



felix

The award-winning student newspaper of Imperial College

"Keep The Cat Free"

Issue 1,455

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26.02.10

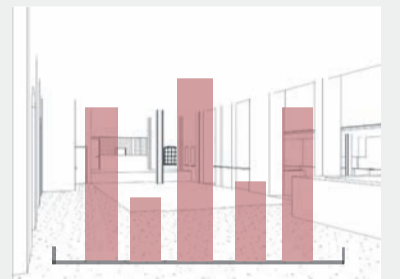


London Fashion Week

felix reviews Autumn/Winter 2010's hottest offerings, see pages 24 & 25

This week....

Dead poll: Union hold off on new bar names



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Eating their young: Bono-bos exhibit cannibalism



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Interview with another Extraordinaire: Simon Reeve



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What's an Imperial degree worth?

A 2:2 from Imperial is just as good as a 2:1 from other universities. Or is it? See pages 6 & 7



Spanner captured by Miners

Waniel Dan

Imperial College's long-standing tradition of mascotry caused the newly elected City & Guilds College Union (CGCU) President Dan Lundy to literally give over the CGCU mascot Spanner to the Royal School of Mines (RSM) during Friday's Tri-Union Comedy Night at the Union.

Confusion and subsequent attrition arose after ACC Chair, Miner and Chap, Charles Murdoch managed to convince Lundy that RSM's Chaps Club would look after Spanner under the pretence that the RSM were now officially a segment of CGCU. Lundy then, with the help of Murdoch, carried over the weighty mascot to the Miners. To Lundy's bemusement, members of the Chaps Club, the RSM Gentlemen's (drinking) Society bundled Spanner out of the Union and onto the Beit Quad Lawn.

Links Club, the CGCU's Chaps Club equivalent, quickly caught wind of the situation unfolding and pursued their mascot onto the lawn where a muddy tug-of-war situation between RSM Chaps and CGCU Links arose. The devious and muddled Miners eventually got Spanner out of the Quad. Charles Murdoch has confirmed that Spanner now lies "in a safe place in College".

The night's proceedings escalated when angry and embarrassed Guildsmen retaliated by stealing the RSM Bottle from behind the Union bar. The RSM Bottle is jointly-owned by the RSM and Camborne School of Mines (CSM) in Cornwall; it does not traditionally take part in mascotry. The RSM and CSM go to battle for the prize Bottle on the rugby field every year.

Due to the Bottle not being a violate mascot and the Bottle Match 2010



Left, the Bottle was returned to its rightful place behind the Union Bar, and right, Spanner in a taunting RSM Chaps tie after a successful Miners' capture

due to go ahead this week, common sense took precedence and the Bottle was returned.

Felix has managed to get hold of a formal apology letter addressed to the 'RSM and Chaps past and present' which is signed off by Andrew MacFayden (Links Club Honourary Secretary) and Dan Lundy. The letter shows the CGCU swallowing their pride and admitting their "wrong doing was a case of poor misjudgement".

The letter continues "In what was thought to be an act of mascotry, a small minority of our members took it upon themselves to remove The Bottle from the Union bar. I am assured that there was no intention to permanently deprive and that The Bottle has been returned as quickly as possible."

Mascotry is a historical tradition between rival Faculty Unions at Imperial. Each Faculty Union, and RAG have at least one violate mascot. The CGCU have two in Spanner and Bolt, the RSM have Davy (a Davy mining

lamp), and the RCSU hold a 7ft stainless steel thermometer named Theta. The idea is for members of the Faculty Unions to use skill, intelligence and deviance to 'capture' others' mascots. To keep proceedings friendly, only violate mascots can be 'stolen'. Mascots are generally brought out during Faculty Union events, such as Friday's Tri-Union Bar night.

The Bottle now sits at its rightful place in the Union Bar, whilst the violate RSM mascot, Davy, remains missing, but they now hold the CGCU Spanner. Chris, the giant RAG collecting tin is also missing. The CGCU currently hold neither of their mascots after Bolt was taken by inebriated Scientist in another embarrassingly easy capture by the RCSU during the CGCU Bonfire bar night in November.

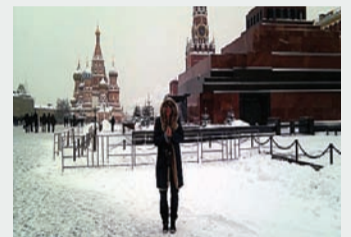
One detachable third of Theta remains in Guildsmen's hands. It was taken from the *felix* office after Sabatistical Scientist and *felix* Editor Dan Wan chose a poor hiding place for it.

The world beyond College walls



Russia

The creator of Twitter, CEO of eBay, head of Mozilla, and Ashton Kutcher were sent to Russia in a delegation summoned by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. The delegation was aimed at discussing how social networks, new media, and communication tools can improve ties between the two countries. The delegation followed similar ones to both Mexico and Iraq, which led the Iraqi Government to establish a YouTube channel as well as the Mexicans establishing an SMS crime hotline. The delegates met with Russian ministers, presidential advisors, business leaders, as well as health, welfare, and anti-corruption activists and discussed technological collaboration, cyber crime, health, governance, and cultural collaboration. Russia is the biggest consumer of social networks per capita, according to Comscore, which stated that the average Russian adult spends 6.6 hours a month on social networking websites.



Europe

The European Commission's competition regulators have opened a preliminary antitrust investigation into Google, according to both the commission and the company. The commission received complaints about Google from Foundem, a British price comparison website, Ciao.de, a Microsoft owned shopping site, and ejustice.fr, a French legal search site. Each complaint was slightly different in nature but centred around Google's search ranking methodology or advertising terms and conditions. Google was notified earlier in the month by the EU about the probe and has been asked to respond to the allegations brought forth. Intriguingly, there already seem to be quite apparent connections from Microsoft, no stranger to EU competition regulation, and two of the complaining companies. Microsoft has made huge investments into its search engine, Bing, only to see Google's dominance grow both in search and in advertising, most notably in Europe. Recent statistics from Seomoz claim that 85% of search engine referrals to other websites come from Google, a figure significantly higher than any claims by Google itself.



France

SNCF, operator of the majority of the French rail network, including the TGV, has come under great criticism for circulating signs warning about baggage thefts by Romanians, stating that "all acts by Romanians must be reported" to the railway's security staff. Romanians in France are reportedly outraged by the signs, labelling them an example of "anti-Romanian racism". A rail workers union made similar statements against the signs. The event has raised larger questions of relations between France and Romania, as well as Italian-Romanian relations. A sizeable portion of the French population opposed Romania's entrance into the EU and Silvio Berlusconi, Italian Prime Minister, controversially singled out Romanians in trying to explain crime levels in his country. The signs were apparently made by a rogue railway agent and the organisation promised to evaluate how their creation was possible. SNCF security stated that no reports of Romanian activity had been received following the posting of the signs.

By Tom Greany

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Imperial converted to Metric

The results of the polls to rename the Union bars are in, but the Union have taken the decision to hold off on a final name for the new Da Vinci's. Rox Middleton reports on the latest decisions made this week

The answer to the question on everyone's lips has finally been announced. After weeks of violent speculation, Imperial Student Union has revealed that the new club next year to replace dBs will be called Metric. Obviously as the name suggests, it is hoped that Metric will be an improvement on dBs. The name of the new bar (after getting rid of da Vinci's) however, is still to be decided!

Metric was the winner of an online poll for students, winning by a massive margin over the other options, with voter numbers reaching much higher than expected because of the controversy over the shortlist. Ashley Brown had said the naming process "will be the most controversial part of the presidency then. Or, a triumph of student involvement."

Whilst Metric won by popular consensus for the nightclub, the same cannot be said for the new bar, the winning name for which was the Consort, coming only narrowly ahead of the other options and attracting lots of negative comments about the options. These were drawn up from students' suggestions, first by filtering the dross to leave 150 plausible names which were then considered by a team of five, consisting of Ashley Brown, Dan Wan, a student and two members of staff.

An initial outcry against some of the suggested options spurred interest in the poll and while the naming of the new club seems to have been a success, there have also been a significant number of negative complaints on the website. In fact, it's difficult to find people who are happy with the shortlist for the bar at all. Most complain that they don't like any of the names so they've had to choose the least worst

option. A facebook group for instance, has been set-up promoting Rock Bottom as a moniker instead.

It's difficult to see how the Union could have carried out a more democratic process, which was entirely student-led and in which students who wanted to influence the decision have had excellent opportunities to do so through proposing names and promoting their favourites.

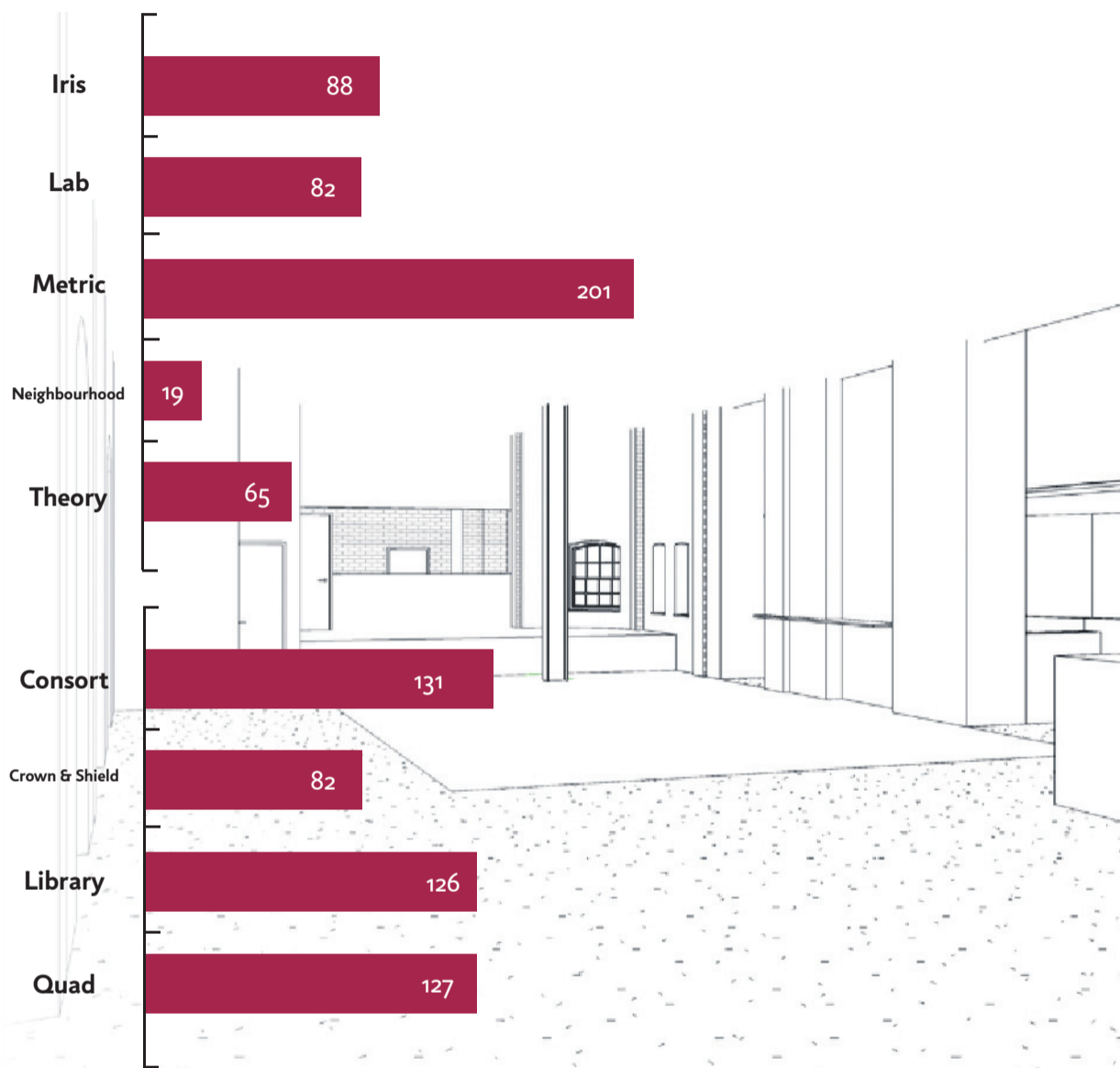
Of course it would be impossible to please everyone, but it must be accepted that this democratic method was the best way to please the greatest number of people. The only barrier to a well-chosen name is student apathy, and for naming the bar, it's all still to

"The only barrier to a well-chosen name is student apathy."

play for.

After listening to the complaints of students, the Union is holding off the final decision. In order to choose a name for the new bar which is more popular, it is probable that nominations will be re-opened, the least popular dropped and a second round will be used to determine the outcome. This will please those who voted on an unofficial Live! poll where RON took the majority of the votes, presumably from people with suggestions of a higher standard.

It seems likely that after facing the prospect of a truly disastrous name change, and realising what they have to lose, the campaign for the naming of the new bar will be hotly fought.



Top bar chart for new nightclub name: dBs looks to be renamed 'Metric'. Bar chart below, the poll for the new bar name that has not been finalised yet as voting opens again. 'Crown & Shield' is likely to be dropped in favour of a new name.

Fresher wins Imperial Idol with Amy Winehouse cover

David Harrison

Last Thursday (18th), dBs saw crowds of people gather to watch the final of Imperial Idol in which Medic Fresher Sangita Chatterjee won.

The event, organised by Save The Children had eight finalists from across College all competing for the crown of being 2010's Imperial Idol.

Preliminary rounds had taken place in the form of "Hall Idol" and various other auditions in which acts were put through to Thursday night's finale event. Judges Alex Ross, Medic lecturer Dr. Chris John, Felix Editor Dan Wan, and Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) Jenny Wilson were on hand to oversee and comment on the night's proceedings.

The first impressive performance came from Vic, a 2nd year French-Swedish biologist who performed a stunning rendition of Whitney Hou-

ston's "Saving All My Love For You". Judge Alex Ross was not entirely convinced by her on-stage antics however after Vic suggestively took off her jacket mid-song.

Kitty Magic and Wolfy and the Tin Can 44s battled it out for the label of best band, with the latter providing a massively popular and comical performance of their song "I've Lost My Mojo". The judges decided unanimously that Kitty Magic outplayed



Falmouth-Keogh resident Sangita Chatterjee won with her version of 'Valerie' by Amy Winehouse. She performed with an impressive 5-man band

their welcome on stage with Dan Wan commenting that "the bit where you all went mental at the end was just a bit unnecessary." However, all four judges also admitted they were a solid band and commented their performance probably hadn't done their recorded tracks justice.

Yourssuf Saleh entertained the crowd with version of Justin Timberlake's XXXXX, even getting the crowd singing along. Whilst Jenny Wilson was suitably impressed, the other three judges decided the performance was over-rehearsed, with Dr. Chris John commenting his performance was "tried and tested."

The night finished with two very strong performances with Sangita singing alongside a full complement of instruments to Valerie by Amy Winehouse/The Zutons. Her strong voice and pitch-perfect execution was matched by the last performer, KUDZI. The solo artist sang and danced to the



Kings of Leon's Sex on Fire. This wasn't before silencing the crowd with a jaw-droppingly dramatic start to the song.

However, after the audience cast their votes, hosts for the night Jaimie Henry and Fran Conway announced runner-up Wolfy and the Tin Can 44s, and overall winner Sangita. She was cheered along by a large contingent of her hall-mates. An elated Sangita commented: "To be honest, I was completely incredulous when I won Imperial Idol. All I can remember was feeling really nervous before

going on; but the audience's reaction was so warm once I'd started singing, I just became calm and relaxed. Even though I was happy with how I'd done, I didn't think in a million years I'd actually win it!"

Credit has to go to my band, who really lifted the energy of the performance and made it what it was. Imperial Idol has definitely inspired me to perform more, and make the most of the many opportunities at imperial-so I'm afraid you haven't heard the last from me yet!"

Microsoft partners with Imperial

Alex Karapetian

The Imperial College Business School has been selected as the lead academic partner for Microsoft's Innovation Outreach Programme (IOP), following an agreement which came to light during a Global Investment Conference held by the Prime Minister. The role will make Imperial's innovation, management, technology and engineering qualities available to the IOP, of which a range of multinational companies are members.

The agreement will grant Imperial funding and research opportunities for, and with, other IOP members. Imperial's role will be to provide business focused research and engineering expertise for technical development and proof-of-concepts. The opportu-



Imperial should be expecting one of these really fancy signs on Exhibition Road fairly soon, then.



Michael Steep, Microsoft's Technical Strategy & Innovation Chief of Operations, said Imperial was a "perfect fit" for Microsoft's latest programme

nity also allows members of the IOP to work alongside Imperial Innovations, which is a leading commercialisation and investment company involved with testing and launching business projects, partly owned by Imperial College.

Microsoft's IOP was established in 2009 and is mostly comprised of highly reputable companies. The innovation executives from these companies meet regularly to discuss challenges in product and service development, and how they may be overcome in order to meet today's standards and expecta-

tions competitively. Microsoft has expanded the IOP into Europe and added ten companies. The Business School was chosen to provide academic support for both American and European ventures.

Microsoft's Technical Strategy & Innovation Chief of Operations, Michael Steep, commented that "Imperial is a perfect fit for the IOP and its global members. It offers the latest research and practice on business model and process innovation, alongside an impressive track record of spinning out successful companies." He continued

to add that "the University combines world class expertise in science, engineering and medicine with a top business school for innovation. Imperial has a truly entrepreneurial culture which fits well with the IOP so we're really pleased to announce this partnership to the IOP members."

Imperial will start their role by designing and performing research for the IOP's conference at Microsoft's US headquarters in March and June, where they will discuss improving innovation processes with other corporate members.

Professor David Gann, head of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship research group at the Business School, commented that Imperial "will bring together experts from a range of industries and share what is learnt through applied, market-facing research for the members" and that the college is "very pleased to be a central part of this strong network." Describing the IOP, he mentioned: "It's an exceptional group of companies. They lead by continual - sometimes radical - product or service improvement. The IOP is a new model we hope will let corporations open their R&D departments to create new, exciting and successful ventures with other IOP partners."

Imperial's commitment to the role raises awareness and acknowledgement of their internationally outstanding education and research. Lord Mandelson, the UK Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills said that: "Imperial College is offering a service that no one else in the world can provide: specialist expertise, reliably connected across disciplines, linked directly to what the market requires. This country's investment in knowledge, skills development and meaningful research means our universities set the bar for excellence that others must try to beat."

A transcript from the PM's conference is available online.

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London

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- 19.00 Private Housing Exhibition in the Queen's Tower Rooms continues

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WORTH THE EFFORT?

DOES GRADUATING WITH A LOWER SECOND CLASS DEGREE CONSIGN YOU TO A LIFE OF UNEMPLOYMENT? IS A 2:2 FROM IMPERIAL WORTH JUST AS MUCH AS A 2:1 FROM OTHER INSTITUTIONS? DAN WAN INVESTIGATES

It has long been instilled in many a student's mind that they should be coming out of University with at least upper second class honours if they're to make the leap to employment afterwards. They say without a 2:1 in your respective degree, you're destined to life in a dead-end job, and failing that, unemployment. Whilst others continue to fly high, you remain on the dole.

Whether you believe the urban myth that surrounds not receiving a 2:1 or not, there is undoubtedly a stigma that drags along with not getting one.

But does '2:2' stick out like a sore thumb on your CV? More importantly, does it immediately make you a less favourable candidate for a job? Seemingly not.

Pricewaterhouse – Coopers (PwC), one of the UK's largest accountancy firms and graduate recruiters, have recently announced a new programme that looks for "inspired talent". The necessity of a 2:1 is abolished, and the focus for PwC's graduate hunting is now on an individual's impressive ability and extra-curricular activity. This seemingly opens the door for students who look set to graduate with that dreaded lower second class honours only.

Sonja Stockton, head of graduate recruitment for PwC, told the Financial Times that whilst people didn't achieve the normally-required 2:1, "they were doing extraordinary and enterprising things" during their time at University that may have compromised academic achievement, but still added value of employability. An example cited was the starting of a charity whilst studying.

She continued: "We wanted to create an opportunity and a window for exceptionally talented students who have demonstrated exceptional achievements beyond the academic."

The move has been welcomed by many at the best universities, where many students find there is a fine balance between academically-achieving and fulfilling a recreational and interesting extra-curricular life. It is a balance that countless numbers of stu-

"The necessity of a 2:1 is abolished, and the focus for PwC's graduate hunting is now on an individual's impressive ability and extra-curricular activity"

dents at Imperial cannot find. Whilst the ones that work on their degrees more than they fill their CVs with anything else tend to be favoured, PwC can now look forward to those students who are arguably better equipped to apply themselves to a wider variety of situations and challenges.

Ms. Stockton highlighted their new recruitment scheme also addressed the inequality of standards and quality of a 2:1 degree across the UK's varying universities. She illustrated the point by interestingly singling out Imperial College students, claiming that they stood a worse chance of achieving that gold standard 2:1 than if they attended a less reputable institution.

Many other large graduate recruiters are following suit and are becoming increasingly lenient on the 2:1 'floor' that the majority of companies have imposed on their recruitment drives. Unilever, one of Europe's leading pharmaceutical companies, has stated that graduates without a 2:1 "were not ruled out" completely. If they had "really great work experience, drive, energy and commercial awareness" things could still look up for them.

It has been reported that in the last few years that employers accepting graduates on a 2:2 degree has risen, despite the economic downturn skewing the market in favour of recruiters rather than job-hunters. A third of employers surveyed by the Association of Graduate Recruiters (AGR) in 2008 were said to be looking at applicants with a 2:2, compared to a quarter the year before.

However, *felix* investigates if graduating from Imperial does make a difference. Should Imperial graduates be given more slack from employers? Do employers even notice the fact you're from the 5th best university in the world? Does it even matter what degree classification you enter the big, wide world with?

The 2:1 Floor

With over 60% of graduates hitting the gold standard of a 2:1 classification or better, graduate recruiters are now having a tough time sifting through the thousands of homogenous applications, even with a '2:1 floor' as part of preliminary requirements.

It has long been accepted that if you are not above the 2:1 floor, you're simply not in the room. Some might even say dead and buried in the ground. Puns and word play aside, companies like PwC and Ernst & Young have stated that this 2:1 floor is "flexible", and that applicants will now have to demonstrate other features of their ability that go beyond an academic record.

Intuitively, by dropping the requirements needed for a job, the employers stand to receive even more applications than they do already. However, by doing this they also broaden the available talent pool and are able to recruit the applicants with skills and disciplines specific to their sector.

Carl Gillead, chief executive of the Association of Graduate Recruiters pointed out the potential risks of using the tried and tested method of a 2:1 floor.

"There is a growing awareness that graduates have other things to offer. If you use a hard and fast cut-off at 2:1 you might miss out," he said.

Sector-specific skills may not necessarily come from achieving a 2:1. Even if some of these skills can be attained during a certain degree course, employers understand it is not guaranteed on courses at less reputable universities. Rebecca Fielding, talent manager at HJ Heinz highlighted the suspected inequality in degree standards in British higher education.

"The majority now have a first or 2:1," she correctly states. 'Quality standards across universities and subjects are also completely incomparable, so the grade is not necessarily correlated to academic capability of the candidate.'

Jonathan Silver, Deputy President (Education) of Imperial College Union is in charge of representing the academic needs of the College's students and agrees that this rings very true for graduates receiving their degrees from Imperial.

"At Imperial a 2.2 is not only perfectly respectable, it is arguably academically equivalent to at least an upper second from many institutions." He continues that highly-regarded institutions are almost impermeable to unsavoury tactics that are skewing the statistical surveys used by employers. He states that "Imperial is culturally opposed to the 'degree inflation' phenomenon, and there is no inclination among departments to align assess-

ment standards with those from competing institutions, so assessment standards remain extremely high."

Many institutions have been publically criticised for urging their academics to keep up with targets in awarding upper class (1st or 2:1) degrees to their students. In 2008, an email sent to the Mathematics department at Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) was leaked into the public. MMU are ranked 90th in the Times Good University Guide 2010.

Mr. Silver compares the equivalent situation at Imperial, ranked 3rd in the same guide, where Imperial have set targets of 70% of students achieving a 2:1 or better, but only 57% did so. "It is particularly noticeable with the Mathematics BSc/MSci, where only 21% of graduates achieved a first class and 36% achieved an upper second class degree in 2009, having enrolled in 2005/6 with AAB/AAA," he states.

Talking to a Pricewaterhouse – Coopers Graduate Recruitment Advisor, she was certain in the fact that "the same standards still applied" as before. The new scheme was more to focus on individuals who have "an amazing story to tell", and less on the fact that any graduates with 2:2 degree could apply. Most interestingly, when questioned how much weight the institution an applicant is graduating from holds on an application, she stated that whilst PwC looked at a full application completely, which university the graduate was from was "not particularly taken into consideration." Instead, the emphasis was seemingly still on their academic record.

Quite clearly, the fact that PwC and other companies have begun to open up their programmes to applicants with a 2:2, he feels there is still some way to go in reaching out to many graduate recruiters who still use heavily depend on degree classification only.

"It shouldn't be necessary for a competent, inspired applicant with a 2.2 from Imperial to prove that they have done 'extraordinary and enterprising things'. It would be more appropriate to adjust for the standards required for each degree class at Imperial. It is, sadly, true that employers place far more emphasis on the degree class

achieved than on the awarding institution," he says.

