



# felix

The award-winning student newspaper of Imperial College

"Keep The Cat Free"

Issue 1,453

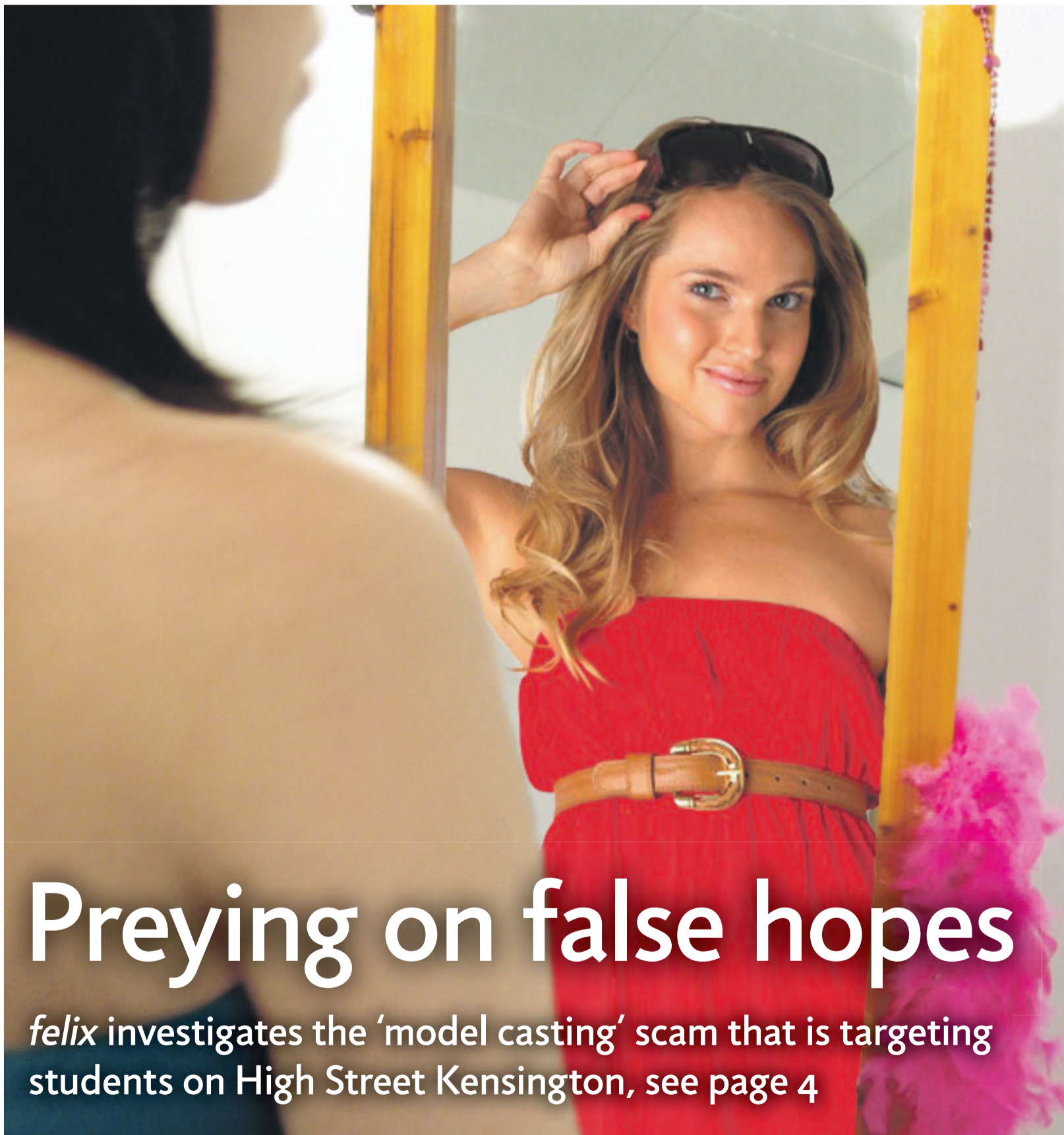
[felixonline.co.uk](http://felixonline.co.uk)

12.02.10



## Charging onwards

Imperial's University Challenge team speak ahead of their next match, see page 6 and 7



## Preying on false hopes

*felix* investigates the 'model casting' scam that is targeting students on High Street Kensington, see page 4

### This week....

Five years behind bars:  
Gary Tanaka sentenced



News, Page 3

Causing a stir:  
The Pope misunderstood?



Politics, Page 15

Illustrating every lyric:  
The Hard Rain Project



Arts, Page 17

Boxing at Imperial:  
The historical Rector's Cup



Features, Page 37





# New Guilds President found

Alexander Karapetian

Following the departure of Kirsty Patterson, former CGCU President, the City and Guilds College Union held elections to appoint a new President and Guildsheet Editor. The elections attracted respective candidates Dan Lundy and Richard Bennett, who attained their positions unopposed.

Guildsheet is the monthly student magazine of the Faculty of Engineering, rival to the Royal College Of Science Union's Broadsheet magazine. The results of the elections were announced at noon on Monday. The turnout to the elections was minimal, with Lundy's victory attributable to the forty-one votes collected. Bennett was elected by forty-seven votes, and eighteen further votes lobbying to reopen nominations. Taking into account the turnout, this is a fair proportion of the total votes, especially since twenty-three voted to reopen nominations for



New CGCU President Dan Lundy being unfairly engulfed by the CGCU logo

the Presidential position.

Lundy commented on his victory that he is "very glad to be appointed President" and is "looking forward to working with the rest of the committee to provide some great social events and represent the Faculty on student welfare issues."

Lundy will lead the CGCU until the end of July, during which the entire

team will focus on attaining sponsorships for next year whilst improving their financial circumstances for the future. Bennett's position as Guildsheet editor will involve managing the monthly magazine. He commented that he "would like to thank everyone who voted" for him and hopes that the "next edition of Guildsheet lives up to everyone's expectations."

## Medics naked in Amsterdam

Whilst the rest of us were busy, the Medics took part in the RAG DASH to Amsterdam.

200 students gallivanted from London to Canterbury to Amsterdam, raising money along the way. Sex shows, coffee shops, pub crawls and booze buses were all involved.

All in the name of Children's Hope Foundation, a charity for kids with special needs.



# felix 1,453

Felix, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB. Tel: 020 7594 8072. Fax: 020 7594 8065. Printed by The Harmsworth Printing Ltd, 17 Brest Road, Derriford, Plymouth. Registered newspaper ISSN 1040-0711. Jigsaw font by typotheque.com. 恭喜發財 Gung hei fat choy! Copyright © Felix 2010.

12.02.10

## 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

**Film Editor**  
Ed Knock

**Nightlife Editor**  
Charlotte Morris

**Sports Editors**  
Mustapher Botchway  
David Wilson  
Indy Leclercq

**News Reporters**  
Dina Ismail  
Joanna Cai  
Alex Karapetian  
Alice Rowlands

**Technology Editor**  
Samuel Gibbs

**What's On Editors**  
Rachel D'oliviero  
Lily Topham

**Arts Editors**  
Caz Knight  
Rosie Milton  
Lucy Harrold

**Assistant Editor**  
Jovan Nedić

**Music Editors**  
Kadhim Shubber  
Alex Ashford  
Luke Turner

**Coffee Break Editor**  
Charles Murdoch

**Clubs and Socs Editor**  
Alex Kendall

**Photography**  
Ben Smith  
Alex Karapetian

**Layout Editor**  
Carlos Karingal

**Travel Editor**  
Dylan Lowe

**Puzzles Commodores**  
Sean Farres  
Milli Begum

**Catnip Editor**  
Rhys Davies

**Business Editor**  
Sina Ataherian

**Science Editors**  
Brigitte Atkins  
Nathan Ley

**Comment Editors**  
Charlotte Morris  
Ravi Pall

**Online Editors**  
Ravi Pall  
Chris Birkett



**Politics Editors:**  
James Goldsack  
Katya-yani Vyas  
James Lees  
Phillip Murray

**Features Editor**  
Afonso Campos

Louis Constant  
Tom Greany  
Holly Farrer  
Rox Middleton  
Matt Colvin  
Lizzy Griffiths  
Ayyub Kamaludin  
Jamie Beal  
Richard Howard  
Stefan Zeeman

# The world beyond College walls



## Sri Lanka

**General Sarath Fonseka, the loser of Sri Lanka's presidential election last month and the commander of the Sri Lankan army during the conclusion of the Sri Lankan civil war, was arrested Monday in a raid on his offices.**

In July, Fonseka was appointed to a largely ceremonial post, Chief of Defence Staff, which set off the beginnings of a rivalry with President Mahinda Rajapaksa, his former ally. Fonseka announced his retirement in November and was asked to resign soon after, allowing his entry into politics and his unsuccessful presidential bid. He is accused of improperly discussing politics prior to his retirement from the military, and will be court-martialed, according to the government. On Tuesday, President Rajapaksa exercised his right to dissolve Parliament, and called new elections in the hope of capturing a two-thirds majority, despite growing clashes in Colombo over Fonseka's arrest.



## Palestine

**The Israeli military on Wednesday launched a bombing mission on Yasser Arafat Airport, which is currently disused.**

The strike on Rafah, a town in southern Gaza Strip, was targeted at tunnels used to smuggle goods into the Gaza Strip. No casualties were reported. The attacks were reportedly in retaliation for rocket attacks on Israel, which the Israeli Defence Forces claim have been up to twenty in number this year. Hamas, which has control over Gaza, says that it ceased rocket fire last year and blamed the attacks on other militant groups. The strike shows a continuing desire for Israel to maintain its blockade on Gaza.



## North Korea

**Kim Jong-il, dictator of North Korea, seemed willing to return to diplomacy over the past week.**

Last Friday, North Korea released an American missionary from custody. Robert Park, of Arizona, was arrested after crossing the North Korean-Chinese border on Christmas Day. Park was carrying pamphlets calling on Kim to close the country's prison camps and to step down. Park's release and flight to Beijing was seen as a measure of goodwill on the part of North Korea. On Tuesday, during a meeting between North Korean and Chinese officials in Pyongyang, Kim Jong-il stated that he wished to "realise the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula", according to Xinhua. Meanwhile, Lynn Pascoe, the most important UN envoy to visit North Korea since 2004, visited Pyongyang to discuss the resumption of six-party talks regarding the end of North Korea's nuclear programme.



## Japan

**Automakers Toyota and Honda have both been plagued by recalls of automobiles.** Faulty accelerator pedals in a variety of Toyota cars have caused accidents whereby the pedal sticks to the floor and cannot be depressed. This week, Toyota recalled 436,000 hybrid cars with faulty brakes. On Wednesday, Honda recalled an additional 437,700 cars with faulty airbags, with the recall now totalling nearly one million cars. This airbag defect causes metal shards to explode throughout the affected automobiles' interiors upon airbag deployment.

By Tom Greany



# Business School's Tanaka imprisoned

Sina Ataherian reports on the 5-year sentence that Imperial College benefactor Gary Tanaka faces this week

If you are in second year or above, you may remember the halcyon days when Imperial College Business School was called the Tanaka Business School. The name came from Gary Tanaka, a Japanese-American fund manager who did a PhD in Mathematics at Imperial. He pledged £27 million to the College, who thanked him by naming the new Business School in his honour. In 2004, the Queen thanked him for his generosity during the ceremony in which she opened the new Business School building.

But most of the money has yet to come. On Friday, Tanaka was sentenced alongside his business partner Alberto Vilar for defrauding investors of £13.5 million. They were both ar-

rested in 2005, after a private detective hired by a concerned client discovered that they had attempted to clear millions of pounds of debts with their clients' investments. The prosecution alleged that the pair had stolen £3.4m from Lily Cates, a 70-year-old American heiress who had been a client for 18 years.

Edward Adams, the private detective, claimed that Vilar and Tanaka had used two-thirds of Ms Cates' fund to pay off another investor and £440,000 of the firm's bills. Another £670,000 of her money was used by Vilar to fulfil a charitable pledge to Washington and Jefferson College, and other personal expenses. The court heard how Tanaka had instructed his assistant, Maxine Rye, to cut out Ms Cates' signature from a document and tape it to a fax authorising the transfer of an extra £170,000 from her brokerage account. Tanaka was found guilty of three counts of securities fraud, conspiracy and investment adviser fraud but innocent of nine other counts. Vilar was convicted of all 12 charges.

Tanaka is the son of Japanese immigrants to America, who were interned during World War Two. He was born in a holding camp. After the family were released, his father built a poul-

try business that enabled Tanaka to afford to attend MIT. When he moved to London for his PhD, he claimed to have "fallen in love with swinging Beatle-era London." He met Vilar in 1980 after a career that took him around the world, from San Francisco to the Middle East. Together they launched Amerindo Investment Advisors. The firm invested in some of the most successful firms of the dotcom boom, including Microsoft, Cisco, Amazon and eBay. At one point, they had more than £5 billion in client assets. But, after the dotcom bust, their firm's stock price dropped by 90 per cent.

The presiding judge, Richard Sullivan said, "the investment world needs to know this kind of behaviour cannot be tolerated." The judge is called The Avenger for his crusade against allegations of fraud.

Claiming innocence, Tanaka said, "our documentation was lax and that got us into trouble. I'm sorry for what happened ... you think you're going to win the race and your horse comes in last. I was surprised at the severity of the sentence. I feel innocent in the sense that nobody lost money. We were arrested and convicted on a footnote." He described the trial as "a storm in a teacup."

## A man called Tanaka and his business school

Gary A. Tanaka was born June 23, 1943 to Japanese parents in Hunt, Idaho, within the compounds of the Minidoka concentration camp; it was set up to detain Japanese-Americans across the US during World War II.

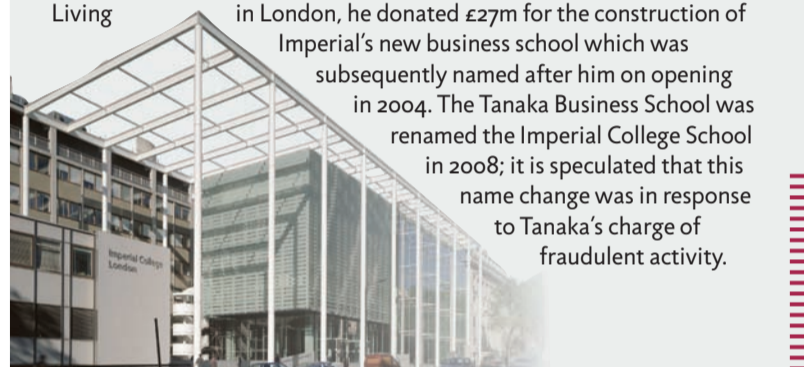
He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, then studied for a PhD in Mathematics at Imperial College. He has two sons who have followed in their father's footsteps and are successful businessmen.

Tanaka has great involvement in thoroughbred racing horses, owning a major stable that has reared horses that have won races across the globe.

Living in London, he donated £27m for the construction of Imperial's new business school which was subsequently named after him on opening in 2004. The Tanaka Business School was renamed the Imperial College School in 2008; it is speculated that this name change was in response to Tanaka's charge of fraudulent activity.



**Gary Tanaka** donated £27 million to Imperial College and was thanked personally by the Queen. He now faces 5 years in prison for fraudulent



essentials

# Loyalty Card Now Available

Start saving money today!

Collect points on your purchases and redeem against goods in Essentials. Just pop in and ask for your card today.

For more info visit [www.imperial.ac.uk/eatinganddrinking](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/eatinganddrinking)

Essentials, Ground Floor Eastside Halls, Prince's Gardens



**TRIPLE LOYALTY CARDS POINTS** on the Fresh Food Fast Valentines Meal Deal

Any 2 Fresh Food Fast meals + a bottle of Talamanca Wine for £10

only until 18.00 Sunday 14 February 2010



Great deals on cards, flowers, chocs and more available in store



# Guava Management are rotten fruit

Kadhim Shubber and Rebecca Holyer investigate the "talent scouts" on High Street Kensington

I suspect that many students at Imperial, while sat bored in lectures, dream of setting their pens down and embarking upon a glamorous career in modelling and acting. I also suspect that this daydream isn't confined to the glamour-deprived students of Imperial. This is the demographic that companies like Guava Talent Management target, promising their victims the opportunity to work as an extra in TV and film and also do a spot of modelling whilst making some money along the way.

Unfortunately for the people who sign up to 'modelling agencies' like Guava Talent Management, the reality is that the company is more interested in taking your money than turning you into a successful model. The scam is fairly simple: the company's "talent scouts" approach you on the street (some students have been accosted near campus on High Street Kensington) and tell you that they're looking for potential models. They take your details and also a photo; no mention of costs is made. A couple of weeks later they call you up and invite you to The Light Rooms in Soho (a studio that they own) so that they can make a portfolio for you. Then, after you've paid for your portfolio, the mountain of modelling and acting work suddenly disappears.

The company has a very professional-looking website to lend the whole operation an air of credibility. It claims to be "the UK's premier online talent directory" and there are stylish photos of models with unattributed testimonials about the company like "Even with last minute castings we get good quality talent and great service". They even promise you your own "personal cast-



ing booker." In addition, the company lists a selection of their 'associates', name dropping Channel 4 and Guess Jeans, when in reality neither of these companies have done any work with Guava Talent Management.

The company isn't part of the Association of Modelling Agents which says that an agents' income should be derived solely from commission on work obtained for their models.

Students should be wary of 'agents' that approach them on the street. Very

few successful models were randomly discovered on the street and if in doubt, there's a wealth of information on the Internet. A simple rule is that if you're being asked to pay for something upfront without any guarantee of work in return, then alarm bells should be ringing.

In the meantime, maybe it's time to stop day-dreaming about the glamorous world of modelling and start concentrating in lectures; exams are only a few months away.

They showed that many young girls had spent hundreds of pounds on photo shoots at The Light Rooms for potential jobs that never materialised; the only difference to the Guava Talent Management scam was the name of the company; Zebra Collections.

Despite government regulations to try and prevent agencies charging upfront fees, the practice still continues. And despite the large number of woman who have been scammed, the company describe themselves as "a freelance talent agency" which operates as a recruitment firm, not as an employer, so therefore never guarantees their members any work. So in a legal sense neither Chris Garner nor any of his staff are doing anything that can be proven to be breaking the law.



Or the wrong agency for all people



## The scam

The scam targets vulnerable young females, promising anything from casual extras work to a glamorous professional modelling career. After sucking them in with a believable performance on the street, the girls are called up 2/3 weeks later and told that they have the perfect 'look'. They are then sweet-talked into a photo shoot and lead to believe that it only costs £100 for copyright fees with the rest paid by the company. Come the day of the shoot, the costs quickly spiral and some of the more trusting victims have ended up spending over £1000 on a professional photographic portfolio for booking agents who didn't even exist. The photo shoots take place at one location, The Light Rooms, which is owned by the same person who owns the 'modelling agency'.

## My run-in with Guava



I am one of the many unaware students to have been propositioned by, and agreed to, naively in hindsight, this seemingly good opportunity. I was stopped on High Street Kensington and told that I could do modelling and extra work, and I signed up. After talking you into what seems a flattering and genuine offer, these perfectly professional-sounding scouts take your name and phone number as well as photograph you to see if you are right for any parts booking agencies are currently recruiting for.

After signing up I returned to Imperial and did some Internet research on the company using the information on their business card. This was when I discovered that this "hoax" talent agency is

actually operating a nationwide scam. There's so much information on the Internet about it, so much that when you Google the company, their website is way down the results, after countless blogs warning about the scam. It's actually surprising that they actually manage to con people.

After reading this I obviously rushed straight back to High Street to demand that my information be deleted so I could not be contacted. But seeing so many names and numbers written in her pad (literally hundreds), I realised that many of these would probably be other oblivious Imperial students. So, to whom this concerns, it still remains that if an opportunity sounds too good to be true, then it probably is and is not worth the risk.

## Zebra Collections & Vanity Management

Guava Talent Management is just the newest incarnation of a series of 'modelling agencies' that have been abandoned when they've been uncovered. All are owned by the same man, Chris Garner, and have been investigated by the BBC's Inside Out.



Features

Rector's Cup: Imperial's boxing history

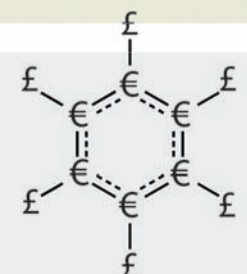
See page 37



Science

The commercialisation of science

See page 12





## IC's Welsh advisory



**Rox Middleton**

Welshman and Imperial professor John Harries (Chair in Earth Observation, Department of Physics) has been appointed as Wales' first Chief Scientific Adviser. He will take up the post on 1st May, promoting science in the policy-making of the Welsh assembly, and challenging ministers on their decisions. In this post he will be the Welsh counterpart of England's Chief Scientific Adviser John Beddington, also a current professor at Imperial (Applied Population Biology).

Harries has previously been President of the Royal Meteorological Society and the International Radiation Commission, as well as being a fellow of the IOP and winning its Charles Chree Medal and Prize. Other high profile positions have included Associate Director and Head of the Space Science Department at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory and Director of Projects and Technology at the British National Space Centre. He is particularly well known for leading the team which published the first observational evidence of increase in the Earth's greenhouse effect in 2001 for records between 1970 and 1997.

The appointment comes three years after former first minister Rhodri Morgan first commissioned a report in 2007 into whether Wales needs a governmental scientific adviser at all, following the appointment of Scotland's first Chief Scientific Adviser in 2006. The news also comes after much speculation last year that the Welsh assembly would eliminate the position due to a lack of funds.

Harries has said of his appointment, "Wales is a small country, but is capable of the intelligent application of new science and engineering as a basis for greater commercial success in industry ... This is a job that encompasses two (along with my family and rugby) of my great passions – science and Wales."

Governmental scientific advisers remain in the spotlight after the debacle in October when Professor David Nutt was sacked from the chair of the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs for expressing his professional opinion. After the resignation of five of the committee, it is in danger of losing two more scientists this week, after governmental proposals have been slammed for being designed to stop advisers publicly disagreeing with government policy.

## Explorers wanted!

**Jenny Wilson**

Imperial is steeped in history, and two of our quirkiest legacies are to do with exploration: the Mountain Hut (located in Snowdonia, Wales) and the Exploration Committee. While it may seem incongruent that a Science, Engineering, Medicine and Business College based in central London would have these it seems that our alumni were leaving us an unobvious hint to get out of the big city once in a while.

The Exploration Committee only meets twice a year, but its expertise can be sought year round. They are able to allocate money and equipment to expeditions but the members of the board are also a wealth of knowledge and experience.

But what is it that they are looking for? After all, it seems like the world is getting smaller and smaller and not all of us can nip up to the top of the tallest mountain. The committee is well aware of this, and states that 'other opportunities, including those for culturally related exploration, still remain strong'. The way that this is implemented is with the mindset that

'it is appropriate to offer support for expedition-type activities that nevertheless demonstrate certain aspects of exploration.'

However, one of the key features they are looking for is that it is your own idea, with your own planning and itinerary and should have clearly defined aims and objectives. What they don't want is to hear about the next holiday you'd like to go on or something that you're doing for credit on your academic course.

The crazy thing is that there are some very modest students in our midst who have benefited from the committee. A brief cross-section of trips have included a student-designed bridge-building project in Altiplano, Bolivia, a filmed documentary of a remote indigenous population in Indonesia and most recently, an exploration of East Greenland, summitting three previously unexplored mountains.

If you have an idea that you think might be of interest, you can check out the website at [www.ic.ac.uk/expeditions](http://www.ic.ac.uk/expeditions) for more information. For more info on the Mountain Hut see <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/sports/facilities/mhut>.

## Letters to the Editor(s)



TO,  
THE EDITOR.

IN THE LAST ISSUE OF THE FELIX IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT A NIGHTCLUB IS GOING TO BE SET FOR THE STUDENTS.

