victory means we move on to the semi-finals of the reserve cup, to play either the Royal Veterinary College or Royal Holloway.

Credit has to go to King's medics who only had nine players but still managed to make Imperial's lives difficult at times.

The women's 2s were back in action on the Wednesday playing Buckinghamshire at home.

Again, they were strong from the beginning with solid defending allowing the midfield and forwards to push up and put pressure on the Buckinghamshire New University's defence.

Some great hockey and well-rehearsed set pieces kept Imperial in the opposition's half for the majority of the game, smothering the Bucks team.

Fantastic goals from Soraya, Ellie, Amanda, Annabel and Hilary brought the ladies another well deserved win with an 8-0 rout being the final score.



Ladies' hockey victorious



| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|---|
| Jess Poore & Carina Carter | Hockey | |
| | | |
| Imperial College Women's 1st XI | | 3 |
| St George's Medical School 1st XI | | 2 |
| Imperial College Women's 2nd XI | | 8 |
| Bucks New University 1st XI | | 0 |
| Imperial College Women's 2nd XI | | 4 |
| King's College Medicals 3rd XI | | 0 |

Thanks to an unfortunate run of cancelled games, the ICHC women's 1s played their first game in seven weeks against a challenging St. George's Medical School team, in the ULU Challenge Cup quarter-finals.

This was a game not to be lost, since the women's 1s have been in the final of this competition for at least the last three years.

Imperial started strong, going 1-0 up early into the first half, with a beautiful piece of passing play, cleanly finished by Lab Rat. Not suffering so much

from the slippery pitch as in the men's earlier game, Imperial – particularly between Vommi, Prince Charles and the forward line – managed to produce some great play, pressuring St George's heavily at times. On occasion the St George's solid centre-back gave her team a chance to break, but the flow was always stemmed by our firm defensive lines.

At half time, Imperial were 1-0 up, and still awaiting the arrival of a 12th player in the form of a perennially-late Preying (or is it Praying...?)Mantis. St

George's mounted a strong comeback in the second half, and early on scored a messy goal, taking advantage of a moment of inattentive defending from the whole team.

The arrival of super-sub PM helped us to regain the balance, scoring a goal within her first two minutes on the pitch with a superb top-D shot, and taking Imperial 2-1 up. Another lucky goal from St Georges – eventually making it past SuperSaver after three attempts – took it back to a draw, but in the last five minutes, the Women's

1s managed to rescue the win, with another Preying Mantis goal.

The women's 1s move on to the cup semi-finals, where our next opponents are likely to be GKT – winners of last year's final.

The first match of 2010 for the Women's 2s saw them playing King's College Medicals for a place in the ULU Reserve Cup semi-finals.

An initial worry for some before

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Imperial Eagles cruise to victory

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|----|
| Stefan Bauer | Handball | |
| Imperial Eagles | | 31 |
| Oxford University | | 16 |

Inspired by the European Handball Championships in Austria, the Imperial Eagles play their best game yet and cruised to a convincing victory over rivals Oxford.

The game played in East London on

Sunday marked the half-way point of the season and was very encouraging in many aspects and of crucial importance in the preparation for the UK Handball University Championships in Manchester next month.

Games against Oxford University are always very prestigious and despite having defeated them at the end of the last term, no one knew what to

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