Upper Second (2:1)

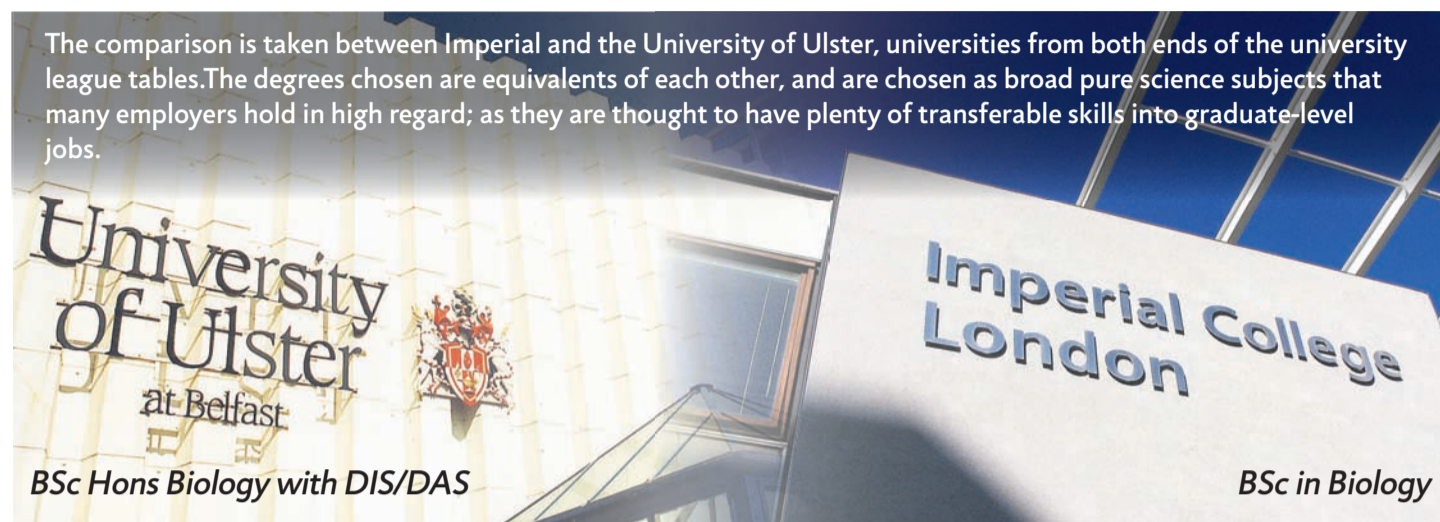
has been the gold standard amongst the vast majority of major graduate recruiters. Many however have increasingly started to recruit graduates with a 2:2 in order to broaden a talent pool beyond academic record.

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How much do you value an Imperial degree?



Is an Imperial degree more attractive to employers?



The comparison is taken between Imperial and the University of Ulster, universities from both ends of the university league tables. The degrees chosen are equivalents of each other, and are chosen as broad pure science subjects that many employers hold in high regard; as they are thought to have plenty of transferable skills into graduate-level jobs.

External opinion



External Examiners reports are effectively the way in which universities ensure that their course standards are comparable to those of other universities. These reports also aim to ensure that students receive similar grades, had they studied at a different university. However, in spite of this, often there are often still discrepancies in the difficulty of examinations set between universities resulting in students achieving lower grades here than they would at, say, the University of Ulster.

In these reports often external examiners touch on the fact that our students are part-taking in more difficult courses. For instance between 07-08 and 08-09 the number of first class degrees in Biochemistry dropped from 22% to 7% however an external examiner remarked that the "standards achieved are similar to those on comparable programmes at other institutions". However, other comparable institutions generally have much higher rates of firsts and 2:1s than Imperial. Imperial has a "good honours" rate of 68.5% compared with a rate of 80.4% at UCL (ranked 5th) and Sussex (ranked 35th) with 81.7%. - **Renny Norman**



Student in the process

Chloe McKeon is final year Biologist currently juggling her time between applying for jobs, boosting her 2:2 average to a 2:1 and making the most of her ever-decreasing time at university. She's hoping to become an accountant when she graduates this June.

Do you feel the job market is only open to people graduating with a 2:1?

From the impression I've got, yes. After applying to over 30 companies, I've only come across one offering jobs with a 2:2 standard. They all specify the requirement at interviews and ask you if you're on course for a 2:1. You definitely get the impression they're not going to consider anyone else.

How much do you think the fact you're from Imperial College is taken into account when applying for jobs?

I think they do notice the prestige of Imperial. They mention it at interviews. I think they look upon you as being academic and having all the skills you need in accountancy jobs. Though, that doesn't relate to getting a 2:1. Just because you're from Imperial, you still need that grade.

We work really hard to get here, and most people come here to get a job at the end of it. We then have to work hard here, and that is mentioned by graduate recruiters, but I'm not sure it's valued enough.

Do you think going to another university would have increased your chance of getting the jobs, subsequent from being able to achieve a 2:1 more easily?

It seems like an even playing field, but it's not. I have friends that studied Biology at universities such as Cardiff or Exeter, and they've said that most of their first year was just a re-cap of A-Levels. Biology at Imperial isn't like that at all, and I don't think that's reflected when applying for jobs at all.

Getting a 2:1 from Imperial is probably as good as getting a 1st from some universities. I feel the person with a 1st would probably get the job, but a 2:1 from Imperial is still extremely competitive. A 2:2 from Imperial can't compete with a 2:1 from another university; there's too much of a gap and barrier considered by employers between a 2:1 and a 2:2 classification overall.

University of Ulster

Imperial College London

54

Overall ranking (TGUG)

3

37

Biological Science subject rank ((TGUG)

3

17.5 per week

Contact hours

18.18 per week

61.4 (56th place)

% of 1st of 2.1 awarded (TGUG)

68.5 (32nd place)

63

Graduate prospects indicator (The Guardian)

84

1. Demonstrate the ability to name, explain and apply major concepts, principles and theories
2. Demonstrate the ability to apply subject knowledge to familiar and unfamiliar problems in related organisations
3. Recount the variety of research methods that can be used to collect, interpret, manipulate and analyse biological data

Programme Learning Outcomes

(Numbered extracts taken from online programme outcome reports are from equivalent specifications within the report)

1. Advanced knowledge and understanding of four specialist modules
2. The understanding of economic, financial and organisational framework within which business enterprises operate
3. Plan & execute experiments using lab and field methods, analyse experimental results and determine their strength and validity, prepare technical reports and presentations

Getting a 2:2 isn't the end of the world, by any means

Elspeth Farrar, Director of Imperial's Career Advisory Service talks about the value of an Imperial degree, and what 2:2 graduates can still do despite under-achievement

In November 2008, then Union President Jenny Morgan and student representative Alex Grisman were invited to the College's Strategic Education Committee meeting where they proposed a paper discussing the value of an Imperial degree. It said that the "respectable classification of a Lower Second" from Imperial ought to stand a "better chance of securing employment than it already does." The suggested advancement on this point was to talk to the College's careers service and urge them to press the point to major graduate recruiters; the companies most guilty of using a 2:1 cut-off point.

felix spoke to Elspeth Farrar, Director of the Careers Advisory Service, and she has seemingly listened to the suggestions put to her since then, and has been lobbying companies like PwC to give a lot more attention to the reputation of the institution applicants are applying from.

"We've tried to encourage companies to look for more than a degree classification. Looking at just that is limiting, but you can understand why they do it. They receive thousands upon thousands of applications."

When asked what advice she would give to a student that is only on course for a 2:2 degree, her words were clear and simple. "Don't panic!" she says. "There is a misconception that all graduate recruiters ask for a 2:1. In fact, at least 34% don't even specify." She continues to assure students on lower classifications that there are specialist and smaller companies not looking for a 2:1. "Engineering and public sector companies often require a 2:2, and smaller companies are more interested in the individual. Students with a 2:2 shouldn't be thinking 'life is over' or anything.

Her advice to 2:2 graduates is not to apply to jobs clearly stating a 2:1 requirement. "A lot of students suffer from this tunnel vision of what they want to do and who they can apply to, we

encourage them to broaden out their vision," she says. She mentions about 45% of job offers are subject-unspecific, and many recruiters look for an "entire skillset" rather than just a certain degree.

Ms. Farrar also found it difficult to agree that degree quality and standards across the country were incomparable and varying. "The demand for Imperial students is high, but you need to look at where the applicant has come from at the start of the degree and what they've achieved by the end of it. There's also plenty of reasons why many students can't attend the best university on offer to them." She also points out that to say an Imperial student is immediately better than a student from another university is difficult.

"A student at another university may have achieved much greater things, you've got to see what they've gained from the experience."





Rhys Davies just can't argue with trees



"As a species, we're really quite aggressive. ...it's going to get us into trouble."



Whilst walking through Hyde Park one day, I came across a very peculiar sight.

There was a man engaged in a very passionate argument. He swore, he cursed, he turned a funny colour. But his opponent would not be moved by his entreaties. I can't be sure what the disagreement was about but I knew what I was seeing. There was a man having an argument with a tree. And you know what? I think the tree won.

At first, I was confused. How could a man lose an argument to a tree? We have legs, we have mouths; we are the envy of the plant world! But does a tree need legs? Does it need a mouth? It has been said it's better to be silent and thought a fool than to speak and remove all doubt. I admit, I had no gauge on the tree's IQ but the man wouldn't be winning the Nobel Prize any time soon. After all, he was arguing with a

Tree!

And losing...

This got me thinking; we could learn a lot from trees. For instance, when we find the weights of the world bearing down on us, instead of fretting and fussing and other very mammalian things, we should just stand still, breathe, and take a moment out to think. Is this something I can remedy? Yes? Then I'll remedy it. No? Then I'll think of something else. Consider, how many trees do you see drowning their sorrows in the Union? Exactly.

Another example. Let's say your sports club (or whatever) is going on tour but there are a limited number of places – someone couldn't rig the ACC this year. So only the best (Insert sport here)-person gets to go. This is basic biology. When there is competition for a resource, what do trees do? They grow, and those that grow that extra metre up, or across, or wide are those that make it. You don't need me

to tell you that university is a fiercely competitive forest. Just by coming here, you've already beaten some competition already. So the lesson here is to start photosynthesising like your life depends on it!

Furthermore, some trees even need that extreme pressure to survive. The seeds of the Giant Sequoia are only released from their pine cones in the intense heat of forest fires. Without the conflagrations, the seeds don't germinate and... do sod all, basically. And people are just the same. Some write irritatingly good essays the night before the deadline after months of idle indolence.

But it's not just their general philosophy that I admire. Just look at what Man and Tree have both contributed to society over the years. Trees have given us medicines like quinine and aspirin, wood for houses and guitars, fruit for food and clothing. I could go on. What has Man made? Fire, axes, chainsaws.

As a species, we're really quite aggressive. One of these days it's going to get us into trouble. So it's clear that trees have done much more for us that we have done for them. Rather decent of them.

But am I right in comparing humanity to trees? Are we compatible at all? We've all seen those tree-huggers, and while I admit their motives are admirably pure, those kinds of relationships don't tend to last. So just keep your stamens to yourselves, boys, kay?

But I'm not just being speciest. Even with the most futuristic of medical innovations, you'll be lucky to live past a hundred years. To a tree, that's nothing. That's tree puberty, when they start growing moss in places that didn't grow moss before. Trees can grow for thousands of years – providing some passing human isn't in need of a tooth-pick. In fact, it's thought that the world's oldest tree is more than six thousand years old. To put that in

perspective, when the Egyptians first decided that pyramids were a pretty nifty shape, this tree was already going grey at the roots. So yes, as a rule, trees make Methuselah look like a mayfly.

My point is that trees can afford to take their time over things.

What is a little argument with a little man when you can remember the last time druids climbed your trunk? There's no point in getting worked up when you can outlast almost anything else on the planet. Except fire. Run from fire.

But us humans can't afford to take our time like that. Our time is short. Carpe Diem, and all that. If we sat and pondered for a decade over every little decision, society would grind to a halt.

So, in conclusion, it appears that while trees have a valid, even admirable, life philosophy, it is not one that man should seek to emulate.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to leave...

Angry Geek thinks you shouldn't suffer



"Who needs arts degrees? We've got all the arts we need here... then grab your crotch"



In my Monday morning lectures there's a ten-minute break in the three hours of unending pain, and during this time one of the students likes to go and get a coffee. Without fail, he comes back ten minutes late each week. As I am more anal than a particularly uptight haemorrhoid this irritates me greatly, and so next week I will attempt to fashion a landmine out of a bottle of water, a multivitamin tablet, and some thumbtacks.

Anyway, this itself isn't the point, the point is that this chap also likes to pretend he's one of the financial establishment's elite young minds. He reads the financial times and pretends he understands it, rather than admitting

he just likes doodling stickmen on the little graphs and charts, and he talks to his friends about 'the problem with the economy' as if he's discussing something he has an iota of experience of. He's basically like everyone else in the financial sector, it's just he's within spitting distance of me and that makes him stand out more.

I only mention him because this week it's Imperial's favourite seven days of pretending to be something we're not – no, not environmentally sound, the other one. It's ArtsFest! Ooh. Just saying it makes me feel like I'm in an energy drink advert circa 1985. Me and Gilead Amit are in shell suits with wacky hair and there's some cheap hand-drawn special effects in the back-

ground. I look slightly more effeminate than he does, but no-one's really asking. We rock out for twenty seconds and then shout something about the Sherfield building. Cut.

Everyone likes to show off what extra skills they have – why else would we write CVs – but ArtsFest just seems that one step too far, when Imperial conspires to show everyone that we're just as good as the other kids. Look, you say, we've got at least thirteen different kinds of saxophone societies. Who needs arts degrees. We've got all the arts we need right here, you say, and then you grab your crotch a bit. Insecure? Us? Would a university who was insecure have three separate societies dedicated to interpretive dance? I think

not!

I jest, of course. We actually have four. And I really love the arts and music stuff we've got at Imperial; the IC Big Band is my first good memory of Imperial (I recorded their performance in my Fresher's week like some nineties bootlegger), and there's a lot of good science going on at Imperial that relates to art in some way or another. I've been talking to one academic in particular lately – who challenged me about writing this column which I completely denied at the time, apologies if you know who you are – who's got some great work going on in that area. And that's fab. Honestly. I'd even go as far as to use the ancient slang word 'fab'. I just did, in fact.

But Imperial is full of people who really wish they weren't here, and it's a little bit sad. In most cases, really sad – most of the Felix staff should be out there right now replacing the biro-stuffed-up-a-pig's-arse journalists that are currently working day and night to make all forms of news completely unreadable. Unfortunately, most of them are going to end up stuck in dead-end science and engineering jobs, pretending to give a shit about tensile stress and high energy states. So I see ArtsFest as more of a distress call than anything else. Maybe that's more important than, you know, a steady job?

What do I know, though, eh? I can't even manage a weekly column at the moment.

Colin Hill against the union refurbishments



"...a solution to the f**king pillar problem, make it a pole for Americans to dance around"



As I'm sure most of you have read recently, the Union has decided to spend £2.4 million on renovating dB's and da Vinci's. Personally, I like the union the way it is; it's a fantastic establishment where all my friends are, "cutting up some mad shapes on the D-Floor" is perfectly acceptable and the staff give the right amount of leniency to raucous behaviour.

Do we really need to spend £2.4 million pounds on renovations? No. A new nightclub will not suddenly change the

Union from being a rampant sausage fest into a quality establishment. In my opinion, there are much better uses for this money: either pump it back into the clubs and societies, whose members have spent so much of there not so hard earned student loans in there, or use it to offer better drink promotions to students. From my own calculations I worked out that £2.4 million pounds could provide free beer to students for at least 5 years or make it half price for 10 (based on 4500 pints per week)! Of course, people will say this plan isn't sustainable but surely within the next

10 years even more money will be spent redoing the union. After all the current set up is only a few years old.

dB's is most full on a Wednesday, especially ACC bar nights, and I'm pretty sure most sports players would prefer £1 beers all the time than a new nightclub. The student's favourite after all is Cheapskates; a shitty hole in Soho but with 80p drinks, a comical decor and packed to the rafters every Wednesday (and Monday). It's clearly true that no one really cares where they are, if your with your mates, the booze is cheap and the establishment is marginally

better than Josef Fritzl's basement then the night is guaranteed for success. All the Union needs is a few leopard skin sofas, some zebra print carpets and some dance poles.

I've got a solution to the fucking pillar problem, make it a pole for drunk Americans to dance around after a few too many snakebites on a Friday night. The classic response from the Union is that our bars are the cheapest in London. Not true. The Goose is £1.65 for a Tetley's, a smooth 35p less than John Smiths and £6 for a bottle of Blossom Hill, a crisp £4 less than the house in

the Union.

Don't even get me started on the new names proposed. As humorous as "going for a pint in the library" would be, the novelty would soon wear off. When UCL did the same thing they ended up with a bar called the Chris Akabusi Pleasure Lounge. Do we really lack a sense of humour that "Library" is the best we could come up with? If you agree with me, please email Ashley Brown at president@imperial.ac.uk under the header "I'd rather have free beer than a new nightclub!" We can make a difference people!

Gilead Amit and the Winter Olympics



"I use 'lucky' in a relative sense. I might have come out looking like George Clooney."



When I was younger, and had time on my hands and nothing better to do, I frequently fell ill. Nothing particularly debilitating or life-threatening, you understand, only regular healthy doses of the common cold or flu. Influenza, as they say, and out flew my health.

It is possibly one of the best indications when a happy childhood that memories of sickness past are fond and reassuring ones. The cramped stomach associated with food poisoning is forgotten, but the meal of chicken nuggets we were allowed to enjoy afterwards remains. The swollen throats and broken fingers pale by comparison with the sympathetic bedside visit from our grandparents, or the presents waiting for us when we started to recover.

There are, of course, moments of childhood hardship we all remember with pride, and whose real or imagined scars still provide us with stories worth dining out on. Even if our dinner companions may not be too keen on eating while we tell them.

I suppose I've been comparatively lucky to make it through the long and deformative years of adolescence without looking noticeably different to when I started out. Well, I use 'lucky' in a relative sense. I might have come out looking like George Clooney.

Other than a cross on my finger to mark the spot where a sailor's son once buried the blade of his father's Swiss army knife, I survived my teenage years unharmed. I

look slightly less like a potential fullback than I did when I first came through the uprights, perhaps, but I've made up for that with a luxurious head of hair and a splendidly Roman set of earlobes.

As a result of this idyllic youth, my own memories may not represent an accurate cross-section of The Great British Public. But as The Poet once said: "when did that ever stop me from shooting my fat mouth off anyway?" Sorry, that should be A Poet. Why should the sons suffer for the crimes of the father?

Amongst my warmest and fuzziest memories are those of winters where the outside temperature continued to fall as my internal temperature rose, and I was sloshing to the gills with decongestive syrups and warm chicken soup. My pajamas laced with eucalyptus capsules, I would lie on my bed for all the world like a koala caught in a rare moment of insomnia.

What I remember as being hours of coughing and restless sub-duvet gymnastics probably lasted no longer than a few minutes, but if I am happy with the illusion then who are you to rob me of it? If that's the way you're going to behave, young reader, then why don't you just go back to where you came from and read the Catnip section, where they're used to this sort of puerile interruption. Now where was I? Oh yes, tossing and turning till the early hours of the morning.

It's one of life's facetious little ironies that bed is possibly the hardest place for a tired pair of eyes to finally close. I can

happily slumber in planes, I will cheerily doze on sofas and the pen will eventually, though inexcusably, drop from my relaxing fingers during the odd lecture. But turn the airplane seat into a bed, make me lie crosswise on the sofa and not lean against the armrest, or infuse the lecture theatre with a nocturnal degree of peace and quiet, and I suddenly find myself alert and restive and reaching for my fallen pen.

So if falling asleep in bed proved too difficult a task for the misguided child I once was, I would creep to the television room, blanket held cape-like around my shoulders, and sit in my father's armchair opposite the bulging screen. My parents have since got rid of that deep burgundy leather armchair, but it will always furnish the salon of my memory with its baroquely curlicued armrests, its rows of shining metal studs and an overwhelming smell of French polish.

Once I had satisfactorily ensconced myself in the armchair's all-embracing folds, I would reach for the remote control and, making sure to press the mute button simultaneously with the on switch, turn the television on. And so, late into the night, 'ickle me would be lulled into the inviting arms of Morpheus by the gentle sound of EuroSport's English-language commentators discussing the latest curling championships.

For this reason, more than any other, more even than the little-known and rarely-admitted fact that I once spent a week of evenings in an alpine resort learning how to curl, I have a great and

overriding sympathy for the sport of curling. For the stones which bruised and battered my ankles, for the ridiculous plastic brooms which made me lose whatever grip I claimed to have on the ice, and the rules which I would certainly have forgotten had I ever bothered to learn them.

Being neither a psychic nor one of those curious individuals whose secretive and intriguing profession it is to gather statistics about television viewing figures, I am unable to guess how many of you have been watching coverage of the Vancouver Winter Olympics. A few of you, I'll wager, or else Hazel Irvine will be in for a nasty shock when she returns next week to find a nation desperate to know where she's been.

Those of you, however, who join me in frying the midnight oil will doubtless have your own preferred sports, your own most memorable moments and least interesting commentators from these XXIst games. But as civilised people, the one thing on which I hope we can all agree is that the BBC's choice of lead-in music and animation sequence grows on one like a bad case of *Rhizopus Stolonifer*, the so-called 'Galloping Grey Ghost' of fungi.

For those of you who have so far not been exposed to the aforementioned expository footage, it can be viewed for a reasonable licence fee on BBC2, or for nothing on Ye olde Tube.

To my initial mystification, we are shown a hooded Canadian surrounded by wolves in a dark forest. Following a

rapid escape on makeshift skis, an improvised snowboard and a lightweight luge, our hero faces the spirit of an angry bear locked inside a glacier. To increasingly dramatic chords, he curls what I can only assume is a hockey mask into the wall of ice, thereby freeing a missing section of the Vancouver Olympics totem. In the process, of course, he causes a glacier to disintegrate. I'll let you-all speculate as to the message behind that one.

All I know is that when I return from late nights at college or the union, and collapse in front of BBC2, it's a delicious treat for me to find that the winter Olympics are being broadcast. There is something so much more comforting about the pristine whiteness of the snow than the harsh colours of the tarmac or the gymnasium.

The sports may seem sterile and distant, but human nature is such that the simple knowledge that there will be a winner and a loser is enough to suffuse the most banal of endeavours with a degree of interest worthy of 1980s America. As the skiers carve their way down the slopes, their bodies almost entirely hidden in protective soft-shells and goggles, and the lugers are flagged up by the metal detectors before they have a chance to fire, it's easy to forget the pressures these athletes are putting on their bodies. There's no need to focus on the unpleasantness of sweat or perceived effort: the Winter Olympics always take place in a protective cocoon of snow and fairy dust, and that is why they will always be so magical.



A different kind of tourism

Brigette Atkins Science Editor

Many of us are all too familiar with the libel war being fought between Simon Singh and the British Chiropractic Association. Tuesday marked the latest stage in this ongoing case when Singh presented his appeal to senior judges – see Duncan's article. Whilst this is the most publicised libel case at the moment, it is by no means isolated.

Dr Peter Wilmhurst is currently being sued by NMT Medical over a claim that data from a trail of one of their products is flawed. Being sued for libel is not a cheap affair. Wilmhurst has already lost £280,000 in court fees and this figure is set to rise as the case continues. Even a victory in the courtroom would be bittersweet as court fees cannot always be recovered from the side pressing charges. In this case, NMT Medical are unwilling to subsidise these costs should they lose because, rather ironically, a demand such as this on a foreign company may violate the European Convention on Human Rights. I'm guessing that when this convention was set out, impedance of free speech was not one of its objectives.

So if all that's to face is a lose-lose outcome, why don't scientists and writers such as Dr Wilmhurst just back down, admit defeat and apologise, regardless of their beliefs? In a column by Simon Singh in the Telegraph this week, Wilmhurst is quoted as saying "If I fail to speak out...I am breaking the Hippocratic Oath. I'd rather be sued for libel." Freedom of speech is evidently something above monetary value.

Of course, it isn't just scientific debate being stifled. Britain's laws practically invite anyone with sufficient wealth to enter the circus that is our

courtrooms and try their hand at suing for libel. 'Libel tourism' is a term being used more and more these days as Britain plays host to cases from all over the world, the only requirement being that the publication in question where the claim was made is obtainable in the UK.

A paper by Article 19, an organisation campaigning to maintain what should be one of our most basic human rights, details the case of Rachel Ehrenfeld. A wealthy Saudi, Sheikh Khalid bin Mahfouz brought a case to the UK courts against Ehrenfeld (an American) after claims made in her book 'Funding Evil' – now unavailable after selling only a handful of copies in the UK. Not only is this a case of 'libel tourism', but it concerns me that Mahfouz has already sued using UK libel laws. More than 20 times.

I am by no means suggesting that writers should be allowed to publish anything – there should be justification above just a personal dislike for an individual or organisation. But I believe that, for a democratic country, the UK is making itself a global laughing stock through these laws where proof is the defendant's responsibility.

On Wednesday, a parliamentary panel agreed "[libel tourism] should be a matter of profound concern for the UK". But whilst many MPs are in support of reform, few are willing to commit to the cause. I feel the onus is now on us to put pressure on MPs to act. I urge you, if you get a moment, to look at www.libelreform.org and add your name to the list – Stephen Fry already has, so it must be important!

In other news – a report from the Commons is set to call for homeopathy funding by the NHS to be cut. Fingers crossed. Sorry Prince Charles.