THE EDUCATION ACADEMICS SHOULD TAKE A VOTE OR ASK FOR A REFRUNDUM ON THIS ISSUE.I FEEL IT IS ADDING FUEL TO THE FIRE OF ONE OF THE EVIL VICES PRESENT INSIDE OUR ADULT BODIES AND MINDS.ALL THE UNDERGRADUATES AND POST GRADUATE STUDENTS ARE INTILLIGENT ADULTS AND HAVE CHOSEN TO DEVOTE SOME YEARS OF THEIR LIVES IN PURSUIT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND EVEN EXPLORE THE UNKNOWN BOUNDRIES OF SCIENCE AND MEDICINE AND ENGINEERING.IF THEY FEEL THAT THEIR NEEDS OF HUMAN BODIES ARE MORE THAN HUNGER AND SLEEP THAN EDUCATIONAL THERAPISITS SOULDBE CONSULTED.

RELAXATION IN A NIGHT CLUB IS NOT GOING TO EASE THEIR PATH TOWARDS ACHIEVING THEIR GOALS IN THE LIMITED COURSE TIME SET..THE FINANCES USED TO SET THIS NIGHTCLUB COULD BE USED TO HELP AN INTELLIGENT POOR STUDENT FROM A THIRD WORLD TO BECOME AN EXPERT AND EASE THE POVERTY IN HIS HOME COUNTRY. REALLY THIS TYPE OF EXTRAVAGANCE AT THE EXPENSE OF TAXPAYER AND THE STUDENT LIFE CAN BE AVOIDED.

A VISIT TO THE GYM OR OTHER NON TOXIC ACITIVITY WILL CONTRIBUTE NOT ONLY TOWARDS BETTER RELAXATION BUT TOWARDS BUILDING A BETTER , BRIGHT,REWARDING AND MORE CONFIDENT FUTURE; OF WHICH IMPERIAL COLLEGE CAN BE PROUD OF AT THE TIME OF STUDENT S COMING INTO THE LIMELIGHT OF THE WORLD GENIUSES. THE PLAN OF THE NIGHTCLUB SHOULD BE DROPPED WITHOUT ANY HESITATION.

Thanking you  
Concerned parent. [sic]

My dear James Lees [Politics Editor],

I found 'felix' sitting in a carriage on the Central Line on friday (5th Feb.) and I picked it up and read your article with interest. I hope you don't mind me telling you that no Catholic bishop in England and Wales "maintain seats in the House of Lords, and as a result still have some say in the running of the country".

It is the Bishops of the Church of England who maintain seats in the House of Lords and, therefore, have some say in the running of the country.

With kind regards,

John Tuohy  
Catholic Priest

Dear John Tuohy,

Thank you very much in regards to your email about the article in felix. You are indeed correct that it is only Bishops of the Church of England who hold seats in the House of Lords - the so-called 'Lords Spiritual'. The error was due to having not kept up with the story around Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connel. I had assumed (wrongly) that after he had been offered a position in the Lords and had been keen to take the position, he would now be seated in the House. It turns out that the Pope (allegedly at least) barred the Cardinal from taking the position.

Anyway, I'm sure you knew all that as you correctly asserted there being no Catholic bishops in the Lords. My sincere apologies for the mistake, and my sincere thanks for reading the article and getting in touch.

Kind regards,  
James Lees, Politics Editor

Don't forget, your name suggestions for the new Union bars:

1. The new nightclub (currently dBs)
2. The new bar (currently Da Vinci's)

[torenamethebars@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:torenamethebars@imperial.ac.uk) or use #phase3 in your tweets  
by 17th Wednesday Midday



# COLLEGE'S MOST FAMOUS GEEKS

AS IMPERIAL'S UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE TEAM LOOK TO SECURE A PLACE IN THE SEMIS, JIA-OU SONG TALKS TO THE BOYS



**W**hen the gong sounded, everybody cheered, for Imperial College London had won!

That was in year 2001, when the Imperial team - Siegfried Hodgson, John Douglas, Captain Gavin Estcourt and Alexander Campbell - defeated St. John's College, Oxford by 250 points to 195 points, leaving in their wake Cranfield University, Durham University, Manchester and Hull.

In 2002, Imperial valiantly defended the title, but lost out in the eleventh-hour of the final to Somerville, Oxford by a margin of only 15 points. Since then, Imperial College School of Medicine have twice put on a show, but Imperial as a whole sadly dropped off the radar for the while... until now.

Monday, 7th September, 2009 saw Ciarán Healy, Simon Good and Benedict Nicolson, captained by Gilead Amit with reserve Edward Brightman officially press the buzzers for the first time. For their first appearance on the 39th series of the programme, they were accompanied by a *felix* cat.

In the first show, our team accumulated 175 points to University of Southampton's 135. In round two, the team completely outclassed St. Hugh's College, Oxford with an utterly fabulous 280 points to the opponents' 80.

Quarterfinals. For those who have been living under a text- or lab book all year, each team must win two quarterfinal clashes before proceeding to the semi-finals. Against University of Edinburgh, Imperial produced an awesome 240 points to their 110.

As we eagerly anticipate the boys' next move, is it not time to find out a little bit more about the people

hind the names? How do they know all that sports and arts trivia? What methods did they use to prepare for the onslaught? And since when does Gilead know so much about everything? We hunted them down for your benefit, and this is what we found out...

*felix*: University Challenge quizzes vary wildly on content, how did you prepare/do you know information on topics that are not your 'speciality', i.e. your course?

*Edward*: "Some team members did more diverse A-level subjects such as History and English, instead of just the usual sciences, which helped a lot. Other topics are a combination of practice-questions from quiz books, and an ability to make good guesses!"

*Ben*: "I've not done much specific preparation outside my area. However every time I hear a hard fact, like a name or date, I have put special mental effort on trying to slot it into my brain somewhere. In fact, I tried a little reading up on things that non-mathematicians might assume a mathematician knows. This is an area we all dread: not being able to answer a question in our area. Paxman often starts a question 'In maths...' or 'In physics...' etc. It puts us on the spot."

In a sense Amit and Good, who both study physics, had it easy; if they did not know an answer to such a question, then they could trust the other one to jump in. However if neither of them knew the answer then it just must be particularly obscure question."

*Ciarán*: "Personally I'm not sure it's possible to do much useful preparation when it comes to learning things, due to the sheer range of possible subjects for questions. However

there are things you can do in preparing for the quiz itself, being good at guessing is important and that partly comes with doing practice questions, and we all improved our speed on the buzzer by competing against each other in practice. I was actually pretty poor generally on my own subject, chemistry, I'm pretty sure I got more wrong than right on it. Partly it's down to the fact that I was only a first year, or right at the start of second, when the filming was done, and lots of science questions - particularly for chemistry - seem to come from more difficult material later on."

*Gilead*: "After every match we played we promised that we'd *definitely* revise before the next one. That never happened, of course, and so most of our preparation came from informal quizzing. When it comes to a show like University Challenge, you either know your general knowledge or you don't - what distinguishes teams is how good they are at making intelligent guesses and how fast they are on the buzzer."

*Simon*: "We had sets of University Challenge-style questions that we went through as a team quite regularly, especially in the immediate run-up to the matches. I think we used them to familiarise ourselves with the format of the show, rather than as a source of new facts. Although a question we had practiced the day before did come up in one of our matches. I made very little preparation individually - I did not go trawling through encyclopedias or anything like that. I just relied on what knowledge I already had. I think a lot of what I know comes from having had wide academic interests as a child - in fact, I think I picked

up most of my general knowledge when I was younger."

*felix*: Has Imperial contributed to this width of knowledge in any aspect? For instance, do you take any business, language or humanities options?

*Gilead*: "One of my most cherished beliefs - or in other words one of my profoundest delusions - is that scientists can be better-equipped to answer questions on history or art than any politics student would be to face a question on quantum physics. Scientists have a tremendous advantage in that respect, and it gives me a huge amount of pleasure that we were able to show the world that four hard scientists and a fuel cell researcher can discuss Dante and Hobsbawm with the best of them."

*Ben*: "It is a great asset that Imperial is in South Kensington, and generally London. I enjoy being able to go to the V&A and other museums in London. One question was about a picture I had literally seen the day before in the national gallery, although that question has not been shown!"

*Edward*: "I did take Chinese evening classes for a term but I do not know how much that will have helped!"

*Ciarán*: "I am doing a humanities option, politics, this year, and I did one in history last year. I am sure it helped a little, although I have always been interested in the humanities anyway, I almost chose to do a degree in history, so I have picked up lots of bits and pieces of information just from taking an interest in things."

*Simon*: "Besides physics, very little I think, though that is no fault of Imperial's - you're meant to be given a general knowledge of things at school, not university. I do not take any non-physics options."

## Gilead Amit (Team Captain)



Age: 20

Course: Physics

### Extra-curricular interests:

Writing for *felix*, getting involved with Imperial's vastly under-appreciated Dramatic Society.

### Which moment in UC so far are you most proud of?

Whether owing to modesty or a genuine (though unsuccessful) attempt at originality, we all claim to be proudest of our close encounters of the third kind with Jeremy Paxman. And what the hell, I'm no different. One of the definite highlights of the series for me was being able to talk to Jeremy Paxman between takes, though having him nonchalantly flirt with my girlfriend was a little unexpected.

Although he was more than happy to chat to us and very willing to sign the umpteen autograph books and nameplates that were handed to him, he drew the line at a copy of the Daily Mail I ironically asked him to initial. After having persistently worn down his principles, however, I'm proud to say I now have a copy of the Sun's TV guide which bears his signature.

### How important is winning?

Winning a match on UC is unquestionably a great feeling, but I think you've lost something much more fundamental if just being able to take part doesn't ring your buzzer.



Watch Imperial take on St. Hugh's, Oxford on Monday the 15th in dBs



Simon Good



Age: 20

Course: Physics

**Extra-curricular interests:**

Walking, reading, music, politics

**Which moment in UC so far are you are most proud of?**

Perhaps getting the first starter question of our first match, broadcast last September. Having a photo taken with Jeremy was a proud moment too.

**How important is winning?**

It is fairly important, and it is/was always our goal, but (although it's clichéd) the experience of taking part was important too – the excitement of the matches and being filmed for TV were great.

Benedict Nicolson



Age: 21

Course: MSci Maths

**Extra-curricular interests:**

Member of IC radio, Arabic language, cycling

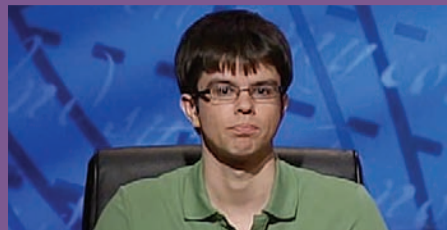
**Which moment in UC so far are you are most proud of?**

Sitting next to Paxman while having our make-up done.

**How important is winning?**

We are progressing much further than I imagined. Admittedly, I did not even think we would make being on television. So I already feel proud of how we have done, anymore will be a bonus. So, to answer the question, it is not very important.

Ciarán Healy



Age: 19

Course: Chemistry

**Which moment in UC so far are you are most proud of?**

When I got a few starters in a short space of time, particularly the set of World Cup football questions I answered. There is a certain level of obsession with regards to facts and figures amongst some sports fans, which can become quite competitive, so I was pleased that I managed to pip the football fans on the other team.

**How important is winning?**

As with any competition the point is to win, that is what you are there for. However when it came to this one, knowing that it was going to be televised, there is a certain element of not making a fool of yourself, which I think I managed to avoid.

Ed Brightman



Age: 25

Course: PhD research in Fuel Cells

**Extra-curricular interests:**

Music (Orchestra and A-cappella singing), and lots of other things I do not have time for.

**Which moment in UC so far are you are most proud of?**

Getting a photo with Paxman.

**Tell us something other people did not know about you, e.g. a secret talent:**

I can knit...

**How important is winning?**

IT'S EVERYTHING!!!!!!

## College Hardship Fund 2009

### Money worries affecting your studies?

EU and Overseas students may be eligible for a grant from the College Hardship Fund (home students can apply to the Access to Learning Fund.)

We understand that despite careful planning some students may face higher than expected costs or a financial emergency. In such cases we may be able to assist with a small award from the College Hardship Fund which could provide the additional support you need to continue with your studies.

Autumn term application deadline: **19 February 2010**

#### FURTHER INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS:

**Web:** <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/registry/studentfinancialsupport/hardshipfund>

**Email:** [student.funding@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:student.funding@imperial.ac.uk)

**Telephone:** 020 7594 8122







# Rhys Davies gets his heart broken, sweetly



"I knew we were having problems when we were fighting over bread"



Valentine's Day is nearly upon us and that can mean only one thing. Half of Imperial will be burning through their student loans in order to pay for an unforgettable night of passion with their respective beau or paramour. The other half will be watching Love Actually in the dark with a tub of Ben & Jerry's – totally sarcastically, of course. After my last relationship, I've regretfully resigned myself to the latter category.

We first met in Starbucks. Forsaking the cornucopia of caffeine of the baristas, I opted for a healthy bottle of water. However, the next customer in line took offence at this, being as he was the Insanely Wired Coffee Wizard. I trembled in fear as I stared into his crazy, bloodshot eyes. Buzzing with rage, he

thrust me against the sandwich shelf and unscrewed the lid of his Thermos of Doom. I had disrespected his beverage once; I wouldn't live to do so again.

But amidst the sea of frightened coffee-shop patrons, my saviour arose. The coffee around me was as black as night, before a sudden almighty crash! The Coffee Wizard crumpled to the floor, crumbs cascading down his greasy locks. Behind him, holding the broken remains of a three-day-old panino, stood Breakfast-Spread Girl. Yes, Breakfast-Spread Girl – jamming up the toaster of evil with her butterknife of justice! Despite narrowly avoiding a caffeinated fate, my heart began to race and I began to sweat. I wasn't high on coffee, I was high on love.

After a manly bout of swooning, I

woke up in the firm but graceful arms of Breakfast-Spread Girl. Fearing for my blood sugar, she immediately offered me an emergency dollop of honey. As I took it, our hands touched, our eyes met and there were three heaped teaspoons of magic in the air.

Breakfast-Spread Girl might not be the prettiest superhero – indeed, she couldn't hold a candle to the more attractive (albeit rather ineffectual) Glamour Woman – but she had a quiet sexiness about her, in a junior librarian kind of way. No, like a butter-laden crumpet, her true beauty lay within. She was smart and funny and had a wit you could cut cheese with. Also, her hair smelt like cinnamon. Whenever I saw her, my legs went weaker than cottage cheese on crackers.

And for a time, things were like gold-

en syrup. I was stuck on her and she was so sweet on me. My housemates were naturally jealous, saying how jammy I was to be dating a superhero – it drove them nutella!

But life is short and these sticky entanglements are all too fleeting. At first, it was just the small things. I fancied raspberry jam, she favoured strawberry. Then I wanted to switch to margarine and she would hear none of it. I knew we were having problems when we were fighting over which bread was superlative. Wholemeal was better for you, I argued – but white tastes nice toasted, she countered. But foolishly I dismissed these as the differences that endear couples to each other. How wrong I was. We were watching a movie one night, The Breakfast Club I think, round her place, bodies close and toast

at hand. And then, out of the blue, she said those words that would change our relationship forever.

"I think I'll have some marmite. Do you want some?" The relationship had landed butter-side down.

I suppose, on reflection, all that sugar wasn't good for me. Admittedly, my dentist had said so from the start but I think he was just jealous. But Breakfast-Spread Girl was so sweet. She spread sunshine across my life, and wasn't sparing with the portions either. It pains me to think that she's out there now, fighting crime, while I'm here alone, buttering my own bread.

But she did teach me that love is out there and, like the peach preserve at the back of the supermarket shelf, you just have to reach for it...

...Even if it leaves crumbs on the sheets.

Imperial College  
London

## International PhD programmes



### Thinking about doing a PhD?

Imperial College London offers a variety of international PhD programmes in collaboration with other world-leading universities. Come and learn more about the opportunities available.

[www.imperial.ac.uk/international/students/internationalopportunities](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/international/students/internationalopportunities)

#### Joint PhD programmes with

- The University of Hong Kong (HKU)
- Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
- National University of Singapore (NUS)

#### Imperial PhD awards with international experience

- A\*Star Imperial Doctoral Programme
- King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang
- Malaysia-Imperial Doctoral Programme

### Visit us to learn more!

**South Kensington Campus**  
Main entrance,  
Exhibition Road  
Mon 15–Fri 19 February,  
13.00–14.00

**Hammersmith Campus**  
Ground floor,  
Commonwealth Building  
22 February, 13.00–14.00

**St Mary's Campus**  
Cockburn Lecture Theatre  
25 February, 14.30–16.00

**Silwood Park Campus**  
Darwin Lecture Theatre,  
Hamilton Building  
26 February, 13.00–14.00



# Stephen Long on the proposed smoking ban



**“Banning an activity will never stop its practice, merely move its location.”**



The other week, the idea of banning smoking in our Union Quad was mooted. On Monday, a proposal will be made to the Council to pass this into Union rules. This appears to me to be very ill thought-out, and hopefully after reading this article, it will be to you too.

To begin with a disclaimer: yes, I do enjoy having an occasional cigarette with my pint, and my face will be amongst those on the benches shivering the winter through. But my objection to a ban goes beyond “I’m too lazy to leave the quad to smoke”.

The paper intends to be acting for the welfare of Union members, by discouraging them from smoking,

and also allowing non-smokers a more pleasant environment. It says that smokers block the entrances, restricting access. It also states that since the 2006 national smoking ban, bar takings have actually increased, with the implication that a further increase will result from a total ban.

At the moment, smokers usually sit on the benches on the north side of the quad. Generally, there is little conflict of smokers and non-smokers, as it’s usually too cold to go outside for no reason. Even come the summer, people are generally decent enough to respect each other’s rights, both their right to smoke, and their right not to be forced to breathe other’s smoke. Everything is fairly peachy.

Banning an activity will never stop its practice, merely move its location. The consequence of a ban would be that people would have to go out onto the street to smoke, most likely Prince Consort Rd. I doubt this small inconvenience will persuade anyone to give up smoking (more likely they will give up coming to the Union). What is inevitable is a sizeable crowd outside the main gates. This will restrict access worse than the present situation. Smokers and non-smokers alike will have to barge their way through a crowd of (in all likelihood) drinkers, a poor welcome to our Union.

There will be a constant flux of people entering and leaving the Union, increasing the workload on the

door staff. It will also bring loud talking right under the noses of Beit residences. At least only the rear bedrooms are currently disturbed by the nocturnal activities at the Union, moving smoking to the street will bring similar disturbances to the front bedrooms. There would also be a huge increase in litter on the streets, souring our relations with neighbours and the council. Also, policing this ban would fall to the stewards, who already have their work cut-out with the thankless task of keeping us all safe whilst we drink. I think these effects would far outweigh the benefits of a smoke-free quad, and maybe few less smokers.

I think the overall result of a ban

would be more work for Union staff, more disturbances for more Beit residents and greater inconvenience for non-smokers, with very few people actually giving up and at the cost of some loss of custom. A ban would simply be counter-productive, despite being (laudably) intended to improve students’ lives, in fact, there will be a net decrease in the overall quality of life.

As a further point, I don’t think it is the Union’s place to be dictating our lifestyle choices, and doing so on the grounds of health seems incongruous in a place with frequent “all you can drink” bar nights. I urge you to think about the consequences of this ban, and don’t allow it to pass Council.

# Ben Gross on missed opportunities



**“...the Holocaust can in no way be compared with the situation in Gaza”**



Last year the lives of the people of Gaza changed dramatically for the worse. 1400 were killed, many more homeless and desperate with short supplies. Last week, Imperial College was educated about Gaza. The aim of ‘Gaza Week’ was to inform us (Joe Public) of the importance of supporting the people of Gaza who are in need of our support. The AhlulBayt society took it upon themselves to promote this worthy cause.

Unfortunately, the opportunity was squandered and what positive effect they might have had was lost under a platform of hate. The stall which was set out everyday with the supposed aim of informing students about the situation in Gaza was covered with leaflets and fliers about the “Palestine-Israel” conflict with several different fliers demanding a boycott of Israel.

As an inquisitive bystander I wandered up to the stall to ask the people manning it why, if they were going to talk about the conflict surrounding the situation, did they not mention some key facts? For instance, the very reason why Israel took the action they did, whether you agree with it or not, was because over 8,000 rockets in 8 years had been fired from Gaza and fallen onto Israeli soil. The towns of Sderot and Ashqelon, and surround-

ing areas in the Negev were terrorised with these bombardments to such an extent that tens of thousands fled in fear. There are children living in Sderot who have never played outside because of the fear of what could happen to them if the 15 second warning went off and a rocket hit. In fact, why wasn’t it mentioned that rockets are still being fired from Gaza? Gilad Shalit, an Israeli soldier, was kidnapped and taken into Gaza by Hamas on the 25th of June 2006 and still has not been returned to Israel. Hamas have refused the International Red Cross to visit him contrary to International Human Rights. A plain obvious fact absent from any of the information provided was that Gaza shares a border with Egypt. If a boycott on Israel is called for in order for them to open up the borders then it would only be fair and correct if a boycott of Egypt was also called for.

Upon closer examination of these fliers, it wasn’t just that they were one sided but they also had factual inaccuracies (a nice way of saying lies). Misquoting UN resolutions; not mentioning one suicide bombing when talking about the Intifada, failing to mention Israel’s unilateral withdrawal from Gaza with the hope for peace, to name a few.

The one possible redemption for this waste of trees was “The Gaza Massa-

cre one year on...” event. In terms of its title I was already suspicious that it wasn’t going to be very Israel friendly, yet my hope would be that it would at least promote the Palestinian cause in order for progress to be made.

The attendance of this event was slightly er...shvach to use a Yiddish term and just as well because the quality of content was worse. The first of two speakers, Raza Kazim, a senior speaker from the Islamic Human Rights Commission, had one main message: “Are we going to stand with the oppressed, or are we going to stand with the oppressor?” In fact he liked this phrase so much he had it on his T-shirt just in case we didn’t get the message the first time. His black and white view of the conflict not only showed his naivety and ignorance, but also simplified the conflict to such an extent he missed out the basic facts which I mentioned above.

So passionate was he on human rights and the cause he was promoting (which veered off helping those suffering in Gaza and went onto boycotting Israel) he proclaimed: “Sometimes in order to uphold the law and to make sure that the spirit of the law is actually preserved we need to sometimes break the laws that are actually there and we need to, as a result of breaking that law be prepared to suffer the con-

sequences of having broken that law.” Now I’m no pacifist when it comes to speaking out against wrongs but is this what a senior spokesman of the Islamic Human Rights Commission should be encouraging us to do?

The next speaker who was dressed more formally in suit and tie and who spoke very eloquently indeed was Toufic Machnouk, the associate director of the Institute for Policy Research and Development. He had a few years ago visited the College, linking what was happening to the Palestinians with the Holocaust and he didn’t disappoint this time round either. The Holocaust, which resulted in the death of over six million Jews as well as blacks, gays and gypsies, was an event which if educated about goes beyond the simple numbers. It was the dehumanisation of a people to not even animals. Those that don’t understand why the Holocaust can in no way be compared with the situation in Gaza and the Palestinians, should go visit Auschwitz, Birkenau, Bergen-Belsen, Majdanek, Treblinka etc... all the different concentration camps and death camps. To desensitise what the Holocaust was in order to score political points is disgraceful and an insult to those that perished and those that survived.

Not only did he equate the Holocaust with the events in Gaza but he

was very keen to talk about the “Jenin Massacre” where it was believed that the whole refugee camp of Jenin had been wiped out by Israel, where in fact nothing of the sort happened and was shown to be a complete lie.

Lie after lie and quotations taken out of context were used freely in his very persuasive presentation. The sad thing was that the amount of time he spent talking about the plight of the Gazans was minute compared to how long he spent demonising Israel and its people. Another lost opportunity to talk about a necessary cause.