Cannibalism evident amongst 'peace-loving' bonobos

James Goldsack

For the first time, a wild bonobo has been seen cannibalising her own recently deceased infant. This behaviour is extremely rare amongst all apes, only previously having been reported among orang-utans. Bonobos, once known as pygmy chimps, are our closest relative alongside chimps from which they diverged during the past 1 million years.

Despite cannibalism being an uncommon behavioural trait, it may not be aberrant, claims the scientist who witnessed it. Researchers have been known to emphasise the differences between chimpanzees and bonobos, with the latter reported to be less violent, aggressive or hostile to one another, and living in societies dominated by females as opposed to alpha males in chimp communities.

It was thought that bonobos did not commit infanticide, or hunt and eat other primate species. However, a study published last year reported that bonobos had been seen killing and eating monkeys. Primatologists Dr Andrew Fowler and Dr Gottfried Hohmann of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany have recorded an example of a bonobo ape, along with other members of her group, consuming the body of her recently deceased 2 and a half year-old infant.

The event was observed in a group of bonobos in the forest at Lui Kotale in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The female called Olga was seen carrying her dead infant, Olivia, over her shoulder with no signs of injury. The next day, Olga continued to carry Olivia and spent an hour grooming her. "After an hour, Marta, a dominant female then took the body, retaining it despite initial resistance from Olga. She then began to consume it, joined



Bonobos were previously been regarded as the hippies of the animal kingdom with their passion for 'free-love' and peace

by most of the community including the mother," said Dr Fowler.

"Consumption took several hours, and possession of the carcass changed several times. At times Olga and Ophelia, her remaining daughter, were not involved but remained nearby throughout the period," he says. "When a single foot and hand only remained attached to a long skin fragment, Olga took the remains, placed them over her back and walked away."

Dr Fowler said that despite such behaviour not being usual, it may be more widespread than one, isolated incident. He hypothesised that researchers may have witnessed it, but not reported it due to it drawing undue attention to cannibalism among our close relatives. On the other hand, there may not have been enough long-term studies of bonobos to previously

witness it.

"I don't see that occasionally consuming dead infants, however distasteful it might seem to us, is a sign of pathology or aberration per se" commented Dr Fowler. "I don't think it necessarily says anything about 'empathy' or 'morality.'" It had previously been suggested that bonobos might feel more sympathy for victims, leading them to shun the hunting of monkeys, for example.

Dr Fowler picks out that the "interesting question is why this female bonobo, Olga, allowed her infant to be eaten, because this is not always the case in chimpanzees. The incident might tell us more about relationships between adults, and particularly adult females, in the sense that Marta was able to take and consume the body of another female."

In brief

Novel Latex solution

Soundproofing has always been a problem for people who live next door to nocturnal beings with a penchant for loud music. However, rather than building a big wall, Zhiyu Yang from Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in Kowloon has developed a soundproof panel made of latex and plastic buttons that does the job more effectively. The noise-cancelling panels consist of a latex rubber membrane stretched over a 3 mm-thick rigid plastic grid of 1cm-wide squares, with a small plastic button in the centre. When waves hit the sound panel, the membrane and buttons resonate at different frequencies, resulting in waves cancelling each other out and a lack of sound penetrating the wall.

Musical instruments good for the mind?

Scientists have claimed that music lessons could have a direct impact on a child's ability to learn languages by affecting the mind's sensitivity to all types of sound. Tests have revealed that exposure to music can be beneficial for the brain whilst in its developmental stage, and could also aid children with dyslexia and autism. The researchers from Northwestern University in Chicago established a link between musical ability and the capacity of the nervous system to take in sound patterns. Professor Nina Kraus said "Playing an instrument may help youngsters better process speech in noisy classrooms and more accurately interpret the nuances of language that are conveyed by subtle changes in the human voice."

Black Lab saves the day

A black Labrador named Treo has been awarded the Dickin Medal. This is the animal equivalent of the Victoria Cross and is the highest accolade a military animal can receive. Treo, a 9-year-old Labrador formerly based in Rutland, was honoured for his life-saving skills in sniffing out roadside bombs in Afghanistan. He joined soldiers patrolling in Afghanistan in 2008. Dogs are said to have a sense of smell that is a thousand times more sensitive than that of a human, due to having more than 220 olfactory receptors in their noses. This enables them to be useful in identifying material such as explosives, drugs & forensic material.

This news comes following a recent report that the Labrador is, still, the most popular breed of dog in the world. It looks as though they can do no wrong.



Obama to abort NASA lunar program?

Arjun Hassard

There aren't many policies from George Bush's eight years that one can claim the current president of the United States is ruining, but for those of us who were hoping to spend their 30th birthday maxin' & relaxin' on the moon, the chances are starting to look pretty Obysmal. Barack's proposal last week to abort NASA's lunar plans majorly pissed off scientists worldwide, and not just the evil scientists who torture bunnies with shampoo.

The project in question is the Constellation programme: envisaging new rockets and a new crewship called Orion (names after the asterism, not the plural of 'Oreo') to put astronauts on the moon by 2020, and conceivably humans on Mars by the middle of the century. But in his 2011 budget request issued on Feb 1st, Obama described the project as "behind schedule, and lacking in innovation". So much for Dubya's plans to invade Mars (sorry, bring 'peace and democracy' to Mars).

Unfortunately, Nasa has already spent a slick \$9 billion (£5.6 billion) on Constellation, and it will cost an estimated \$2.5 billion more just to close down the project. And you thought signing up for 'Get Ripped in Three Weeks' online was a mistake.

Former NASA administrator Michael Griffin, who advocated the Constellation program, describes Obama's budget as disastrous for human space flight. "It means that essentially the U.S. has decided that they're not going to be a significant player in human space flight for the foreseeable future. The path that they're on with this budget is a path that can't work," he said.

This may not be good for America's already deteriorating ego, but imagine how pleased the Russians will be to finally have a chance at winning the



Looks like the Cheese Society are going to have to wait a little while longer to realise their plans for a trip to the moon

space race (the last time they did was in 1957 with Sputnik). I can just picture Putin celebrating by taking a triple distilled bath in Smirnoff, and getting Medvedev to massage caviar onto his head. Interestingly, the legendary 'space race', which began in 1947, was initially just for bragging rights, but developed into a competition for claim of new technology. Modern-day space institutes contend almost entirely for these rights.

Indeed, faster computers, better medicines, advanced composites and alloys, and thousands of other technologies all owe their development to space research. Space technology has shaped the fabric of society in ways we would never had thought of. Even everyday objects can be traced back

to a breakthrough in a NASA lab. The two examples I found of this are not very inspiring; foam padding adapted for helmets and flexible tires on the Apollo 14 pull-cart incorporated into winter radial car tires. So, next time you bump into an astrophysicist, give him (or him) a hug.

Back to the news: Obama's budget request, if approved by Congress, will hand over some spacecraft development to the private sector. The budget calls for companies to spend \$6 billion over five years to develop a commercial spacecraft that could taxi astronauts into low Earth orbit i.e. not much chance of a moon visit in our lifetime (sad emoticon). The Obama administration simply does not have the cash to fund any space projects with-

out some private investment – for the Constellation endeavour it's quite literally an 'Insert More Coins' scenario.

Going commercial with a human crew would represent a dramatic change in the way NASA does business. Instead of NASA owning the spacecraft and overseeing every nut and bolt of its design and construction, a private company would design and build the spacecraft with NASA looking over its shoulder. We can attribute this undesirable situation to the recession, but it seems these days that the recession is blamed for everything e.g. 'Why didn't you flush?... 'Recession'.

Perhaps the question we have missed is: why would mankind even want to return to the moon? If successful, it

could lead to privately-owned moon colonies, providing even more opportunities in research. It would finally shut up all the conspiracy theorists. And it would be a magnificent human achievement. As Isaac Asimov stated, "Why spend billions to place a man on the Moon? If we don't, we may lose the Earth. If we do, we may gain the universe. You couldn't ask for better odds." Even though he sounds like he works in William Hill, he's apparently the greatest science fiction writer of all time.

Whether the public pays for it through retail prices or taxes, the space race continues. But now, it is not between competing countries, but countries' governments and private industries.

Simon Singh's battle for free speech continues

Duncan Casey

On Tuesday, journalist, author and ex-Imperial scientist Simon Singh presented an appeal to the three most senior judges in the UK, fighting to be allowed to expose dangerous, deluded or downright insane practices in healthcare and alternative medicine. You might not have thought such a case would be necessary: after all, the law exists to protect the rights of whistleblowers and investigative journalists, doesn't it? Unfortunately, under the UK's current archaic libel laws, it appears that the truth is little defence.

Singh found himself in court after an article written in the Guardian almost two years ago, in which he analysed chiropractors' claims to be able to cure infant ear infections and colic through the medium of rearranging their vertebrae. Now, shuffling the bones in an adult carries some fairly

significant risks – it's not unknown for neck manipulations in particular to cause strokes and paralysis; doing it to an infant, however, is simply dangerous. Worse still, it isn't even effective – there is no robust evidence at all to suggest that the 'therapy' has any merit whatsoever. Singh dared to point this out, and rather than reveal the "plethora of evidence" upon which the British Chiropractic Association (BCA) based their bullshit theories, they instead opted to sue for libel, for the damage he had allegedly done to their otherwise-pristine reputation.

The UK has something of a reputation when it comes to libel law. The laws under which such cases are judged are so arcane and so unfit-for-purpose that it is almost impossible to defend one. Even the rare successes are somewhat Pyrrhic, as the average cost of such a victory is round about the same as the price of a house in London – meaning that your average jour-



Tuesday's hearing seemed to go well for Singh who is being sued by the BCA

nalist, researcher or science student can't possibly hope to defend themselves. Furthermore, the UK courts'

somewhat self-important definition of jurisdiction means that people from all over the world who wish to stifle criti-

cism choose to do so in London. As a result, there are currently laws in a number of US states, specifically limiting the application of UK libel decisions on US citizens. It's not just a problem, it's an embarrassment.

Tuesday's hearing seemed to go well – the panel of judges gave the BCA's counsel a thorough roasting, both for their seeming inability to accept criticism and for the "artificiality" of the case, that "at the end of this someone will pay an enormous amount of money, whether it be from Dr Singh's funds or the funds of BCA subscribers" to resolve a case that could have been settled in the way such scientific disputes are normally – via the open publication and robust criticism of the evidence. It's what we do. The BCA apparently doesn't agree, and as a result the safety and efficacy of a medical (or at least pseudo-medical) treatment will now be decided by the courts, as opposed to via clinical trial.



Van Rompuy romps around the EU

Following a policy paper by the EU president, Herman Van Rompuy, Neil Dhir questions what he is up to...

What is it with Council of Europe President Herman Van Rompuy and secrecy? Days before he was appointed "President of Europe" he gave an audition speech to members of the secretive Bilderberg Group, of which only parts were released to the public. Now he is at it again. At last week's meeting of heads of government, when the crisis in Greece was high on the agenda, he circulated another secret document, this time calling for more central planning of European economies by the EU.

As the Associated Press (AP) got its hands on the "unpublished document" and revealed the gist of Van Rompuy's proposals, it is easy to see why he was so keen to keep his thoughts from the public.

Van Rompuy is drawing up a blueprint for the way European countries manage their economic affairs, proposing that the EU get involved in planning national policies and ensuring they are carried out.

It is difficult to imagine in which EU capitals his proposals will be warmly welcomed. The British and Irish, while not averse to cuts, claim to be opposed to any further surrender of sovereignty to Brussels. French



The President of Europe has been organising talks over the current Greek crisis

"Europe can no longer afford to pay generous pensions, health care and unemployment"

voters, for their part, are unlikely to take kindly to Van Rompuy's demand that worker protections should be slashed and that the EU should be able to limit spending on welfare and pensions.

Van Rompuy says, "Europe can no longer afford to pay generous pensions, health care and unemployment — the spending that, especially with aging populations, has built up heavier and heavier levels of government debt, made worse by paying out hundreds of billions of euros to bail out banks and stimulate recession-plagued economies."

The AP says he has proposed a new system of "economic governance", which would give Brussels more oversight into how member states run their budgets. This goes well beyond the EU and European Central Bank's current budgetary supervision; the ECB's rule that deficits should never rise above 3 percent is routinely flouted by Eurozone members, including Paris and Berlin.

Van Rompuy proposes that the EU draw up a set of five common economic targets, then tailor them for

each country. EU experts would monitor the goals, which would be linked to EU funding and loans. Noncompliant governments may be "named and shamed," which could affect their borrowing on bond markets.

Some aspects of Van Rompuy's proposals have been guardedly welcomed. The French and Germans are currently under centre-right governments (and Angela Merkel's position depends on her coalition partners, the free-market Free Democrats). As such, Van Rompuy's reality check on pensions, health spending and welfare are not likely to be dismissed as the rantings of a madman. Moreover, neither Merkel nor France's Nicolas Sarkozy are ideologically opposed to

greater European integration. Britain however, with the likely inception of the Conservative party as the government this spring, most certainly is.

The example of Greece, which allowed public spending to spiral out of control, has convinced many that monetary union must be accompanied by economic and political union in a sacrifice of "sovereignty for stability".

Many mainstream economists argue that Europe needs to liberalise its economy and slash spending on welfare, though leftists claim that high benefits payments keep consumer markets afloat in the midst of recessions.

Indeed, Britain is one of Europe's

proudest liberal economies, yet the recession has outlasted that of left-leaning nations and our deficit - currently hovering at Greek levels - is one of the worst in Europe.

The problem is how to do it. Trade Unions and large numbers of ordinary workers strongly oppose any further slashing of Europe's welfare state; governments fear anything from strike action to riots in opposition to the budgetary measures many believe are necessary.

Some supporters of liberalisation in states where spending is high actively support handing over budgetary control to Brussels, much as British left-wingers supported closer EU integration in the 1980s as a means of wresting control from the Thatcher government.

The EU, it is reckoned, could take unpopular decisions that voters would oppose. France has long used the tactic of blaming Brussels when making necessary cuts; many French voters oppose EU integration because they see Brussels as a "neoliberal plot." The President of Europe's proposals would confirm this. However, under Van Rompuy, the EU appears to be offering itself as a scapegoat for cuts in exchange for greater control of budgets.

This marks a shift in how Brussels wants to be perceived. For decades, the European Union wondered why it was so unloved among Europe's tribes. It paid vast sums to propagandists and spent fortunes on public projects in the hope that Eurosceptic sentiment might diminish if citizens saw bridges and roads built with funds from Brussels. Yet it has never won the public's affections and France, the Netherlands and Ireland have all rejected granted the EU greater powers in recent referenda.

Unfortunately, post-Lisbon Treaty, the age of referenda is over. The EU's leaders figure that they no longer have to convince European citizens. Instead, integration can be pushed through from crisis to crisis.

Nicolas Veron of the Bruegel In-

stitute, a Brussels-based economic think-tank, says "the more crises you have, the more you will have moments where you will have tradeoff of sovereignty."

Van Rompuy himself says that the Greek crisis has "opened the window for greater reform."

Perhaps the EU's leaders believe that the economic crisis will cow

"The EU... could take unpopular decisions that voters would oppose"

protestors into submitting to its economic governance. There may be a feeling that while governments are often the target of protests and activists, the EU is seen to be too diffuse and distant to become the subject of a Europe-wide campaign.

The resistance to these "reforms" is likely to be felt in the streets, not least because not one of the heads of government who convened in Brussels last week felt the need to protest when the President put this unpublished paper before them. A note of caution though Europeans are nothing if not masters of throwing off Empires.

These are strange days. Lisbon enshrined constant upheaval as the constitutional status of EU states; the financial crisis has made the continent's economic future and the livelihoods of its citizens appear very bleak indeed. Europeans are subjected to more surveillance and scrutiny than ever before, while being ever more exposed to the vagaries of globalised power and commerce. Crisis after crisis: The perfect moment for revolution.

The only problems is that most people who care nowadays are mostly armchair-generals.

This week

Brown is a bully?

Following the revelation that employees at 10 Downing Street had complained to an anti-bullying helpline, the media has been rife with allegations that Gordon Brown bullies those he works with. It has been reported for a while that the Prime Minister has a fiery temper in private, and people on the opposite side to Brown in the Labour divide appear to think of him as an autocrat. The Chancellor, Alistair Darling, also reported that the Brown unleashed the "forces of hell" on him after claiming the recession would be terrible back in 2008.



Conservatives try to buy votes

George Osborne, the Shadow Chancellor, has announced a plan to give out a "people's bonus" by selling shares in state owned banks to the general public at a discounted price. The Tories were instantly criticised for this as a shameful attempt at buying votes. The current plan is to hold the shares until they can be sold at a profit. The Conservative plan is to throw away that profit by selling the shares at a low value. Currently RBS shares are trading at below book value so if people wanted to buy them at a discounted rate they could basically do so now, rather than waiting for the government to hold their hand (Note: this should not be taken as financial advice).





Imperial gets its own AIESEC chapter

Publicity officer **Marcus Wu** talks to some of the Society's first members about their projects around the world

AIESEC is a very large transnational association of university societies that aim to provide their members with opportunities to explore the world and gain valuable life skills. Their activities include work placements around the world, skills and leadership workshops, and conferences. As well as engaging with fellow members from a diverse range of academic and international backgrounds, AIESEC's members – numbering over a million worldwide – are given the support they need to help communities in less developed regions.

AIESEC now want to advertise their unique opportunities for gaining real business and management experience in a global environment. This week *felix* Business is featuring testimonials from some of the people who have benefited from their opportunities:

Merwin Man, a second Year student majoring in Civil Engineering, went on a work abroad programme with AIESEC to Ghana last summer and did marketing for a project called 'AfriTour', which aims to promote the benefits of tourism to students and inspire them to become future entrepreneurs in that field.

"AIESEC's members – numbering over a million worldwide – are given the support they need to help communities in less developed regions"

"This was really beneficial and helped me step outside my comfort zone. For once in my life, I was actually doing something rather than studying!" said Merwin.

While marketing provided a refresh-

ing experience for Merwin outside the engineering sector, adapting to a whole new lifestyle in Ghana provided a greater challenge to him due to the diversities in culture and environment. Fortunately, AIESECers in Ghana were present to attend to his administrative and daily needs and helped him integrate into their local environment. During the work abroad programme, Merwin has not only acquired a new set of skills, but also embraced the warmth and hospitality of AIESECers from a different country and made many long-lasting friendships.

"The success... captured the attention of the media and Betty was even interviewed by BBC China on her involvement"

"The change in lifestyle opened my eyes and I have met many people from different backgrounds and statuses. I could have only done this with AIESEC. The extensive social network that AIESEC provided has allowed me to feel fully supported in a strange new environment. As AIESECers, we looked after each other like family while we were in Ghana, especially with other exchange participants. I fully enjoyed my time doing my job and achieved some major things that I thought I would never be able to do," added Merwin.

Another participant, Betty Tai – a second year student reading Chemistry – went on a journey of discovery in Heyuan, China. In collaboration with Imperial PASS (Public Awareness and Social Services) Society, Betty initiated "Love Literally" – a fund-raising project for the local XinGang Primary School. Betty and her team organized a series



Participants in an AIESEC project in Ghana - clearly some of the group were happier before the photographer arrived

of events such as book donation drives, charity sales and sporting events. With adequate funds and books gathered, Betty and her team visited the school last Christmas and set up the school's new library. She taught students how to manage and use the library, read stories and educated them on the importance of environmental conservation. The success of "Love Literally" also captured the attention of the media and Betty was even interviewed by BBC China on her involvement.

Betty said of the experience, "it was wonderful spending time with the children and what will always stay in my mind is the time when I read an English pop-up book to them. They gathered around me and remarked "Wow" as every page turned! Nothing could be more satisfying! The children have gained a lot from our visit, but I felt that we have gained so much more. From fund-raising to the actual establishment of the new library, there were things to be learnt at each stage, such as how to motivate a team, how to make your promotion stand out from others, how to reach out to the crowds outside college and how to deal with unexpected events especially when children are involved."

AIESEC organises event throughout the year in both the UK and abroad. Conferences have been in places such as Oxford, Belfast and within London, and members from universities across the United Kingdom can gather and voice their opinions about global issues, leadership, business plans and marketing strategies.

Terry Tsang, a 3rd and final year student in Bioengineering, attended AIESEC LDS (Leadership Development

Conference) 2010, which was held in Nottingham from 5th – 8th February this year. The national conference was targeted at AIESECers throughout the United Kingdom and focused on leadership development and team dynamics. Together with 5 other AIESECers from the college, Terry attended this annual event and returned beaming with enthusiasm about what he had learnt.

"starting up AIESEC Imperial with a passionate team has been and will be the highlight of my life in Imperial"

"Throughout the 4 day conference, we were provided with plenty of opportunities to explore leadership and develop a range of skills from different aspects. We had leadership and skills training sessions conducted by leading companies such as PricewaterhouseCoopers and GlaxoSmithKline. In the other sessions, we were teamed up randomly and given a short period of time to achieve a specified set of goals. This provided us the opportunity to discover and understand our roles in a team, and train our abilities to cooperate and communicate with different people. It was very exciting and I enjoyed this

conference so much," said Terry.

AIESEC members in Imperial College London have enjoyed a positive learning experience thus far and every member has grown in one way or another. AIESEC Imperial is a young student group, and all this would not have been possible without the people behind its inception in 2009. Weili Dong, current Local Committee President of AIESEC Imperial, is the main driving force behind every member of the team and she has dedicated a lot of her time and energy in setting up and managing the new chapter of the world's largest student organisation. Despite the many difficulties faced while the group was at its infancy, Weili never regretted in committing herself to AIESEC when she saw the enthusiasm of her members and how they valued their AIESEC experiences.

"For me, starting up AIESEC Imperial with a passionate team has been and will be the highlight of my life in Imperial. It is certainly not easy to start a society from scratch. Over the last year, we shared the sorrows and pain together when faced with uphill challenges. However, it is amazing to see how our team managed to keep the morale up and encourage one another along our journey.

"For us, AIESEC means more than a society. It is a family, where we find support and opportunities to achieve what we believe in. I especially treasure the opportunities AIESEC has given me to develop our members and empower their future. Their positive feedbacks for the various events we organised will continue drive me to work hard for what I believe in."

AIESEC



AIESEC has a presence in all countries marked in blue - that's quite a few...



Never too cold for culture!

Rosie Milton Arts Editor

Well, the weather is truly grim and we are all suffering from little incentive to get out and explore the damp, and frankly inhospitable, London temperament. So to keep you entertained, snuggle under the duvet with this week's felix and we will bring what's out there to you. However, I do recommend straying beyond one's bolthole so as to keep the mind clear and free from stagnation with the sights and smells on offer in the metropolis (mmm, inviting)! For example, close to home is the Hard Rain photographic exhibit installed here at Imperial.

A little further afield, but still within a feasible walking distance at the Saatchi

Gallery just off Sloane Square is Indian Art Today: The Empire Strikes Back. I have reviewed this interesting show if I still can't persuade you to emigrate from your warm nest!

Perhaps my co-editor Lucy Harrold can tempt you with Musical Theatre Soc's adaptation of *Hair*? There are plenty of plays on in theatre world - Caz Knight reviews for us *Serenading Louie*.

As for me, art is what does it for me - conventional, traditional, contemporary and downright subversive. As long as a group of people want to present to the public the wealth of human creativity out there in material form, I want to see it!

Do you feel the same? Why don't you write for us? Address to above email!

This is the dawning...

Lucy Harrold reviews Musical Theatre Soc's *Hair* adaptation

This is the way it is. Jeanie's hung up on Claude, Sheila's hung up on Berger, Berger is hung up everywhere. Claude is hung up on a cross over Sheila and Berger. And furthermore, Woof is hung up on Berger.

And this is *Hair*, the American tribal love-rock musical coming to the Union Concert Hall courtesy of Musical Theatre Society from 9th-13th March. Containing hits such as *I Got Life*, made famous by Nina Simone and *Aquarius*, erm... made famous by erm... *The Forty Year Old Virgin*... prepare to be taken back to New York in 1967. As the Vietnam War rages in Vietnam, the feisty tribe of hippies battle for peace, beads, flowers and freedom and take you on a roller coaster of emotions as the tribe comes to terms with the realities of war and life in the 60s.

The Vietnam War ran from 1959 to 1975, between America (supporting

South Vietnam) and North Vietnam - the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. This war was one of the first that everyday Americans actually believed was avoidable; this image was not helped by extensive television coverage on the subject. To get enough troops to sustain the war the government had to introduce conscription, whereby every young man could be forced to join the Army, Navy or Air Force unless they could provide a good reason why not. Most of those trying to escape the "draft" went to Canada or claimed they were homosexuals.

Many draft-dodgers were hippies - a counter culture that evolved out of the Beatniks - think Allen Ginsberg the poet and Hunter S Thompson the writer portrayed by Johnny Depp in *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. The Hippies believed in free love, non-violence and generally hanging around taking drugs. *Hair* was conceived by two such hippies - James Rado and Gerry Ragni.

Rado and Ragni took the themes of the times and combined them with kick-ass music by Galt Macdermot, taking inspiration from everyone from Shakespeare to Abraham Lincoln. But *Hair* reaches further than just a bunch of hippies bumming around New York - it carries the themes of freedom, peace and happiness that we all long for today. It sends out a strong message to a world that is once again concerned with terror and war to "Let The Sunshine In".

Musical Theatre Society's production of *Hair* is on in the Union Concert Hall 7.30pm (doors open at 7.15pm) 9th-13th March. Tickets are £5 for students and £7.50 for non students and available from: www.imperialcollegeunion.org/musical-theatre-184/category.html.

American Theatre: Getting Serious in London it Seems

Caz Knight reviewing *Serenading Louie* at the Donmar Warehouse, a play which focuses on the nuances of domestic life

American culture - who can get enough of it? *Serenading Louie*, written by Lanford Wilson, revolves around two troubled marriages, and might as well have been set in any country, with characters of any nationality. Nonetheless, there is something distinctly American about the play currently showing at the Donmar Warehouse. Despite the presence of an American actor and the fact that the TV is showing football (and not 'soccer'), this Americanness is (thankfully?) not forcefully dumped upon the audience. Rather, it is more subtly ingrained into the play's structure, and comes out in the attitudes of, and the conversations between, the characters.

On the face of it, there seems to be little of the famous American glitz and glamour in the play. Alex (played by the American Jason Harner) and Carl (Jason O'Mara) have been friends from their college days. Both dreamed in the past of making it big, and of changing the world; both dreamed of satisfaction and happiness. Now, both are in the middle of faltering marriages, failing to find any sort of happiness in their daily activities and struggling, with the rest of humanity, to understand the greater meaning of life. Together, they reminisce about the golden old days while at the same time, they mourn about how they now feel trapped in a dreary continuum of chores and unfulfilling tasks. Carl probably summarises it best when he tells his wife Mary (played by Geraldine Somerville, who plays Lily Potter in the Harry Potter series) how any small incident was an 'event' in his youth, whereas nothing now seems to

be of any weight or consequence.

The entire play is based around a single set: that of a living room which acts as a home for both families, neither of which can be described as being stable. Alex's wife Gabby (Charlotte Emerson), is an insecure woman whose meek attempts to be a good wife incessantly annoy her husband to no end. On the other hand, Alex is quickly frustrated by Gabby and finds her undesirable both as a conversationalist and in the bedroom. He is more interested in pursuing a political career, which is probably an attempt to reconnect with his younger days, when he believed that he could make a difference. Emerson's acting, however, can sometimes be a little unconvincing, and, while it is true that it is difficult to describe her character simply, she seems artificial at times. This is reflected in the on-stage relationship between Harner and Emerson, which is somewhat unnatural and overdone. On the other hand, the relationship between O'Mara and Somerville works better, even though they are in a stranger situation in terms of the plot. Mary is cheating on Carl, and though he knows of her affair, he chooses to do nothing about it, in line with his apathetic outlook. Interestingly, he justifies his lack of action with the belief that his wife 'loves' the person with whom she has an affair with, as if this somehow means that there is no need for him to become involved.

The actors also work well together as a quartet when the couples interact, and they manage admirably to connect through a joint conversation, despite the spatial and emotional isolation of the characters on the stage. It is this separation that seems to be



Probably not Louie being serenaded - a nuance of domestic life, from a frustrating, disinteresting, satisfying play.

a fundamental focus of the play. It is extremely difficult to fully engage with the characters or with the drama (or the lack of it), and this is true despite the slightly strange ending in which a sudden melodramatic twist jars awkwardly with the rest of the script. It

is perhaps understandable, as a consequence, that an audience might feel frustrated with, or on occasion even disinterested, during the play. While on one level, this is obviously not particularly encouraging from an entertainment perspective, on another, the

audience's detachment from the stage somehow complements, and helps one relate to, the characters' detachment from life. In this respect, it is unlikely that *Serenading Louie* will prove to be a smashing success, but it is, nevertheless, oddly satisfying in its own way.

The Empire Strikes Back At The Saatchi

Rosie Milton on the current exhibit, better called 'Artwork from India Which Really Needs No Clichéd Title'

I couldn't help but begin my tour of the exhibition by thinking about the work and the use of the gallery space in comparison to the last show I had seen here – The Revolution Continues: New Chinese Art (or Works of Chinese Artists Saatchi has Gathered and is Presenting to the Public as New Art 'Stars'). Titles for these recent exhibitions have been blockbuster-y to say the least.

The work however, really does not reflect a heading that sounds so smug and attention-grabbing in any other sense. Putting aside surface concerns about Saatchi and his 'megabucks' shows, I took in the work and was pleasantly surprised by much of it – proving I think, that it is always worthwhile to look at fresh work.

As there were a lot of artworks, I reverted to my default way of seeing – aesthetically – before locking in to stronger issues. Indian culture and politics are a hidden world to me; especially with the language barrier-script was an overarching feature of some of the works I liked best. What was interesting for me, was considering who the works were for: one of the largest works, 'Public Notice 2' by Jitish Kallat features a wall-length and wall-high text in English – a speech by Gandhi. This fact seemed to pass the other viewers by, despite their knowledge that this exhibition focuses on a country whose native tongue is different to ours, but also that this country has had a complicated history – in many ways shaped by our own. Reading a little research behind this speech, Gandhi spoke these words on the eve of the Dandi Salt March – a protest against the British salt tax in colonial India, 1930. If only meant to sug-

gest the greatness of a bold man, the words illustrated in 'Public Notice 2' in bones – speak volumes about historical feelings.

A textual language, unfamiliar to me becomes a visual field of signs. I started thinking about language as imagery and of course there is a strong body of theoretical thought behind ideas of this nature. Shezad Dawood's electrifying work 'The Bestower', 'The Judge', 'The Protector' and 'The Majestic' – a series of tumbleweed bushes encased in vitrines, with neon characters literally burning through them, instantly spoke to me with biblical reference. Initially I thought I should reconsider my first interpretation, bearing in mind the focus of the exhibition on art from (and necessarily about?) India. However, such are the movements of people in the world today that a cross-referencing of culture, religion and language is what is at stake in many of these artworks.

Another work that interested me was Tushar Joag's 'The Enlightening Army Of The Empire' – a glittering regiment of metal figures, each resembling the human form by their posture, limb structure and each individually harbouring a light or electric tube that crudely suggested an essential vital organ. These twinkling, motionless giants looked grand in their corner of the gallery, but their simplicity is also reminiscent of the found object and ultimately how much use, if even only to mimic ourselves, we can make out of the things others throw away. Here, these treasures struck a chord with me about the fragility of the human body. On closer investigation, several of the figures hold aloft fluorescent tubes – a futile but poignant substitute for a sword.



Tushar Joag, 'The Enlightening Army Of The Empire' – these delicate, marvellous 'soldiers' guard a corner of the gallery

Subodh Gupta features in the show with works that I felt were fairly modest, considering his usual oeuvre with which I'm familiar, but perhaps fitting in this context. I first encountered Gupta at the Tate Triennial back in early 2009. His signature style, as I understand it, is to create large sculptures out of a mass of small, everyday metal utensils. His work at Altermodern (the Tate Triennial) at the Tate Britain was

nothing less than monumental – a giant mushroom cloud filled the iconic cupola in the main hall, in a stationary explosion of shining pewter-ware. At the Saatchi, an irregular giant metal bucket: the kind in which chilled champagne is normally brought, (one could observe parallels here) held an overflow of regular-sized silvery utensils, in the aptly titled 'Spill'.

Almost every work, but especially

those that I felt spoke to me with the most clarity, reflected the grandeur of a greater idea, but in modest terms. Although emphatically labelled as 'art from India' by the structuring and titling of this show, external and worldly influences are palpable.

However, the kind of patience spoken through such modesty apparent in these artworks tells a truth about the history and homeland of these artists.



MUSIC

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

1. Radiohead
2. Bloc Party
3. Florence + The Machine
4. The Beatles
5. Muse
6. Animal Collective
7. David Bowie
8. Coldplay
9. The xx
10. Hot Chip



I have nothing to say about the Top 10. I've only just discovered Beach House, how awesome are they? Check out their song 'Gila' on youtube and their new album 'Teen Dream'. Yeh, yeh, it's taken me three whole albums to even notice their existence but they are genuinely so good! Go now, go listen! It hasn't been all bad though, I recently discovered that Local Natives exist and they have only released one album so points go to me; and points to them also for their song 'Camera Talk'. It's pretty catchy. By the way, Phoenix's album is the Felix Music chart's most listened album and VCR by The xx is the most listened

to track - so we can deduce that Imperial students have a poor taste in albums and a refined taste in singles. Alright I've strung out this column to breaking point. Just stop listening to Radiohead! Just for one week, please?

-Kadhim Shubber

Folk up your life!



Anais Mitchell's *Hadestown* released April 26th

Ok. I'm going to say two words and you have to promise to keep reading, deal? O.k. "Folk Opera". Are you still there? Good, because although R. Kelly may have forever tainted the music as theatre crossover with "Trapped in the Closet", this genuine theatre production is an absolute gem. It's the story of Orpheus and Eurydice which, for those without degrees in Greek mythology, involves the lyre playing Orpheus descending into hell to save his love Eurydice with his musical abilities. This version is set in depression-era America. *Hadestown* is a hard-down company town and Hades is the company boss; oh and of course Orpheus wields not a lyre, but a banjo. Anais has pulled together an impressive roster of artists on this album. We've got Ani diFranco, Greg Brown and Justin Vernon of Bon Iver on a twisting musical tale that grows from toe-tapping theatre to deep dulcet monologues and soothing ballads. This album is definitely a music lover's record, there's such richness to it and if you want you can come to the *felix* office and listen to it with me. - **Kadhim Shubber**



John Bull & the Bandits @ Proud: Thursday 4th March

The story of how John Bull and the Bandits formed is rather long-winded (and I suspect, although I'm not certain, mostly untrue) and so I won't fill this column with that particular tale. Besides it's their knee-slapping, hoe-down inciting, wild blue-grass and folk music that really makes this band worth listening to.

Fronted by two Sussex brothers, Sam and Tom Bull (pictured), the band draw deeply from old-time motown artists but their hearts probably live somewhere closer to Bob Dylan. The two (together forming the imagined persona of John Bull) had been busking around London since leaving school and apart from dropping out of University, writing songs and mastering their instruments, they'd made little headway. However now with a fully formed band (i.e. the Bandits) they've been hitting a number of high-profile venues like Ronnie Scotts, Ain't Nothing But Blues Bar and the Troubadour with their finger-clicking whirlwind sets and next Thursday they bring that energy to the legendary Proud Galleries in Camden. - **Kadhim Shubber**

It's vocals versus instruments for Animal Kingdom



Animal Kingdom
 Borderline
 23rd February
 ★★☆☆☆

Being turned away upon arrival at the venue certainly did make our eventual entry all the more satisfying, but it was also pleasing to see that this place was a comfortably cosy size for a relaxed evening of live music.

The opening act, Foreign Slippers, mentioned that their band this evening consisted of replacements for their ill members, but this did not prevent them from putting on a modest yet charming show.

The Swedish singer of Foreign Slippers, Gabrielle Frödén, showed a singing voice that was unexpected from the gaudy appearance of her attire. Her curtain-print red dress and matching holly-leaves headpiece suggested nothing of her fragile and commanding voice. Although it was evident that her band were standing in for absent members, this did not hinder her effortless singing style, which reminded me of the voices of Kate Earl, Feist and even Billie Holiday. This was a modest band, with no roadies, and it wasn't until after the gig that I learned their name since they made no mention of

it during their set. They did, however, thank Animal Kingdom for the opportunity to play this evening, and ended the set as swiftly as they had started it.

Animal Kingdom was enthusiastically welcomed to the stage by a number of apparently loyal and very vocal fans. After quick introductions, they launched into past singles which prompted some sing-along from these die-hards. It was evident that the audience found the music easy to follow as it didn't take long for some fully-fledged dancing to begin, and some rhythmic spilling of the beverages. The band's relationship with the audience was comfortably amiable and the lead vocalist Richard Sauberlich certainly took advantage of the audience's eagerness to engage in banter.

As they played, the idea became more plausible that perhaps Sauberlich had become the vocalist of the band simply because he possessed the traits that are associated with so-called band leaders, and lacked the instrumental skills otherwise. His vocal talents left something to desire, unless the aim was to sound strained and weak whilst

maintaining a falsetto throughout the set, although he was obviously an extrovert who eased his band members' nerves by mediating conversation between the audience and the band.

The audience was however very responsive towards the commanding drumming which led the music throughout. Geoff Lea, the drummer, was the key to the dynamics of the live sound, but that is not to say that the other members simply followed his lead. Each instrument had its own moment during the set, and I even go as far as to say that the instrumental parts of the set were better by my ears than the wailing vocals-led part were; so it's a shame that Animal Kingdom don't allow enough room for the instruments to just play. Instead, each good passage of music would arrive at the anti-climax of even more eerie vocals.

When the moment arrived for the ballad, I knew it was time to leave. Especially since the opening line of the singing sounded very similar to an early noughties pop song by a certain Amy Studt. But I'm sure nobody else noticed. - **Joanna Cai**

They're just generally a fiasco

After having had a less than enjoyable experience forcefully telling the woman on the door that I really was on the guest list I had really hoped that my evening would improve once the bands had started their sets. This, however, was regrettably not the case.

Birds of Tokyo were the first band to play - their tunes were relatively catchy and at least the singer was comprehensible. Though they were perhaps lacking in "cool factor" with the lead singer's dancing looking like a cross between Buddy Holly and a seal and with every band member in possession of receding hairlines and "dad-style" dancing. However in total they were pretty much heartrendingly generic with almost every song sounding similar to

a song you'd heard before by another band and impressively repetitive lyrics. But they were the first band, I was sure that the bands playing next were going to be good... or at least better.

Next General Fiasco walk onto the stage and, to be brutally honest, one could hardly even describe them as having been a general fiasco - they were really far too forgettable for such a description. They look exactly like any other indie band except with whinier vocals. I'm afraid to say I cannot comment on the lyricism because I couldn't hear any of the words. True, they did support "massive acts" such as One Night Only and The Pigeon Detectives, in other words other dull pseudo-mainstream indie bands with very little artistic vision. Possibly the

explanation for this is that General Fiasco perhaps made these mediocre bands seem good by comparison.

Band of Skulls were the final band to play and I was surprised, I had suspected Death Metal but was instead greeted by White Stripes style rock, which was never something I was a fan of in the first place. I was not convinced by the man's voice, however the female bassist was considerably better. Perhaps their set would have improved, but after having been unimpressed for two hours already and then having a girl asking me to move because she couldn't see. If you have met me you'll realise you need to be about 12 years old to have your view blocked by me, I decided that enough was enough and left before the end. - **Renny Norman**



General Fiasco
Relentless Garage
12 February
★★☆☆☆



Lineup: Jay-Z / LCD Soundsystem / Vampire Weekend / the Specials / Grizzly Bear / Passion Pit / Echo and the Bunnymen / Fever Ray / Muse / Hot Chip / Major Lazer / Dirty Projectors / the Almighty Defenders / Girls / Beach House / Gorillaz / Pavement / Thom Yorke / De La Soul / Julian Casablancas / Gary Numan / King Khan and the Shrines / Florence & the Machine / Charlotte Gainsbourg / Phoenix / Deerhunter

Picture the moment. You've just taken a road-trip across America, New York to California and it's your first evening at Coachella. The temperature's a steamy 30 degrees and the sun is taking an absolute age to drop down under the horizon. You're sitting in sandals and shorts and tonight you and your friends will get to see Jay-Z, Vampire Weekend, the Specials, Passion Pit and Grizzly Bear amongst others. Coachella is maybe the greatest music festival on the planet. It happens in Indio, California on 16th April. It'll cost you a cool \$269 to get in and you've got to get there anyway. So for now it'll remain a dream. - **Kadhim Shubber**



Lineup: Amongst the hundreds of probably great artists that I just haven't heard about there's also the following: The xx / Good Shoes / We Are Scientists / Johnny Flynn / Mariachi el Bronx / Anais Mitchell / MRK1 / Nas & Damian Marley / the Dilinger Escape Plan / Butterfly Explosion / Chew Lips / Chamillinaire / Beans on Toast / Billy Bragg / Get Cape Wear Cape Fly / Cosmo Jarvis

Located in Austin, Texas, SXSW is a showcase for new bands and other creative-types to grab the attention of record industry pimps and make it to the big time. However, instead of the usual hippie camping and baby wipes, 80 bars and clubs are used as venues so that weak non-Texan attendees don't die from overheating.

This year, the music event includes Good Shoes, the XX, and We Are Scientists among the other 1,894 I have never heard of which doesn't matter as everyone there will be inebriated with Texan man beer and high on Texan man burgers anyway. - **Lily Le**



Lineup: A Sunny Day In Glasgow / Atlas Sound / Black Lips / Broken Social Scene / Dum Dum Girls / Florence + The Machine / Ganglians / Gary Numan / Grizzly Bear / HEALTH / Japandroids / Jeffrey Lewis & The Junkyard / Lee "Scratch" Perry / Les Savy Fav / Monotonix / No Age / Panda Bear / Pavement / Pet Shop Boys / Pixies / the Almighty Defenders / the New Pornographers / Wilco / Wild Beasts

This festival is actually within range. It happens on the 27th of May which for some lucky 3rd and 4th years means that your exams might be over in time. So grab a cheap Easyjet flight over to Barcelona (which is an appealing prospect in itself) and then expose your ears to one of the most amazing lineups in recent history.

The tickets will set you back €150 and so with a cheap flight, this festival won't actually cost you much more than say Glastonbury or Reading. And considering that U2 are headlining Glastonbury, it might be worth that extra bit to see Pixies and Pavement AND Wilco. - **Kadhim Shubber**



TBA

Fuji Rock is a 3 day festival, set in the idyllic ski resort of Niigata Prefecture in Japan, which coincidentally is nowhere near Mount Fuji! 30th July - 1st August, the line-up this year has yet to be confirmed but last year's bill included Oasis, Franz Ferdinand, White Lies and some Japanese stuff. OK, so it was mainly Japanese stuff and yes you could probably see all of these people at a festival somewhere closer to home for a hell of a lot cheaper because it's touch expensive at £236 for a ticket that doesn't even include camping but it's in JAPAN!!! (That's supposed to sway you.) - **Emily Beech**

Simian Mobile Disco @ Matter

During the early hours of Sunday morning, Simian Mobile Disco turn the amps up to 11, the heating up to burn, and energy to lethal at Matter. Cruising onto stage at a casual 2am, the lights explode with power and Simian Mobile Disco erupt into their set with audacious energy. Striking up 'Audacity of Huge' intensified the atmosphere at Matter. It was a huge sound and a huge vibe as it started to spiral uninvitedly out of control... Oh wait, that might have been me. As Simian Mobile Disco soldiered on with the stamina of electro warriors, their set was a rollercoaster of thundering bass and slicing treble. They leapt around the stage as their crown leapt around the floor and it was as if their minds were at one with the many wires, buttons and dials of their technologies. The music that followed Simian Mobile Disco was really nothing to compare and it's safe to say their huge electronic sound was left with us for hours. - **Luke Turner**



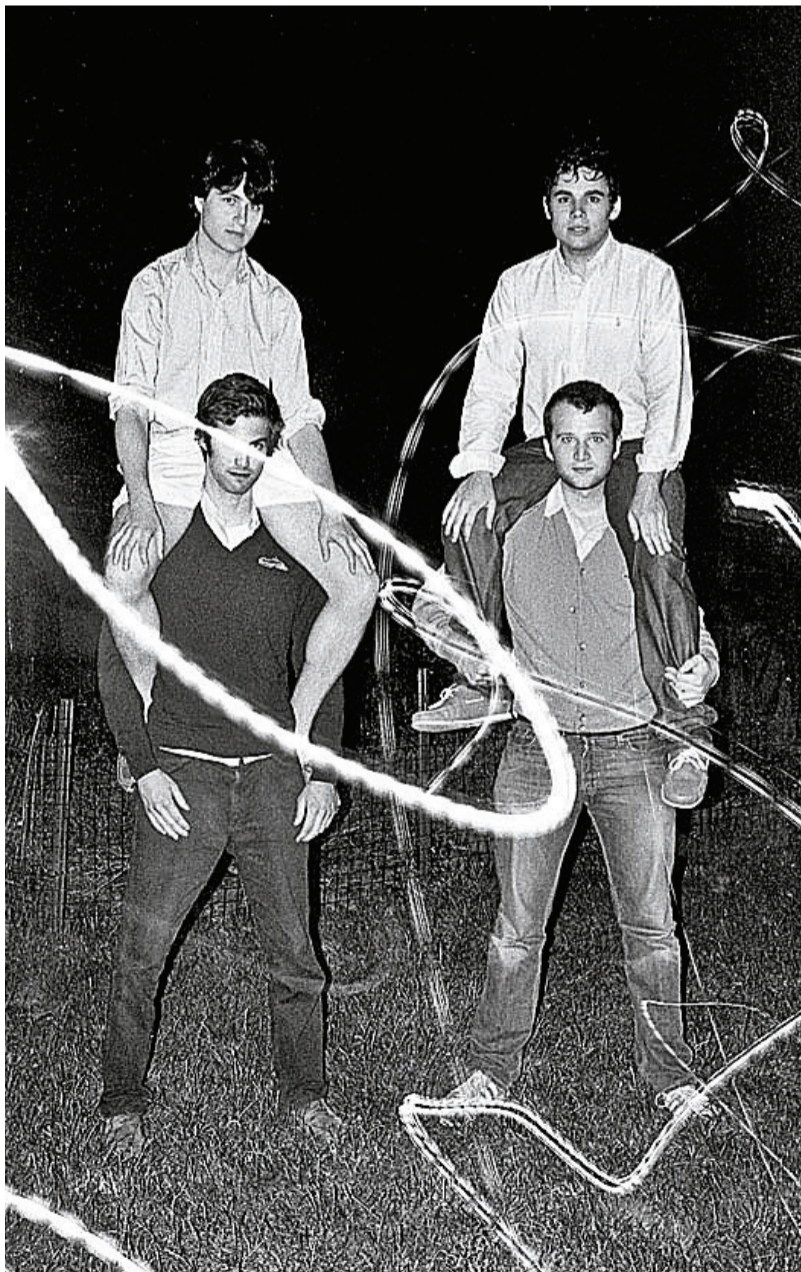
Simian Mobile Disco
Matter
20th February
★★★★☆

Vampire Weekend @ Brixton

If I had the means to bring you the sounds and faces of Vampire Weekend in a live set, I really wouldn't. Not because they play horrifically and look ghastly, but in fact the total opposite; I'd keep their tight, well-experienced manner of playing coupled with one and a half hours of "Well hello Mr. Koenig. Hello Mr. Thompson. Aren't you looking fine tonight? Nomnomnom," to myself. No, not for you mere mortals.

One and a half hours? Indeed. Unlike most bands that choose the "highlights" from their releases and frustrate you until the end of mere 40 minutes because they just won't play that one song that changed your life (or you know, something along those lines); VW said fuck it, let's play every single one of our amazing songs and two of our magnificent B-sides. What a bunch of attention-seeking sexy bastards.

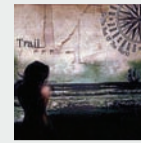
Despite their perfect set with string quartet and all, it was slightly disappointing that their songs were the same as the recordings and not unique live interpretations. However, this was easily outweighed by lights in the eyes of the album-cover girl on the banner behind that changed from red to green to purple; as well as their patronising wit during audience banter. Koenig kept the teacher motivation techniques from his previous job and told us "well done" for waiting for the encore and that it was very "polite". Oh if only.. instead it was time to face tomorrow, another day of being taught by some not-so-hot supergeek. Mmm. - **Lily Le**



Vampire Weekend
Brixton Academy
17th February
★★★★☆

Damn you bands from New York with your success and good-looks!

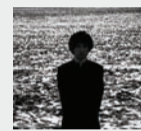
TRAIL
TO THE REST OF
THE WORLD
TWISTED
ALBUM



I know I shouldn't, but I really like this album. It's not mould-breaking, it's not going to change the world, but it is a really nice collection of laid-back rock songs in the Goo Goo Dolls or Counting Crows vein - the kind of stuff you want playing loudly on the stereo as you blast up the highway in your open top Caddy. At the same time, there's a clear London influence on the music: tracks like 'City', the current single, and 'Fumes' leave you in little doubt as to where the band are from.

- **Duncan Casey**

ADAM DONEN
IMMORTALITY
WALKER AND
ORFING
ALBUM



What a pile of depressing bollocks. Attempting to halve the dreariness by listening with one earphone does not work, to quarter it by not paying attention doesn't either, and then trying to get into it (because hopefully that will make it better) in the last 50 seconds of some god-driven enlightenment poem just bores you to the point of anger. The point where you accidentally leave it in a random SAF computer CD drive and are quite glad you can't remember which. - **Lily Le**

HIM
LOVE IN
THEORY AND
PRACTICE
SIRE
ALBUM



HIM seem to finally have decided where their interests lie in the pursuit of vast sums of money. The album is chock full of MTV-friendly pop-rock tracks - think of Blink 182 in eyeliner, singing early-90's power ballads - and while it's not quite Nickelback territory, anybody looking for profound insights into the nature of the human psyche should probably be looking elsewhere. The album improves in the second half - the first decent riff makes an entrance on track 8, "In the Arms of Rain", but all in all, though, I probably wouldn't bother.