In a time where dialogue is necessary to promote strong connections between two sides it is irresponsible and extremely divisive for such hate speech to be brandished. It is time for the people who take sides to understand and talk about both sides maturely. Israel is not a perfect country but which country is? Why is there not a call to boycott the countries which murder homosexuals, oppress women, ban freedom of speech and freedom of expression? On the contrary, we should be investing in both sides in order to forge strong bonds and to reach a state of unity between two people. Maybe next year Gaza week will take on a different stance, one to strive towards positive rather than burying their heads in hate.



# Anrgy Geek with this week's offering



"you've assembled the Special Needs X-Men.  
...Now it's time to start work!"



There's something about group work at Imperial that just brings the best out of people, isn't there? It's like a cross between Ocean's Eleven and that scene from the Power Rangers where everyone teams up and combines into a giant robot penis.

I think everyone knows how shit group work is, because my department does its best to hide the fact that a piece of work is to be done in a group until the very last moment, as if there's a small chance some of us will just quit the degree if we find out too early. But eventually, with a crushing inevitability, the group work will come. It will find you. And then the process goes a little something like this.

First, you'll find your go-to partner. The one person you can rely on not to urinate a little between the pages of the report just before you hand it

in. You'll look at each other across the lecture hall and just give a little nod, like you're in an episode of Hustle or something. It actually makes you look like someone's tugging you off underneath the lecture hall desks, but you think it looks cool, so that's fine.

But that's just two people. You know what they say about two - it's a company, and this shit isn't about cuddling in front of the fire. Oh no. We want a bloody group, don't we? A big manly group. So you need three more people. This starts off pretty simply, because you tend to just discover another pair like yours. There's usually something slightly off about them at first, though. You know the sort of situation - it's like when someone you thought was normal introduces you to someone they 'knew at secondary school' and they look like an axe-murderer who discovered Jesus, and then rediscovered axe-murdering in the middle of a communion

session.

Problem is, it's slim pickings because everyone else you know has sodded off into a group of their own by now, so you hire the crazy and crazier two-pack. Four people. Now this is looking good. This is what we're after; a big manly group. But there's a bit missing, we need five people! Five is the manliest number possible. And what does every man need? He needs a massive dick. So you go and find one.

It's not like you actively go searching for one, it's just that you find yourself unable to lie about group work. So when the most useless, feckless pile of skin shaped like a student asks you if your group is full, you just say no. Mostly, this is out of a desire to just get the five people and start work, but it's also partly because you know you're going to end up with an arsehole like him one way or another, because all the good group members

have gone. It's the Year Seven football tournament all over again.

So you've assembled the Special Needs X-Men. Congratulations. Now it's time to start work! Hey, I've got an idea, why don't we distribute the work according to our relative strengths and weaknesses, and conduct regular meetings to review work and co-ordinate our efforts! No? Okay, just pick whatever you want to do and we'll meet again in eight weeks' time.

Time passes. Wars are fought, companies rise and fall, governments strive tirelessly to improve the lives of their citizens. You download the latest episodes of Dexter and think about buying an electric toothbrush. It sounds like a good idea, but you stop using it after it begins to make noises like a cordless drill.

After a few weeks of ball-scratching you get down to work, complete a few tasks and finally get ready to meet your group. Hooray! Everyone's

worked really hard in the last week or two and you've got a lot of things to put together.

Oh no wait, it's all got to be done in the next twelve hours. And a report. That's okay, though, because you've given the report to the guy who's "really good at writing". He's got an A Level in Advanced Words or something. Cool, man, cool.

Eleven hours and fifty-eight minutes later, you finish picking out the last of the misplaced full stops and missing capital letters from his work, and hit print. You shuffle it together with the project work, put enough staples into it to kill a rhinoceros, and throw it in the general direction of your tutor.

But it's okay, you're so often told, the real working world is like this all the time! Why is it like this? Because the real working world was educated in the same half-arsed, unguided 'group work' environment you were.



heartlungcentre.com

## Do you suffer from Hay fever?

If you are:

- a non-smoker
- aged 18 - 55
- otherwise healthy

**you may be eligible to participate in a clinical study to help evaluate therapies for Hay fever**  
Expenses for time and travel incurred will be reimbursed.  
All studies have been approved by an Independent Ethics Committee

Freephone 0800 023 4824  
or register at  
heartlungcentre.com



## Volunteers with Asthma Needed

Required for clinical study to evaluate new treatments for asthma. Expenses for time and travel incurred whilst participating in the clinical study will be reimbursed

Please call the research nurses at

0800 023 4824

All Studies have been approved by an Independent Ethics Committee



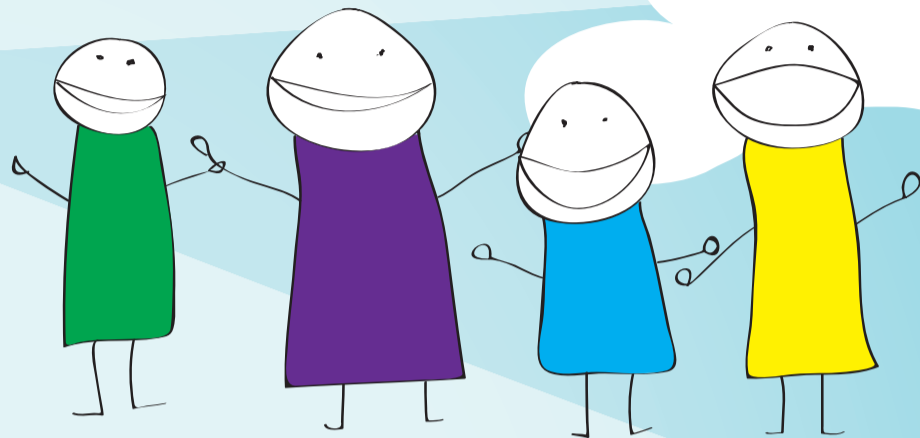
heartlungcentre.com





Sabbatical  
**Elections**  
2010

**Bright candidates  
required!**



Positions available:  
President  
Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)  
Deputy President (Education)  
Deputy President (Finance & Services)  
Deputy President (Welfare)  
Felix Editor  
& 4 Student Trustees

**Nominations open  
16 February**

Head online to stand for nomination:  
[imperialcollegeunion.org/elections](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/elections)







## Are she having a laugh?

Nathan Ley Science Editor

Recently, we've had the revelation of judge Cherie Booth allowing a Muslim man to walk free on "religious" grounds. His sentence, for breaking someone's jaw in a fight in a bank queue, was suspended because he was "a religious man" who "had not been in trouble before".

Shamso Miah, of Redbridge, East London, was charged with assault occasioning actual bodily harm when he fractured Mohammed Furcan's jaw, in a row over who was next in line at a bank in East Ham. This simply sounds wrong, terribly wrong. Wrong that he was let off in the first place for a crime he quite clearly committed (CCTV footage showed Mr Miah striking Mr Furcan twice), but also wrong that he was excused because he had just been at his local mosque.

Is it that unreasonable to suggest that someone of faith is less likely to offend than a non-believer? Maybe not, but you know that this is going to be tread-

ing very dodgy ground. The ruling has been taken as unfairly discriminative by the NSS (National Secular Society) and you can clearly see their point. Can't someone have morals without belief in a religion?

On the other hand I guess it is convenient to make generalisations. Like any follower of Anwar al-Awlaki must be dangerous, right? In this case my opinion would be yes. But principles like these cannot be applied across the board.

Co-incidentally, however, findings published in the journal 'Trends in Cognitive Sciences' this week claim that atheists are "just as ethical as church-goers". According to the study, people who have no religion know their right from their wrong just as well as those who worship regularly.

The researchers found that most religious people were similar in having a moral code, which helped to organize society. However, people from a non-

religious background were also found to have intuitive judgements of right and wrong, to a similar extent.

Dr Marc Hauser from Harvard University, one of the co-authors of the research, stated that he and his colleagues were interested in the roots of religion and morality. He claims that "For some, there is no morality without religion, while others see religion as merely one way of expressing one's moral intuitions".

The team looked at a number of psychological studies which were designed to test an individual's morality. Dr Hauser added: "The research suggests that intuitive judgments of right and wrong seem to operate independently of explicit religious commitments. So Cherie, will you be quoting this research in your next case?"

We know it might have been hard keeping your mouth shut as the spouse of the prime minister, but there's no need to take it out indirectly on us ordinary people.

## The winter blues evolution

James Goldsack

Many human traits pose an evolutionary paradox and one such example is depression. Research in the US and elsewhere estimates that between 30 and 50 percent of people meet psychiatric diagnostic criteria for a major depressive disorder at some point in their lives. However, the brain has a crucial role in personal survival and reproduction so evolutionary pressure should have developed the brain's resistance to these problems. Mental disorders should be rare so why isn't depression?

The existence of mental health problems would make evolutionary sense if they were due to growing old as functionality of organs tends to deteriorate with age. However, in the case of depression, people are most likely to have their first experience during adolescence and young adulthood. Equally, a theory that it is a modern phenomenon developed through our new lifestyles is flawed as symptoms of depression have been found in every culture, including the Ache of Paraguay and the Kung of southern Africa – societies thought to live in environments similar to those in our evolutionary past.

The remaining possibility is that in most instances, depression is not a disorder at all. In an article published in *Psychology Review*, it is argued that depression is an adaption that brings real costs and real benefits.

One reason to suggest that depression is an adaption comes from research into a molecule in the brain known as 5HT1A – a receptor that

binds to serotonin, a neurotransmitter linked to depression. This chemical is the target of most contemporary antidepressant medications. When the receptor in rodents is compared to that in humans, it is 99 percent similar, suggesting that it is so important that natural selection has preserved it. The ability to be depressed appears to be important, not an accidental malfunction.

Depression does cause problems for those who suffer the disorder, so what could be useful about depression? Depressed individuals often think intensely and analytically about their problems, breaking down the complexities of the situation into smaller components considered one at a time. This type of thought can be very productive. Research has found evidence that people who get more depressed while they are working on complex problems in an intelligence test tend to score higher on the test.

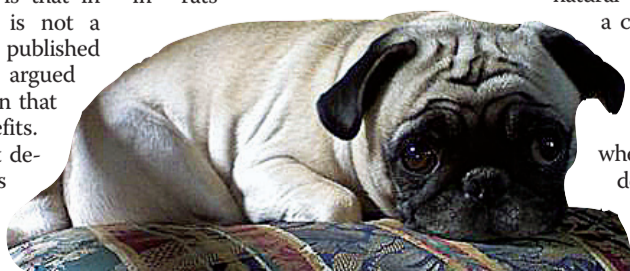
This type of analysis requires uninterrupted thought, and depression coordinates physiological changes to help people not be distracted. In a region of the brain known as the ventrolateral prefrontal cortex (VLPFC), neurons must be continuously firing to avoid distraction. However, this is very energetically demanding for these neurons and can cause them to degrade. Studies in rats

have shown that the 5HT1A receptor is involved in supplying neurons with the fuel they need to perform at this level. These processes are important to allow depressive analytical thought to continue uninterrupted with minimal neuron damage, which may explain why 5HT1A is evolutionarily important.

Against this background, other symptoms of depression make evolutionary sense. The desire for social isolation and the inability to derive pleasure from activities including sex prevent distractions and encourage deep thought about an individual's problems. Several studies have found that this depressive rumination allows for quicker resolution of depression.

Various studies have also shown that people in depressed mood states are more proficient at solving social dilemmas. This may be important enough to drive the evolution of such a costly mental state. Laboratory experiments indicate that depressed people are better at resolving these situations due to better analysis of the costs and benefits of different actions that they may take.

Unfortunately, often people are reluctant to disclose the reasons for their depression due to embarrassment, or a belief that they must soldier on and ignore the emotions. However, depression is a natural way of indicating that you have a complex social problem that the brain is intent on solving. The condition is a huge problem for sufferers and one which should be taken seriously. However, when considering all the evidence depression seems less like a disorder, and more like a highly organised response that performs a specific function.



## In brief

### Bodywork batteries

Researchers at Imperial College are developing a prototype material which may change the way we power everyday items. The material, made from carbon fibres and polymer resin, will be both strong and lightweight, making it a possible future alternative to the electric motors currently used in hybrid cars. Dr Greenhalgh, department of aeronautics, says: 'We think the car of the future could be drawing power from its roof, its bonnet or even the door...' The uses of the new material would not be limited to the motor industry. The material could enable items such as mobile phones to be powered by their casing, giving future phones the potential to be as thin as credit cards.



### Badger culls ineffective longterm

Research published on Wednesday by Imperial College and the Zoological Society of London has shown that the benefits of badger culling to reduce instances of tuberculosis in cattle disappear within four years of the cull. In 2008, over 2,700 herds were infected with the disease and were slaughtered, costing the Government £100 million as a result. Badger culling was decided against as a means of controlling cattle TB in England two years ago, but the Welsh Assembly is now proposing to use culling methods similar to those used in the study.



### Cat owners smarter than dog owners?

Dr Jane Murray – a researcher from the University of Bristol – has published a paper in which she claims that cat owners are likely to be smarter than dog owners. This was based on a poll of 2,524 households wherein a larger proportion of the households with cats had people in possession of a degree. She claims that well educated people prefer cats because they "work late and have long commutes, and because cats require less time per day spent on them than a dog". I tell you what, if that rubbish counts as scientific research then maybe I've got a career in research lying in wait for me after all.





# The commercialisation of science

Philip Avraam traces how historical success of universities in research has paved the way for their own demise

**L**inks between businesses and universities have existed in one form or another at least since the start of the industrial revolution, but over the past 30 years there has been a gradual and significant change in that relationship, a process that has been called by many the 'commercialisation' of universities.

From early in the 20th century, the official, and to a large degree operative, policy of government towards university funding of general research (i.e. funding not associated directly with a government department like the Ministry of Defence), had been an adherence to the 'Haldane Principle'. This guaranteed autonomy for Research Councils so that science would be free of political (and other) pressures, which might discourage research in certain areas. This policy allowed a certain space for faculties and faculty members to pursue research on the basis of their own instincts and interests. Furthermore, during this period universities received close to 100% of its funding from government, either directly through government departments or through these autonomous Research Councils.

The first phase of the 'commercialisation' of universities began in the 1970s when, due to increasing international economic competition, industrialised countries were losing their monopoly over the world's heavy industry. Government and corporate managers realised that their economic dominance in the future could only be sustained by a move towards more capital-intensive high-technology industries (e.g. space, electronics, telecommunication, bio-engineering), for which universities were the source.

The campus became a major source of the intellectual capital that would be required for this economic strategy and profit-seeking activity. It was in this context that new Patent legislation was passed in every industrialised country, the two major ones in the UK being the Patents Act (1977) and the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act (1988).

This legislation made it clear that all forms of intellectual capital generated by an employee (in a university

or a business), would belong to the employer – even if that research that was funded with public money. This is significant because, for the first time in the eyes of the law, universities became producers and owners of property which could be traded with the private sector – like any other business. And like any other business they became subject to commercial pressure. A need to produce commercially-viable products (research) became the primary concern of university management. Corporate ties were cultivated and private sector funding for research

**...producing a commercially viable product is likely to stifle the best kind of research**

at universities grew, with obvious potential consequences for the erosion of the values which lie behind the Haldane principle, discussed later.

Perhaps these developments are nothing to worry about so long as government funded, autonomous Research Councils still exist. However, the autonomy of these Research Councils is also being attacked by their paymasters. In contemporary political rhetoric, science is always mentioned in the same breath as the economy. The newly formed Department for Business, Innovation and Skills places business and university research under the same high level administrative umbrella.

This phenomenon is further exemplified by the 2007 Sainsbury Review on 'Science and Innovation Policies', the suggestions of which the government says it will implement in full. This document is dotted with recommendations like (Recommendation 2.4) "The Technology Strategy Board should work with the Research Councils to identify the complex, high-value-added production technologies that current and emerging industries require and which are likely to flourish in high-cost economies".

Last year, research councils intro-



**Scientists for Global Responsibility: corporate influence is damaging research**

duced a new requirement that researchers seeking grants must now describe the economic impact of the work that are intending to do. This is clearly at odds with the principle that researchers themselves should set the agenda for research, not state or corporate managers – the basis for the Haldane principle.

We must conclude that universities are being turned more and more into corporate research centres, in order to create the seeds for new profits based on high-tech industry. The govern-

ment is using them to push national economic growth in a direction which plays to the UK's perceived economic 'competitive advantage' – that is, capital-intensive, knowledge-based industry.

Are these positive trends? Do they impact on the quality of research? Do they serve the greater good of society? We know what the government's response to these questions would be. And big business loves it. Objective analysis can only come from sources outside the state-corporate circles who are benefiting from these tendencies.

A recent analysis has been published by the independent non-profit group 'Scientists for Global Responsibility' (SGR), an organisation supported by many prominent scientists, including physicists Steven Hawkins and Lord Rees. The report runs through case studies in various research sectors – pharmaceuticals, military/defence, oil and gas, and biotechnology – and concludes that there have indeed been detrimental effects caused by commercial influence. Among the problems identified are:

(1) "In regards to funding, commercialisation has led to the "introduction of significant bias and marginalisation of work with clear social and environmental benefits";

(2) "Direct commercial funding of a research study increases the likelihood that the results will be favourable to the funders";

(3) "Openness in research can be compromised through the use of commercial confidentiality agreements (including patents) and other...";

(4) "Orientation of faculties and departments to "commercial needs rather than to broader public interest of curiosity-driven goals.";

(5) "Decisions about controversial technologies are taken with very little public consultation."

And what about blue-skies research? Having to justify one's research on the basis of the likelihood of producing a commercially viable product is likely to stifle the best kind of research – that which enters new and unknown domains. Einstein once said about research that, "If we knew what we were doing, it wouldn't be called research".

## The classroom vs the boardroom

The SGR report also comments that universities are "being internally reorganised so that they behave more like businesses". This observation doesn't only have significance for the research function of a university, but also for the educational function. Technology historian David Noble points out that a characteristic of the past thirty years has been "the wholesale reallocation of university resources towards its research function at the expense of its educational function. Class sizes swelled, teaching staff and instructional resources were reduced, salaries were frozen. At the same time, tuition soared .... In the end, students were paying more for their education and getting less...". Of course, this is all in line with what a good business should do – maximise income and cut back on expenses. The expense happens to be quality of tuition, but who cares about that?

The commercialisation of the research function of universities is being followed by a new and emerging commercialisation of the educational function. Traditionally, just like in the case of a faculty member's research output, the faculty member's teaching output (e.g. course notes, problem sets etc.) used to be the intellectual property of the individual(s) who produced the work. Today, the copyright for a faculty member's teaching material belongs to the college under a "royalty-free" licence, although Imperial College's policy document on IP states that "Imperial College generally waives its claim to copyright in teaching materials, textbooks and research publications".

This is the state of affairs at the moment. However, there is a growing trend among universities in the US towards the use of computers and information technology to automate and sell education services and 'courseware'. This trend is being driven by university managers who see the selling of university courses and instructional material via the medium of computers as both another way to make money, and a way to cut costs on teaching staff. Its advocates claim that this is the way to administer good education efficiently in the 21st century in a way which benefits students as well as the university.

A transition to such a system of university education will require faculties to completely relinquish their right to their

teaching material to the universities. These resources will be used as 'courseware' in an automated process of education which ultimately undermines their own roles as educators. All of this is going ahead, despite protests by many students and faculty staff, who see this development as one which reduces the quality of education provision.

The paradigm which underlies the automation and commercialisation of education is a view of universities as 'producers' of education and students as 'consumers' of education. This view of education is antagonistic to everything that is known about 'best practice' in teaching and learning in general. The broad consensus among education professionals at every level is that a good education involves students actively participating in their learning process, with scope for pursuing points of interest – not passively consuming prepackaged 'courseware'. Consequently, moves towards commodification of university courses is bound to have a detrimental effect on the quality of education if it is used in place of traditional methods. Despite this, the number of advocates of the pretence that the 'producer/consumer' paradigm is consistent with pedagogy continue to grow among university managers. Prestigious universities may be able to resist this trend (if they decide to – an uncertain 'if'), but the scarcer the resources of a university, the more alluring this option becomes to its managers.

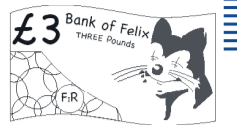
The National Union of Students (NUS) has taken up this issue and have expressed support for the idea that students should be viewed and treated as 'co-producers', rather than 'consumers'. The voice of Imperial College students would be weak on this issue, if it existed at all, due to our union's decision to pull out of the NUS.

Whether you like or dislike the developments in higher education over the past few decades, there is a choice to be made. Current institutional arrangements ensure that students and faculties have little or no say in these issues of great significance. Will we stand by, voiceless, while other forces (whether malevolent or not) shape our institutions and our society in their interests? Or will we join with other students, will faculty members join with other faculties, to ensure that our voices are at least a factor (but preferably the leading force) in determining the future of our universities?



Imperial College: University or corporate research centre?





# The Case for Intellectual Property

Kin-Hing Lo opposes Edward Townes's article against IP that was featured in last week's business section

It was interesting to read Edward Townes' article in *felix* last week as he threw his hat in the ring to argue against intellectual property rights. Like Edward, I would describe myself as a Libertarian but I found it difficult to sympathise with the arguments in his article. Property rights don't exist just to protect scarce resources nor do they usually lead to stagnation and problems of "navigating a minefield of existing intellectual property". In this article, I want to tackle some of his arguments. I also argue that intellectual property rights are actually consistent with a Libertarian philosophy – rather than hindering free speech and free thought as Edward suggests, I believe it promotes it.

Edward first argued that property exists primarily to allocate scarce resources between people and to prevent conflicts over that scarcity. He then went on to briefly mention what I believe to be the more important point: that property rights exist also to promote development and investment. Most economists now agree that in order for countries to develop, property rights must exist and there must be a strong system of institutions to regulate them.

Let us look back to the 18th century when property rights and enclosure of farmland were introduced during the British Agricultural Revolution. Before enclosure, it made no sense for a farmer to invest in improving the yield of the common land – he bears the costs of the investment himself but the benefits are equally shared between everyone. So, imagine a town of 100 farmers sharing common land.

Each individual farmer could choose to make a £1 investment in improving the land which would give a total return of £10. Without ownership rights, every farmer benefits equally from the improvement in the common land so they share the £10 return equally (each

farmer makes 10p).

Of course, the investment never happens because the farmer making that investment spends £1 and gets just 10p back.

What if we replay the scenario with property rights? We have 100 separate enclosed farms. Each individual farmer would now be happy to make a £1 investment knowing they will get the full £10 return from the land. All 100 farmers choose to make that investment. The net effect to society is we now have 100 farmers investing a total of £100 and getting a return of £1,000 (lots more food production!). In this case, it is obvious that the main benefit of property rights is not the allocation of scarce resources – sharing the common land with 100 farmers (essentially each having a 1% stakeholding in it) is as fair an allocation as each farmer physically owning 1% of the land. In this case, the additional investment caused by property rights is the primary benefit to society.

We can draw a parallel scenario with modern society here. James Cameron's *Avatar* cost \$237million to produce and has taken revenues of about \$2100 million. If there were no intellectual property rights on *Avatar*, anybody could decide to distribute *Avatar* and make a profit from it. Imagine that 20th Century Fox and 99 other companies are distributing *Avatar* and make equal revenue... 20th Century Fox, who produced the film, takes \$21million revenue on that \$237million investment.

Do you really think that the film would have been produced? This economic argument shows that intellectual property rights are vital to the production of the intellectual property in the first place.

Although the final film is not a scarce resource (it can be illegally copied at close to zero cost), the factors of production (i.e. the time spent producing it and the investment in technology)



Would anyone have bothered making *Heroes* if something like [freeonlineepisodes.net/heroes](http://freeonlineepisodes.net/heroes) existed? I think not...

are scarce resources. People simply won't give up their scarce time and money unless they will get a good return from it. Similarly, we recognise as a society that intellectual property must exist in the pharmaceutical industry even though more people will have access to existing drugs if we scrapped them. We recognise that no individual or company would bear the costs of designing a new drug if every other company would profit from it with no work and they would make a loss from it.