- **Duncan Casey**

DEAD LIKE
HARRY
KNOW THE
JOY OF GOOD
LIVING
LABEL
ALBUM



Attempting to follow in The Boss' (Mr Springsteen's) footsteps is a task that shouldn't be taken lightly and Dead like Harry have fallen short of the mark. With backing female vocals reminiscent of The Beautiful South and a general lack of emotion, it didn't really grab my attention. It's not terrible but the hype about them being the next Gaslight Anthem are a little over the top. Try Jersey Budd instead! - **Emily Beech**



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Sabbatical
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2010

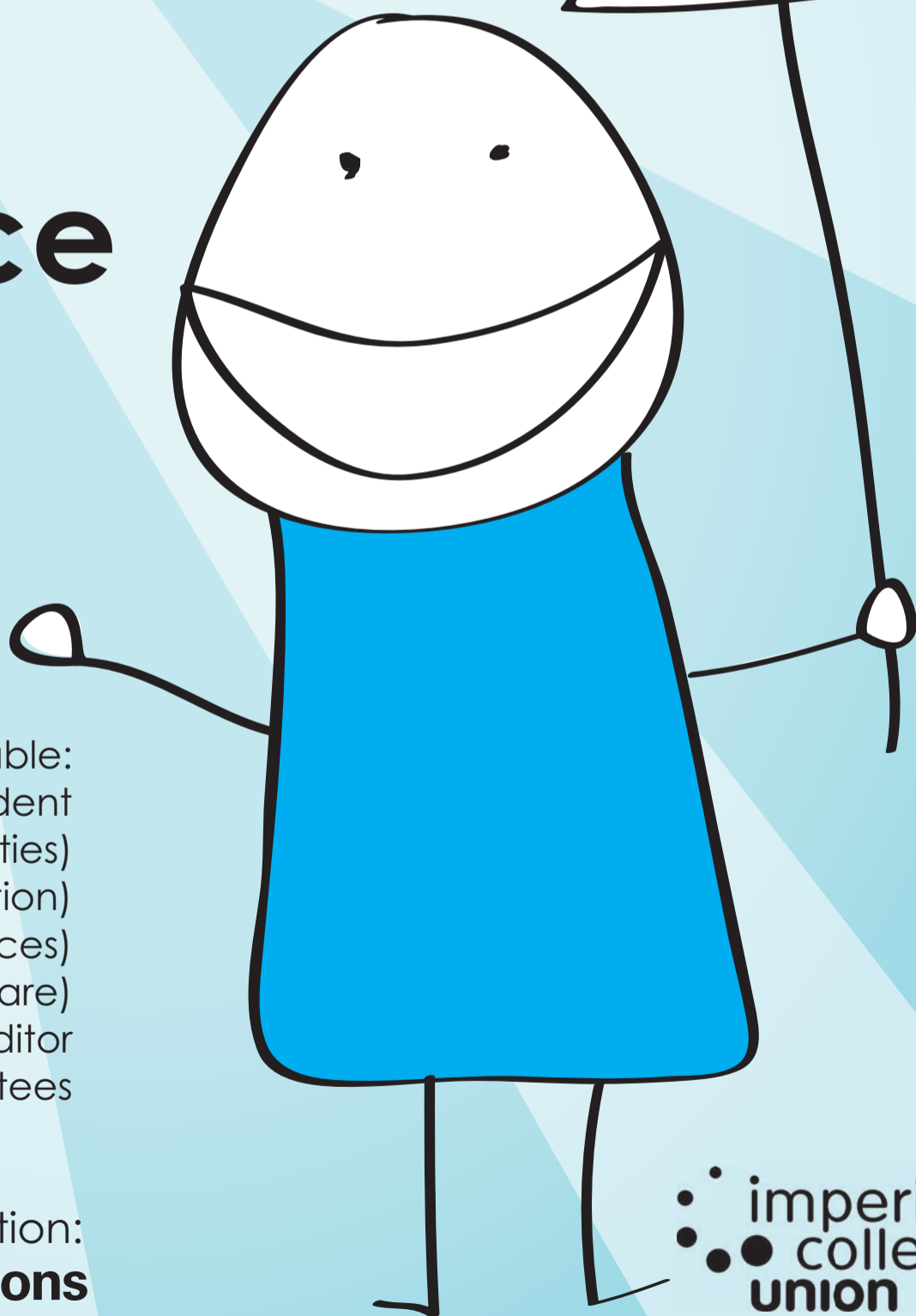
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The Perfect Friday: Chillax Or Ravemash?

I like to spend my Fridays in the company of lots of sexy, sexy ladies. Which is why I go to UCL Union.

Third Year

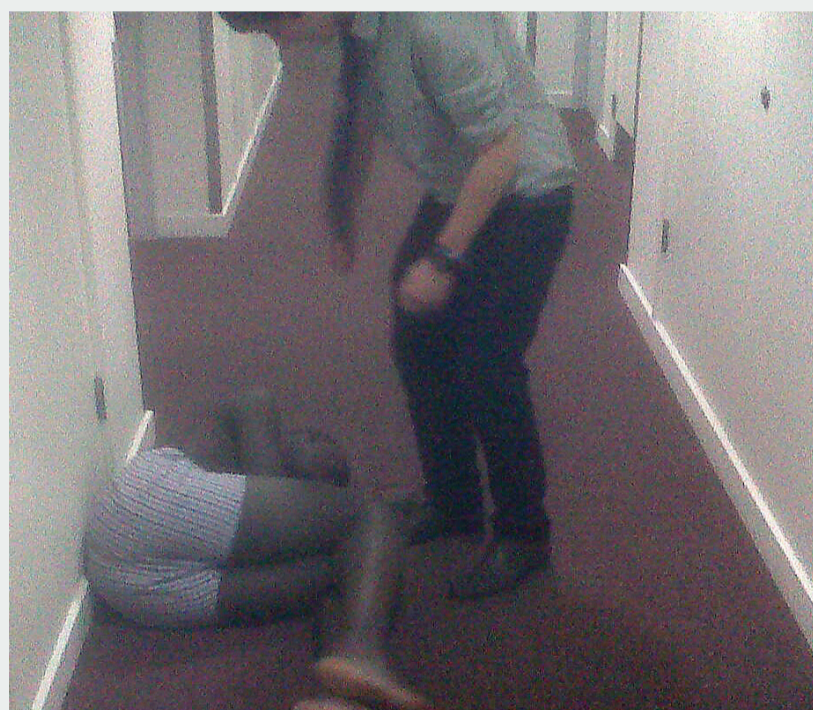
My weekends consist of going out Friday evening and waking up in lectures on Monday, with no memory in between.

First Year Biologist

Can't beat a quiet night in with a bottle of red...and your mum.

Second Year Medic

Drunken-Mate Photo Of The Week



I know from experience how easy it is to lose things on a night out. Phone, oyster card and on one occasion, a banana. but losing all your clothes? That takes finesse!

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



In an effort to better understand her food, this student decided to *become* the baked potato. The hard hat is vital as microwaves can be dangerous places.

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

Aunty McPickle always makes sure to get her 5-a-day, and doesn't ask questions

Dear Aunty McPickle,

I got a text today from my mum, meant for her boyfriend. It read "Sorry I had to leave, you were divine last night. Bet the neighbours will complain!" Given that my mum recently had her bowel removed and replaced with a colostomy bag, I am traumatised. I really can't handle the visions now entering my head. What do I do?

Barbara Beverly

Dear Barbara,

Try to focus your thoughts on other

things. If it helps, try painting or yoga. If this fails, I suggest getting involved. Colostomy bags are nothing to be scared of!

Aunty McPickle xxx

Dear Aunty McPickle,

I recently noticed that my boyfriend stores tangerines in his foreskin, like a man-hamster mutant. I was not impressed but went along as I love him. However, he has begun to use his foreskin-purse to smuggle Dairylea into the library. When I go round to his, I don't know whether

to bring condoms or crackers. Help me with this tangy cheese crisis!

Lizzie Boyce

Dear Lizzie Boyce,

As a previous lover, don't think I haven't seen the smuggled grapes in your va-jay-jay. Stop being such a hypocrite and get with it. Picnics are cool!

Aunty McPickle xxx

Dear Aunty McPickle,

I am suffering from a severely embar-

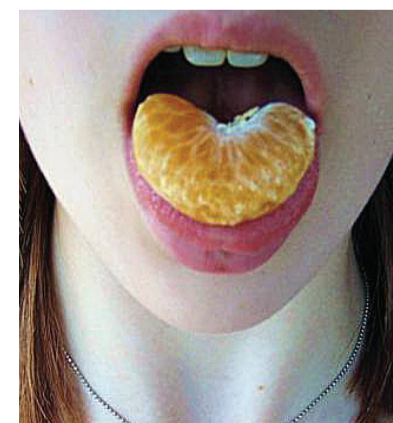
rassing problem. On a recent night out in Amsterdam, I got my clitoris pierced. This was painful enough but nothing compared to the static shocks I receive daily. The worst pulses come from library banisters and are accompanied by a moist *slop* sound and a restrained yelp. How do I silence this phenomenon?

Jill Applequeefenstein

Dear Jill,

Take it out, Jill! Do it NOW! On the library stairs if you have to!

Aunty McPickle xxx



A new way of promoting the 5-a-day campaign proves amazingly effective!



An interview with Jean-Pierre Jeunet

Film Editor Ed Knock is given a rare opportunity and plunges into the mind of the legendary French director

He is the legend behind such classics as *Delicatessen* and *Amelie*. Jean Pierre Jeunet is probably the most eminent director in France and so I jumped at the chance to interview him. This opportunity eventually manifested into a group interview but as I seated myself with around ten other journalists I still could not hide my excitement of finally meeting the great man in person.

Jeunet enters the room with a laid-back attitude and the tension in the room soon dissipates. He quips a joke about Japanese hospitality and my apprehensions about the language barrier disappear. He is dressed casually and leans comfortably into the sofa with an almost mischievous glint in his eye. "What do you want to know?" he gently inquires.

Star Crossed Lovers

A reporter across quickly asks about Jeunet's writing partnership. At the start of his career Marc Caro, whom he met at a film festival, was the other mind behind *Delicatessen* and *The City of Lost Children* and recently Guillaume Laurent has been his collaborator on *Amelie*, *A Very Long Engagement* and his upcoming film *Micmacs*. "It is important (to have a co-writer) because it's like ping pong. You have to find the right partner", he explains, "It is exactly like in life, once you find your

"Micmacs a mix of everything I've made, a kind of conclusion"

lover it is very important to keep him or her. Guillaume is my perfect partner and at the end I could not tell if it was my idea or his."

Jeunet elaborates that the original concept belongs to him as it is his film. For *Micmacs* he wanted to mix his feelings about weapon sellers with references to Snow White and the Seven Dwarves and overall theme of revenge to drive the plot. Sergio Leone's *Once Upon a Time in the West* is a major influence on *Micmacs*. They fill an 'idea box' with notes on characters, incidents and plot mechanisms and once the box is full they begin to write. "I love the concept of Pixar or Disney movies to have one idea per shot. When we write, we write the dialogue scenes and the visual scenes and then put the film together."

Lost in translation?

Ironically Jeunet has to consult his translator to understand the next question which is about the loss of meaning when the French script is translated into foreign subtitles. Lau-

rent likes to play with his own language and when he chooses to shoot in French he realises he limits the audiences around the world. "In this film we play with old French expressions but at Toronto the audience were laughing so the subtitles were pretty good. We have to find the right balance"

Monster bash

The same reporter asks why there is a recurring theme of an orphan fighting a monster in Jeunet's films. He laughs, he must have answered similar questions before. "[This is the] story of all my films, even *Life of Pi* which I didn't do because of finances. In *Micmacs* [the monster] is the weapon sellers, the butcher in *Delicatessen* or the slimy monster in *Alien* [Ressurrection] but I hope one day I will change." The room is taken aback by the honesty of his answer

A dip in the Seine

Jeunet's biggest collaborator and good friend is Dominique Pinon who has appeared in every single one of his films. "I can't make a film without Dominique, it's not a question of superstition, it's just that he surprises me every time and he has a beautiful face. Marc Caro always reminded Dominique that he had a beautiful face." "Do you have a competition to see how much you can put him through?"

"No not really, it became a kind of game instead. He had to have protection against rat pee [Pinon is fired from a cannon into the Seine]. Under the water we had two divers to pull him under so he rises like a bubble." "How did he react when you told him?" "Oh he loved it, he had to spend a long time in the cannon and sometimes we said 'OK we're off to eat now.'"

Camera shy

Directors often like to give themselves cameos in their own films, Hitchcock was famous for it but Jeunet has never appeared in front of the camera. He explains that he feels most comfortable in the director's chair and has never felt the need to be immortalised on celluloid although according to one journalist he was a natural showman on stage at a Bafta event. "Besides, he remarks "I am too good-looking"

A question of ethics

Another reporter is intrigued by Jeunet's research into arms manufacture and inquires how was able to speak to Belgian weapon sellers.

"By luck, I knew an ex-minister of defence in Belgium and they were very open, they even let us take pictures. We met some interesting people, they have a passion for technology, the factory is like a chocolate factory but they forget the destination of the technology.

We stated that this is to kill people but they insist they're on the right side, 'We work for the minister of defence not the minister of attack. They protect themselves that way.'

Green with envy

Although Dany Boon seems the perfect choice for the character of Bazil, Jamel Debbouze was the original choice for the part. "Did the character of Bazil change when Dany came on board?" "No not a lot, Jamel Debbouze has a handicap due to an incident when he was young. so he was originally meant to have the accident with the mine but this was changed to Bazil's father. They [Dany and Jamel] are very different in physical aspects, but in fact in the minds they are very similar. They both come from the streets, they have imagination, they are very close."

Jeunet soon corrects a journalist's assumption that Dany Boon was originally a mime artist and at the same time reveals his envy of his star's success. "He's not a mime but a one man show, he's a writer, an actor and a director. I'm very jealous, he had twenty one million admissions for *Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis* [written and directed by Boon and the most successful film in France ever]. No can understand why. Yes it was a good film and it was funny. But in the world, it is very important for me that *Amelie* is the biggest French success. In France what can I do?" The room laughs nervously but it is obvious that Jeunet has swallowed his pride to make *Micmacs* with Dany.

"Did you think of Dany Boon straight away?" "I thought Jamel could have an accident which is what happened so yes, I had Dany Boon on my mind. I discovered him seventeen years ago at one of his one man shows. Everything about him is good."

A sense of déjà vu

Micmacs is Jeunet's sixth film and so where does it lie in the director's filmography? When Marc Caro was co-writer the films were quite dark in tone [*Delicatessen*, *City of Lost Children*] but with Guillaume Laurent they are much lighter as with *Amelie*. "It's a mix of everything I've made, a kind of conclusion, now I need to make something different. I have had some people approach me and say all you do is make the same film and it's true because I was supposed to make *Life of Pi* and it would have been very different but for money reasons it didn't happen. If you like my film its OK but if you don't, then don't go to see it."

Young at heart

One of the reasons why Jeunet's films have been so popular is the range of people who can enjoy it. He wants a young audience to be able to enjoy *Micmacs*, especially children who typically watch Pixar films.

"Essentially the film is slapstick" he notes. The animated sculptures designed by 'Tiny Tim' seem to have been inspired by recent Pixar productions such as *Wall-E*. "We found a man in a gallery in Paris who let us borrow his artwork. Nobody on set thought we would be able to build them ourselves."

On Hollywood

Jean Pierre Jeunet has made only one film in Hollywood, *Alien Ressurrection* which recieved mixed reviews. He was also slated to directed the acclaimed novel 'Life of Pi' which is now stuck in producton Hell. Would he go back to America though? "Why not? With *Life of Pi*, I had a great script and I had freedom. Freedom is most important to me and in France I have complete freedom. However with Hollywood there are finances involved, *Alien* [Ressurrection] was a fight with the studio everyday though I am very proud of the film. I prefer the freedom, I would like to find a compromise because I want to shoot with American actors. My agent in America said an American actor wants to meet you, he lives in New York and his name is Al Pacino." In a excited voice Jeunet adds "and I'm like OK why not?!"

Ideally, Jeunet explains that he wants to shoot a French production [French crew and financiers] with an American cast like Luc Besson was able to do with *Taken*.

Finishing Touches

As the interview draws to an end, the questions become more specific curiosities about aspects of *Micmacs*. One reporter is intrigued about a *Delicatessen* cameo. "I wanted to make *Amelie*, it would have been funnier. I planned to see *Amelie* with kids (he does a hilarious impersonation of a crying baby) but Audrey [Tatou] said no because she was shooting for Chanel.

I can't resist to ask about a part of the film which puzzled me a lot and the answer probably puzzled me more. "What was the significance of placing billboards advertising *Micmacs* in the actual film?" "Oh yeah, it doesn't make sense. I wanted to shoot so much so I thought 'I don't care!'. It was funny for me, it will be funny for some people. There are five billboards in the film, if you didn't see them all then you will have to buy the DVD!" Apparently Jean-Pierre is a bit of a joker.

Jeunet's assistant's pager beeps and a reporter gets in one last question about if he finds his ideas from everyday life. "I note everything and Guillaume Laurent does the same. In fact when you make a film, inspiration comes from books or other films. I put everything in my ideas box." His assistant notes that time is up and Jeunet looks pleased at how the interview has gone. He stands up, says a quick thank you, "Have a nice day!" and quickly leaves the room. One thing is apparent though, Jean Pierre Jeunet is a genius.



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felix takes on London Fashion Week - a summary

Our very own fashion assistant **Saskia Verhagen** front-rowed a few shows during AW10 London Fashion Week



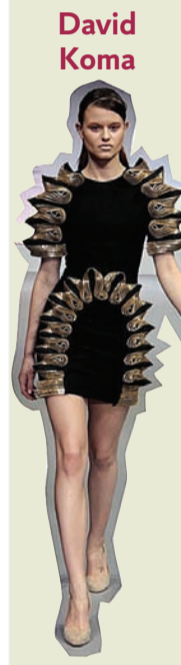
Starting with David Koma, the scene was set for a very geometric, monochromatic Autumn/Winter season. As seems to be his speciality, Koma chose a theme, zig-zag patterning, and followed it through his entire collection with varying success. Set in a palette of black, nude and gold, the spiky, body-con, futuristic-inspired collection somewhat echoed his last, pushing the theme perhaps a little too far for an entire collection although individually the pieces looked well-made, thoughtful and imaginative, with leather and suede breaking up the wool base to create some textural interest. Expectations were high for this designer who catapulted to success last year and perhaps we expected more, but I'm sure many of his celebrity fans will be delighted with a piece from this collection as the cuts are flattering and wearer-friendly.

Bodyamr also showed at Vauxhall Fashion Scout, with a celebrity-heavy front row complete with Rachel Stevens, Nicola Roberts and Hilary Alexander. The designer, Amr Ali, continued to showcase his vision of women as "sexually empowered warriors" with a variation of cutting techniques, from his signature draping to body-conscious mini-dresses. Colour was kept minimal but interesting with ombré effects and screen printing of draping creating a trompe l'oeil print for some of the dresses. The eveningwear was indeed empowering, Greek goddess like and beautiful – plus, the models were "normal-sized" with womanly Marilyn curves and walks full of attitude and power.

Over at the BFC Show Space, Sass and Bide kept it geometric and monochrome but with much more complex patterning and prints, and with that signature sexy bohemian chic. Featuring cutouts and emphasis on strong



Topshop Unique



David Koma

shoulders adorned with metallic fabrics or fur, the fabrics were kept tactile and sensual with lace and cotton jersey hugging each curve (read: bone) of the models. The outfits were beautifully accessorised with tribal printed minicapes with feather fringing and opera-length fingerless leather gloves, and there were harnesses seen everywhere, either featuring within the frame of the garment or over it, often in leather, giving the collection a sexy hard edge, de-

"...next winter, keep it classically monochrome... unless you're brave enough for a maximalist Katrantzou look..."

spite the minimal colour palette.

PPQ also kept their colour story to a minimum – set completely in black and gold, the collection was all about texture – the black tones were varied in velvet, thick wool felt and silk and the gold was kept whimsical in touches of gold leather, lamé and weaved through gold brocade. Perhaps their designs are a little simplistic by some standards – luckily the show was at 8.30pm on Saturday, the fashion pack weren't going to be picky about the nuances of cut and fit – but PPQ have cornered the market on easy-to-wear party dresses for the young and beautiful... Although without the gold touches the finale may have seemed no more than a well-groomed parade of ex-groupies at a

rock star's funeral.

Colour was lacking again at Todd Lynn, but this time nobody could have cared less: the silhouettes were so beautiful and the menswear so wonderful that even the queens on the front row were rendered speechless. Jackets with fabulously exaggerated pagoda shoulders were draped in sinfully sumptuous fox fur and served as a means to describe his inspiration: the hunter becomes the hunted. Cage symbolism came in the form of woven leather and also adorned the shoulders of the elf-like models (did he pick them on how pointy their ears were? Who knows.) A wonderful collection in simple shades of oatmeal and black which I wouldn't mind getting my mitts on.

Similarly, Topshop Unique showed a naturalistic collection careering from a relatively restrained khaki boy-scout uniform through distressed leather and shearling coats to the thickest, longest, cosiest knitwear layered over



Mary Katrantzou



Todd Lynn



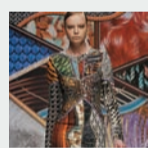
Mary Katrantzou was inspired by the opulence of 18th century France.

NATHAN JENDEN
BUSINESS WOMEN IN A JUNGLE



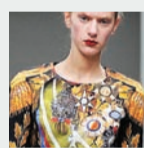
Nathan Jenden has done extremely well for himself after quitting DVF on Valentine's Day. A hybrid of serious boardroom uniform and (skin of) safari animals. Kaleidoscopic monochrome makes your head spin. He even made snood-hoods elegant! Alternative power dressing.

BASSO AND BROOKE
INDIAN FAIRYTALE



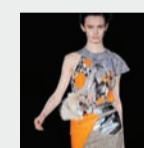
Basso and Brooke's signature colourful print, this time not far from an Indian mythical cartoon. The game is down to the duo and Mary Katrantzou. Some toned down pieces such as an elegant swooped line body-con dress worn with print leggings. Albeit not many surprises here, still a good collection.

MARY KATRANTZOU
DANGEROUS LIAISON LUXURIOUS



Queen Victoria's many household objects printed on immaculate dresses. Epauettes so vivid that you almost think they are real. 2D surrealism was gradually replaced by explosive layers of lace and ruffles of printed fabrics. You can almost hear the printed pearls rattle. Awesome.

PETER PILOTTO
GYPSIE X TRAMP
**



They have definitely lost it. A collection inspired by the immaculate 80s and the clothes look dirty and untidy. Random fur trims that resemble mice peeking out from a pile of unwanted items in a charity shop. The only desirable item was a pair of open toe vagina boots that are made out of rings of strings.

JONATHAN SAUNDERS
DIGITAL APOCALYPSE



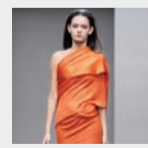
Hole punched dresses ala the IBM punched card for a calculator that Richard Feynman used to design the A-bomb. The dresses are precisely cut with laser. The blocky panelled collection emulates the sombre mood of the digital apocalypse. Jonathan made windbreakers desirable.

ERDEM
BREAK OF DAWN AND FALLING LEAVES



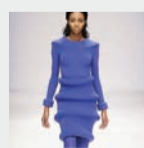
Think golden leaves falling in a setting sun. Think seasonal birds flying across a maroon sky. Think snowflakes falling in a romantic Swedish woods. The poignant images were embroidered onto bell-shaped dresses. All very mademoiselle-esque. Beautiful.

MARK FAST
DALAI LAMA IN EXPENSIVE KNITWEAR



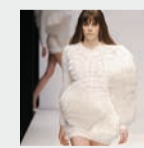
The strategic placed holes are re-vamped with a wider range of colours. Add sangria/rose etc to the wish list. Mark has diverged into draped poncho in mandarin cinched with a thin leather belt – Dalai Lama in tailored winter wear.

ANJA MLAKAR
CHOP YOUR HANDS THROUGH THE TECHNO AIR



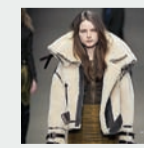
The figure hugging persian blue dresses have hidden hoola-hoops underneath. Anja has sewn an eclectic edge onto the traditional crinoline dresses. The beautifully structured dresses are reminiscent of the techno pieces sold in Cyberdog. Only more elegant.

SHAO-YEN CHEN
SWAN



Huggable as marshmallow and elegant as swans, Shao-yen Chen, an MA graduate of CSM has created a stunningly beautifully knit collection. Rafia exploded in amazing volume and in ripples of tranquil layers that curve around the body. 10 stars. Absolutely.

BURBERRY
PRORSUM ONE SHEEP TWO SHEEPS THREE...



Christopher Bailey battles UGG to become the biggest endorser of sheepskin. Deranged fur lined buckle boots. Aviator jackets lined with 2-inch thick of sheepskin. Humungous pea coat in bear fur that would dwarf Andre Leon Talley. Burberry – the shop for coats in 2011.

FASHION

Fashion Editor Kawai Wong

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beautiful chiffons printed with mushrooms. A collection full of originality and wit, Karen Bonser even managed to take the distinctly un-fashion-y oil-cloth fabric and cut it into a covetable fitted utility jacket, a fully-fledged transformation of a well-loved country classic. Models were clad in thick cable knit thigh-high socks in various muted tones of grey, khaki, cream and blue paired with furry pom-pom adorned patent boots, unthinkably incongruent yet perfectly matched. For a show so full of imagination and ingenuity, it comes as no surprise that Katie Grand was at the helm of the styling team.

Alice Palmer received similar high praise over at Vauxhall Fashion Scout – themed “Batman”, her collection was set in a tight monochrome, complete with studs adorning the very covetable black leggings, exaggerated shoulders a-plenty and a stunning studded black all-in-one fit for a modern-day dominatrix Catwoman – all atop heels complete with deadly silver spike spurs. Finding inspiration in the advanced engineering of the Batmobile, Palmer brought strength and stealth to her signature knitwear, with sexy cutouts of bare skin to contrast with the powerful lines. An innovative collection fit for the coolest punk-rock rich kids over in Gotham City.

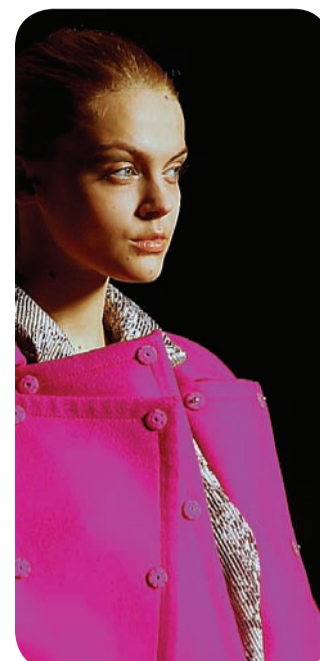
For a much-needed bit of colour, one never needs to look any further than Matthew Williamson. Structured and cocooned coats in sumptuous tweed with flouncy fox fur arms concealed the tell-tale Matthew flashy print, peeking through the layers. It’s not that Matthew has entirely crawled out of the primordial ooze of explosive colour which consti-

tutes the essence of his brand (as already mentioned, flashes of his instantly recognizable showy mini dresses and blindingly bright, heavily embellished chiffon and silk frocks for the tanned and toned on the red carpet are still there aplenty) but he seems to have finally put one foot on the shore, once again building on his aesthetic, growing and experimenting, after multiple seasons where it felt like our boy had plateaued.

While his flirtation with colour blocked separates (a magenta wool coat, suede peach slouchy jacket worn over a tangerine silk jersey draped evening column) isn’t exactly

“Alice Palmer recieved high praise and created a modern-day dominatrix Catwoman...”

avant-garde in the traditional sense of the word, it is indeed something new for Matthew. Whilst he may have pared it down to cater to newfound BFF, ultimate Park Avenue Princess Olivia Palermo (squarely affixed in the front row), with his deployment of boiled wools in (gasp!) muted tones with the tell-tale prints lurking beneath every seemingly demure layer, managed to do so in a way which adheres to his designer DNA. And that’s what it’s all about to survive the rat race against mother nature that is the fashion industry: survival of



From left to right: PPQ and both Mathew Williamson. Williamson injected the much-needed colour into the monochromatic runways.

the fittest, evolving what works for you personally in harmony with what works for the world around you.

The sentiment was echoed over at Clements Ribeiro, featuring metallic brocades, fur detailing and beautiful little printed silk dresses, wonderfully cut and paired with the most beautiful embellished boots. The colour scheme was kept mainly to muted blues, greens and browns, amalgamated into abstract prints and paisleys.

However, over on the catwalks of one of the leaders of the print revolution, Mary Katrantzou showed her signature collection of kaleidoscopic digital prints. Rococo frills, jewels and opulent colours dominated Mary Katrantzou’s fabulous collection, going totally against the stream of stark minimalism

seen at many other shows. Taking elements from both male and female portraits from the 18th century French period, including the jewellery, military medals and sashes of opulent jewel-toned fabrics, Katrantzou created an incredibly beautiful collection full of interesting asymmetric lines and lace appliqué over the prints – an intelligent move, for fashion’s current love affair with the prints needs to be secured not as a novelty, but a serious and important part of fashion’s history. Indeed, it is crucial to remember that Alexander McQueen was also at the forefront of this print revolution and that tiring out such a vital part of his legacy would be an utter disrespect. Mary Katrantzou, I salute you for keeping it fresh and beautiful.

All in all, my key tips for next Autumn/Winter are: for colour, keep it classically monochrome but add deep colour tones in plum, navy and terracotta and muted abstract prints, unless you’re brave enough to sport a maximalist Katrantzou print! Add metallic touches with studs and plenty of chunky metal jewellery and keep your textures varied, adding a little leather and thick swathes of fur into the mix. Capes of all shapes and sizes will soon be coming to a high street near you and shoulders are going to be bigger and better than ever, going above and beyond the puny 80s power-shoulder that is now so two seasons ago. Fetish-inspired wares will also find their way into the mainstream with harnesses, cage-work and studding being featured so heavily in the shows.

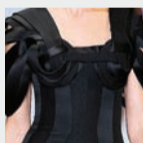
I could get used to this!

Saskia Verhagen

Things I’ve checked off on my list of things to do once in my life: hearing first hand what La Roitfeld thinks of the Autumn/Winter trends? Check. Getting papped by Facehunter and The Sartorialist? Check - if it ever comes up on either of their blogs I will truly wet myself with glee. Seeing Peaches Geldof get bitched out by a bouncer? Check. And at none other than the PPQ show - “Can you just stop fucking shouting – no one knows who you are or why you’re here.” – she was then swiftly rescued by a PR. Mistaken for someone famous by the girls at Harper’s Bazaar? Check – to be fair I was sitting in the prime seat, front row at Sass and Bide. Complimented by a member of the global Vogue team? Check – Vogue Mexico and Vogue Italy, no less.

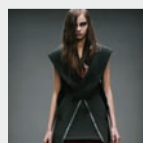
So sit back and relax, as a trusty Fashion Assistant should, I’ve done all the hard work for you – sweet-talked the self-important PRs, elbowed my way through the designer handbags, walked up and down the Strand in 4” Louboutins and acted my way into the front row to provide you with the full run-down of the Autumn/Winter trends, as witnessed from the front lines.

HAKAAN SERIOUSLY STRUCTURED *****



Apparently Carine Roitfeld flew in especially for this man. His dresses incorporate highly charged sexuality in your typical suit fabric. Panels twist and turn to confer some serious structure and sophistication. Natalia Vodianova graced the catwalk for this until now, relatively unknown designer.

LOUISE GOLDIN STAR WARS WOMEN SOLDIERS *****



Sans lightsabers but armed with quilted protective clothing – Louise Goldin, a fashion forward winner and a Topshop collaborator – spent months in an Italian factory creating hexagonal-shaped dresses and cotton armour complete with padded bullet proof panels.

The strutters who set trends; why London is crowned the Fashion Capital



Amendment: In last week felix’s Alexander McQueen tribute, a portrait was incorporated and it was drawn by Ting Zhang. Her name was misprinted as Tina.



Interview with the **Extraordinaire** by Dylan Lowe

Simon Reeve

Author, presenter of *BBC* documentary *Tropic of Cancer*

A voice came through the speaker to petrify every inch of my senses. Three parts modesty, one part fear – this habit never gets shaken off when I play amateur journalist conducting interviews.

Serendipity could never have laid out its path more celestially than it did on the grim, January evening. Picking up the envelope upon which my name was scrawled, I was still oblivious of the gravity of the invitation it contained.

Simon Reeve's voice, once the mist of anxiety cleared, struck me as one immensely composed and calming. One I feel comfortable to connect with. One that won over my trust. The research flashed in reminiscence: for someone whose travel portfolio contains visits to 90 countries, who endured arrest for spying by the KGB and evaded the Moroccan secret police, filmed in Burma, went on a drug raid with a Mexican SWAT team and on patrol with the rebel-battling Indian army, drove through the world's largest minefield, witnessed trench warfare and hunted with the Bushmen of the Kalahari, *etcetera etcetera*, he had not the slightest hint of arrogance and self-righteousness I detest from many TV personalities.

Fresh off his odyssey, where he circumnavigated the globe along the Tropic of Cancer – a continuation and conclusion of a documentary trilogy that included *Equator* and *Tropic of Capricorn* – Simon is now promoting his latest programme, *Tropic of Cancer*, soon to be broadcast on BBC2. Promises are pledged ahead of its transmission – the first episode comes out this Sunday – that this documentary depicts his toughest and most ambitious challenge yet.

Conveniently, this interview with my latest extraordinary may well be *my* most ambitious challenge yet.

Dylan Lowe Tell us about your upcoming BBC documentary, *Tropic of Cancer*.

Simon Reeve It's a new documentary series, the biggest and most ambitious challenge I've ever attempted in terms of the size and scale of our adventure, the number of countries we've visited in the making of this series. With *Tropic of Cancer*, I'm following the line that marks



the northern border of the tropics region; following it took me to eighteen countries, starting in Mexico and travelling across the Caribbean and North Africa, across the Arabian peninsula to India, then across South East Asia to Taiwan and hopping over the Pacific to the island of Hawaii, where I finished the journey just before Christmas and came home exhausted.

DL That's probably more countries than I'll ever go to in a lifetime.

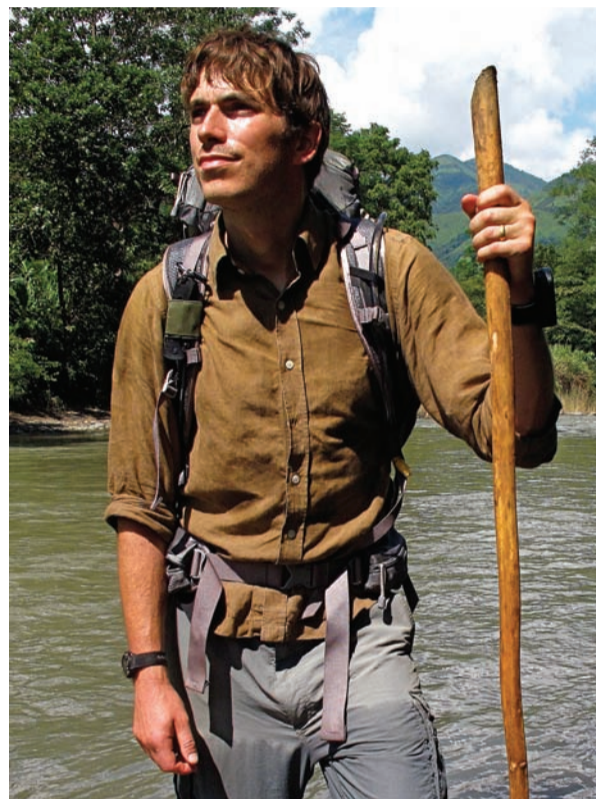
SR [Chuckles]

DL As a spoiler, what would you ask your audience to watch out for in your documentary?

SR The nature of the programmes I make, or the style of this series and the other ones I've done, is an attempt to blend travel with current affairs and issues that are affecting our world. We see those issues playing out in the lives of, well, often ordinary people around the planet, whether it's a Bedouin tribesman in Southern Egypt on the frontline of climate change, or villages in Bangladesh also experiencing the environmental impacts of climate change. We try to show our viewers the reality of life out there, so hopefully they'll tune in at any point of the series and learn something new about our world, as well as seeing amazing landscapes and the joy that we experience when we travel around the planet.

Picking out specifics: in the second programme in the series, I travelled from Western Sahara – just the south of Morocco – through the most heavily land-mined area of the planet, into the desert

Clockwise from top: Simon in Bangladesh with his guide Tanjil; wading across a river in Burma towards a village of Chin people; posing with Cherry, Simon's Burmese guide



of Mauritania, and then travelled through the vast emptiness into Southern Algeria. Along the way we learnt about the suffering of the Sahrawi people – natives of the territory of Western Sahara which is now occupied by Morocco – and at the same time we became some of the first foreigners for thirty years to travel the route we did through Mauritania and into Algeria, which was fantastically remote and extraordinarily gorgeous. It was extremely memorable.

DL It sounds as though you've been immersing yourself into local cultures and the lives of people in the places you've visited. How emotional it must have been. Any particularly sentimental moments?

SR Absolutely. One particularly emotional moment was leaving Bangladesh, having spent nearly two weeks travelling across the country, and being knocked sideways on how lush and beautiful it is as well as packed and desperately poor. And saying goodbye to Tanjil, my guide in Bangladesh, was quite an emotional farewell. I was sad to leave, partly because I do fear that Bangladesh's biggest tragedies lie ahead of it, given the fact that it's pancake flat and just above sea level, and we were seeing some of the first effects

of climate change as we were travelling across it.

Another really emotional moment for me – it almost brings a lump to the throat remembering it – only happened a couple of months ago. We followed the Tropic of Cancer from North-eastern India into

“Politics really matters in countries like Burma, rather than the despised sport it is in the UK”

a very remote part of Western Burma, in an area where the Chin people live. It was something that hasn't been done by foreigners before, rather risky as well, as we were going into an area where more than fifty military bases are located. We went in illegally and covertly to a local village, zip-lined across the river and trekked

through the hills to a village of the Chin people. It had been one hell of an adventure just to get to them. I already knew about how the Chin people suffer under the military regime there, but actually seeing these people – most of which have never seen a foreigner before in their lives – and seeing them arm stretched and welcoming us was a deeply moving moment. Finding these forgotten people in a forgotten part of the world was a huge privilege. And very emotional.

DL This reminds me of a documentary I was watching, about a team of Burmese journalists conducting illegal filming of the riots back in 2007 and how they smuggled the clips out of the country.

SR I think I know what you mean: they were more in the urban areas working at extraordinary risk to themselves, filming on small cameras. If they are caught they are likely to *disappear* – that is the regime that's in power there. When we went to Burma we had a guide travelling with us who is actually a fantastically brave Chin young woman who now lives abroad in exile. She wanted to take us back into Burma at huge risks to herself, because she wanted the world to know what's going on there. Although, if we had been caught by the authorities doing what we did, we would have been in huge trouble, it would have been life-endingly catastrophic for Cherry, our guide, who was on a Burmese wanted list. Politics really matters in countries like Burma, rather than the despised sport as it is in the UK. People are battling for their lives and their lives in Burma, and some of them are risking their necks to bring out news to rest of the planet, to put the world into perspective.

DL There must be a lot of things that have gone on behind the scenes, the abrupt encounters when you haven't had the opportunity to document on a camera.

SR Yes. Though we did film a lot of footage and we're really keen to incorporate spontaneous encounters. Often in the programme I'd be saying something wordy and dull to the camera and then something would happen in the background; whatever happened and my reactions to that are incorporated into the sequence which actually makes it into the programme. Obviously you can't arrange them, but we certainly go with them when they happen.

In this series we were filming the start of the *monsoon* on a bridge in a city in Western India. Hundreds of people were on scooters and taxis when, all of a sudden, everybody on scooters began to slip off their motorbikes and were sliding along the tarmac. It went from traffic chaos to traffic pileup.

DL [Laughs]

SR I was reacting to that, swearing and hysterical; the camera turned around and I began to talk about that and make it part of the programme. We don't have to stop and wait for it to calm down and start again. I feel much happier when spontaneous, friendly encounters happen. They're the happiest of our travel memories. They're what travelling is all about.



Ubari Lakes, Libya

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TRAVEL

Right: Simon with young Aché children in the Mbaracayú forest, Paraguay; below: travelling across North Africa to Algeria



DL I have actually seen that scene in the trailer for *Tropic of Cancer*.

SR Have you?

DL Yes. That's why I was giggling to myself earlier. Awesome and awful in the same time.

SR Luckily nobody was hurt. There's a lot you can extract from a situation like that, if you're constantly thinking about what each situation means in a wider context,

"I feel much happier when spontaneous, friendly encounters happen – they're what travelling is all about"

and whether or not I can use it to the means of telling the viewers a little more about the country I'm in. In this case, a pileup in the middle of a city, nobody in a uniform appeared at any point to take charge of the situation. No police, no ambulance. People would just have to pick themselves up and move on. That's the chaos of India really; it may be a line in the commentary, hopefully some viewers will identify it as the India they know.

DL I've been debating with myself on where lies the balance between travel-related social media and physical travel. With travel documentaries and literature, there certainly must be a similar balance: they encourage people to travel by making destinations seem more attractive and less alien, whilst at the same time discourage by taking away the surprise and, occasionally, have places appear dangerous that they seem better documented and viewed than visited.

SR It's interesting to have that question in your mind when you're providing information. I suppose if you're a traveller

and you're looking to go on a big adventure, they have to make their minds up for themselves whether they wish to consume the travel guidebooks to such-and-such a country. A lot of people certainly don't want to do that: they do want to have encounters and experiences that never come out of a book. They don't have to read the books and they don't have to watch the programmes.

In terms of the more dangerous areas of the world, of which there are a huge number, violence fortunately tends to be fairly localised now at this point in our history. There are obviously areas in the world where you would have to advise people against going there but generally the world is a very warm and welcoming place – anything that reminds people of how friendly and hospitable foreign folks are has to be a good thing. It's a form of diplomacy really. When a British TV crew are welcomed with open arms in any random country, to people watching back home it's nice for them to know there is no hostility from those people, who are pleased to see visitors.

One thing I suppose is the case that does worry me a little bit about travel literature or TV travel documentaries – including my own – is that it can inspire or encourage a sort of arms race when it comes down to travel. People see our stories and how we film and think they would want to do a bit of that as well. They could try to emulate what we've done and, considering the amount of organisation we put into these programmes, it isn't always something other people can do. That issue with emulation is a problem particularly with wildlife documentaries, a complaint I have about them, in that often they show only the best bits of a situation. Or a wildlife reserve's money shot, as it were, of the pride of lions lapping up the water at the isolated waterhole; they won't show the waterhole, the context around that, and they won't say they filmed that in a packed wildlife reserve that's been overstocked with animals. So when people go to Africa they expect to see the same thing: they want to see the pride of lions around the waterhole. And so wildlife sanctuaries and

conservation centres have to overstock their parks so they can provide tourists with what they've seen or read about.

There is a risk. I take onboard what you've said but I don't think there's an easy answer to it. In terms of the programmes I make, we do try and show both sides of a situation or we try to give a bit more context and show positive and negative aspects of different places.

DL I guess your travels sprang from the need to research first-hand on your subjects of interest – it was like a gateway to truly understand your field of studies. Being a geology student, I saw my first ever live lava-spewing volcano in September; a textbook and its diagrams can never prepare me for the grandeur standing before me.

SR Magnificent eh?

DL Absolutely. How would you convince a student to cast aside their rigid, repetitive textbook education and tell him to go into the world and experience it first-hand in order to further his knowledge?

SR Nothing would be as memorable as actually being there. You can read as much as you like, but being underneath or on top of a volcano, or in a rainforest, or climbing up a mountain in South America, having all your senses tingled and teased by the situation you're in, you'll never forget those adventures. Literature, frankly, however good it is, can't

"Nothing would be as memorable as being there, having all your senses tingled and teased"

hope to compete with them because it cannot drown you in new experiences and senses. And on top of your opportunity to see those places, you also have the excitement of getting there, the spontaneous encounters you'll have along the way, the experiences that'll challenge your perception of what you knew about a situation. If you travel with your eyes and mind open you'll learn a lot more. I'm not suggesting casting aside the literature, merely treating it as supplementary and as a teaching aid rather than the principal lesson. Getting out there is always the best thing.

DL What do you think is your greatest strength as a traveller?

SR I think I'm very good at empathising with people. The more I travel, the more I realise just what somebody means when they say, for example, the rain hasn't come and they haven't got any food. It is possible to travel occasionally with a western mindset, which leads us to think that they'll be OK, that the welfare state will kick in and someone will look after them. I suppose one of the tragedies of

life outside countries with a welfare state is that welfare state doesn't exist in most parts of the world! These people won't be OK. They quite possibly will, at the very best, be extremely hungry or, worst, they'll starve. It's desperately sad to encounter stories like that and it breaks my heart every single time I hear it. I don't just go back and tuck into my rehydrated boil-in-the-bag meal without being conscious of the sufferings I've seen on the journeys.

DL And your worst flaw?

SR Probably my extraordinary inability to master any language other than my own. It's partly laziness, partly inadequate opportunity, and partly the fact that I'm travelling to too many countries and there are too many languages to learn. I have tried, slightly desperately, to learn at least a few words in each language. It is my major failing as it does affect my ability to engage directly with people, and it does mean I'm reliant on guides and watching body language. I'd love to know some obscure languages and be able to talk to everybody – that would be the most fantastic invention anyone can ever offer.

DL Where is the next destination?

SR [Hesitates] I really do not know. It's a big world; I've been to 90 countries which

has been an extraordinary opportunity. But there are still big chunks of the world that I haven't visited and I'd love to go to. I'd still love to go to West Africa, Central America, Russia, Japan, Canada, and spend more time in the Middle East – I'm hopeful that one day I'd be able to visit those places. And the tropics as well: now that I have finished the series and having spent a lot of time there, I'm conscious of the fact that it's the completion of my three journeys around the tropics. But, for me, it is *the* most interesting, most spectacular, most beautiful and most blighted part of the planet – I'd be devastated if I never have the opportunity to go back there and spend more time in the most amazing part of the world. I'm still up for more gobsmacking sights and adventures and keen to go on for as long as I can. But it's up to the BBC: they're the ones in charge.

DL I'd happily anticipate a *Tropic: Revisited* series from you.

SR [Laughs] Only once we've finished editing the final programme of the series. And then I'll have a break and start working out what to do next. On my desk there's a giant mouse pad which is a map of the world and, it's big eh? Plenty still to go, plenty still to see!

Tropic of Cancer will be broadcasted on BBC2, Sunday nights at 8pm, from March 7th to April 11th. For a preview of Simon's latest adventures visit www.bbc.co.uk/tropicofcancer

An Insider's Haunt: Singapore

Holly Farrer

When most people think of Singapore they think of some weird kind of police state where everyone speaks crappy English, where you can't chew gum or spit on the streets and where the cops will hang you if you're caught with drugs. Actually, I guess that's kind of true – but that doesn't stop it from being one of the coolest cities I've lived in. It's because Singapore is so safe you can roam the streets at 3am discovering 'hidden gems' without getting stabbed; that's exactly what my friends and I did whilst we were growing up.

One of my favourite places to hang out at in Singapore would definitely have to be the *Tea Party* on Bukit Timah Road. This place is a small two-storey café/bar full of sofas arranged around low tables. The owners are always playing really chilled music and will throw on any musical suggestions you have providing they aren't retarded. You can get some amazing teas here – my recommendation is the 'Fruity Russian Caravan' – and the owners also have an extensive collection of board games that they'll let you use.

If tea & board games isn't really your

thing then you might enjoy hanging around Arab Street. Arab Street itself isn't really a hidden gem – every bloody tourist finds their way there – but there are some brilliant shisha bars/restaurants around there that are relatively unvisited. *Ambrosia Café* is a cute little shisha bar on Baghdad Street – just off Arab street – decked out with cushions around coffee tables and a general smell of incense; it offers all your standard shisha flavours as well as few more and will serve alcohol (a lot of the shisha places won't). Food-wise one of the best places to visit in Arab Street would be *Zam-Zam's*: it's a small restaurant/food-court hybrid that serves the most greasy, tasty north Indian food you could hope for.

Something I despise about London is that everything closes so early. Bar the kebabs stalls outside *Pacha* and *Koko*, there really aren't that many places to get food when you're out and starving at 2am. In Singapore one of my favourite places to eat at is a sort of upmarket food-court called *Spize*, just off River Valley Road; it's open till about 4am and serves the most popular local food, mainly Chinese and Indian, and non-alcoholic drinks (recommendation: the Milo Dinosaur) at very cheap prices.





CAN YOU HEAR ME?

Feroz Salam looks at how mobile phones have brought private conversations into the public space to the annoyance of everyone

Let me make this abundantly clear, I don't want to hear about your dog's diarrhoea problems. It may sound harsh, but I don't care if the poor sod is at death's door, especially if it involves you describing his last meal and what it looked like coming out the other end. Ever been aurally assaulted by someone else's painfully private mobile phone conversation on a bus? I take the rush hour bus to and from my home every weekday and this, coupled with the London Transport network's plentiful population of eccentrics, has exposed me to some of the strangest conversations I will probably ever hear.

It seems like it was only a few years ago that you could take a bus or sit in a restaurant without being battered on all sides by other people's one-sided conversations on phones. That period of our existence ended when mobile phones really began to take off - the good old days when people thought that yelling down a telephone line helped the message through to the other end. Yet in those days, it was only the self-important businessmen who could afford to shout their way down Oxford Street, and the nuisance was ignorable simply because not enough of us had the devices for it to be noticeable.

That all changed with the emergence of cheap monthly plans with free minutes. Buses on weekday mornings are a cacophony of ringing phones and muddled bits of conversation. "Tell him I'm going to be late, I've been stuck in traffic for over an hour now" - lies, I just saw you get on the bus. Also, lady with the bag sticking uncomfortably into my back? I don't care if "no one is single anymore except for you" - I do care that you've been talking continuously for the last half hour, while standing right behind me. The fact is, you would never have these loud private conversations in public before, even if you



were with someone else, and you definitely wouldn't have an argument with your mother to entertain the medley of students, tourists and lunatics that make up your average London bus.

The other, obvious, side to the argument is - why should I be listening in the first place? These things don't matter to me, and I somehow manage to drown out real conversations - why can't I just do the same here and forget about it? In a recent study by the University of York, researchers found that people pay more attention when they can only hear one side of a conversation. It may be that our brains get a kick out of trying to complete a conversation having only heard half of it, or that the drone of a full conversation is easier to push into the background than the stop-and-go nature of

a mobile chat, but whatever the reason, these conversations grate on our ears much more than normal ones.

I think that the Japanese have the right idea when it comes to mobile phone usage in public places - it's a cultural taboo. With their habits usually leading the rest of the world when it comes to technology, it might not be long before we see notices advising us not to answer phones on the bus. In Germany too, mobile phones are serious business; a man was murdered there in 1999 for his poor mobile etiquette. That said, we might also go the Spanish way. To quote The Economist about phone vs. face-to-face conversations: "subscribers in Madrid often mixed them and even allowed others to take part in their phone conversations". I'd rather walk.