Edward tackled this argument of intellectual property rights promoting innovation and investment by claiming that they can also restrict innovation. This is a weak argument in my opinion – it requires further analysis weighing up how intellectual property rights restrict innovation more than they promote it. Of course, there are examples of where intellectual property have restricted innovation – technology firms often register patents to prevent other companies from being able to implement those ideas (the most ridiculous example that comes to mind is Amazon's 1-Click ordering patent).

I certainly think that we do need to look at how we assess patents and when we award them, but this is an argument for patent reform; it is difficult to then make the leap to the abolishment of intellectual property rights in all cases.

There are plenty of examples where intellectual property rights don't restrict innovation. For example, no fiction writer would ever complain that Disney's intellectual property on "Winnie the Pooh" harms their ability to write a new work of fiction. No original songwriter would complain

that Pink Floyd's intellectual property of their songs harms their own ability to write new songs. Similarly, the fact that I can't just rip off the stories from *Heroes* to create my own television drama series doesn't restrict innovation – if anything, it forces me to innovate by coming up with new stories. As far as I can see, the only effect of abolishing intellectual property rights would be to encourage the plagiarism and profiting from other people's material – something which doesn't ben-

**"...of course, there are examples of where intellectual property have restricted innovation"**

efit society at all.

Finally, I want to explore the effects of intellectual property on freedom of speech and thought. We recognise freedom of speech to be important in society because it is necessary for a marketplace of ideas to exist and work. As citizens of a democratic country, we all participate in the marketplace of ideas: sharing our ideas, discussing our thoughts and making suggestions. A strong marketplace of ideas is important as it allows society to weigh up new ideas based on their merits and arguments.

This allows the very best ideas to propagate and then to become social norms and beliefs. How do intellectual

property rights limit my freedom of speech? The fact that Amazon holds intellectual property and patents on one-click ordering or that Disney own the intellectual property to "Winnie the Pooh" doesn't stop me from mentioning or discussing those ideas with other people. It does not restrict my ability to seek, receive or impart these ideas. But it does make the marketplace of ideas work better: firstly by intellectual property rights facilitating the development of new ideas and secondly preventing old ideas from being needlessly copied, plagiarised and duplicated – something which would only add to the noise in the marketplace. As much as the typical Imperial student hates referencing their lab reports, it is difficult to make the argument that copying ideas as opposed to referencing and recognising the original researchers would be beneficial for society.

In conclusion, I have demonstrated that property rights exist not just to allocate scarce resources but primarily and more importantly to encourage investment and development of those resources.

I have demonstrated how intellectual property rights encourage innovation in the movie industry and pharmaceutical industry – why it is necessary for us to have those intellectual property rights if we are to have the intellectual property at all. Finally, I looked at the reasons for free speech existing in our society and how intellectual property can contribute towards it.

On balance, I strongly feel that the case for scrapping intellectual property rights is weak at best and that doing so would be immensely harmful for society.



A clear argument against IP - *Avatar* may not have been made without it





# Pope's homosexual equality comments misunderstood

Rory Fenton

In an ill-informed piece in Politics last week, James Lees got into the debate over the successful attempts to exclude religion from the most recent Equality Bill to go to parliament. James said what many newspapers have; that, "Benedict XVI... urged Catholic Bishops in the UK to fight the Equalities Bill with missionary zeal". Unfortunately for James, this is not actually the case as, if he had read the Pope's *Anus Sacerdotalis*, he would have seen that the Pope's criticisms were clearly of the already existing legislation on adoption services, not on legislation being currently considered.

But let's assume that the Pope had indeed meant to criticise the Bill and look at James' argument that "[t]he Pope should not be interfering in British politics". He claims that "[t]he problem arises from Catholic bishops who maintain seats in the House of Lords, and as a result still have some say in the running of the country"—a situation that would no doubt worry anyone who believes in democracy and the separation of church and state. This assertion, however, is also laughable to anyone with basic knowledge of British politics, who will know that the Catholic Church has been historically oppressed by the political elite in Britain, and certainly hasn't got a single Bishop in the Lords. This is opposed to the Church of England, which was



Pope Benedict XVI's comments on equality and homosexuality have caused a stir in the face of a new equality bill.

not the focus of the comment piece. The size of this worrying gap in James' knowledge of British politics is made clearer by the irrelevant quip that the Pope's visit in September will cost £20 million; a necessary expense caused by the visit of any head of state as not only is it essential that the security be provided by British police, but also that we as a nation remain a good host.

But now for the important part of the debate; namely the conflict between religious freedom and the freedom of others. I believe in a separation of church and state; bishops should not be in the House of Lords due to being bishops. I also believe that no one ap-

plying for a job should face discrimination on the grounds of political belief, religious belief or sexuality. But, like most, I believe that there are clear and common sense exceptions to this; the Labour party's manifesto clearly states that only those who support its politics can stand for election within the party. It would be ludicrous for this to be banned as political discrimination. Yet if a conservative applied to be a postman, then to discriminate would be wrong. Surely the same applies to religious belief; religions clearly cannot say that gay people mustn't deliver their post; they can however insist that priests, bishops, etc adhere to Catholic

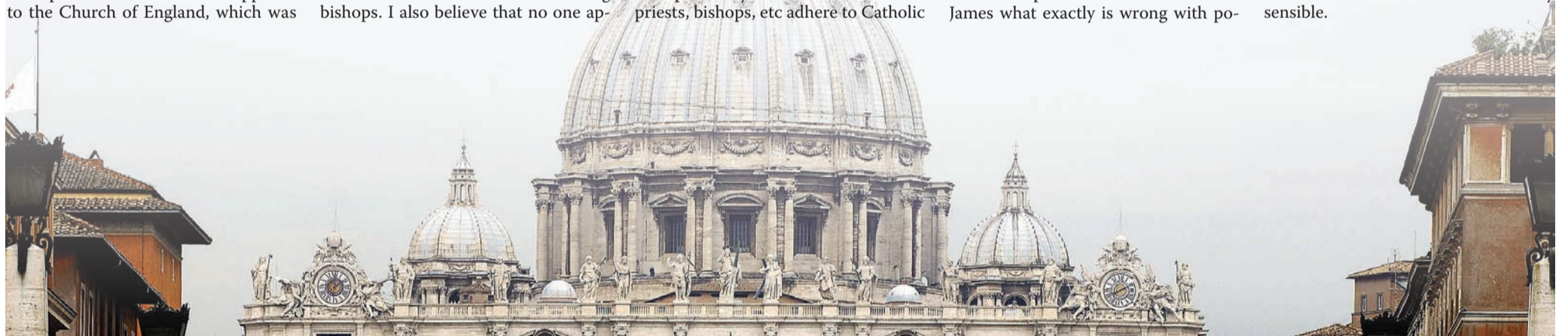
beliefs which since the second Vatican Council in the 1950s have held that it is wrong for employers to discriminate on the grounds of sexuality. Besides, if employment legislation applied to Priests they would be in for a nice pay rise and dramatically reduced hours; exemptions work both ways.

James argues that "you are allowed to believe what you like; you're just not allowed to do whatever you like". A meaningless statement as belief, most would say, is nothing without practice. He cites the example of religions that promote polygamy not being allowed to do so in practice. I would like to ask James what exactly is wrong with po-

lygamy in principle? If people consent to it; why not? Surely he sees that having more than one wife or husband is of no harm to anyone else. And harm is a key issue – were polygamy to be forced on others, this would be wrong. But this would not be the case. James' reasoning, along with the reasoning of the proponents of this Bill, is in clear contradiction of that cornerstone of modern British liberalism; do as you want, just don't harm anyone else without their consent. As long as Catholic teaching on homosexuality doesn't call on them being harmed, I don't see how it's anyone's business. You may not like it, but there are no grounds for banning it. Like James Blunt.

As for what right the Pope has to "meddle with Britain"; the Pope has no legal authority here. It is up to British law makers and citizens to decide whether or not to take his advice. It is interesting that no one complained when the Vatican called the invasion of Iraq "a crime against peace", an issue of vastly greater importance. Not to mention that one of the greatest criticisms levelled against the Church is (with some justification) that they didn't intervene enough against Nazism; critics simply can't have it both ways.

The belief in the separation of church and state works two directions; the church can't force the state to behave in a certain way and the state can't start telling the church what it can and can't do in its own business. That's only sensible.



This week

## MPs back vote on electoral reform

MPs have agreed to introduce a referendum on whether we should ditch the "first past the post" system we currently have and replace it with an "alternative vote" system where candidates are ranked in preference order. MPs backed the referendum by 365 votes to 178. The plan was put forward by Gordon Brown as a way of increasing the public's trust in government. It is not certain, however, whether the legislation will be introduced before the coming General Election. Jack Straw, Justice Secretary, (pictured) called it an "important debate" for democracy in this country.



## Government's torture appeal lost

Judges ruled that redacted paragraphs describing Binyam Mohamed's treatment as "cruel, inhuman and degrading" should be released. "We have fought this case and brought the appeal to defend a principle we believe is fundamental to our national security - that intelligence shared with us will be protected by us," Mr Miliband said. The paragraphs say that interrogators subjected him to sleep deprivation and threats and inducements. Mr Mohamed was secretly flown to Morocco by the US where he claims he was tortured with the involvement of the British.



## EU Commission chosen by Parliament

The European Parliament has voted overwhelmingly in favour of the 27 new European commissioners, each having previously faced the Parliament. MEPs cast 488 votes in favour, 137 against and there were 72 abstentions. The Commission is responsible for drafting EU laws and ensuring that all 27 member states comply with EU treaties. The vote on the Commission was delayed by three months due to delays in ratifying the Lisbon Treaty. The president of the Commission, Portuguese Jose Manuel Barroso, was approved for a second term by the EU government leaders before the latest vote.







# In memory of a mad Swedish alchemist



Maria Dalberg as Harriet and Tom Cornish as the crazy Edgar Lutzen. Photographs by Jack Ladenburg

I say "Disorientating Swedish psychodrama featuring alchemy, the occult and Telepathic Sex, anybody?" You say "Gee, well, I might actually be busy that night..." But hold on just a minute there, this play is not as trippy as the blurb sounds, and has some very positive features. So keep reading. Please keep reading.

The story is this: there is a brilliant artist who has thrown it in to dedicate his life to alchemy, and is fast going crazy as he downs litres of absinthe, can't sleep or eat and desperately attempts to get his wife to come back. But somehow it does manage to cling to reality, probably due to the excellent script and acting by the very unique characters (including an amusingly Welsh landlady).

In some unbelievable way, it all seems very real; so much so that I didn't get much sense of actually being 'inside the mind' of the alchemist with the unravelling life. His nightmares were manifested in his occasional breakdowns and obvious paranoia, but I liked the fact that we didn't have to share his fanatical paranoia, it was rather with his wife and doctor that we could empathise, at least to begin with.

The really cool thing about the venue for this play is that it is a 'theatre-pub', if

you haven't been to one, it is absolutely worth it. The room is small and the front row (out of three, running along two walls of the room) sits on the set. This means you are ridiculously close to the actors; intense doesn't come close to describing how powerful the atmosphere is.

There are some stunningly personal scenes and the environment created by the sound of weather outside feels realistic; you can even smell the food, perfume and musk.

The set, being so tiny and hemmed by the audience on two out of four sides, is one room which cleverly morphs every 'scene', into the room of each of the respective characters. This all seems quite normal if a bit dreamlike, but is quite easy to follow which really speeds up the pace, and doesn't leave the set feeling constricted as 'one set' plays can be.

Complaints might be that there are a lot of stressful shouty scenes when people are angry and crazy (at least it's exciting) and at points it's difficult to see how the play is moving forwards. Sometimes the unravelling in the second act feels a bit gratuitous, but it is also genuinely captivating and you have just over one week left to see it.

Review by Rox Middleton

## College Hardship Fund 2009

### Money worries affecting your studies?

EU and Overseas students may be eligible for a grant from the College Hardship Fund (home students can apply to the Access to Learning Fund.)

We understand that despite careful planning some students may face higher than expected costs or a financial emergency. In such cases we may be able to assist with a small award from the College Hardship Fund which could provide the additional support you need to continue with your studies.

Autumn term application deadline: **19 February 2010**

#### FURTHER INFORMATION AND APPLICATION FORMS:

Web: <http://www3.imperial.ac.uk/registry/studentfinancialsupport/hardshipfund>

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

Telephone: 020 7594 8122





# Mr Tambourine Man snaps the world

Photographer Mark Edwards embarked on a mission in 1969 to illustrate each line of Bob Dylan's song *A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall*. The Hard Rain Project is the result of that endeavour. **Caz Knight** previews the project before its arrival at Imperial College

“*And I'll tell it and think it and speak it and breath it/ And reflect it from mountain so all souls can see it...*” It is 1969 and, lost in the Sahara desert, Mark Edwards is rescued by a Tureg nomad who whisks him back to his people, gives him a cup of tea and puts a cassette player on. It is Bob Dylan singing *A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall*. The images conjured up in the song inspire Mark to set about illustrating each line: the result is the Hard Rain exhibition in which 200 photographs taken all over the world bring up a multitude of global issues, tying them together and conveying the intrinsic ways in which they are linked. Beautiful images of ugly truths are explored including climate change, poverty, the wasteful use of resources, population expansion, habitat destruction and species loss. The exhibition is presented as a 60m banner in which the photos are interspersed with Dylan's lyrics, and has already been viewed by over 10 million people despite only beginning last year.

The Hard Rain Project was created as an exhibition and as a charity to support educational programmes for schools, colleges and universities with the support of the United Nations Environment Program, ClimateCare and Still Pictures – Edward's photography



Bus driving across a flooded plateau, High Andes, Bolivia

agency specialising in social and environmental issues and nature. The project is also available in book and DVD form, entitled *Our Headlong Collision with Nature* which examines the

state of our planet with some shocking photographs including a washed-up corpse alongside the Taj Mahal being sniffed by a dog, the Amazon being burned for agriculture, a shattered

portrait of a dead Palestinian in Lebanon and some poignantly relevant pictures of hard rain and deforestation in the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince.

The Hard Rain Project, located until

recently in St Martin-in-the-Fields, off Trafalgar Square, has toured countless countries; been enjoyed in venues as diverse as the Eden Project, botanic gardens and the United Nations Building; has touched scientists, politicians, corporations, organisations and has also made a stand in Copenhagen during the December conference on climate change. As of Monday 15th February, Imperial College is extremely privileged and excited to host the exhibition along the Queen's Lawn, until 12th March. In that time, students and staff will have the chance to take their time and reflect on the images, absorb the lyrics and realise the urgency of the issues presented. In addition, on 3rd March, last November's Royal Photographic Society award-winner himself will be presenting his exhibition as a 50 minute slideshow with his personal account of the journey he began in 1969 and Bob Dylan's song played over the photographs.

Gordon Brown describes Hard Rain as “an impassioned cry for change”. Yet, the kind of change we need to undertake to reinvent the world so that it is compatible with nature is a whole lot more genuine and imperative than any change any politician can ever promise.

To reserve seats for Mark Edward's Hard Rain Project presentation please email your name, contact details and required seat numbers to Amanda.cerny@imperial.ac.uk.

The Hard Rain Project presentation will take place in the Great Hall on 3rd March 2010 at 5pm, followed by refreshments.

The exhibition will be situated on the Queen's Lawn as of Monday 15th February until Friday 12th March



Bangladeshi refugees, Calcutta, India: a man carries his cholera-stricken wife during the 1971 Bangladesh war



## MUSIC

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



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

1. Radiohead
2. Bloc Party
3. The Beatles
4. Coldplay
5. Florence & TM
6. Red Hot Chili Peppers
7. Muse
8. Hot Chip
9. Foo Fighters
10. MGMT

So you're all still depressed and listening to Radiohead. Shocker. I'm not sure how the Beatles have scuttled their way up the charts, they haven't released anything in ages. As always, this chart does not reflect the snobby tastes of the Felix staff

- Alexandra Ashford



## Pens down, party pants on, here's some good nights out in London

Feb 20 - **Simian Mobile Disco's Delicatessen** @ Matter, £15/20  
 Feb 20 - **Break 'n' Bowl** (old school 90's hip hop) @ Bloomsbury Lanes, £7  
 March 5 - **Ed Banger (Busy P, SebastiAn, Fake Blood, etc.)** @ the Coronet, £15  
 March 6 - **James Holden** @ Corsica Studios, £13  
 March 6 - **Laurent Garnier** @ the Roundhouse, £28

## Musical Mathematics

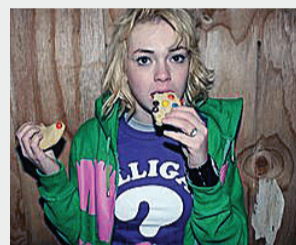
Finally, music in a language that you geeks can understand



+



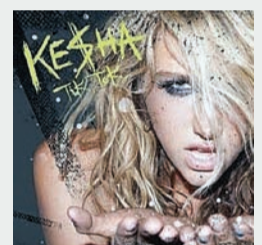
=



+



=



+



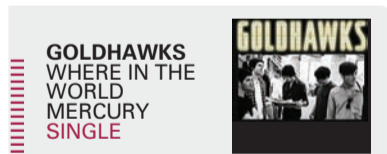
=



+



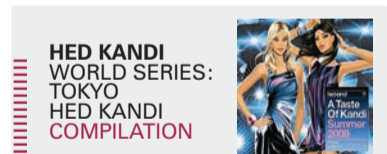
=



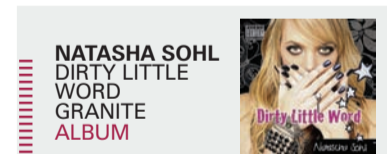
I was hoping this band might be inspired to recreate the joys of Sheppy B's Goldhawk road in musical glory. The African fabric shops, the falafel stalls, the weed dealers and fake rhinestoned Nikes. No, they are actually trying to recreate the sound of Bon Jovi, diluted and tuneless. - Alexandra Ashford



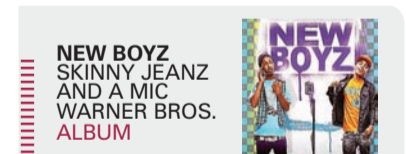
Fan Death wear the most awesome clothes and I won't lie, that is the main reason I like them. This EP shows that there is some substance to Fan Death under all those frilly, lacey, layers of style. Also, the track "reunited" has one of the best music videos I've ever seen. - Alexandra Ashford



This compilation has lots of the big dancefloor bangers you will have heard on your last lads on tour/girls night out on the lash, mixed in with lots of cheesy, cheesy house. Despite being to club music what Hersheys is to chocolate, lots of people will like this. - Alexandra Ashford



This girl looks like Fern Britton's idea of punk. A GMTV-friendly Avril Lavigne-alike. The first sentence of the inside booklet says, "thanks to everyone who put me down... you spurred me to prove you wrong!" so I know she won't mind me saying it's shit. Now go prove me wrong. - Alexandra Ashford



Unlike most rappers, these two cute little kids like their jeans skinny. They're like a less goofy Keenan & Kel rapping fresh funny lyrics over stripped down minimal beats. Though they clearly borrow heavily from the Neptunes, this sounds pretty new and cool. - Alexandra Ashford



Whether you like Owl City will depend on how loosely you define plagiarism. It simply feels like Give Up has been put through a blender with the addition of boy band backing music. And let's not forget the must have vocal accessory of the moment, autotuning. - Christopher Walmsley



If you're like me, you're probably more familiar with Ok Go with their inspired choreography in their music videos than their music. The lead single WTF? sets the tone punching into a groove with choppy-funk guitar strewn over the top. The chromatic vocal melody in the verse works well

and I'm having my expectations raised by the album until a totally superfluous guitar solo begins to masturbate the song to death. Unfortunately this is not an isolated occurrence. It seems every time, just as I find something that makes me more interested in a song, some musical wankery appears slap-bang in the middle that makes me switch off. The album comes across as it's trying to be anthemic pop, which it comes some way to succeeding, but it is missing a song with a killer hook or catchy line. - Christopher Walmsley



Indie may have had its day but Bombay Bicycle are the reminder of why it became popular in the first place. Their songs are perfectly formed and their lyrics are catchy and moody at the same time. This song is brilliant and best heard as part of their similarly brilliant album. - Kadhim Shubber



Better than most generic indie, the song has a rolling melody and a constant scribbled guitar riff overlaid with faraway vocals (no literally it sounds like the guy stood too far away from the mic during recording). I'll probably not listen to this song again after finishing this review. - Kadhim Shubber



# Bestival line up announced!

The Flaming Lips, Hot Chip and LCD Soundsystem to play

Last September I went to Bestival with a group of my friends (pictured) and the series of events that unfolded made me determined to visit the Isle of Wight every year for the festival, come wind, rain, snow or shit performances from MGMT.

The lineup speaks for itself but it's the friendly and relaxed atmosphere and the other entertainment on offer that really makes the festival what it is. Each year the festival has a theme, and last year it was outer space. This meant that in various areas of the site you could help build a massive cardboard spaceship, or get free face-paint or build your own alien costume to go raving in.

In the camping area, you don't have to beware exploding camping stoves like at Reading and you can usually use the toilet without much hassle (or if you're an absolute ponce, you can pay extra to use the "comfy crappers", like our bacteriophobic Editor Dan Wan).

The festival is like closure for the summer. It's the final bit of uninhibited fun before you come back to London to find a flat and study.

Kadhim Shubber



The best thing about this photo is that the wellies were free...

## The Lineup

The Flaming Lips / Hot Chip / LCD Soundsystem / Dizzee Rascal / Gil Scott Heron / Chase & Status / Echo and the Bunnymen / Simian Mobile

Disco / Delphic / Rolf Harris / Marc Almond / Dan Le Sac Vs Scroobius Pip / Ellie Goulding / Four Tet / Joy Orbison / The Cuban Brothers / Beardyman / Archie Bronson Outfit / Samuel and the Dragon / The Lost Brothers / DJ Derek and many more

## IC Radio schedule

Forget Radio 1, tune in to the world's best radio station at [www.icradio.com](http://www.icradio.com)

### Friday 12 February

16:30 – 18:00 FLUX  
18:00 – 19:00 The Propaganda Show  
19:00 – 20:00 Jack Had A Groove  
20:00 – 00:00 Music Tech Sessions

### Saturday 13 February

11:00 – 13:00 VPT  
13:00 – 14:00 Fez 'Not The Hat' Show

### Sunday 14 February

21:00 – 22:00 The Big Racket

### Monday 15 February

16:30 – 17:30 The Unseen Green  
17:30 – 18:30 The Pre-Lash  
18:30 – 20:00 Pic 'n' Mix

### Tuesday 16 February

13:00 – 14:00 Science at One

17:00 – 18:00 Best Foot Forward  
18:00 – 19:00 Urban Technology  
19:00 – 20:00 Break Yourself

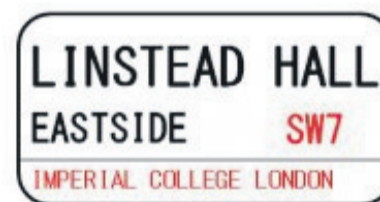
### Wednesday 17 February

12:00 – 13:00 Short Science  
13:00 – 14:30 Safe As Milk  
14:30 – 16:00 The Flagship Show  
16:00 – 17:00 International Rules  
17:00 – 18:30 Supa Fine Sessions  
18:30 – 20:00 1 for the Heads  
20:00 – 21:00 White Noise

### Thursday 18 February

16:00 – 17:00 Faces for Radio  
17:00 – 18:00 The Shipping Forecast  
18:00 – 19:00 emerge  
19:00 – 20:00 Happy Hour  
20:00 – 21:00 On Dancefloors  
21:00 – 22:00 Clash of the Playlists  
22:00 – 23:00 Addicted To Bass

# WILKINSON – GABOR – LINSTEAD EASTSIDE HALL SENIOR POSITIONS 2010-11



The wardening teams are looking for enthusiastic people to be part of the Eastside Halls senior teams for 2010-2011  
Reduced rent is provided!