A Fistful of Facebook dimwits

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

This week saw the accidental birth of a new internet meme at the expense of some rather ignorant Facebook users. I say some, it's more like thousands of Stalkerbook simpletons, and it all stems from their inability to understand a simple principle: Google is a search engine, not an address bar. How do you, dear reader, get to Facebook? Type in Facebook.com in your address bar? Yes, thought you might. But a small percentage of Facebook users actually search for 'Facebook login' every time they want to get to the social networking giant. Now a small percentage it may be, but because of the sheer number of users Facebook actually has, that actually equates to literally thousands of users.

Of course there's nothing wrong with searching for something you go to regularly, other than the extra step it requires I guess, but to blindly click on the first or second result it turns up without actually looking at the url it's sending you to is pure idiocy. I often wonder who falls for phishing scams, and now I know, it's the mental under-achievers that think they're web-savvy but blatantly aren't.

ReadWriteWeb is a site dedicated to web apps and technologies behind the internet. They wrote up an interesting article about how Facebook might end up being your universal login for everything you might do on the web, spurred on by the recent AOL-Facebook partnership. Of course a web-savvy site like RWW has pretty good SEO, meaning that their post about a universal Facebook login hit all the right keywords to propel it up the search rankings for anyone searching Google for 'Facebook login'. Unbeknownst to them this put

the post squarely in the firing line of all those Bookface geniuses that search for 'Facebook login' each time, sending thousands of confused Facebookers to RWW producing hilarity and utter stupidity along the way.

Pretty soon the blog comments started pouring in with frustrated users complaining that Facebook had 'changed'. Here's a few choice ones:

1. 'The new facebook sucks> NOW LET ME IN.'
2. 'I WANT THE OLD FACEBOOK BACK THIS SHIT IS WACK!!!!'
3. 'I was just learning, why would you mess it up?'
4. 'Why couldn't you just leave well enough alone!!!'

Of course this state of affairs prompted RWW to stick a large block text sign in the middle of the post telling the confused Facebookers that 'This site is not Facebook', but even that didn't seem to stem the flow of cretins.

Soon the tech community got wind of this phenomenon prompting it to spread across Digg, Reddit, Twitter and blogs like wild-fire, causing another deluge of visitors and commenters, this time ripping the absolute piss out of the now irate Facebook numpties. At that point it was clear, this was the birth of a new internet meme, completely by accident, but absolutely hilarious nonetheless. Now, I hope none of you reading this fit into the 'George W Bush' class of Facebookers, but if you are one of them I suggest quickly turning the page. For the rest of you I urge you to go to <http://bit.ly/Ftech1> and check out the comments for yourself, just try not to laugh out loud, mkyay?

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

Samuel Gibbs

Another week has been and gone, but what have we got to show for it from the world of technology?

How about the latest in Japanese Granny-scooter technology, the Personal Hoverchair? Yes, that's right, not content with the mobility scooters you see OAPs flying around on in town centres, researchers from Japan's Kobe Gakuin University have bolted a high-power air jet to the bottom of a chair. It blasts air downwards

creating, in-effect, a personal hovercraft. It only works on smooth surfaces but they'd be at home in a mall. Maybe Paul Bart - Mall Cop 2 will have one of these bad boys instead of the so last century Segway?

Not to be out done by the Japanese, the South Koreans were in the news this week too with the announcement that robot teachers will be invading up to 400 pre-schools by 2012. The 'R-Learning' program should expand into around 8000 pre-schools and kindergartens by the following year. Of course the Rise of the Machines should follow by about 2015 so maybe it's time to start stocking up on guns and ammo.

Samsung got in on the robot action too this week with their Navibot robot vacuum, which will be gracing European living rooms from March. Having been let out of South Korea, the little housewife replacement maps out your humble abode with 30fps video, plotting the most efficient route to clean up that mess from last night's 'lads night in' beer and gaming session. Watch out

Roomba, looks like you've finally got some decent competition. Talking about products

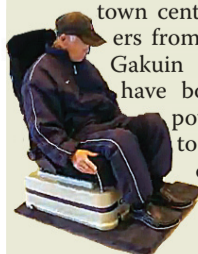
around the home, have you ever wished for lights that you can just stick flat on the walls around corners, or that you could change the colour of at the flick of a switch? Well flexible OLED lighting might be the key to that dream. ModisTech, amongst others, is bringing 150mm square OLED panels to market this year for indirect lighting applications in lamps, cars and other places where LEDs or bulbs are used. OLED lighting promises more natural light than can be achieved with LEDs alone, whilst maintaining their power sipping properties. Great for the green folks as well as car modders and people with fancy lighting in their kitchens.

Microsoft has been in the news again this week with updates to its Windows 7 activation technology. Not sure how long it's going to last so by the time you read this it might already be circumvented. Game on hackers.

Microsoft also pushed out its EU pleasing browser ballot screen this week. It's been quite a while since the EU stuck its oar in, but starting this week you should be able to select between IE, Safari, Chrome, Firefox and Opera. Of course if you haven't already made the choice to ditch IE, you're not going to now, so you'll just

find it an annoyance which you can thank the European Commission for.

Sony this week got a lot of camera geeks salivating with their Alpha compact DSLR hybrid concept. With the size and body of a compact coupled to the interchangeable lenses and sensor from a DSLR, it sure sounds like Sony wants in on the fledgling Micro Four Thirds market.



Imperial College
London

Private Housing Talk 2010 Monday 8 March

The event aims to provide you with:

-  tips and advice on when and where to start looking for a place to live in the private sector
-  how much you can expect to pay on rent and other costs
-  advice on how to deal with contracts and landlords and your rights as a tenant
-  advice and tips for moving in/out

Independent advice
and tips for finding
and living in private
accommodation

Access to Estate
Agents and other
accommodation and
service providers

Get answers to your
questions about
living in private
accommodation

When and Where?

Monday 8 March 2010

- 16.30 Private Housing Exhibition in the Queen's Tower Rooms
- 18.00 Private Housing Talk in the Great Hall
- 19.00 Private Housing Exhibition in the Queen's Tower Rooms continues

sponsored by



For more information visit www.imperial.ac.uk/accommodation

Imperial College
London



Student Associates Scheme (SAS)

For students interested in gaining classroom experience during their studies

Support secondary school Maths, Physics or Chemistry

The majority of placements are in the London Region – Placements outside London can be accommodated by request

What does the scheme entail?

A training and induction programme to prepare you for working with young people

3 weeks in a school or college working alongside experienced teachers and assisting in classroom teaching



Benefits of the scheme

- ✓ Receive a £600 tax free bursary for completing the 15 day placement
- ✓ Receive a free Disclosure check
- ✓ Have something different for your CV
- ✓ Develop new transferable skills and communication experience
- ✓ Gain firsthand experience of what a career in teaching involves



Pre-requisites : A- Levels in Maths, Physics or Chemistry

Dates : 15 day school-placement in June/July or other by arrangements

Links : www.tda.gov.uk / www.imperial.ac.uk/outreach / www.exscitec.com

For more information or to apply contact Sarah Cooper:

sarah.cooper@exscitec.com

01730 235683

Imperial College Outreach works in partnership with [Exscitec](http://www.exscitec.com) to deliver the Student Associates Scheme



RAG Week

**1st - 6th
March**



Monday
- Crazy Cookie Sale
Lunchtime, JCR

Tuesday
- Bangin' Brownie Sale
Lunchtime, JCR

Wednesday
- RAG Raid
From noon, Beit Quad

Thursday
- RCSU-UCL Ball
9.30, OnAnon

Friday
- CGCU Slave Auction
8.00, DB's

Saturday
- Late night football
Tournament, Ethos

Queen's Tour Tours at lunch every day

2010: Ride Big Ben!



felix



Find us on Facebook at
facebook.com/ICURag

Hangman

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

THE ESSENTIAL REVIEW - ORANGES

THIS WEEK HANGMAN INTERVIEWS FELIX'S SHITTY EDITORS ABOUT ORANGES, CITRUS ABUSE & TIN*

Here at Hangman we believe that oranges are hugely underappreciated. Just the other day, we saw an old lady dispose of a whole orange into a nearby pond. In a fit of rage, we grabbed her suitcase-trolley thing and bludgeoned her to death. As we stood over her mutilated corpse, with blood soaking through our newly bought Nike Airs, we let out a sigh of satisfaction knowing that justice had been rightly served. A passing duck quacked as if to say, "Jesus Christ! Is that an orange? I can't eat an orange, I'm a fucking duck! I don't have the piercing beak shape that other birds possess to gnaw through the thick outer peel."

Seeing such depraved oranges left us distraught. Why!? Why would someone throw a whole orange into a pond? A WHOLE ORANGE! We wondered how much oranges meant to others. This week we interviewed fellow editors about oranges and how they have influenced their lives. Everything they say is genuine.



TWITTER



SexyOsama69

Lol. Gor has been dun for bullyin lolololol



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87

lol



Barack_attack_l33thaxor

Hu complains about bullyin these dayz? I thought only the fat ginger kids with no friends did dat. lolololol - fat people lololol



SexyOsama69

u shudn't laugh at fat people Obie, its not their fault. HAHHAHAHAHA - it was so hard to typde dat. My fingers wer shakin wiv laughter



Barack_attack_l33thaxor

Hey Gor u up for gettin Cammy's lunch money? The Clegg is well up 4 it lol

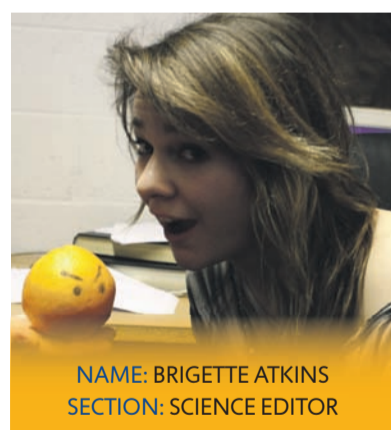


NAME: LUKE TURNER
SECTION: MUSIC EDITOR

WHEN DID YOU FIRST DISCOVER ORANGES? I was five years old. My parents believed in the 'fruit-a-year' policy the government brought in, which entailed introducing a new fruit to a child each year to avoid stressing them out over the vast amount of choice.

ANY EMBARRASSING ORANGE-BASED ANECDOTES? I was making sweet love to my girlfriend one evening, when she told me that I just wasn't exciting enough. In a desperate attempt to liven things up I went down to my kitchen to see if there was anything I could use to improvise. There on the counter sat a fist-sized Seville orange. Dark thoughts entered my mind... Should I? Could I? I did! I sliced the orange into boat segments and ate them in front of 'Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers'. I haven't seen my girlfriend since.

HOW HAVE ORANGES INFLUENCED TODAY'S MUSIC? It's a shame really. Music seems to be all about love and poker faces these days. I miss the days of the orange. The Beatles, Led Zeppelin, Blondie, Blazin Squad - all about the oranges.

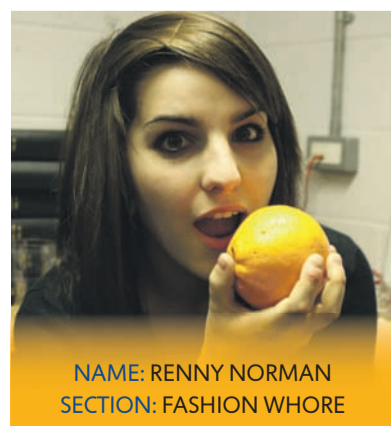


NAME: BRIGETTE ATKINS
SECTION: SCIENCE EDITOR

WHAT IS YOUR FIRST ORANGE-RELATED MEMORY? I was two years old and my Dad took me and my twin sister, Madeline, to the Marmalade festival in California. My Dad was dressed as a giant orange and took us up a large hill to overlook the local town, Sutter Creek. He was showing us the festive Orange Dance when he lost his balance and rolled down the hill. I was caught by a passing Native American called Pocumtuck, but my sister was crushed to death.

WHAT IS THE SCIENCE BEHIND THE ORANGE? The orange was invented by an Irish physician called Thomas O'Range in 1535 for the treatment of scurvy. He used highly radioactive isotopes to achieve the oranginess desired for high vitamin C content. Oranges are now the number one cause of cancer in the UK.

FAVOURITE ORANGE-BASED QUOTE? 'At this moment in time, one cannot be sure whether the cat inside the box is alive or dead. It is therefore in a state of being both alive and dead. Of course when we open the box, we find an orange lol' **Erwin Schrodinger**



NAME: RENNY NORMAN
SECTION: FASHION WHORE

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE ORANGE? Simon

YOU NAME YOUR ORANGES? Yes

DO YOU NOT CONSIDER EATING THEM CANNIBALISTIC? I don't eat oranges - I'm a vegetarian. Oranges are my friends :D

YOU WANT ME TO PUT THE SMILEY FACE IN? Yes

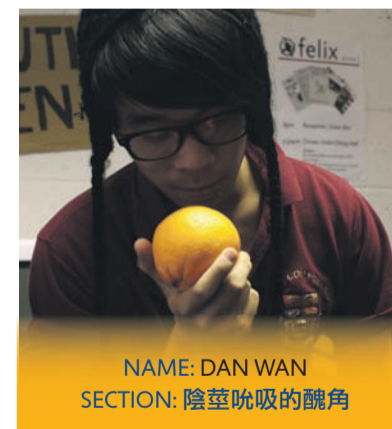
OK. I HAVE haha, lmao

THAT WASN'T A QUESTION lmao

YOU'RE ACTUALLY SAYING 'LMAO' LIKE IT'S A WORD lmao

• [INTERVIEW WAS TERMINATED PREMATURELY]

*Exciting Tin Fact: Below 3.72K, tin behaves as a superconductor. Meissner Effect that is commonly observed in superconductors was first discovered in tin crystals.



NAME: DAN WAN
SECTION: 陰莖吮吸的醜角

SO DAN, HOW HAVE ORANGES INFLUENCED YOUR TIME AS FELIX EDITOR-IN-CHIEF? I'm from Watford

WHAT? I know you're going to make a joke somewhere about my Chinese heritage. It's all you ever do. I just want the readers to know that I'm actually from Watford. Why are you doing an article about oranges?

BECAUSE WE LOVE ORANGES! WHO DOESN'T LOVE ORANGES? Me

WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE COLOUR OTHER THAN RED, YELLOW, GREEN, BROWN, SCARLET, BLACK, OCHRE, PEACH, BLUE, OLIVE, VIOLET, FAWN, LILAC, GOLD, CHOCOLATE, MAUVE, CREAM, CRIMSON, SILVER, ROSE, ASURE, LEMON, RUSSET, GREY, PURPLE, WHITE OR PINK? Maroon

DAMN... ALRIGHT, WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE FRUIT OTHER THAN APPLES, PEARS, BANANAS. MANGOS, GRAPES, KIWIS- Look, it's not going to work, I f*cking hate oranges ok. They're just round and orange. They're boring.

WHY?...WHY WOULD YOU SAY THAT? When I was young, my uncle chained me to his cellar wall and threw oranges at my broken naked body. THAT'S WHY!

HAHAHA, YOU'RE JOKING RIGHT?

• [INTERVIEW WAS TERMINATED PREMATURELY]



BioSoc's big Climate Change debate

A full hall turned out to discuss whether lifestyle or engineering can save us from ourselves, writes **Alex Kendall**



Climate Change Committee member Brian Hoskins, and also of Imperial



Chief Scientist for Greenpeace Mr Doug Parr - doesn't like nuclear



10:10 campaign coordinator Malachi Chadwick



Director of the Energy Futures Lab Professor Nigel Brandon

There is no doubt that Biosoc have really come into their own this year. From being practically non-existent a few years ago, they have grown, and last week put on one of the most highly attended events I have seen at Imperial. The premise was exciting, attempting to debate the best way to tackle Climate Change. The advertising was intense; emails, posters, 5000 flyers and frequent badgering by members of the Biosoc Committee, showed all other clubs how to properly advertise an event and shattered the myth that Imperial students are apathetic. The main attraction was the star list of speakers, whose comments I have tried to report faithfully below.

Tolstoy said 'every man thinks about changing the world, but no man thinks of changing himself'. Climate Change is a problem we must solve somehow, but whether that is by new technology, changing the world, or lifestyle change,

'Imperial is one of the few Universities in the Russell group not to sign up to the 10:10 campaign.'

changing ourselves, is a question on the mind of every environmentalist. And so we came to the Clore lecture theatre last Wednesday to hear some leading experts debate that very subject.

The event was chaired by Richard Black, the chief environmental journalist at the BBC. After beginning with a warning that many people have started to question the science of Climate Change, he introduced perhaps the most famous speaker, Sir Brian Hopkins, a member of the Government's Climate Change Committee and Director of Imperial's Grantham

Institute for Climate Change. He began by echoing Richard's warning that public doubt about anthropogenic Climate Change is increasing and briefly explained the science, just in case anyone in the audience was in doubt. His tag-line was that championed by many climate scientists and politicians, that the issue isn't 'if' climate change is happening or not, but by 'how much'.

Probably the most impressive example he gave, and one that made quite an impression on me, was a map of the world showing how temperatures for January were higher or lower than usual. Northern Europe, which experienced the cold snap recently that we all will remember, showed blue and purple, and yes it had been colder than usual. The rest of the world though was green and yellow, showing higher temperatures than normal for January. No cold snaps for them. And yet the cold snap has done much to raise global warming scepticism in the UK. This shows exactly why this is a global issue.

His contribution to the debate was to point out that people need it made easy when they want to personally tackle their contribution to Climate Change, and is it technology which can make it easier, as efficiency contributions, cited as a major measure to tackle warming, are only growing at 2% per year compared to a 5% growth in aviation.

The second speaker was Malachi Chadwick, campaign coordinator for the 10:10 campaign. The campaign, launched last year, wants each signatory to reduce their carbon footprint by 10% by the end of 2010; individuals or whole businesses can sign up to it. He was quick to point out that small personal contributions do make a difference to fighting Climate Change and gives people a sense of empowerment. Pointing to the bottled water on the table he asked us where he could get tap water, showing that every choice has consequences, and that the responsibility to reduce our impact on the environment lies with us as individuals.

He admitted though that it can be hard to see how you can make a personal difference, as you can be overwhelmed by the global situation. 'In a few minutes of me speaking,' he declared, 'gas flaring will produce more greenhouse gases than I will for the rest of my life.'

His assessment of the Copenhagen talks in December were that they were a complete failure and that a conference which could have inspired so much and led to so much investment in new technology was merely cheap talk. He looks forward to the Mexico talks next year but added to Sir Brian's point about making it easy for people to act against Climate Change in that it has to be made easy for politicians to

'The UK is more fossil energy dependent than China, getting 90% of its energy from fossil fuels.'

act as well. And this can only be done by showing public support for decarbonisation, which is exactly what the 10:10 campaign does.

The Director of the Energy Futures Lab at Imperial, Professor Nigel Brandon, was the next speaker and gave the energy perspective on the debate. He began with the point that energy infrastructure needs replacing anyway, and so now is the perfect time to replace it with low-carbon alternatives.

Worldwide \$22tn must be invested in the energy infrastructure by 2030, including the UK replacing a third of its capacity, and this is a tremendous chance for renewal. He pointed out that 'the UK is more fossil energy dependent than China' getting 90% of its energy from fossil fuels, mostly for the production of heat.

The final speaker was Doug Parr, the

need are initiatives to make it easy for people to make a difference and leadership by Government, who he says must change if individuals are to change.

The 10 minute speeches were followed by questions from the packed Clore lecture theatre. Questions ranged from defence of the carbon footprint of Dubai to declarations supporting both sides of the debate. Many people in the audience supported technology over lifestyle change and it even came to light that Imperial is one of the few Universities in the Russell Group not to sign up to 10:10.

'Pointing to the bottled water on the table, he asked where to get tap water.'

Mr Black closed the debate and thanked the speakers who led the charge to the foyer where wine and food was waiting. The event was masterfully pulled off and ran without a hitch. The audience were engrossed in the discussion and the general feeling was that both lifestyle change and new technology are needed to combat Climate Change.

If this can be appreciated then surely Imperial is the right place to be to really make a difference.

With the mass of information on how to change your individual impact on the planet available, and a host of courses teaching the best in how to develop new technologies, we are truly in the place to change ourselves and the world.



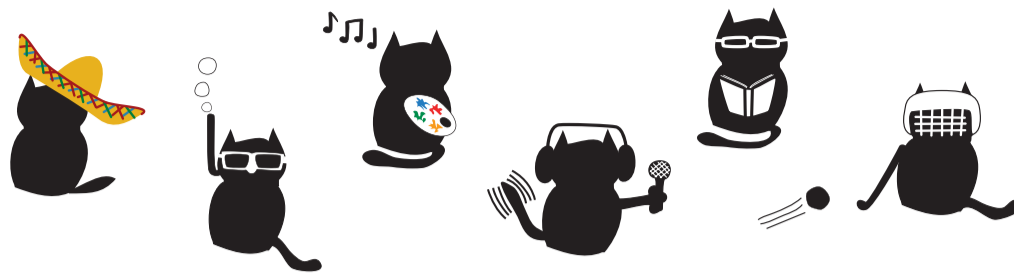
This is a picture of the Chief Scientific advisor for Greenpeace pouring himself a glass of bottled water. Greenpeace's website says that people should stop using bottled water. Talk is cheap.

What's on...

Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editors – Lily Topham & Rachel D'oliveiro

whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk



Mon 1st March

PPS Seminar – "Social Justice vs. Efficiency"
 – 6pm, Room 1004, Blakett
 – Free for members
 – Political Philosophy Society invite you to the latest discussion from their Classics series.



Tues 2nd March

ICSM Careers Fair
 – 4:30 - 7pm, Level 1 concourse, Charing Cross campus
 – The perfect opportunity to meet doctors from different specialities and medical organisations and discuss any future career plans.
 – This year's fair also sees the launch of "Get Career Savvy", ICSM's new careers guide.



Weds 3rd March

Imperial College East Greenland Expedition 2009
 – 6:30pm, LT 311, Huxley
 – Free for members of Exploration Society, £3 for non-members
 – Members of the East Greenland Expedition will be presenting an exciting photo slideshow of their expedition to complete first ascents of unclimbed peaks in North West Greenland and describe some of the pitfalls and adventures they encountered during their expedition.



Thurs 4th March

Joseph in the Old Testament and the Holy Quran: A tale of two stories?
 – 6pm, Room 119, SAF
 – Free for all
 – Ahlul Bayt Society present part 2 of a comparative study of these scriptures which narrate the life and times of Joseph.

Film: Paradise Now
 – 6pm, LT 340, Huxley
 – Free for all

– Palestinian Society present "Paradise Now", winner of the "Best Foreign Language Film" for the 63rd Golden Globe Awards and the first Palestinian film to be nominated for an Oscar.
 – The film follows two Palestinian childhood friends who have been recruited for a strike on Tel Aviv and focuses on their last days together.



To Do...

- 1) Email us if you are interested in taking over the What's on page :)
- 2) Procrastinate less....work more....
- 3) Send in your events!!
whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk
 (Club name & event, time, place, price, pics...) **by end of Tues 2nd March**

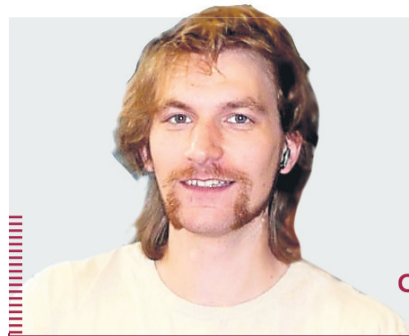
Fri 5th March

ICSM Jazz Band Gig
 – Show starts 8:30 pm (doors open 8pm)
 – Brook Green Hotel, Hammersmith, W6 7PB
 – FREE for all
 – An evening of jazz and big band music from Glenn Miller classics to arrangements of 21st century tunes.

COFFEE BREAK

Coffee Break Editor Charlie Murdoch

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



A rant. Again, yes I know too

Charlie Murdoch Coffee Break Editor

Not had an amazingly active this week. Think it's because I am currently living in a lab trying to polish a bit of metal. No seriously I must spend at least 10 hours a week polishing and grinding. And no, that is not some kinky teenage porn reference. As to why it's teenage I'll let you ponder. Moving from that rather disturbing image that I'm sure the EEE faulty are enjoying slightly too much to the events of Wednesday on the Hockey field.

For any of you who actually care a bit about this university, and choose having a laugh over sitting holed up in your room like a hermit crab whose been deformed beyond recognition, will know that the Bottle Match is coming up. There will be a further explanation about this match next week, but in a nutshell, it's been bigger and better than varsity. The winner of the rugby match gets the Bottle which is currently sitting in the Union Bar. As I'm a Hockey player, we've been in training, and on Wednesday I got carded for 'being overly dangerous to myself'. Yes, I don't know either. After

checking for signs of heroin addiction I concluded that the umpire was simply a dozy twat. He was.

Apparently the bars have been re-named. Great. Because traditionally I don't choose a place to drink using the, possibly blue-sky approach of price, comfort and atmosphere. Oh no. Whenever I walk past a Rose and Crown I can't help but wander in for a quick pint. However see a Trap and Pony and I scarper like a rat up a drain-pipe. What goes through these peoples minds? It's just a fucking name. People will complain, as I am doing now, but at the end of the day who really gives a shit? If people choose not to come to a bar because of a *name* then sod them. You probably don't want twats like that kicking about the place anyway.