For more information, contact [seniors@eastsidehalls.org](mailto:seniors@eastsidehalls.org)

**APPLY NOW – DEADLINE FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY**

Application forms can be downloaded from <http://www.eastsidehalls.org/> or obtained from the Student Hub in Sherfield Level 3





Want to get naked to publicise your club or society? Apply at [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)





# CAT-NIP

Text in to 07832670472

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

Tweet @felixcatnip



## CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?

### THE FOUR SEASONS:

### WHICH ONE IS YOUR FAVOURITE?

JOKES, LETTERS, OPINIONS – WE WANT THEM ALL!

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

Facebook: Felix Fan Page

Text: 07832670472

Twitter: @felixcatnip

## How To Translate Your CV

There are some phrases that crop up in everyone's CV. While you may think they sound good, employers have a different way of reading them.

**Resourceful:** I steal pens from the office and, when no one's looking, the occasional swivel-chair.

**Creative:** I sit at my desk from 9 to 5, staring into space, daydreaming...

**Good Team Skills:** I slavishly agree with whatever the guy in charge says.

**IT Literate:** I spend more time on Facebook than I do working.

**I work well on my own:** One day, I'll go Postal and kill you all. Could be in ten years' time, could be tomorrow. Do you feel lucky?

**Presentation Skills:** I don't know what I'm talking about but I do have an assortment of funny hats.

**Sociable:** I get drunk at the Christmas Party and expose myself.

**Years of Experience:** I worked in the same job all my life and then they cut me loose. I don't really know what I'm doing here.

**Dependable:** I don't have a life so I'll always be here. Forever.

## Valentine's : Hot Date Or Tacky Tradition?

Me and the gf are just going to settle down with a bottle of wine and a film. Probably *American Psycho*.

Third Year

It could be great but I'm worried the rohypnol I ordered won't get here in time.

Second Year Medic

Who cares about Valentine's Day? It's Pancake Day on Tuesday! I'd rather have pancakes than a girlfriend any day of the week!

Closest Homosexual/Crepe Aficionado

## Drunken-Mate Photo Of The Week



Road sign, cling film, clothes pegs and a suspicious white substance. Forget drunk, this guy is practically a work of art. He's also been lashed to the oven with a necktie.

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

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

## Aunty McPickle really loves small fluffy animals, especially with terikayi seasoning

Dear Aunty McPickle,

For some unknown reason, my boyfriend decided to pick off all the dried skin from his feet. What's even more of a mystery is that he decided to leave it on my pillow. What could be behind this strange behaviour?

A worried Valery

Dear Valery,

I suspect he gets some sick satisfaction from picking his feet. It's definitely at the weird end of foot fetishism. He should however make more of an effort to conceal such strange habits in the

future. I suggest just going mental with him about it. After all, no one wants to go to sleep on skin-ridden pillow.

Aunty McPickle xxx

Dear Aunty McPickle,

I have recently bought a Hamster and aptly named him Winston. He is a frisky fellow and frequently humps my girlfriend's finger. This is harmless enough. What concerns me is that she appears to enjoy it a bit too much and I caught her feeding him with boogies. Is bestiality behind this?

Clifford

Dear Clifford,

Mmmmm this is unusual. I think you need to be wary of such rodent competition. Just get a female Winston and the problem should be eliminated. But I think the real problem here is your psychotic girlfriend.

Aunty McPickle xxx

Dear Aunty McPickle,

I am worried about the coming Valentine's Day as I have arranged a

"hot" date with some hunky Mech-Eng guy. I am worried because the last date I went on I found his jokes so funny milk came out of my nose whilst simultaneously farting. How can I avoid such situations?

Pamela

Dear Pamela,

I suggest you start paying attention to your sphincter muscles and avoid finding anything hilarious. Hopefully this won't be necessary if he's as boring as every other guy on Mech-Eng.

Aunty McPickle xxx



Hamsters are so cute! I think I know what Richard Gere saw in them now.



## FILM

Film Editor Ed Knock  
film.felix@imperial.ac.uk



## Everybody loves Forest

Ed Knock Film Editor

A couple of weeks ago I controversially declared that *Forest Gump* was not a good film. Since then, numerous people have approached me complaining that I slated their favourite movie, one person even looked like they were going to burst into tears. Before an inquisition is started and I'm burned at the stake for heresy, I feel I need to explain my stance.

Firstly, by stating that *Forest Gump* is not a good film, please don't assume that I meant it is a bad film. Compared to the usual dross that is spewed out of Hollywood these days it stands rather favourably. I would argue that the film is easily above average in terms of quality but was it worthy of all its Oscars? In my opinion, no.

Let's take a look at characters, one of the film's strongest points in many critic's views. The main protagonist Forest is unbelievably tedious, his naivety prevents his character gaining any real emotional depth. When he's supposedly portraying happiness, sadness or anger we are given the same dumb expression. I understand his childlike demeanour is intentional so that his innocence and honesty can be manipulated and abused by those around him but by lacking any common sense, it's hard for the audience to relate to him. And then there's Bubba: simply Forest in black skin. I know his friendship with Forest is incredibly heartwarming but at the end of the day he is just another idiot. Captain Dan is another stereotype, selfish and successful who loses everything before gaining humility as Forest helps him rebuild his life - Oh I wasn't expecting that!

The only decent character in the whole film was Forest's love interest Jenny. She

had no quirky traits or crazy misfortunes and I can truly sympathise with how she constantly tries to run from the moron Gump.

The episodic format of *Forest Gump* is a lazy style of story telling with numerous instances of *Deus ex Machina* such as the storm during the fishing scene. In fact the plot is essentially a patchwork of pop-culture references which becomes one joke too far very soon. Forest teaching Elvis to dance? It's just ridiculous and though the technology behind putting Tom Hanks into famous news footage is certainly impressive, it's not a premise to base a film around.

My biggest problem with *Forest Gump* is the rather nasty conservative context that lies underneath all the sentimental codswallop. This attack on counter-culture is blatantly obvious once you look for it; *Forest Gump*, clean cut and hardworking is constantly successful whilst never questioning anything. However Jenny, who takes an alternative route in life involving political activism, drugs and sexual liberation eventually turns out to be loser - she dies of cancer. The Vietnam scenes are an insult to those who suffered on both sides of the war, the fact that Forest loses his best friend and Dan his legs, yet they eventually come out winners in stark contrast to reality.

At the end of the day *Forest Gump* is an enjoyable film but when you consider that *Pulp Fiction* and *The Shawshank Redemption* were nominated for the Best Picture Oscar that Gump eventually won, it's puzzling to understand why everyone loves it.

## Can this film live up to its brilliant poster?

### New Toy Story 3 Characters!



Mr Pricklepants



Peas in a Pod



Ken!

I was originally going to write about a terrible poster for the new film *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief* (Every bus stop from the Albert Hall to Hammersmith has it displayed, take a look, it is truly awful). Whilst browsing the internet for such offending poster I came across this beauty on slashfilm.com and decided to comment upon my admiration for it instead.

I'm instantly reminded of the Soviet propaganda posters of Alexander Rodchenko, the film's title 'Connected' is printed in a very Russian style. I love the scene of two figures against a minimal backdrop, our eyes are immediately drawn to the white tubes linking their masks on their biohazard style suits. I'm intrigued by the sense of mystery the poster portrays, its simplicity is the key and begs us to ask the question; just what has happened to these two people?

There is a short teaser for the film on its website. It looks in the similar vein as *Alive in Jo'burg* on which District 9 was based - [www.ov43.com](http://www.ov43.com)



[heartlungcentre.com](http://heartlungcentre.com)

## Do you suffer from Hay fever?

If you are:

- a non-smoker
- aged 18 - 55
- otherwise healthy

**you may be eligible to participate in a clinical study to help evaluate therapies for Hay fever**  
**Expenses for time and travel incurred will be reimbursed.**  
**All studies have been approved by an Independent Ethics Committee**

**Freephone 0800 023 4824**

**or register at**

**[heartlungcentre.com](http://heartlungcentre.com)**



## News Reel

### Hindu nationalists attack cinemas

Members of Shiv Sena have attacked theatres in Mumbai during protests over comments made by Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan. Kahn's latest film about the hardships Muslims face in the USA is proving controversial in India.

### Zombieland 2 confirmed

*Zombieland* was a surprisingly good film, balancing horror and genuine comedy. It now appears that we due a second helping of Woody Harrelson's bad-ass Tallahassee and this time in glorious 3D with a script specifically written for.

### Akira live action film resurrected

Vulture blog apparently has the scoop that the classic anime film is to be remade into a two part film by the Hughes Brothers fresh off their latest hit *The Book of Eli*. Interestingly most *Akira* Fans rejoiced when the project looked dead last summer.

### New Muppets film is definitely happening

We haven't had a *Muppets* instalment for a while now but a new project has been given the green light. The plot revolves around Kermit and pals putting on show that draws in 10 million viewers to prevent new villain Tex from destroying their studio.



# From the genius who gave us *Amelie*

## Micmacs

**Director** Jean Pierre Jeunet  
**Screenwriter** Jean Pierre Jeunet  
**Cast** Danny Boon, Omar Sy, Dominique Pinon

**Ed Knock** Film Editor

*Micmacs* starts very somberly; a soldier crouching over a landmine, gingerly sweeping the dirt off its surface amongst the cruel barrenness of the desert. The camera cuts to a longshot and the mine suddenly explodes in the soldiers face throwing him high into the air. This sounds like a step into darker themes for Jean Pierre Jeunet, the man who gave us the surreal brilliance of *Delicatessen* and the anarchic spirit of *Amelie*.

But we are soon back to familiar territory as we introduced to the unfortunate soldier's young son Bazil. A brief montage then depicts our protagonist's childhood who appears to have

adopted the misfortune of his father. Bazil accidentally ends up with a bullet lodged in his brain, removing it might make him a vegetable and so the surgeons leave it in though he now carries the risk of dropping dead at any minute. Ending up on the streets af-

**"Gentle touches of physical comedy with the deadpan mannerisms of Keaton"**

ter losing his job and apartment he is eventually adopted by a motley collection of characters who live on a scrap heap headed by the matriarchal figure 'Mama Chow'. One day, whilst searching for useful junk Bazil chances upon the two arms manufacturers who have caused him so much misery and with his new friends he plots his revenge.

French comedian Danny Boon handles the lead role delicately, infusing the character with gentle touches of physical comedy with the deadpan mannerisms of Keaton and Chaplain. The film is essentially an ensemble



For all reviews from this term go online [www.felixonline.com](http://www.felixonline.com)

piece and the family of second-hand dealers that Bazil joins is full of wacky personalities for the audience to laugh with, cringe at and admire. Most memorable of these characters is Remington (Omar Sy), displaced from his homeland in the Congo and constantly reciting proverbs and other words of wisdom, his impersonation of a Nigerian gangster is very amusing.

Of course a Jeunet film would not be complete without Dominique Pinon who easily slips into the role of the indestructible Buster, keen to please but slightly creepy. With names like Slammer, Calculator, Tiny Pete and Elastic Girl you can imagine that the rest of the gang are of a similar zany standard.

The film looks fantastic, combining the run down, antique-style aesthetics of *Delicatessen* with the classic architecture of Paris most lovingly shot in *Amelie*. *Micmacs* is *Delicatessen's* spiritual successor and there is even a cheeky reference slipped in at one point.

The most novel aspect of *Micmacs* is that the characters appear to aware that their existence is a fabrication, the soundtrack is perceived by Bazil as the perfect accompaniment to his current predicament such as a full orchestra playing a crescendo to a dramatic moment. The film's publicity posters are even prominently displayed on various billboards during the film.

The plot is basically a heist movie in

disguise but instead of lengthy explanations of the gang's schemes we are left to follow their activities and for large part of the film you are left in amazement trying to understand what just happened. The story progresses like clockwork, every device clicking into place throwing twists and turns that keep you on the edge of your seat throughout.

This only possible with the steady hand of Jean Pierre Jeunet on the pacing and smooth transitions between scenes so the film never looks like a series of set pieces randomly sewn together. The climax is wonderful example of a how a yellow-tinted lens can make a big difference which will leave your jaws hanging.

The script is very strong too, a romantic subplot between Bazil and Elastic Girl is eloquently presented and the film's villains compare themselves to Rimbaud (who apparently was a gun runner). With a great script, cast and direction *Micmacs* should be a classic, but it isn't. The originality which made *Amelie* and *Delicatessen* so unique has now faded into *Deja Vu*. I hate to say it but at times *Micmacs* felt a little sterile, as if the creativity had been forced into the film. Overall though, it is a highly enjoyable film and definitely another hit for Jeunet showcasing the extensive talent this French director has.

The Films of Jean Pierre Jeunet



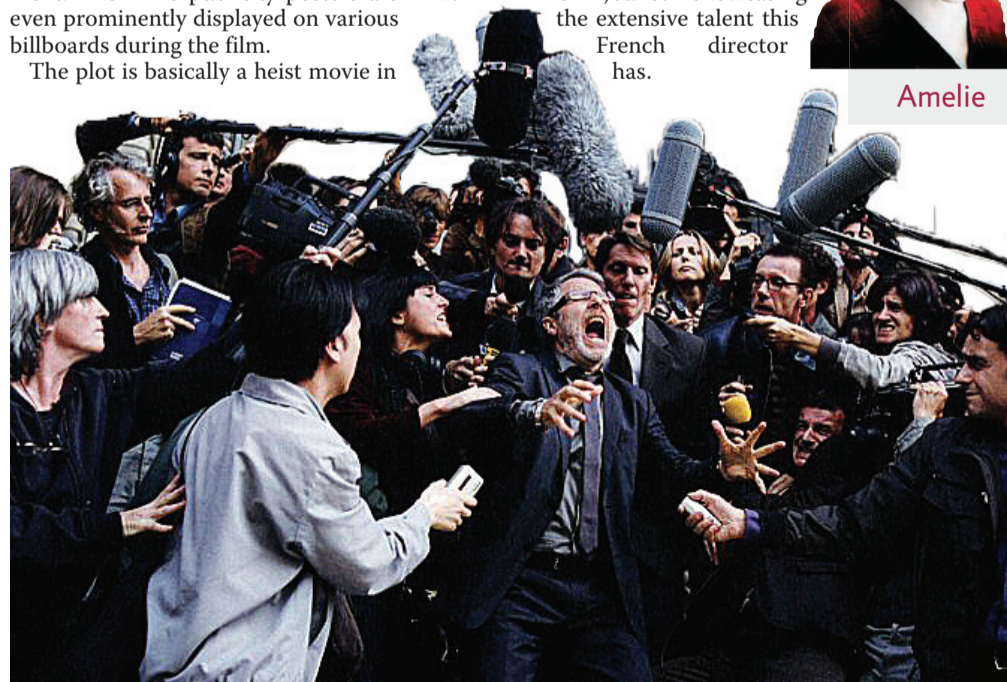
Delicatessen



The City of Lost Children



Amelie





## Volunteers with Asthma Needed

Required for clinical study to evaluate new treatments for asthma. Expenses for time and travel incurred whilst participating in the clinical study will be reimbursed

Please call the research nurses at  
0800 023 4824

All Studies have been approved by an Independent Ethics Committee



[heartlungcentre.com](http://heartlungcentre.com)







The RCSU



# SCIENCE CHALLENGE

LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS

**FREE**

**ANDREW HARRISON**

**FUELS INNOVATION MANAGER - SHELL**

**Tuesday 16th February**

**18:00 Pippard Lecture Theatre**

**Your chance to gain exclusive insight to help you  
answer your Science Challenge essay!**

**A BIG SURPRISE WILL ALSO BE  
REVEALED**



**[WWW.SCIENCECHALLENGE.ORG](http://WWW.SCIENCECHALLENGE.ORG)**





# Happy Valentine's and Gung Hei Fat Choy!

In case you don't know already, Valentine's and Chinese New Year fall on the same day this year. Maybe a collage of images and places will help you decide what to wear/do?

1. Petticoat your circle dress to make a grand entrance ala Isla Fischer in Confession of a Shopaholic.
2. Swap roses for hydrangeas. A vastly more stylish choice.
3. Cheongsam for Chinese New Year? The day dresses were popular in Hong Kong up until 1960, when they were replaced by more functional clothing. Cheongsam is now considered party-wear for special functions. Maggie Cheung's cheongsam was seen in Wong Kar-wai's Cannes Film Award winner - In The Mood for Love. The costume was designed by William Chang.
4. Some lingerie to spice up the night? Bordelle is the only lingerie atelier that matters now. Fact.
5. Want to dress up and impress your missus? Do it properly lads! Follow the instructions to tie the perfect bowtie. Bin those elastic fakes...

6. A face veil adds demureness.
7. A walk in Paris with a bad boy? How about just watch A Bout de Souffle with a nice boy/girl?
8. Following the rebirth of the 70s on the recent runways, visit the archive of Biba's flamboyant styles of the 60s and the 70s.
9. 50s lingerie classics. Think Marilyn Monroe. Grace Kelly. Sex bomb and elegance in a set.
10. Bad shoes is a lame excuse for a piggy-back. Natacha Marro offers fantasy and comfort in a pair!
11. Head for the best cocktails and most chilled out atmosphere in town. Order a Japanese Rocking Horse at LoungeLover.
12. No diamond ring is ever big enough. The London Eye viewed from the back of the Horse Guards is. Go at night.



## News Strip

Renny Norman

Fashion Reporter

### Burberry Fashion Show Live in 3D

Burberry's show in the upcoming London Fashion Week is to be streamed in 3D. Christopher Bailey, the head designer, is pioneering the use of 3D technology to bring the show to a select group of invitees. The show, which will also be streamed online, will take place on February 24th at the Chelsea College of Art.

### Marc Jacobs Sues Ed Hardy

Marc Jacobs is filing a lawsuit against Ed Hardy due to similarities between a handbag Ed Hardy has recently made to the Marc Jacobs Pretty Nylon tote bag. If the lawsuit is successful Marc Jacobs will be able to seize any profits made from the bag as well as the item being destroyed.

### Another Designer Beauty Line

Oscar de la Renta is in talks with potential investors to launch a beauty line which includes make-up and skin care. A deal can be reached in weeks. A few months ago Dolce & Gabbana launched their first ever venture into cosmetics, using Scarlett Johansson as the line's spokeswoman.

### Dannii Minogue for M&S

Dannii Minogue will star alongside Twiggy and the Victoria Secrets model Ana Beatriz Barros in Marks and Spencer's spring/summer 2010 campaign. None of the models who posed for the previous adverts apart from Twiggy are used this season.

### Jonathan Saunders and Mark Fast for Topshop

Topshop is teaming up with designer Jonathan Saunders to launch a new collection for SS10. The range focuses on bold, classic shapes with denim being a major theme in the designs. He cites sportswear and 90s jeans as being major influences on the range. Another Central St. Martins graduate Mark Fast who caused a controversy over the use of plus-size models has also collaborated with Topshop. His signature knitwear collection is expected to hit the stores this month.

### Boris Supports Indie Fashion

Boris pledges to help independent fashion designers in London. The BFC has received £4.2 million from the London Development agency and grants have been given to East London designers businesses.





# name your new bar & nightclub

Email your ideas to  
**renamethebars@imperial.ac.uk**  
or tweet using the tag **#phase3**.

**Deadline Wednesday 17 February at midday.**

Keep up-to-date with Phase 3 by visiting  
our blog **imperialcollegeunion.org/phase3**

**imperialcollegeunion.org**

 **imperial  
college  
union**



# Tri-Union



## Bar & Comedy Night



### 'S ISY SUTTIE

On stage, Suttie alternates between sparkling stand-up and witty ditties, both of which feature in her new Edinburgh Fringe hour *The Suttie Show*, a performance infused with her warm personality and ability to touch on more melancholy topics.  
- David Baldwin, *London Lite*

### CHRIS RAMSAY

He's got an innate sense of timing, with perfect pace and phrasing to enliven the routine - Steve Bennett, *Chortle*

### CLINT EDWARDS

A gifted word-smith with a masterful sense of timing and delivery - Glee Club

### IAIN STIRLING

Sharp and quick-tongued - The Stage



## Friday 19 Feb

19:30 - 02:00

tickets online £6

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







# A philosopher's very own volcano

A winter warmer anyone? Dylan Lowe recalls his visit to a volcano and how he still, err, likes geology

All the stoicism and tranquillity this man emanated did not in the least prepare me for his description of the Mt Yasur we were ascending.

"I tell you," his voice, laden with an Argentine accent, hushed as though committing sacrilege. "It's f\*\*king crazy."

I humoured him with a grin. I had better concerns, like fending off the temptation to hitchhike a ride to the very top. Too many of those package-tour patrons had sped by on their jeeps, snubbing us for our apparent low social - and financial - status, before throwing black dirt in our faces. But then, I was the geology student making pilgrimage and with Esiegel - a volunteer teacher from Buenos Aires - accompanying me as my guide and supplier of spiritual enlightenment, perhaps it was appropriate to scramble our way up to the second highest point of Tanna, Vanuatu.

The Earth quivered. Yet another eruption.

Little bekownst to me, who barely knew of Vanuatu's existence before my visit, it was the close connection the local

Ni-Vanuatu share with their natural habitat - and indeed their appreciation for it - that can account for the bizarreness the local customs and routines exhibit. The pig prevails as the preferred currency; the sick receive treatment of jungle medicine while the despised live under the bane of curses conjured by witch doctors. Tribesmen residing deep in the jungle await the return of Prince Philip, whom they worship as a god.

I was about to come face-to-face with the alleged birthplace of the Duke of Edinburgh.

The rancid sulphuric aromas could not have signified the presence of the volcano better than the smog surrounding it. Even the rustle of gusts of wind, battering against our will to hoist ourselves to the summit, could not eclipse the grumble that droned, brewed in those pools of lava beyond the reach of our eyes. It occasionally pampered its spectators with the odd splutter; and then, just as the cramping arms yielded and cameras stooped, the halo of smoke would radiate, swiftly pursued by a cascade of molten rocks showered beyond the crater. I staggered. Recollecting my composure and wiping off



philosophy, taking inspiration from the extraordinary feats nature had fashioned on the island. The volcano, he observed, symbolised our vulnerability and miniscule presence in time - it inspired the former materialist to become a devotee of minimalism. Even as nightfall drew its curtain we stood our ground. The scarlet hue began to smoulder. Soon our eyes were spoiled to the night-time fireworks, its majesty magnifying one eruption after another. It could've been a textbook recital of scientific knowledge. Rather, as the stoic did, I let nature indulge my senses.

the embarrassment, we waited, before yet another explosion some ten minutes later knocked me off my balance again.

I must confess how appropriately put were Esiegel's words. Being his ninth visit, Mt. Yasur held a special place in Esiegel's heart. Sickened by his alcoholic violent old life, he travelled, serendipitously stumbling across Tanna. Its mystical lures kept him there for a six-month placement and, becoming connected with the environment himself, he rectified his ways and enriched himself with



Don't suppose you've seen a post office anywhere on the volcano have you?

## An Insider's Haunt: Rome, Italy

Edoardo Borgomeo

An Insider's Haunt, a column which is to become a regular occurrence in felix Travel, has me - Dylan that is - seeking out the hidden spots of locations around the world. This is where residents spill beans on their hometowns and the places worth your while ditching the guide book and experiencing. Physically.

Kicking us off, signore e signori, we have Edoardo on la città di amore itself.

Rome is not just about the Colosseum, St Peter's Square and the Forum. It is impossible to capture the essence of Rome in these places. I am often told by people who have visited Rome that it is a noisy and chaotic city - that is true if you stick to the traditional tourist trek. If you wander just a short distance away from the main attractions you will discover the true atmosphere of Rome, an atmosphere composed of silence, unexpected sights and romantic scenarios (not saying that just because we are close to St. Valentine's Day).

From the Circus Maximus walk up the Aventino Hill along Via Clivo dei Pub-

licii. After a slight bend keep right along Via di Santa Sabina and after 5 minutes you will have reached Piazza Pietro d'Illiria (named after a Dalmatian priest from the 5th century). Once you are in the square take a quick look inside the Basilica of Santa Sabina, then enter the gates on the right side of the square. These gates are the entrance to a small, symmetrical garden called Giardino degli Aranci - literally translated as 'Orange Garden'. The garden offers a quiet and contemplative atmosphere that is centuries away from the noisy motorcycle-packed Rome. Walk around the orange trees but avoid eating the oranges because they are very bitter (at least the ones I tried were) and then enjoy the panoramic view of Rome from the Belvedere. If you have some extra time to spare leave the garden and walk along Via di Santa Sabina, in the opposite direction from which you came from, until you reach a small square where the road terminates. In this square you will notice a big green gate surmounted by a large arch. This gate leads to the headquarters of the Knights of Malta. If you approach the gate and look through the keyhole you'll see the best thing one can possibly see from a keyhole: St Peter's Dome in all its magnificence.

**Are You the missing piece?**  
**LeoProject.org**



**LEO**  
life, equality & opportunity

**Volunteer in Sri Lanka**  
**Leave your Mark!**

[www.leoproject.org](http://www.leoproject.org) - [info@leoproject.org](mailto:info@leoproject.org)







## FOOD

Food Editors Chris Sim &amp; Holly Cumbers

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# The age old debate about Dim Sum

It might not be a Chinese New Year speciality, but **Chris Sim** tends to eat a whole lot more of it at this time of year

**D**im Sum. There's little debate that it is surely one of China's greatest contributions to world cuisine. But if I was to perform a little survey amongst London's Chinese community about which restaurant serves the best Dim Sum, I'm pretty sure I could start a little debate of my own. Even in my own mind, a fierce quabble rages over where to find the best of these fine creations. After much contemplation, day-dreaming and general pondering, I can't say that there is one particular place which ticks every box. If only there was a way to create the perfect place for Dim Sum, by hand-picking the most noteworthy creations from some of London's most revered Chinese restaurants...

I can remember the taste of Imperial China's 'Wu Kok' (taro croquette) as if it graced my tongue only moments before writing this article. Puffy, crispy pastry encapsulates an unctuously rich taro packed centre, brought to life with a few salty punctuations of pork. Their steamed items are also worth shouting about. Not many other London eateries create Siu Mai ('Prawn and Pork Dumplings') where the individual elements aren't masked by a tad too much pork fat. The juicy meat of the pig, sweet prawn, earthy mushroom and delectable crab roe are all easily identifiable. Also worthy of filling your tummy is their 'Har Kau', prawn



Imperial China's Siu Mai. Here you can see the crab roe in all its glory; visit the place and you can enjoy its glorious taste.

dumplings composed of juicy, sizeable prawns, a featherlike touch of garlic and not-overly-sticky translucent skin.

Royal China (Bayswater or Baker St branch) produces some pretty top notch 'Char Siu' (barbequed pork), and its no surprise that their 'Char Siu Bao' (Steamed Roast Pork Bun) and 'Char Siu So' (Roast Pork Puffs) are some of the best I've tried. Every time I eat either of their renditions of these dishes, an explosion of flavours engulfs my mouth upon penetration of the cloud-like softness of the exterior of

the former and the crispily rich pasty of the latter, with juicy and salty sensations of the pork awakening your palette, quickly mellowed by the soothing sweetness of the gooey sauce.

'Cheung Fun' (steamed rice noodle rolls filled with either prawn, char siu or dough stick, in a soy based sauce) is generally of a pleasing standard in London, but there is one restaurant which gets it spot on. In my opinion, the secret of the Dragon Palace's (Earl's Court) Cheung Fun is to make the rice roll amazingly thin and slick. In doing

so, the rice roll doesn't fill your mouth with an unpleasantly gloopy ball of starch but instead creates a wonderful textural combination of smooth roll and firm filling, brought to life by the soy-based sauce. Also worthy of a tasting is their 'Lo Bak Ko' (Turnip Paste Cake), whose subtly sweet turnip paste, dotted with salty hotspots of Chinese sausage, is beautifully caramelised to create a truly moreish taste sensation.

At this point, some of you may be wondering where Golden Dragon fits

into this equation. Well, their 'Lo Mai Kai', an expertly engineered banana leaf housing voluptuous sticky glutinous rice, prawn, Chinese sausage and mushroom, should definitely be ordered. Their 'Dan Tart' (egg custard tart) provides a timely and sweet treat at the end of a meal. The secret of their success is to use a flaky pastry and a sweet, wobbly, yet not too soft filling.

Dim Sum is never complete without some quality Chinese tea. Yauatcha really stands out in this department, though this level of decadence requires a slightly larger foray into your bank account than you might usually be prepared to embark upon. Whether you pick a classic such as green or something slightly less mundane such as Oolong blue, the quality is evident from your first sip.

To complete the perfect Dim Sum experience, I feel that Imperial China provides the perfect setting. It might not quite have the class of Yauatcha, but it has some of that lively atmosphere which I feel gives it a slightly more authentic touch. While my dream to combine all these dishes into one conveniently brilliant Dim Sum establishment might not be the most likely of prospects, it does indicate one thing: London has the key skills to create this brilliant meal and with a little more TLC and probably at a much loftier price, the perfect Dim Sum experience can be created.

## Restaurant Review of Joy King Lau, from a vegetarian viewpoint

**Holly Cumbers** offers a non-carnivorous opinion of the Chinese creations that this restaurant has to offer

**I**f you are looking for somewhere to celebrate the Chinese New Year then I would suggest that Joy King Lau is at least worthy of your consideration. Okay, it is renowned for bad service, but on the plus side the food is excellent value for money and there is plenty of choice (perhaps too much!). The restaurant is split over three floors and is always popular, which may mean you might take a while to get served, however it is quiet enough to hold a proper conversation. The restaurant caters for both vegetarians and non-vegetarians (unfortunately I won't be able to comment on the meat, however my fellow diners informed me that their food was very good indeed!).

I visited on a Sunday afternoon, which seems to be a popular time for the Dim Sum menu. Dim Sum is great for sharing, it can either be eaten as a midday snack or as an accompaniment to a main meal. The Dim Sum is divided into categories: fried, steamed and 'Cheung Fun', and with prices starting from just £2, this represents pretty good value. If you haven't tried them before I would suggest trying the vegetarian dumplings which are basically rolls made out of rice that are also very slippery!

Fillings can be added to them such as vegetables, prawns or, if you are feeling adventurous enough, shark fin.

Unfortunately I didn't manage to try the deep fried custard buns, but they did sound interesting!

As for their mains, I personally did not enjoy the monk style vegetables - I felt they had a slightly funny flavour to them and were a bit boring. However I did enjoy the sweet and sour beancurd, a classic Chinese dish which I never seem to get bored of. The tofu had an excellent texture and the sauce was nice, however the dish didn't contain much pineapple. There are various other vegetarian dishes which you may also like, such as asparagus with straw mushrooms and cloud ear mushrooms - this dish sounds extremely exotic, it may be worth asking the waiters what a particular dish is like if you are curious.

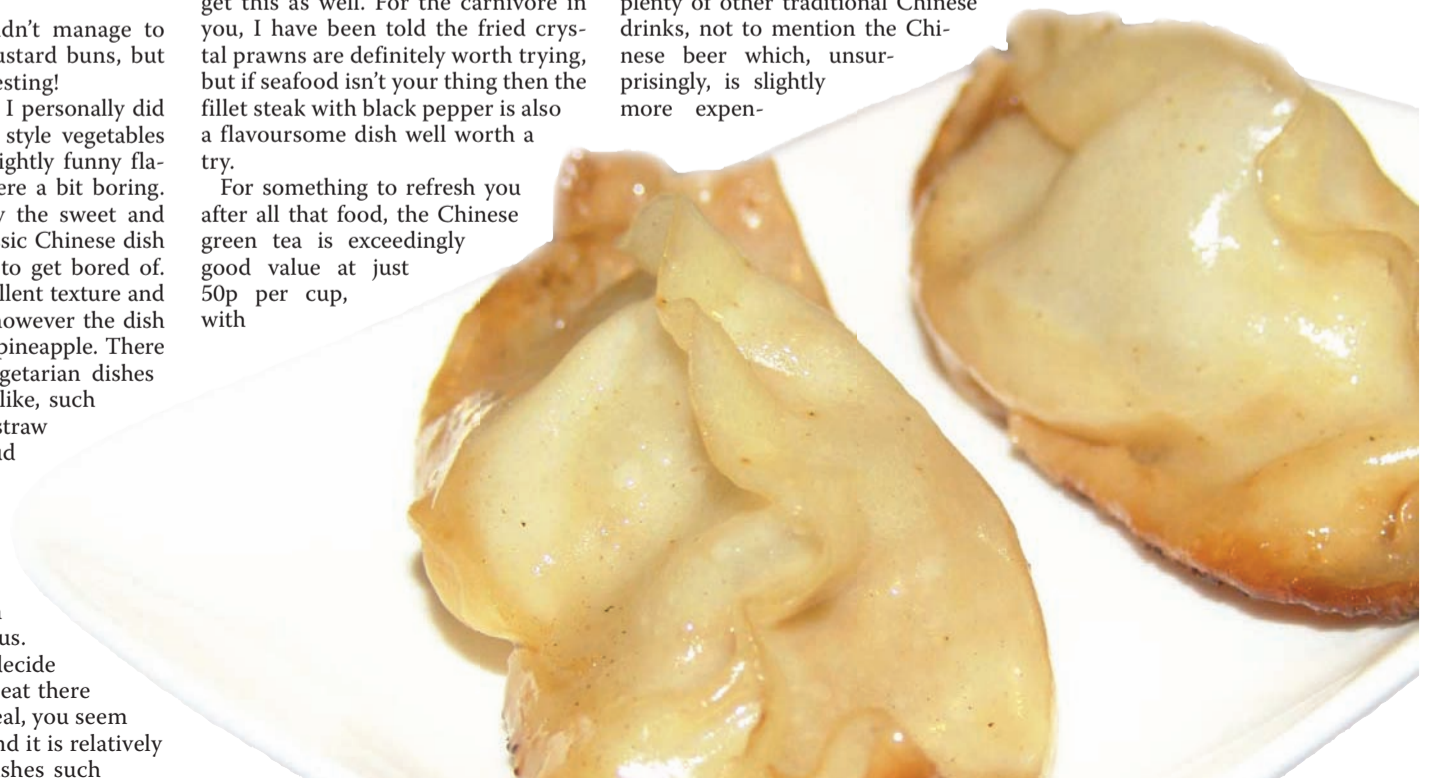
If you want them to decide what you're going to eat there is a vegetarian set meal, you seem to get a lot of food and it is relatively cheap. It includes dishes such

as spring rolls, beancurd and seaweed - however it doesn't appear to include any Dim Sum, so you might want to get this as well. For the carnivore in you, I have been told the fried crystal prawns are definitely worth trying, but if seafood isn't your thing then the fillet steak with black pepper is also a flavoursome dish well worth a try.

For something to refresh you after all that food, the Chinese green tea is exceedingly good value at just 50p per cup, with

free refills. Not only is it ridiculously cheap but it also adds to the Chinese feel! If you don't fancy tea there are plenty of other traditional Chinese drinks, not to mention the Chinese beer which, unsurprisingly, is slightly more expensive.

So all in all, I felt this place represented pretty decent value and was definitely worth the visit.







# Browser war over Video

**Feroz Salam** looks at the state of HTML5 video in your browser

For roughly the last 5 years, there have been two undisputed kings of the browser market – Internet Explorer from Microsoft and Firefox from Mozilla Corporation. With a combined 86% of the market in their pockets, even Google has had a hard time making a dent in the market, despite widespread publicity. This state of affairs looks like it's about to change in the near future however, with Google's own Chrome browser picking up more market share than either Firefox or IE for the entirety of 2010. In addition, if Google continues to use the new HTML5 standard with the h.264 video codec in YouTube videos, they could be signing the death knell for Firefox, in a cunning manoeuvre that could see them simultaneously bringing YouTube into the HTML5 era while grabbing a chunk of the browser market share for Chrome.

HTML5 is the next evolution of the HTML language that brings a whole new set of functionality to webpages. One of the most noticeable features of HTML5 is the ability to embed streaming video without having to install any sort of plugin like Adobe's Flash, the current favourite video distribution platform, or Microsoft's Silverlight. What this should mean is that your average user doesn't have to worry about the hassle of installing and updating plugins on a regular basis just to watch a few clips; removing another source of browser vulnerabilities and crashes. YouTube already supports the new HTML5 tag, and users can watch HTML5 video by signing up for the HTML5 Beta testing group. Yet Firefox, Opera and IE users without Google's Chrome Frame need not apply. Neither Microsoft or Mozilla have bothered implementing the h.264 codec, despite the fact that it would be a major step forward for browser technologies. With Microsoft, the issue seems quite simple, they are probably waiting to see how the codec/platform



wars will play out before they make a decision on implementing any one, especially as they are promoting their own platform, Silverlight. With Firefox however, the issue is much deeper, involving questions about the very nature of free software design and the ethos behind the Mozilla Foundation.

The h.264 codec is a proprietary video codec which therefore means any company that wants to include it has to pay a hefty licensing fee before they can build compatibility into their software. Opera software, the manufacturers behind the Opera family of browsers, has refused to pay the licensing fee outright, citing the high cost of the license. The concern that the Firefox developers have, however, is quite different. In a blog post, one Mozilla developer stated that licensing H.264 "would violate the principles of free software that we strongly believe in". He also went on to say that "we have leverage to possibly change the codec situation" in relation to why they don't use the h.264 codec on the user's system and instead support the open source Ogg Theora video codec. This is essentially Mozilla hinting that it expects their refusal to implement the proprietary codec to send a strong message prompting developers to rethink the platforms that they use to distribute media.

I'm very sceptical about the validity of this argument. While Mozilla taking the moral high ground is admirable, internet users are faced with a plethora of choices when it comes to browsers, most notably the WebKit based browsers, Chrome from Google and Apple's Safari. Both Google and Apple, who uses h.264 extensively in its QuickTime video format, have handed over the licensing fee, making them two of the very few companies that can offer a browser with full h.264 video capabilities right out of the box.

As more and more users and websites switch to the HTML5 tagging system for embedded video, and likely follow the lead of YouTube with h.264, those with Firefox will simply download other browsers, without even concerning themselves with the ethical issues behind Mozilla's refusal to pay the licensing fee. The end result will probably be a choice of two outcomes; the first being that Mozilla leaves their moral high ground and finds a way to license the proprietary codec, or that Mozilla is driven to obscurity in a matter of a few years. As someone who believes strongly in open source, I wish it could be any other way – but given a choice between driving Firefox to oblivion and licensing the codec, I would pick realism over idealism and license it.



## Buzzing, simply Buzzing

**Samuel Gibbs** Technology Editor

You could be forgiven for thinking that the tech world revolved around Apple and Google recently. If it's not the iPad, the Nexus One or the Google China spat, it's that Schmidt and Jobs are falling out of love.

This week Google dropped its newest baby, Buzz, for all the world to see, attempting to muscle in on all this social stuff the cool kids seem to be into these days. Not another Wave I hear you say. We haven't found a use for even that yet! Hold faith dear readers; one day Wave will make perfect sense, just ask the Tech team here at *felix* towers.

In a nut-shell, Google Buzz is another social networking environment where you can share stuff with your friends. But Buzz is a little more than that. Those familiar with FriendFeed and other social networking aggregators, might find that they've seen most of it before. Buzz automatically pulls status updates and other things from places like Twitter, Blogger and flickr shoving them right into your Google-sphere experience. Buzz works directly in Gmail allowing you to share stuff with your private and public Gmail contacts, linking public postings in with your Google Profile page for all the world to see. If you happen not to have a Google Profile, Buzz will automatically create you one, leading to yet another way to find you through your favourite search engine.

Google's big on algorithms, its PageRank system is one of the most complex currently used on the web today. Buzz doesn't escape this passion either, featuring a recommendation engine that puts 'Buzz' from people you don't follow that it thinks you

might like, in your stream, based on what you and your friends follow and comment on. Using further automated processing, Google will try and root out 'bad buzz' like 'I just ate an apple' or 'Going to the bog' by automatically collapsing it whilst prioritizing your stream for what it thinks is 'good buzz'.

Buzz will even push things into your Gmail inbox when someone comments on something you've posted or commented on and when someone sends you a direct message Twitter mention-style with the now synonymous @reply.

That's not all, because Buzz is going mobile too. It's integrated into the Google mobile home page via a Buzz icon. Tapping on said icon will locate you and try and place you in a real location like a shop, coffee house or pub, whichever fits closest with your geographic location. A mobile Buzz webapp is also available for iPhone and Android which allows you to post to buzz, see updates from people you follow and from those located close by. Those with an Android phone get a little more Buzz in their lives than the rest of us, with its integration into the Google Maps app on the platform. The Buzz layer allows you to snap your location to an address and post to Buzz straight from the Maps app. Other mobile OSs are going to see a roll out in the near future, with Blackberry, S60 and WinMob getting in on the act. iPhone users will have to wait for an update before Maps sees any Buzz action.

Those already in the Google-sphere, look out for it in Gmail and other Google services. For the rest of us, well, if you haven't already jumped aboard the Google train, Buzz is unlikely to be

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

**Samuel Gibbs** Technology Editor

Another week, another Apple story; this time it might even interest students. Several textbook publishers have signed on to distribute their wares via a company called Scroll-Motion, who are the folks behind the Iceberg Reader on the iPhone. The deal includes McGraw-Hill, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt K-12, Pearson Education and Kaplan Inc and others are said to be in talks. Could this see the iPad becoming the one student-friendly device to rule them all? Unless you're likely to pay through the nose for electronic forms of

these textbooks, I doubt it. But you have to admit textbooks on a device like the iPad is an attractive thought. Let's just hope they get the text search done right so you don't have to sift through pages upon pages of irrelevant rubbish to find that golden paragraph you've been looking for.

The iPad alternative, the Joo-Joo was also in the news this week with the announcement that it too has an App Store (doesn't everyone these days?) - a webapp store. Fusion

Garage argue, quite rightly so, that the iPad has a large advantage provided by the categorised and searchable App Store. They plan on making a webapp based store in a similar fashion. Let's just hope they make a better stab at webapps than Apple did when it said webapps are 'the only apps you need'. Ha, yeah right.

More sexts got into the news this week too. For those not familiar with the term; a sext is a sexy text often in the news because of minors sending nude picture messages to each other. Idiots.

Anyway, one poor bloke from Winnipeg, Canada got caught with some luscious sexts on his phone by his girlfriend, seemingly from another woman. Problem is Darren P, as he was named by local press, didn't know where they'd come from. Turns out that the pranksters from Virgin Mobile pre-loaded Darren's new Samsung phone with some pretty innocent texts with things like 'Booty Call', 'Where you at' and 'Be there soon'. Now why a phone would come pre-loaded with text messages, God knows, but way to overreact! It wasn't until Darren went to the shop and they found the texts on all the phones of the same model that Darren was proclaimed

innocent. Not sure whether they reconciled their differences but if I were Darren I'd think twice before taking little-miss crazy back. After all, who in their right mind uses the phrase Booty Call?

Good news for those of you who are Freeview users, as the service is getting two new channels. The space has been made available by the BBC ahead of the digital switch-over by the discontinuation of its multi-screen red button option – ahead of its BBC HD launch, and also from Arqiva through 'technical improvements'. No doubt the

folks behind Dave are eyeing up the opportunity to bring you more of what you've already seen.

Nvidia this week launched its new Optimus technology, which allows seamless and automated switching of GPUs between discrete and integrated chips. Great news

for laptop welders as the technology has been around for a while but automated, on-demand switching will make the best of both worlds, saving more battery life. Look for Optimus packing laptops to hit the shelves by March.



**Freeview**





**Photograph of the week**

**'Herding Buffalo' by Christopher Walmsey**

Hiking around near the Vietnamese mountain town of Sa Pa I saw these Hmong children herding buffalo in the river. They didn't seem to care too much about being jumped upon!

Submit your photographs of the week to [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)





# Can Bangladesh develop independently?

Abdul Hannan from IC Bangladesh society on their recent debate and exploration of their country's future

In 1971 Henry Kissinger famously labelled Bangladesh as "an international basket case", since then the name has stuck. We're all very aware of Bangladesh's poverty, floods and susceptibility to climate changes. In fact, Bangladesh has contributed marginally nothing to global warming, yet will be affected the most, and most catastrophically. In light of this we, the IC Bangladeshi Society, thought it was appropriate to put on a debate titled "Can Bangladesh Develop Independently?" (held on 2nd Feb. '10). For our event we had two experts of their field speak: Sandra from

**'The title is invalid. Bangladesh has no choice but to develop, and develop independently.'**

BRAC, which is an international non-governmental organisation (NGO) and Mujib (a financial consultant). It was a very refreshing talk and I think the audience left informed. I'm writing this article hoping that other societies might take up points made in the talk and maybe discuss it further.

Mujib started the talk with a very blunt refutation, saying "The title is invalid. Bangladesh has no choice but to develop, and develop independently." He mentioned a survey (by Demos, published in The Sunday Times, 6th Dec. '98) which found that Bangladeshis were the happiest people on



The cover poster for the talk. Bangladesh is the home of micro-finance, one of the keys to development and liberation for the poor

earth; this survey was taken not too long after a recent flood. I definitely think this needed explaining, and so "this is because all that the people require is some land to farm on, and it just takes one season to re-grow your crops". The people are Muslims, they have faith in Allah and what He preordains for them, and they start to plough the land again.

Sandra's take on the debate was that "although Bangladesh is an overwhelmingly Muslim majority country, there are many non-Muslims too; all have their own cultures and deep-rooted practices. Bangladesh is becoming modern by the day, but is steeped in the past. Bangladesh should develop, but not in isolation."

From here on the debate became very frank and detailed and I think this

is where, I for one, would like to see further events on the international role in keeping countries like Bangladesh dependent on foreign aid and interference. Accusations were made against the likes of the IMF, World Bank and other donors which give loans with strings attached in the guise of Structural Adjust Programmes (SAP) and Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP); all of which end up recuperating the money (and more) for the donor countries through consultancy fees!. Bangladesh in general hasn't suffered from the international recession (as it's not big on the international financial market). One way of making Bangladeshis feel the recession is to make them take up small loans, but in large numbers. This is done through NGOs (like BRAC and Grameen Bank)

through micro-credit and -finance; heavily encouraged by rich Western nations. Accusations were levelled against USAID which seeks to create a dependency on US foreign aid and specific products from a grass-roots level; one example being the Vitamin A Deficiency (VAD) programme. Through the VAD programme, fortified flour, oil and milk is sold through NGO shops to the locals; of course the Vitamin A can only come from the USA.

The government of Bangladesh didn't escape from being lambasted in the debate either. If all the people require is a piece of land to sweat and toil over, then why is the government of Bangladesh withholding 3.4million acres of land from the public? For whose benefit is it being withheld? Karl Marx got a bashing too and the concept equality

(pushed by Communists) was refuted, in that "people are not equal, everyone is unique and have different talents". We had a good audience-participation but a question which came up and again was that "Can the Khilafah (Islamic State) be established in Bangladesh?" and "How realistic is it to call for Islamic solutions to Bangladesh's problems?"

In conclusion: I think we all agreed that for people to be independent they need a vision; the public need to buy into that vision and the leadership need to drive the people with objectives in-line with that vision. Inevitably this will mean that some will become your friends and some, your foes; you can allow foreign advice, but not foreign interference. If Bangladesh can do this, then yes, it can develop independently.



From the USAID website, a Bangladeshi pineapple farmer. He's happy.

## ChemSoc and Joe Rumer raid college archives under Sherfield

Some say there's a nuclear bunker under the Queen's Lawn, others say there are filing cabinets full of old archived papers. I don't know if either is true, but I do know if you head down some empty corridors in Sherfield you will come to a large model of a fish, some chemical samples from the 1800s and a picture of how beautiful our college was before they knocked down the buildings that once framed the Queen's Tower.

This mysterious place is the college archives, now you can't nose about yourself as you probably have dirty undergraduate hands, but a very helpful lady can solve your qualms. And ours was to find the original coat of arms or crest for the Royal College of Chemistry.

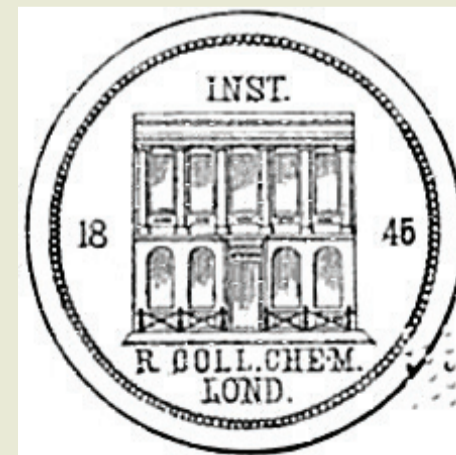
Bored of seeing a feeble pick axe and hammer paraded by the common manual labourers in the Royal School of Mines we felt the need to establish our illustrious history. After all, (ignoring the unworthy medals) Chemistry is

the oldest department at Imperial, dating back to the founding of the College in 1845. Being a Royal body one would expect a glowing crest, like that of the RSC with a beautiful lady, phoenix rising out of the fire and sexy benzene ring.

Alas the College archives couldn't help us, but a bit of research lead us to a blue plaque in Oxford St. on the former site of the Royal College, which sadly now is a Moss Bros. suit outlet. Total fail. Snooping around our own department found very little too, even the foundation stone of the original College (which now sits happily in RCS1) has no emblem.

And then we found it: on the original lecture notes of August von Hofmann, the first Professor of the Royal College, a couple pages in after a picture of another lady (less beautiful this time), was printed a small seal. To this day we don't know who the lady is, perhaps an Ancient Goddess, or maybe just the college secretary. But the ChemSoc crest had been found...

Trawling through the junk.....



A mysterious girl, that once did Chemistry, and the ChemSoc crest has been found in Imperial's archives.

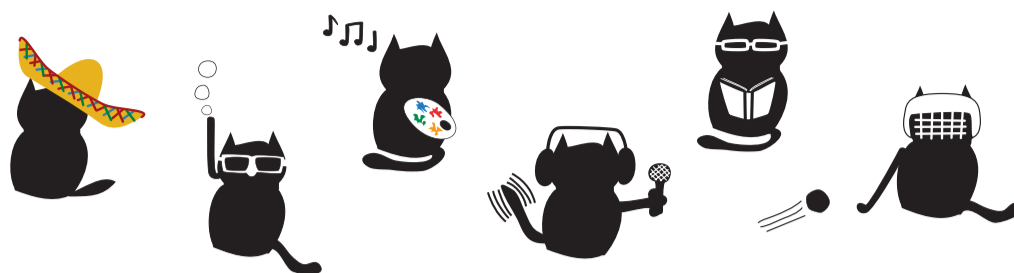


# What's on...

## Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editors – Lily Topham & Rachel D'oliveiro

whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk



### Mon 15th Feb

#### PPS Seminar – "Iran in World Politics"

- 6pm, Room 1004, Blakett
- Free for members
- Political Philosophy Society invite you to a discussion about current issues surrounding the Islamic Republic of Iran. With speakers Dr Ali Fathollah-Najad and Professor Abbas Edalat.

#### ICSM RAG Valentine's Ball

- 9pm-3am, Penthouse, 1 Leicester Square, WC2H 7NA
- Tickets £15, Buy online at shop.icsmsu.com
- Dress Code: Black tie with "A Hint of Headwear"

### Tues 16th Feb

#### Friends of MSF Film Showing

- 7pm, Drewe LT, Charing Cross campus
- Free for all with Free Pret food!
- Come to this free screening of 'Positive Ladies Soccer Club' about a group of HIV positive women in Zimbabwe who form a football team with the aim of showing the world that even though they are HIV infected they are just like everybody else.



### To Do....

- 1) Buy food for hotpot.
- 3) Eat hotpot.....mmm.....nom nom nom.....
- 3) Send in your events!!  
**whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk**  
(Club name & event, time, place, price, pics...) **by end of Tues 16th Feb.**

### Wed 17th Feb

#### "Climate Change: Lifestyle or Engineering?"

- 6:30pm, Clore LT, Huxley
- FREE, with refreshments provided!
- Imperial College Biology Society is proud to present a college wide climate change debate.
- With a panel of four high-profile speakers, including Sir Brian Hoskins, Prof Nigel Brandon, Mr. Doug Parr, Mr. Malachi Chadwick and chaired by Mr. Richard Black, head environmental journalist at the BBC.

### Thurs 18th Feb

#### Volunteering Opportunities in South Africa

- 6:30pm, Drewe LT, Charing Cross campus
- Come and hear stories of a team who have recently been out to a project in South Africa and find out about opportunities to volunteer abroad on a short term basis as well as possible elective opportunities.

### Sat 20th Feb

#### Maternal and Women's Health Conference

- 9:15am-5pm, SAF, S Ken campus
- Tickets £5 (students)
- Free lunch included!
- Presented by MedEd, this promises to be an informative and fun day with talks on topics ranging from "Swine Flu and Pregnancy" to "Female Genital Mutilation" and "Reducing Maternal Mortality".
- Buy tickets online from the ICU website



### Sun 21st Feb

#### East Meets West

- Show starts 6:15pm (doors open 5:30pm)
- Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket
- Tickets £15/£20/£25, on sale every day from the SAF foyer 12-2pm
- For the 18th year running, Indian Society are proud to present their annual cultural charity show displaying the finest young talent and celebrating the diversities of global culture. Hosted by Konnie Huq, all proceeds will go to Children's Hope Foundation, Akanksha Foundation and The Water Project.
- For more info see: [www.emw-theshow.co.uk](http://www.emw-theshow.co.uk)
- Afterparty at Ruby Blue, Leicester Place, Leicester Square, 10pm-3am





COFFEE  
BREAK

Coffee Break Editor Charlie Murdoch

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk

I was \*expletive\*  
censored

Charlie Murdoch Coffee Break Editor

Last week, I went off on a bit of a rant about the inconsequential goings on of life. As a result I was censored. Personally I believe a few well placed expletives have the ability to get your point across 1) much faster and 2) much clearer.

For example, the phrase 'fuck off' does not mean 'go away'. Neither does it mean 'please leave me alone.' It means 'get out of my sight, you are really beginning to annoy me and I'm about to get angry.' Now would you ever say that? Err no. So 'fuck off' it is.

Now that got me to thinking about some of the common expletives we use in day to day life. What do they really mean? One of my personal favourites is 'bugger off'. This literally means, 'go have anal sex with another man.' Where does that come from? Similarly the word 'cretin', is an often used word to describe someone who is being a bit of an idiot (or moron). Now cretin originally derives from the French word *crétin*. This actually originates from the French dialectal word for a deformed and mentally retarded person found in certain Alpine valleys. Not even the whole of shitting France!

That moves me onto 'shit', a.k.a poo. 'Shit' is thought to have derived from two places: the old English verb 'scitan' which means to split or divide. Later, circa 1585 the noun 'scitte' arose which defined purging or excrement. 'Shit' was not considered to be taboo until after 1600, and rarely appeared in print- not even in all Shakespeare's writings. It still caused anger as late as 1922 (in *Ulysses*) and was omitted from some dictionaries as recently as 1970 in the *Webster's New World*.

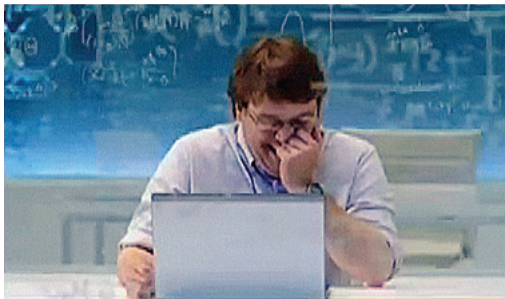
From this word, numerous derivatives arose- the past participle 'shat' and the comical 'shite'. But it's biggest claim to fame is the phrase 'the shit has hit the fan.' This was described by Hugh Rawson in 1989: "The expression derives from an old joke. A man in a crowded bar needed to defecate but couldn't find a bathroom, so he went upstairs and used a hole in the floor. Returning, he found everyone had gone except the bartender, who was cowering behind the bar. When the man asked what had happened, the bartender replied: 'Where were you when the shit hit the fan?'"

## Caption Competition 1,453

## How to play:

Come up with a hilarious caption for one or more of these photos. Funniest/ cleverest caption gets the points (as decided by the *felix* office). Yeah, it's subjective but if you keep us happy we produce better work and there's an iPod nano in it for you.

## ADVERT [Intel]



## STORMTROOPERS [Injection]



## FILM [Inception]



Quote of the Week

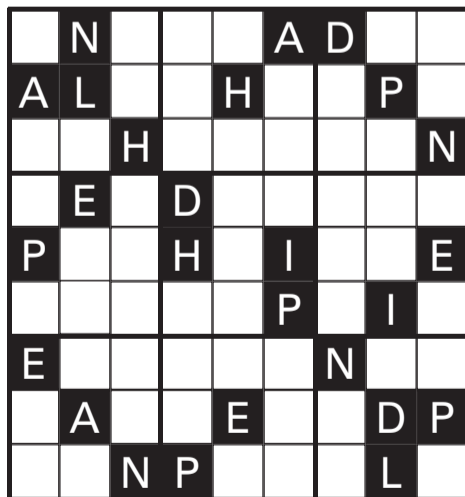
Vince Lombardi: "The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather in a lack of will."

## Wordoku 1,453

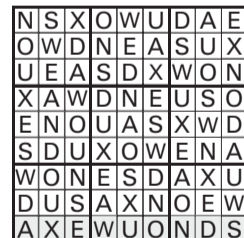
## INTERMEDIATE



## EVIL



## Solution 1452



This week's winner was **The Tough Breds**. They even correctly deduced the solution phrase:

"AXE WOUNDS"

Even though it was ruined by our Puzzle Commodore messing up the Wordoku again - this time, obviously, by getting the 'O' and 'U' the wrong way round. Don't worry, he's been disciplined and has assured us that this issue's puzzles are all error-free.

## Scribble box

## How to play:

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

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

## Wordpath 1,453

## ORIGIN:

NINE

## DESTINATION:

FIVE

## Solution 1451

GOOD  
MOOD (LS)  
DOOM (An)  
ROOM (LS)  
REST via  
*RESTROOM*  
BEST (LS)

GLT found this nice four step solution.

It wasn't the first or the shortest, but it was the first, shortest *valid* solution!

A few submissions tried to use "IEST" but this is **not** a word according to the Oxford English Dictionary! Sorry.

## Scribble box

## How to play:

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

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

e.g. WORD -> WARD

**Anagram:** Rearrange the letters.

e.g. WARD -> DRAW

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

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

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

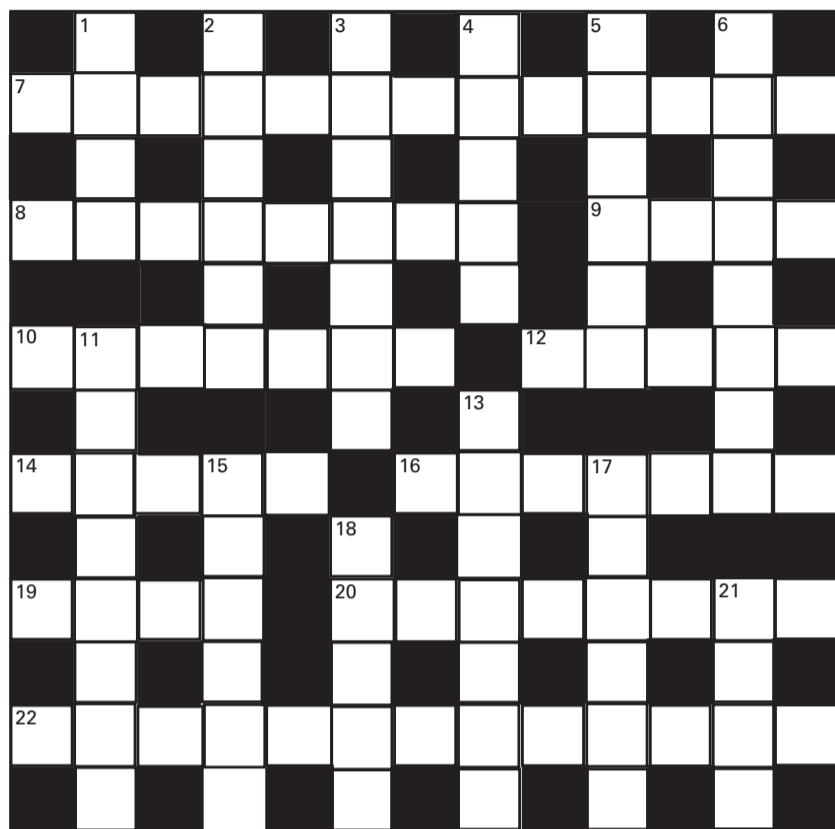
Points are awarded for the earliest SHORTEST valid path between the two words. Dubious words will be checked against the OED. Send your solutions to [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk).







# A quickie (crossword) 1,453



## ACROSS

- 7 Little black number (8,5)  
 8 Full-on, impressive (coll.) (8)  
 9 Sound-off violently (equine) (4)  
 10 Sit tight(4,3)  
 12 Crisp toast for pâté (5)  
 14 Homely cat (5)  
 16 El toro rojo (3,4)  
 19 Stupid sounding anti-art art movement (4)  
 20 Remotest waters (4,4)  
 22 SOH in GSOH (5,2,6)

## DOWN

- 1 Robber's swag - Ad. magazine (4)  
 2 With BMI < 18.5 (6)  
 3 Enthusiastically exaggerate (with a pig?) (3,2,2)  
 4 Namecalls - Ladies of little virtue (5)  
 5 Involving crop/cereal growing (6)  
 6 Not the capital of Turkey (8)  
 11 Chai machine/Nemesis of Mrs Doyle (3,5)  
 13 Dwarvish mantra (5-2)  
 15 Immodestly bold (6)

- 17 Twigg'd brooms (6)  
 18 Not order (5)  
 21 Fever (4)

## Solution 1452



There were a fuck load of entries this week but **Matthew Colvin** once again held off the competition.

Want more points for yourself? Flip back a page, we've now got several points opportunities that don't require you to be the first with a solution, just produce the best! Take a look and send your best efforts to us at [felix.sudoku@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix.sudoku@imperial.ac.uk).

Crossword by **Peter Logg**

## Scribble box

# It's bloody Valentines Day so *felix* has gone on a date

It all started off exceptionally well with first-class chitter chatter and nibbles, but soon *felix* messed it up



## Aquarius

This week you've been asked to take photos for a casting agency. They've approached you on the street and you're

all flustered as they compliment your big face. Wait, you don't have a big face. Do you? I don't know. Maybe you do. Your face IS fairly big, I'm not going to lie. Maybe you could get face reduction surgery. No?



## Pisces

However you started thinking that maybe your face is beautiful and you log on to [www.nicethaibrides.com](http://www.nicethaibrides.com) and set yourself

up date. You just don't want to be alone this Valentine's Day. Not after last year when you wound up in Accident and Emergency with a garden gnome up your arse. That took a considerable amount of explanation.



## Aries

So she arrives, and she's a fucking stunner. Like a serious knob exploding stunner. You never knew that mail-order brides can look

so fan-fucking-tastic. You check her over to see if she has been shop-soiled or damaged in transit. She hasn't. Jurassic Park! You make idle chitter chat, comment on her eyes and her short stature. She says that she likes your dog. You get worried.



## Taurus

Fuck it. She might want to eat your dog, but it's only a mongrel. You can always get another. Battersea have a

whole shitting shed full of them. You can always get a new one there, besides, you'll probably be helping the overcrowding problem there. Seriously it's like Mecca when they're doing their Hajj. Or whatever they call it.



## Gemini

So she says that she just needs to get ready. She puts on her make-up and brushes her long blonde hair. And then she asks,

"Do I look all right?" And I say, "Yes, you look wonderful tonight." It's reassuring to know that she is a typical fucking woman who takes ages to get ready. Men on the other hand, if we're not naked then it's pretty much job done.



## Cancer

Finally, half an hour late you get to leave the house. You spend ages pondering over the final ~~solution~~ tour destination. For

it would be a tour for one of those racial fellas. You decided that you'd take her to a quintessential English transport caf. You explain that the shouts at her are not racially motivated. You have to lie. You'll always have to lie.



## Leo

Two lads lurch towards you throwing sausages. Maybe it's some sort of gay invitation. Maybe it isn't. To look hard you

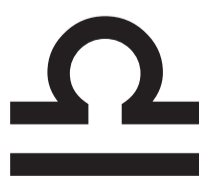
ask of them, "come on then... if you think you're hard enough." That sounded very gay so they call you a massive poofter and fuck off. You tell her that you would stab them in the japs eye with the ketchup bottle and they ran off scared. You lied.



## Virgo

It was going quite well by the time *felix* reached Virgo. You woo her: I'd give up forever to touch you, 'cause I know that you

feel me somehow, you're the closest to heaven that I'll ever be, and I don't want to go home right now. And all I can taste is this moment, and all I can breathe is your life. 'cause sooner or later it's over, I just don't want to miss you tonight.



## Libra

She asks for a translation and she's very much less than impressed. Maybe they don't have the same laws in Thailand. She

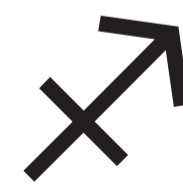
hits you with a pint glass. Rather uncalled for if you ask me. You are not happy, and decide that a full on invasion of Thailand is the only way to get over it. That night you dream about Nazi Germany. If only SW7 was more like that.



## Scorpio

You join the BNP and put an advert on their web site. It reads "Racists of this world. This world should be our world. Our world

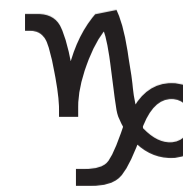
void of all black, brown, and yellow (or any other derivative) people. If you believe me, join my quest to invade Thailand and get back at the makers of [www.nicethaibrides.com](http://www.nicethaibrides.com)." Lets be honest, you are a fucking useless cunt.



## Sagittarius

You are reported to the police who arrest you and put you in a cell with a burly man called Bill. Bill was impartial to anal, and

much preferred fisting. You had no choice but to submit and Bill called Ben, who brought some flowerpots. No I don't know either. You were bent over a duly given what can only be called an extreme seeing to. The BNP laugh.



## Capricorn

You were released- although walking like a penguin. Life is treating you badly. You've messed up your whole life and want it to be like

it was before. When you were loved, not fisted. But that can't be done. You crawl into a hole and hope you'll never be found. However, some American troops find you and call you Saddam... it gets worse, you have one phone call. It's engaged. Pint?



# Sports of Yesteryear: Rector's Cup

Carrying on in his sporting series, **Jovan Nedić** moves out of the depths of the Thames and into the ring

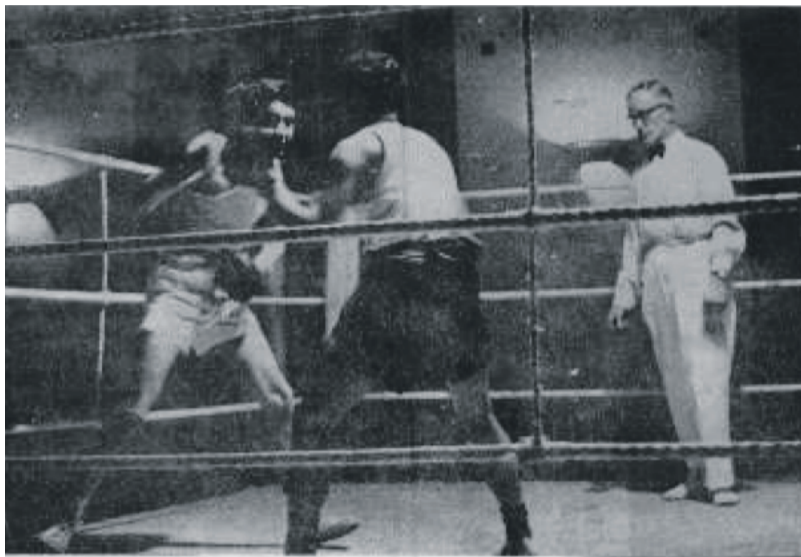
**B**lood, sweat and beers. If there were ever three words that would describe the Rector's Cup, they would be it. Last week, we discovered the wonder that was Morphy Day and how it was a sporting and social highlight for half a century. But what of the other events? This week, we delve into the sweet science that is boxing.

During the late 1940's and early 1950's, Imperial's boxing club was at its peak as Fred Carr, the IC Boxing Club Captain in 1954 explains:

"In the past this college has had very strong and good boxing teams, and in the last few years it has constantly been winners or runners-up in the U.A.U. [University Athletic Unions] Boxing Championships, and many of our members have boxed for the University."

The strength of the Imperial Boxing Club and the endless stream of champions seemed to stem from the grass routes within the College itself. Towards the end of the second term, the three faculty colleges would convene upon the Union and watch the students beat the living daylights out of each other whilst enjoying a few kegs of beer. All the while, the Rector of the College would join in with them and in fact present the eventual winning club captain and the best boxer of the evening, with a trophy, hence why the event was called the Rector's Cup.

From the *felix* archive, it seems that



Call yourselves boxers? You should see Bobby, that man can piss his name in concrete. He scares me...

the Rector's Cup had a short, but illustrious history. Out of the 15 years it ran, the Royal School of Mines won the Rector's Cup for 11 years of those years and shared the trophy with the City and Guilds for one of them. But how was it that a Faculty which only had 250 students at the time were able to produce such great results in the boxing? Here we have the recollections of Jim Platt, a Mining Geology student between 1957-1960.

"Though the RSM was numerically

at the foot of the totem pole it had no impact on the RSM in the Rector's Cup, as we regularly took the tournament by storm. This feat of conquest was achieved by us entering more contestants for the tournament than the other two colleges combined were able to muster. It was considered a matter of duty for any 'Mines' man to declare himself ready to box."

And so the secret of the Miners success is made evident, sheer numbers, although why the other two faculties never figured this out is beyond me. Or maybe, they did and they simply chose to enter into a fight with a Miner... Although don't let this fool you, even though the Miners did have more entrants than any other faculty, those that they did enter were actually good. The majority of the Imperial boxing team were actually composed of Miners, with Len Palmer winning the UAU Feather-weight Championship two years on the trot.

Setting aside the prowess of the Imperial Club, what about the Rector's Cup, was it a big deal. In 1955, for the first time in the history of the Rector's Cup the tournament was held under the auspices of the Amateur Boxing Association who supplied the officials, thus improving the quality of the evening. Considering also that the Rector actually attended the event I would imagine so, and if Jim Platt's

testimony is anything to go by, it seems that the rivalry was huge.

"[I] was lucky to survive round one and ended up being counted out in round two when the referee stopped the fight in my opponent's favour. I thought it would be appropriate to make a protest to the decision, but in truth I was glad that the bout was over. The one good thing was that I went down to a man from Guilds, leaving me thankful for the small mercy that an RCS man was not in the opposite corner."

Although the crowds that attended were not in the same league as that of Morphy Day, the rivalry was. But, although it seemed that there was promise for this event to last the test of time, it suddenly stopped in 1963, after there was not enough committee members to run the event, although the Boxing Club continued for some years. The event had died out, most likely due to a combination of things; not enough

"I went down thankful that an RCS man was not in the opposite corner"



## IC Boxing

After a small break, Imperial yet again has a boxing club. But what can they offer, read on to find out

This year has seen the long overdue rebirth of the Imperial College Boxing Club, to meet the growing demand of students around campus.

The club has already proved a massive success, with membership numbers growing weekly and extremely positive feedback so far.

Our aim is to help people gain and improve their fitness, self-discipline and confidence as well as giving a select few students the chance to compete in their first ever amateur bout in an upcoming competition against other London universities.

Training is held on Sundays at the All Stars boxing gym in North Kensington from 4-6pm with sessions



Mitchell Fern is this year's Boxing Club captain and hopes that the boxing club will reach the same prestige as it had in the past

run by highly respected trainers.

With future plans for midweek fitness classes, national competitions and socials showing the biggest professional fights such as the upcoming Haye, Khan, Mayweather and Pacquiao bouts, IC Boxing Club's future promises to be an exciting one.

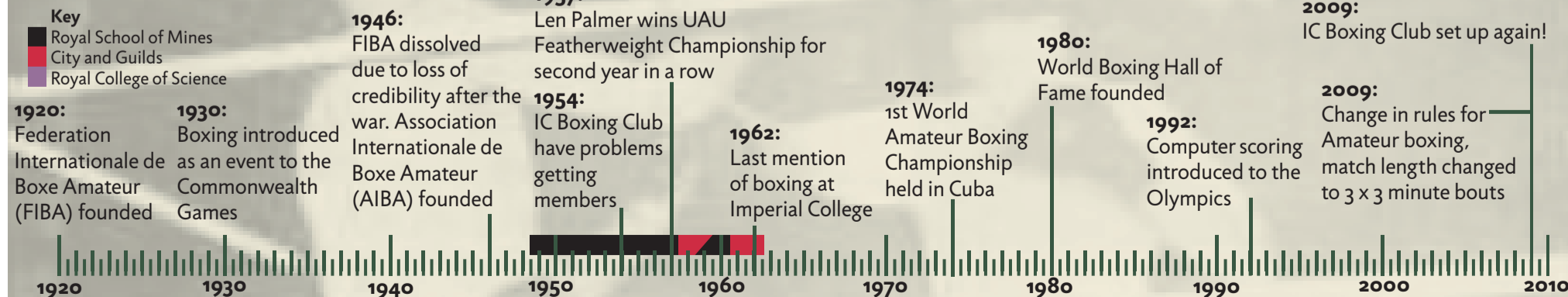
Sessions are open to everyone, regardless of your boxing standard or aspirations and whether you're a seasoned boxer or a complete beginner you'll be sure to have a brilliant time at one of our sessions.

If you want any more information, visit our website [www.union.ic.ac.uk/acc/boxing](http://www.union.ic.ac.uk/acc/boxing) or email us at [boxing@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:boxing@imperial.ac.uk)



LEFT: A bout between the Guilds and the RSM in the 1950's. RIGHT: Sir Patrick Linstead, the then Rector, presenting the Cup to the Guilds captain

## History of Boxing & Rector's Cup:





# Haran Rajkumar muses on the spectacular Super Bowl



"Everything is epic, from the build-up to...*The Who*. They even celebrate every tackle. It's the way they do things over there."



The 44th Super Bowl. The greatest show on earth. Dbs. The finest bar on Princes Gate. It was written in the stars.

With our friends from across the Atlantic pouring in, the atmosphere was electric for yet another cracking Sunday night at the Union. Despite never having watched American 'football' and having a pretty bad impression of it on the whole (only the boys with long hair and Metallica t-shirts seem to follow it over here) I sat down with a couple of Snakebites (Coors light? No thanks Union, don't want to get too carried away) to enjoy the game.

Personally, I find actual English football, particularly since the inception

of sky and the rise of Andy Gray, to be overly hyped. See Sky Sports Super Sunday next week for an incredible amount of alliteration as well as featuring the titanic clashes that won't be; Aston Villa vs. Burnley and Tottenham vs. Wigan. Mouth watering. The bubble of hype surrounding the Super Bowl was different though. It was massive. Everything is epic, from the build up, the stats upon stats, this year's story of Katrina and New Orleans, right through to the half time *The Who* concert. They even celebrate every tackle. It's the way they do things over there.

Such incredible, often ridiculous hype does seem to work for the Super Bowl though, creating an exciting atmosphere of fervour. Though I don't

know what it's like most years, or indeed most games, for me Super Bowl 44 did not disappoint.

Pre-match the Indianapolis Colts were favoured over the New Orleans Saints, with quarterback Peyton Manning apparently one of the greatest of the game and a cert to be inducted into the hall of fame. A record distance pass from Manning soon saw a touchdown that had the Colts ahead and after two kicks from someone for the Saints, the game went into half time at 10-6 Colts.

The actual 'football' seems to be only half the spectacle for America though. The game is constantly punctuated by advert breaks, a trait I couldn't understand before watching 'football' though which I now see as natural for

such a short play game. In much of the pre- and post-match media these adverts themselves somehow seemed to generate stories. Acts such as Michael and Janet Jackson, Justin Timberlake, Beyonce, Prince and now *The Who* mean that half time is barely even a break for the record millions of armchair viewers across America, and increasingly, the world.

The 2nd half kicked off as if we'd never left as Saints' coach Sean Payton, who had already showed his willingness to innovate earlier in the game, sent instructions to open with an on-side kick. This is essentially a short kick aimed at keeping possession rather than limiting the opponent's yards, usually reserved for late desperation.

The move succeeded, however and in the following play the Saints scored a touchdown and successfully converted to pull 13-10 ahead. A game changer that was as thrilling to watch as Felix is to read.

By the time Tracy Porter's interception and subsequent run had secured the Super Bowl for the Saints (ironically off a Manning throw) I, as well as many others in the union I'm sure, had long been convinced by American Football's epic claims to greatness.

And so the greatest show on the planet is over. I might just grow my hair, break out the black greasepaint and join American football soc. Until then. Eastside for Tottenham vs. Wigan?



## FIXTURES & RESULTS



in association with Sports Partnership

### Saturday 6th February Football (ULU)

Men's 1s 1-2 Royal Free 1s  
Men's 2s 1-6 London School of Economics 1s  
Men's 4s 3-1 University College London 6s  
Men's 5s 5-1 Royal Free 2s

### Sunday 7th February Hockey (Reserve cup)

Men's 2s 1-0 Men's 3s

### Lacrosse (ULU)

Mixed 1s 20-4 King's College 1s

### Rugby (ULU)

Women's 1s King's College 1s

### Monday 8th February Badminton (ULU)

Mixed 1s 3-6 University College London 1s

### Basketball (ULU)

Men's 1s 88-80 Royal Holloway 2s

### Netball (ULU)

Women's 3s 19-17 Royal Holloway 4s

### Squash (ULU)

Men's 1s 3-2 University College London 1s  
Women's 1s 2-3 King's College 1s

### Tuesday 9th February Netball (ULU)

Women's 2s 29-13 St Barts & the Royal London 2s

### Wednesday 10th February Badminton BUCS Cup

Men's 1st 1-7 University of Birmingham 1st  
Men's 2nd 5-3 University of Surrey Men's 1st

### Fencing (cup)

Men's 1st 135-47 UCL 1st  
Men's 2nd 135-86 University of London 2nd  
Women's 2nd 105-127 Oxford University 2nd  
Men's 3rd 68-135 University of Hertfordshire 1st

### Football

Men's 2nd 0-6 Royal Free 1st  
Men's 3rd 2-1 Imperial Medicals 2nd  
**ULU**  
Men's 6s 1-1 Royal Veterinary College 2s  
Men's 7s 2-1 Royal School of Mines 1s  
Men's 1s 1-2 St Mary's 4s

### Golf (BUCS Knockouts)

Mixed 1st 5-1 University of Portsmouth 2nd

### Hockey

Women's 1st 6-0 St Mary's 1st

### BUCS cup

Men's 1st 2-4 University of Southampton 1st  
**ULU**  
Men's 4s 1-4 London School of Economics 2s

### Lacrosse (BUCS cup)

Men's 1st 0-10 University of Nottingham 1st

### Netball (ULU)

Women's 1s 25-45 Imperial Medicals 1s

### Rugby

Men's 1st 12-3 University of Portsmouth 1st  
Men's 4th 0-22 Royal Free 3rd  
Women's 1st 27-7 University of Essex 1st

### Squash (BUCS cup)

Men's 1st 5-0 University College London 1st  
Women's 1st 0-4 Oxford University Women's 1st

### Table Tennis (BUCS cup)

Men's 1st 1-16 London Metropolitan University 1st

### Tennis (BUCS cup)

Women's 1st 4-6 University of Bath 2nd  
Men's 1st 9-1 University of Warwick 2nd

### Saturday 13th February Football (ULU)

Men's 6s vs Goldsmiths, University of London 2s  
Men's 7s vs Goldsmiths, University of London 3s  
Men's 4s vs Men's 5s  
Men's 3s vs St George's 1s  
Men's 1s vs Royal Holloway, University of London 1s  
Men's 2s vs King's College 1s

### Sunday 14th February Badminton (ULU)

Mixed 1s vs UCL 1s

### Lacrosse (ULU)

Mixed 1s vs Royal Holloway 1s

### Rugby (ULU)

Women's 1s vs Royal Veterinary College 1s  
Men's 1s vs Royal Holloway 1s  
Men's 2s vs University College London 2s

### Monday 15th February Badminton (ULU)

Mixed 1s vs Queen Mary 1s

### Basketball (ULU)

Men's 1s vs Goldsmiths 1s  
Women's 1s vs Royal Holloway 1s

### Netball (ULU)

Women's 1s vs King's College 2s  
Women's 3s vs Imperial Medicals 4s  
Women's 4s vs London School of Economics 7s

### Squash (ULU challenge cup)

Women's 1s vs UCL 1s  
Men's 2s vs Royal Holloway 1s  
Men's 1s vs London School of Economics 1s  
Men's 3s vs University College London 2s

### Water Polo (ULU)

Mixed 1s vs Kings College 1s

### Wednesday 17th February Badminton

Men's 2nd vs Queen Mary 1st

### Basketball

Men's 1st vs London South Bank University 2nd  
Women's 1st vs University of Essex 2nd

### Fencing

Men's 3rd vs City University London 1st  
Men's 2nd vs University of Portsmouth 1st  
Women's 1st vs University of Exeter 1st

### Football

Men's 2nd vs Canterbury Christ Church 4th

Women's 1st vs Middlesex University 1st

### ULU

Men's 7s vs Central School of Speech and Drama 1s  
Men's 5s vs University College London 5s  
Men's 6s vs Queen Mary 5s

### Hockey

Women's 1st vs Brunel University West London 2nd  
Men's 2nd vs Queen Mary 1st  
Men's 4th vs St George's 2nd  
Women's 2nd vs University of Sussex 2nd  
Men's 3rd vs Royal Holloway 2nd

### Netball

Women's 1st vs Middlesex University 1st  
Women's 2nd vs University of Portsmouth 6th  
Women's 3rd vs Brunel University West London 6th

### Rugby

Men's 1st vs King's College 1s  
Men's 4th vs University of Hertfordshire 2nd  
Women's 1st vs Writtle College 1st  
Men's 3rd vs King's College

### Squash

Men's 3rd vs University of Essex 2nd  
Men's 4th vs University of Reading 2nd  
**BUCS Cup**  
Men's 2nd vs University of Exeter 1st

### Tennis (BUCS cup)

Men's 1st vs LSE 1st

### Volleyball (BUCS cup)

Women's 1st vs University of Leeds 1st



# Fencing on track for cup double



### 2009-10, the story so far :

- **Men's 1st team**  
2nd place, Southern Premiership  
4th seed, BUCS Championship
- **Women's 1st team**  
Winners, Southern Premiership  
3rd seed, BUCS Championship
- **Men's 2nd team**  
Winners, South-East div. 2A  
Semis, BUCS SE conference cup
- **Women's 2nd team**  
4th place, South-East div. 1A
- **Men's 3rd team**  
5th place, South-East div. 2B

### Indy Leclercq Fencing

This Wednesday, four of the five Imperial College fencing teams had home matches at Ethos for their respective cups, taking over court five of the sports hall (right up against the climbing wall).

The men's 1st team were competing in the Championship, and securing second place in the premierships meant an easy first round draw against UCL.

The match was no contest, the 1sts winning by the improbably large score of 135-47.

The men's seconds were hoping to extend their unbeaten run (and keep their place near the top of the *felixSport* table) against ULU 2nds, and did so admirably, moving into the semis of the conference cup with a score of 135-86. The men's 3rd team, fencing for the semi-final spot opposite the seconds, did not make it through, losing to the University of Hertfordshire 1sts

68-135.

The women's second team had the fourth match of the day, and won/lost against Oxford University seconds, 105-127. The women's firsts, due to fence on the day, postponed their fixture to the following week because there simply wasn't enough room to hold five home matches in a day! In any case, with a favourable draw, the men's and women's first teams have a good chance of doing the championship double this year. Watch this space.

# Hockey ladies in confident win



### Victoria Sol Galligani Hockey



Imperial College Women's 1st XI	4
Portsmouth Women's 1st XI	2

The ICHC Ladies 1s played Portsmouth 1s for the second time last week in the BUCS league and showed the improvement of the team, winning 4-2 when they had previously drawn 2-2. The top-level performance of the Ladies 1s even won over the sympathy of the umpires, who at the end of the

match were very impressed.

The Portsmouth match is always a challenging game and brings out the best in the players (even off the pitch for toilet breaks). There was a strong start from both teams last Wednesday; however Lab Rat made a great break through up front scoring the first goal. The second goal came from Malvinas and the third from a penalty flick taken by Token Lezza after a Portsmouth player stopped the ball heading towards goal with her body (which is illegal if you're not the goalie).

This put the girls in a very solid position at half time. The second half was again tough with Portsmouth manag-

ing to score two goals, including one from a penalty flick; despite this, the Ladies 1s defensive unit remained strong and put up a great fight, not conceding any further. The Portsmouth side were very argumentative (a trait duly recognised by the umpires and which led to a few green cards) compared to Imperial's composed and consistent team. The highlight of the match was Lab Rat's performance as she slammed on the brakes a couple of times to get Imperial's final goal, giving a well deserved win for the team.

With this win, the IC Ladies 1s have scored fourteen goals in the last three matches!

## felixSports League

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	felixSport Index
1 Volleyball Men's 1st	10	10	0	0	20	1	19	5.00
2 Fencing Women's 1st	8	8	0	0	1058	747	311	5.00
3 Fencing Men's 2nd	7	7	0	0	938	645	293	5.00
4 ICSM Rugby Men's 1st	13	11	1	1	466	154	312	4.08
5 Lacrosse Women's 1st	8	7	0	1	145	21	124	3.88
6 Volleyball Women's 1st	8	7	0	1	14	4	10	3.88
7 Rugby Men's 1st	13	10	2	1	351	88	263	3.85
8 Squash Men's 3rd	7	6	0	1	15	6	9	3.71
9 Netball Women's 2nd	8	6	1	1	274	155	119	3.50
10 ICSM Badminton Men's 1st	8	6	1	1	50	14	36	3.50
11 ICSM Netball Women's 2nd	9	6	2	1	360	269	91	3.33
12 Table Tennis Men's 1st	10	8	0	2	117	53	64	3.20
13 Squash Men's 4th	10	8	0	2	12	9	3	3.20
14 Badminton Men's 1st	11	8	1	2	54	34	20	3.09
15 Squash Women's 1st	11	6	4	1	30	14	16	3.09
16 Lacrosse Men's 1st	8	5	1	2	73	54	19	2.38
17 ICSM Hockey Men's 1st	11	7	1	3	39	23	16	2.27
18 Fencing Men's 1st	9	6	0	3	1112	945	167	2.00
19 Badminton Men's 2nd	9	6	0	3	45	27	18	2.00
20 Hockey Women's 1st	10	6	1	3	48	12	36	2.00
21 Tennis Men's 1st	11	5	3	3	67	43	24	1.73
22 Hockey Men's 2nd	8	3	3	2	17	16	1	1.63
23 Squash Men's 1st	8	5	0	3	24	16	8	1.63
24 Football Men's 1st	11	6	1	4	32	26	6	1.45
25 Netball Women's 1st	10	6	0	4	393	319	74	1.40
26 ICSM Netball Women's 1st	9	5	0	4	332	280	52	1.00
27 Tennis Men's 2nd	9	5	0	4	46	44	2	1.00
28 Hockey Women's 2nd	9	4	1	4	20	26	-6	0.67
29 Fencing Women's 2nd	10	5	0	5	1052	1235	-183	0.50
30 Basketball Men's 1st	6	3	0	3	387	388	-1	0.50
31 Badminton Women's 1st	10	3	3	4	43	37	6	0.50
32 ICSM Hockey Women's 2nd	9	3	2	4	10	28	-18	0.33
33 ICSM Hockey Men's 3rd	8	3	1	4	15	29	-14	0.13
34 Football Men's 3rd	6	2	1	3	6	18	-12	0.00
35 Squash Men's 2nd	7	3	0	4	13	22	-9	-0.14
36 ICSM Football Men's 1st	7	2	1	4	9	14	-5	-0.57
37 ICSM Hockey Women's 1st	20	6	2	12	43	66	-23	-0.70
38 Football Men's 2nd	11	4	0	7	17	26	-9	-0.73
39 Fencing Men's 3rd	9	3	0	6	919	1096	-110	-1.00
40 Rugby Union Men's 2nd	9	3	0	6	171	123	48	-1.00
41 Tennis Women's 1st	11	2	2	7	35	75	-40	-1.27
42 Rugby Men's 3rd	9	2	1	6	98	228	-130	-1.33
43 Netball Women's 3rd	8	2	0	6	153	251	-98	-1.75
44 ICSM Netball 3rd	8	1	1	6	193	282	-89	-2.13
45 ICSM Hockey Men's 2nd	7	0	2	5	7	29	-22	-2.29
46 Hockey Men's 1st	9	1	1	7	17	31	-14	-2.33
47 Rugby Union Men's 4th	8	1	0	7	59	220	-161	-2.88
48 ICSM Rugby Men's 3rd	9	1	0	8	96	230	-134	-3.00
49 Football Women's 1st	6	0	1	5	2	34	-32	-3.00
50 ICSM Rugby Men's 2nd	10	1	0	9	101	349	-248	-3.10
51 ICSM Hockey Women's 3rd	7	0	1	6	5	59	-54	-3.14
52 ICSM Football Men's 2nd	7	0	0	7	5	35	-30	-4.00

# Show-jumping skill from Imperial

### Continued from back page

At the day's end, the final results yielded only 1 penalty point for IC. Following this near perfect score were Surrey with 73, Royal Holloway with 90 and Brunel with 98. The individual rankings had the top three slots and the 5th slot filled with IC riders. Mikaela, due to her unfortunate pole down, came 5th. Katy's impressive Dressage gave her 3rd place while the

top spot was a close run thing between Andre and Ilse, both having zero penalty points and the same collective points in the Dressage phase. However, Andre was just pipped to the post with Ilse taking the top spot due to jumping collectives.

The next competition is on Wednesday 4th of February, and will be hosted by Brunel. Hopefully, this fantastic result will be repeated and IC will maintain its impressive competition record.





## Silverware up for grabs



### Mustapher Botchway Football

Imperial's season since the start of term has been much like that of the beginning of the previous term; indifferent.

With the prospect of winning three trophies, the BUCS South Eastern 3A Conference, the ULU Challenge Cup and the BUCS South Eastern Knock-out Cup, all fixtures from 13 January on are (well, were) must win games.

As previously reported (Issue 1450), Reading University dashed the chances of succeeding LSE 1st XI as BUCS Cup victors.

Next up was a ULU Challenge Cup Quarter-Final against SOAS. Previously unbeaten, this was a tough game in which Imperial battled valiantly to secure their first clean sheet of the season, winning 2-0 to set up a Semi-Final clash against RUMS (UCL Medicals) 1st XI.

As the hopes of winning the ULU Premier Division were over since their disappointing, unexpected loss against UCL 3rd XI in the last game of 2009, captain Mustapher Botchway is using the remaining games to experiment with the team and give some 1st XI experience to some well deserved 2nd XI players.

A disappointing 1-all draw against a frankly average St Barts (Queen Mary Medicals) further displayed the incon-

sistency of the team.

Quality was restored on Wednesday 3 February when Imperial moved to joint top of the BUCS conference after a comprehensive 4-2 victory against a strong St Mary's 3rd XI.

Last weekend brought a ULU League tie against RUMS. This, a precursor to the semi-final meant that it was all to play for with the victors going into the forthcoming tie as favourites. After dominating possession for most of the

game but not finishing off their chances punished Imperial as they suffered a 2-1 loss. With both teams raring to win some silverware, the Semi-Final is set to be a tense encounter.

Two days ago, an away fixture to the 4th XI of St Mary's presented an opportunity for Imperial to move three points clear of the BUCS conference. Similar to the RUMS game, a 2-1 loss restored the 'topsy turvy' nature of the 1st XI's season.

## IC Equestrian Club deliver near-faultless performance

### Ilse Daly Equestrian

On a miserable, rainy day and far too early in the morning, the Imperial College equestrian first team made their way into deepest darkest Surrey to compete in the first of the BUCS league equestrian competitions. The event was a four-way fight between universities Surrey, Brunel, Royal Holloway and of course Imperial.

The Dressage phase got underway with team member Ilse Daly riding a little horse with rather too much energy for its own good. None the less, the Dressage test (hastily learned from a copy scrawled on the back of a phys-

ics problem sheet) was fairly calm and collected, with only a few additional sideways manoeuvres! Mikaela Bryant-Meisner was allotted the largest horse in the competition by far, who was also feeling a tad excitable. However, Mikaela managed to remain perfectly calm and rode a beautiful test. She also managed to find the brakes, which was more than some of the later riders managed. Katie Lawrence's horse was none too helpful either; having the opposite problem to the one faced by Mikaela - this time the hand brake was permanently on. However, after an exhausting ride, involving no small amount of cajoling, Katie produced an excellent test well worthy of a true

Dressage geek. Last to go from Imperial was team captain Andre Wilmes, and his horse, a rather grumpy fellow, didn't stand a chance of misbehaving! Riding by far and away the best test of the day, his score cinched Imperial's domination of the Dressage. At the end of the first round, IC had a grand total of zero penalty points, meaning the IC riders were the best riders on each of their individual horses. Trailing behind them came Royal Holloway with 42, then the host team Surrey with 54 and finally Brunel with 64.

The show jumping phase was accompanied by a relentless freezing drizzle, but did nothing to dampen the (in some cases competitive) spirit of the

IC team. However, the jumping course built by the venue certainly caused no small amount of trepidation amongst the more Dressage-oriented of the team members. Nor did the fairly bad behaviour of the competition horses when shown the course!

First to go from IC was Andre riding an unfortunately clumsy beast. At the end of his round, he amassed a number of poles on the floor, but luckily the horse was consistently lazy, perhaps more so for the other riders, and Andre's enviable jumping style held him in high stead to gain 0 penalty points. The pony Mikaela rode was, in contrast to Andre's, rather feisty and she whizzed around the course in true show jump-

ing tradition, but had an unfortunate clip of a pole. Next was the turn of the Dressage riders. Katie's horse was both impeccably behaved and ridden to gain the first clear round for IC. Unfortunately, she was just 1 style point behind a show jumper from Surrey. The last rider of the day was Ilse whose horse had worryingly put his rider on the floor while being shown the course. It was with no shortage of nerves that she rode her round. Luckily, the horse seemed to have let off enough steam to be surprisingly rideable, which gave IC a second clear round and the highest jump style points of the competition.

*Continued on page 39*