Finally this place is bad enough as it is, what with Physics students walking round with $E=MC^2$ on the back of their hoodies. You look like a wannabe hoodlum gang member. No, I lie. You look like a 18 year old spotty white kid whose trying to be cool. Or in other words, a stretched arsehole. So lets not go for geeky puns on 'Imperial' for the name eh? Pah, Whatever.

FUCWIT League Table

Teams:

Harry Potter Trio	192 Points
The Tough Brets	140 Points
The Cool Kids and Fergal	33 Points

Individuals:

Matthew Colvin	143 Points
Sheryl	128 Points
Kelvin Wong	78 Points
GLT	44 Points
Louise Parchson	44 Points
Bethan Matthews	33 Points
Absolute Cunt	30 Points
Dr Science!	24 Points
Flavia Tang	22 Points
The Three Kings	15 Points
Jeff Wu	15 Points
Herens Tibaut	14 Points
Cheating Spaniard	12 Points
Giramondo	10 Points
Mark Mearing-Smith	10 Points
Zoe Dobell	10 Points
Wayne Kerr	10 Points

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

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

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

New
Fuller
Individual
List
WOW!!!

Quote of the Week

Sir Winston Churchill: "We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."

Wordoku 1,455

INTERMEDIATE

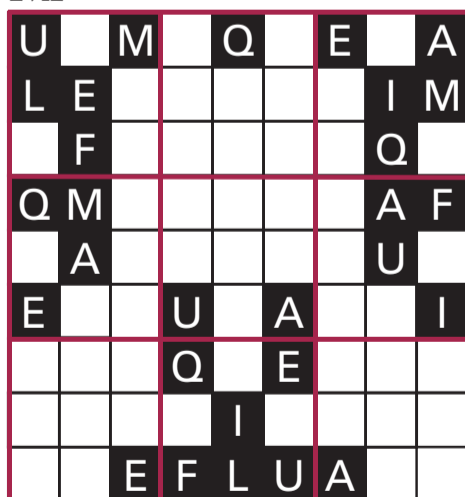


How to play:

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

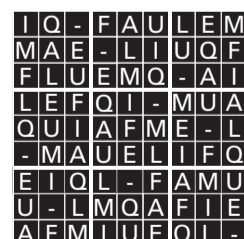
Evil Wordoku is exactly the same... only harder... and there's a letter missing... that MAY be a duplicate - just solve it like normal and insert the letter that you believe makes the word. And worth double.

EVIL



Scribble box

Solution 1454



Matthew Colvin won Intermediate, and Kelvin Wong won the Evil. Apologies for fucking up again, Evil Wordoku letters were in wrong order so the solution word is being used again for this issue's Evil Wordoku in correct order.

Wordpath 1,455

ORIGIN:

CURD

DESTINATION:

WHEY

Solution 1454

EAST
ONES via
BREASTBONES
OWES (LS)
WEST via
LOWEST

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.

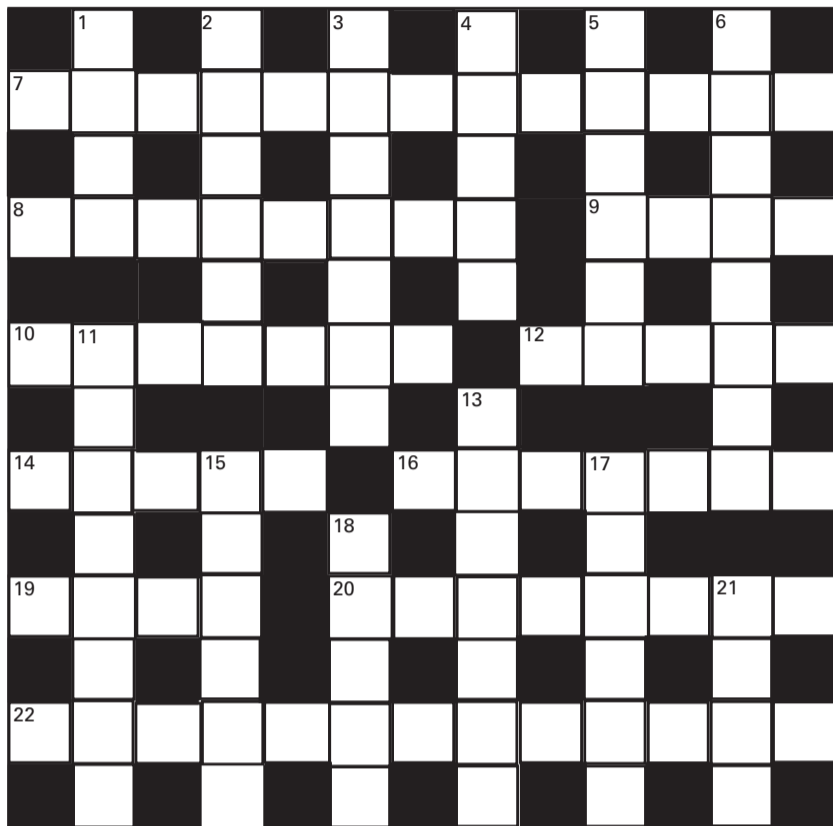
e.g. DRAW -> WING (via DRAWING)

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.

Scribble box

A quickie (crossword) 1,455



ACROSS

- 7 Semi-legal businessman; a 'dodgy' type (7,6)
 8 Youthful podge (5,3)
 9 Viscera (4)
 10 Type of party; couples getting together, socialising in the jacuzzi, then banging each other (7)
 12 The "shandy" sent forth in a "hand shandy" (5)
 14 He wasn't the messiah (5)
 16 Nut loosener - utter fuckwit (7)
 19 Asterix's people (4)
 20 Moon of Jupiter - edgy name (anag.) (8)
 22 Exorbitantly expensive and useless (pachyderm?) (5,8)
- 6 Poncey appreciator of the truly beautiful (8)
 11 What's rap? (anag.) (8)
 13 Gun dog (7)
 15 Remove by vaporisation (6)
 17 Sex-machine (6)
 18 One who perves (5)
 21 Sound of bell - love-length (4)

Solution 1454



Well done to the new crossword masters, **The Three Kings** who seem to be loving them just a wee bit too much. Try getting out more. Or Something. Do crack. It's fun. I've been told.

Crossword by **Peter Logg**

Scribble box

DOWN

- 1 Old 'you' (4)
 2 Pot to piss in (6)
 3 Meaty drink (4,3)
 4 Contribute (3,2)
 5 Rustic laundry machine (6)

LMAO - scopes: may induce ROFL or MEGA LOLS

So, you're sitting in the Union thinking it can't get any worse than this. Well, don't worry, it can!



Aquarius

You decide to run for President of the Union. You think you have a good chance and you get the required number

of seconders. You decide that you're going to get ahead by going to a very legitimate course on giving speeches. You soon find out that the course was planned by the opposition. No one ever finds out what happened to you.



Pisces

You find a four year old girl stuck in the crawspace of your house. You decide not to report it to the police and make

her your new wife. Sadly she cannot clean very effectively anymore because she's a bit wrong after you threw a party and used her as the pinata after the bitch binged out on Haribo.



Aries

This week, you find yourself not breathing properly. You ring NHS Direct and they tell you to call Emergency Services. You

think you're hard so you don't and just bitch down the phone to anyone that'll listen. Your girlfriend finally drags you into hospital and the doctors and discharges you with a severe case of pussytitis.



Taurus

You and your friend go out for dinner. But they foolishly forget to bring their wallet and you end up paying for their

dinner. You read in a magazine that this means they want to have sex with you. So you take them into a back alley and have your wicked way with them. You assume the screaming is just for effect.



Gemini

Over the weekend you discover World of Warcraft. You roll a troll priest. You never again

leave your room. Your beard grows longer than your pubes. You become the champion of the WoW world and then kill yourself as your life now feels meaningless. Nobody notices and your funeral never even happens.



Cancer

You go to work. You flirt with the secretary before settling down with your cup of coffee at the desk. You fax some reports on

the standard of healthcare at British hospitals before leaving the office. After a long commute you settle down to watch Eastenders. After the episode is over you go to bed and murder a child.



Leo

You see a cute American girl at the Union. You decide to go and talk to her, hopefully you'll get laid tonight. Everything

goes wonderfully and you take her back to your apartment and rapidly begin to engage in a hearty make-out session. When you remove her underwear however you find she is a man. Never mind - you flip her over and get on with it.



Virgo

You meet a small Jewish girl on the bus. You immediately hit it off and go for a long walk through

Richmond Park. You talk of your experiences, your lives and you know that you two are meant to be together. She then drops a bombshell. She is in fact 80 years old and Anne Frank. The diary was a lie, she escaped!



Libra

You decide to take some Ketamine and feel as though you are ON A BOAT. Oh no, the boat is falling into a massive

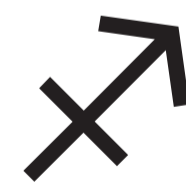
whirlpool. You're drowning... Wait, everything is sharpening. What? The world sharpens up... Where are you...?! In the police station, you shot Gary Numan, Simon Singh, Eric Cantona, Jeremy Kyle, The Sheriff but not the Deputy.



Scorpio

You spent all your money in the shops and are so broke you can't afford to pay your rent. Your landlord is a huge, angry Slovakian man

who terrifies you so you go and sell some of your eggs. Sadly the hospital meant chicken's eggs. You get arrested when looking in a friend's chicken coop for eggs, pervert. You are given life imprisonment and feed your cell mate Sevilla oranges.



Sagittarius

You take a trip in a time machine and realise that until 0BC we were not infact bipedal. We had one leg and one wheel.

You decide to revert back to "the good old days" so cut off your leg and replace it with a wheel. You sell your limb to Cancer Research and bankrupt them. With this money you buy a colony in Cote d'Ivoire,t



Capricorn

I just wanna tell you how I'm feeling. Gotta make you understand. Never gonna give you up. Never gonna let you down. Never gonna run

around and desert you. Never gonna make you cry. Never gonna say goodbye. Never gonna tell a lie and hurt you.

Rick Roll'd... Pint?

Sports of Yesteryear: Sparkes Cup

From the ring in the Union to the green fields of Harlington, Jovan Nedić looks at Faculty rugby

Everyone knows, or at least will know by within the next few weeks, that every year the Imperial School of Medicine take on the rest of the College in the annual Varsity Matches. The culmination will be the JPR Williams Cup between the two 1st XV sides in front of a packed crowd. For the rugby clubs at least, this is one of their biggest matches and the recent score lines will testify to it, but what was it like before the JPR Williams Cup for the Club. The simple answer is the Sparkes Cup.

Stanley Robert Sparkes joined the Civil Engineering Department in 1934 as a Demonstrator, in Structures, and worked his way through academic appointments to become Professor of Structural Engineering in 1958. As well as being Dean of the City and Guilds College between 1964-1967, he was also the President of the Imperial College Football Club, and it is after him that the competition gets its name.

Although the College was founded in 1907, the constituent College's had existed before then and subsequently, so had some of their sports clubs. The City and Guilds College, for example, which was founded in 1876 has had a rugby club since 1898 and the club still exists to this day.

Rugby is one of those sports that you can't really get away from. Like rowing and football, it is an integral part of any schoolboy's life, or at least it was back in the day, with the individual making the choice really early one, some times not really deciding on one, but all three. It therefore makes sense that as the individual progresses through the educational system, these clubs would exist at the higher education level and why there is always a lot of history.

At the start of the century, each club used to focus on its own season and they developed their own rivalries; take the Royal School of Mines and their Bottle Match against the Cambourne School of Mines which will take place this weekend. For 108 years they have been



The Guilds rugby team on one of their glamorous attacks

competing on the rugby field for the honour of their mining school. In 1926 a certain group of ambitious mining students decided to 'borrow' a 3 foot tall tin beer bottle from the top of a Bass lorry on which they adorned both sets of crests and it has since then been the symbol of the event, and the trophy for the winner of the rugby match

Although not as intense as the Bottle Match, the Royal College of Science has its own annual match, with the club travelling every year to Keble College in Oxford for some light-hearted rugby followed by a night out in Oxford. Even though the other two faculty teams didn't have such an intense rivalry with another club as the RSM did with Cambourne, each club strived to perform well in their respective leagues, however, as is always the case, there was competition between each Faculty to find out who was the best. This is where the Sparkes Cup came in.

Looking through the archive, it seemed that rugby was very different back then, the obvious conclusion being that the scores were very low, take this 1950's game between the RCS and the RSM:

"The R.C.S. pack led by Smith and amongst whom black bearded Hague was prominent, completely subdued the Mines pack, but having gained possession of the ball little else was done. Although on paper the R.C.S. backline is the most powerful of the three colleges they

lacked the thrust necessary to take them over the line.

Edward's sound kicking was a great asset to the Mines too, on the few occasions when they had the ball were uncertain as to what to do. The only score of the match came halfway through the second half when a loose pass between the Mines halves allowed Jacobson to swoop in to score close to the post with Copleman converting."

As the years went on and the importance of the Imperial rugby club grew, this competition, unlike some of its contemporaries, has managed to last to this day. And why shouldn't it! The RSM are still playing

their Bottle match and so need as much practice as possible, the C&G and the RCS are the perfect opponents to play. Similarly the RCS need their practice for the Oxford game and as for the Guilds, well they just like playing a game of glamorous rugby before retiring to the bar. Before any of you start thinking that the Guilds don't take their rugby as seriously as the other two, in recent times they started their own rivalry, this one against the Paris Institute of Technology.

As a quick side note, have a look at the following *Live!* story (<http://live.cgcu.net/sport/rugby/127>), where you will find that not only did the Medical School managed to lose the United Hospitals Cup in 2001, but they also managed to lose to the Guilds in friendly match at Teddington. I'll be honest here, I seriously doubt if the Medicals put out their 1st XV for this game, but a win is a win!

The Sparkes Cup is one of the few competitions that still exists to this day, with the RSM beating the Guilds team earlier in the year and with the RCS team failing to get enough players for the game against the Guilds (this counts as a Guilds win in my books!!!). Although the Imperial College Rugby Club is now the main focus of rugby at the college, taking up a considerable

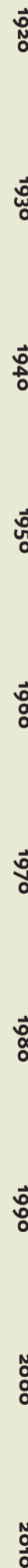
"In 1926 some creative Miners decided to 'borrow' a 3ft tall tin beer bottle, this became The Bottle"

amount of time, the students still find the time for some inter-faculty rivalry and the chance to try off some moves that they wouldn't dare try in front of the Imperial Coaches. Long may the glamour, flair and camaraderie of the Sparkes Cup remain.



History of College Rugby:

Key
 ■ Royal School of Mines
 ■ City and Guilds
 ■ Royal College of Science



1902: The first game between the RSM and the Cambourne School of Mines is played

1926: Creative Miners 'borrow' a 3ft tin beer bottle which eventually became The Bottle

1934: Stanley Robert Sparkes, whom the competition was named after, joins the Civil Engineering Department, eventually becoming Dean of the City and Guilds College and President of the Imperial Rugby Club

2000: Somehow, the Guilds Rugby team manage to beat the Medicals in a friendly game at Teddington

2006: Royal School of Mines win The Bottle Match for a historic 10th year in a row

Boat Club shore up 106 BUCS points in one weekend

Christina Duffy Rowing

This year's BUCS Championship and Beginner's Head was a successful one for Imperial. There were three golds, two silvers and two bronzes, as well as several other top ten placings.

Most students doubled and even tripled up in crews, racing down the 5km head course against the stream on Peterborough's Nene River in snowy conditions.

After being cancelled due to bad weather last year, it was with great trepidation that a poor forecast was predicted over the weekend. Luckily, coach Stuart Whitelaw's years of experience knew how to motivate a squad in the face of such conditions; "Be prepared for a long day in cold, damp conditions with very few facilities within walking distance." Off the back of such inspiration the novice squad set the ball rolling in style on Saturday claiming a bronze medal in the MB8+.

The crew were split into fours for the second division racing as coxed boats. IC A performed well placing 5th, while IC B became the victims of a Southampton cox who veered into the crew losing them valuable time. They settled for 14th.

On Sunday morning the senior men's crews awoke to a snow-covered Peterborough and were still reeling from the injury of Henry Goodier the previous day in a practice paddle.



Could you think of a better way to earn BUCS points for your university? Didn't think not. Hypothermia's in for 2010.

It was the lightweight squad who brought home the bacon, winning gold in the LM4x and collecting silver in the LM4-. Drama had unfolded earlier back at the hotel when it was discovered that the weighing scales had been forgotten resulting in a very light

breakfast for the paranoid crew.

The first division bore the brunt of the bad weather with hypothermia claiming another BUCS athlete who had to be rescued from his boat. This resulted in all other crews having to wait in the heavily falling snow.

The MC4+ were stranded for over 45 minutes and according to Bellion, bowman Andy Gordon was horrified: "Man, it's like the coldest thing ever. I can't do this for much longer." Gordon was so traumatised by the whole experience that the quad in the second divi-

sion had to scratch.

Meanwhile Alex Gillies was causing a fuss at not being allowed to race in skins. Despite the cold the MC4+ managed a solid bronze. Steele is alleged to have informed a slightly concerned Bellion that: "I loved stroking you." When asked about it later Bellion was adamant: "The pleasure was all his."

The MC8+ placed fifth in 15:31 behind winners Oxford Brookes while the MI8+ finished fourth, also behind a winning Oxford Brookes crew. The MC4+ had packed their cans of Whoopass as requested and took gold in 16:45 ahead of Reading in 17:07.

With only 5 Imperial students in the women's squad it was only possible to enter two boats, of which both medalled. The result of the day went to the WC4+ who won their event in 19:38, 01:26 ahead of Nottingham Trent who took silver. This was also faster than the winning WC4- (Cardiff: 19:42).

The WC4x took silver behind a strong Durham crew. Staying in peak physical condition to ward off possible seat threats has taken its toll on Christina Duffy who will be wearing her yet to arrive medals for the foreseeable future.

At the end of the day ICBC scored 106 BUCS points for Imperial (third overall) behind Reading (115) and Durham (130). ICBC continues to edge closer to the top ranked university and looks forward to a successful season off the back of these strong results.



FIXTURES & RESULTS



in association with Sports Partnership

Saturday 20th February

Basketball (ULU)
Men's 25 63 - 52 LSE 25

Football (ULU)
Challenge Cup
Men's 15 1 - 0 RUMS 15

Sunday 21st February

Hockey (ULU)
Challenge Cup
Men's 15 4 - 1 King's College London 15
Women's 15 3 - 2 Royal Holloway 15
Reserve Cup
Men's 25 3 - 2 Imperial Medicals 25

Rugby (ULU)
Women's 15 0 - 30 Royal Holloway 15

Football (ULU)
Women's 15 9 - 1 RUMS 25

Water Polo

BUCS Trophy
Men's 1st 6 - 1 University of East Anglia 1st
Men's 1st 6 - 6 University of Plymouth
Men's 1st 5 - 4 University of Southampton 1st

Monday 22nd February

Hockey (ULU)
Men's 15 4 - 1 King's College London 15

Netball (ULU)

Women's 25 16 - 17 Royal Holloway 35
Women's 45 14 - 47 King's College London 45

Squash (ULU)

Men's 35 4 - 1 King's College London 25

Men's 15 5 - 0 LSE 15
(League/Challenge Cup Double-Header)

Tuesday 23rd February

Netball (ULU)
Women's 35 14 - 12 RUMS 45

Wednesday 24th February

Badminton
BUCS Cup
Men's 2nd 4 - 4 Royal Holloway 1st

Fencing
BUCS Cup
Men's 1st 135 - 77 Durham University 1st
Men's 2nd 115 - 108 University of Hertfordshire 1st
Women's 1st 135 - 58 University of Birmingham 1st

Football
Men's 3rd 2 - 0 Universities at Medway 2nd
ULU
Men's 65 6 - 2 LSE 75

Golf

BUCS Cup
Men's 1st 2 - 4 Kingston University 1st

Hockey (ULU)

Men's 15 2 - 3 UCL 15
Men's 45 1 - 2 St Bart's 25
Men's 55 0 - 0 King's College Medicals 35

Netball

Women's 3rd 36 - 30 Brunel University 6th

Rugby

BUCS Cup
Men's 2nd 17 - 22 University of Surrey 1st

Squash

BUCS Cup
Men's 1st 3 - 2 Loughborough 1st

Table Tennis

BUCS Premier League Playoff
Men's 1st 13 - 4 University of Southampton 1st

Volleyball

BUCS Cup
Women's 1st 3 - 0 University of Leeds 1st

Thursday 25th February

Squash (ULU)
Men's 45 vs St George's Medical School 25

Saturday 27th February

Badminton (ULU)
Mixed 15 vs St Barts Mixed 15

Basketball (ULU)

Challenge Cup
Men's 15 vs LSE 15

Football (ULU)

Men's 15 vs LSE 25
Men's 25 vs UCL 25
Men's 35 vs King's College 25
Men's 45 vs RUMS 25

Sunday 28th February

Football (ULU)
Women's 15 vs City University London 15

Hockey (ULU)

Women's 15 vs King's College Medicals 15
Challenge Cup
Women's 25 vs Royal Veterinary College 25

Rugby (ULU)

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

Water Polo

BUCS Trophy
Women's 1st vs UCL 1st
Women's 1st vs University of Bristol 1st
Women's 1st vs University of Exeter 1st

Monday 1st March

Basketball (ULU)

Men's 15 vs LSE 15
Women's 15 vs UCL 25

Netball (ULU)

Women's 25 vs Royal Veterinary College 25
Women's 35 vs Queen Mary 45
Women's 45 vs St Barts 45

Squash (ULU)

Men's 15 vs King's College 15
Water Polo (ULU)
Mixed 15 vs UCL Mixed 25

Wednesday 3rd March

Badminton

Men's 2nd vs University of Hertfordshire 2nd
BUCS Cup
Men's 1st vs University of Southampton 1st

Basketball

Men's 1st vs Canterbury Christ Church University 1st
ULU
Men's 25 vs London South Bank University 15

Fencing

Men's 2nd vs University of Surrey 1st
Men's 3rd vs Queen Mary 1st

Football

Men's 1st vs University of Surrey 1st
Men's 2nd vs University of Greenwich 3rd
Men's 3rd vs University of the Arts London 3rd
Women's 1st vs Roehampton University 1st
ULU
Men's 45 vs King's College 45
Men's 55 vs UCL 55
Men's 65 vs School of Oriental & African Studies 25
Men's 75 vs St George's Medical School 35

Golf

Golf Mixed 1st vs University of Portsmouth Mixed 2nd

Hockey

Men's 2nd vs King's College Medicals 2nd
Men's 3rd vs University of Reading 4th
Men's 4th vs University of Portsmouth 4th
Women's 1st vs University of Reading 1st
Women's 2nd vs Imperial Medicals 2nd

Netball

Women's 1st vs LSE 1st
Women's 2nd vs Roehampton University 2nd
Women's 3rd vs UCL 4th

Rugby

Men's 3rd vs Imperial College Medicals 3rd
Men's 4th vs University of East London 1st
BUCS Cup
Men's 2nd vs UCL 1st

Squash

Men's 3rd vs City University London 1st
Men's 4th vs University of Surrey 2nd

Tennis

Men's 2nd vs UCL 3rd

IC shooters on target

Ed Poore Shooting

After traveling on the M25 for approximately 4 hours the Imperial College Shooting team arrived at the prestigious BUCS Clay Shooting Championship in Hodnet, Shropshire.

Imperial College took 8 shooters to the competition who were split into two equal teams, the undergraduates and overgraduates.

As much as the BUCS win was the ultimate goal, the Imperial Quint-Applin Trophy, that underlines the rivalry between the students and the ones with money, was also what the Imperial shooters were aiming for.

The 4-hour competition consisted

of each individual shooting at 100 clay targets that are launched into the sky at up to 100mph in all kinds of directions - some will fly from behind over your head, whilst others are practically launched straight at you.

The aim is to break as many of the targets as possible by firing shots from a shotgun.

The 100 targets are spread out over 14 stands and the day consists of the team visiting each stand and obliterating the clays that it produces. Each stand will be different so you're always kept on your toes.

In total the Imperial team hit 504 clays out of 800. The undergraduate team contributed to 255 of these whilst the graduates picked up the other 249.

Hence this year the young, poor students claimed just enough points to have their names on the Q-A trophy once again.

With outstanding performances from Ed Poore (94) and Ayman Sleiman (83), they ensured that Imperial took three of the five first place titles with Ed coming first overall (out of 340 shooters) and first undergraduate, while Ayman took first place out of all the graduates. The undergraduate team as a whole came in joint 25th of the 51 teams.

Imperial Team: Ed Poore, David Wall, Richard Fox and Pete Lusted for the undergraduates and Ayman Sleiman, Jacob Thorne, Geoff Quint and Anthony Meisner for the graduates.



Lining up a shot at one of the clay targets launched right towards you. The fur around his neck is real too.

Judo success in Sheffield

Continued from back page

Finishing the game with three wins each, London C were unlucky not to make it to the next round, only losing the fight on points.

London A fared better in the pool stage. The team won their pool, defeating Manchester B and Warwick B to progress to the round of the last 16 where they faced Southampton whom they beat.

In the quarter-final London A were faced by the toughest challenge of the tournament: Munster A. The German team has won the trophy so many times that in fact, Sheffield JC had to get a new one for this tournament.

London A, however, did not come

here to pay respect to the Germans. We were here to win. And it started well with Bronwyn, Sarah and Edouard all winning their fights. Unfortunately, the next three fights went to the Germans, ending the game 3-3. To determine who would reach the semi-final, a random weight category was chosen for a sudden death rematch. Bronwyn Dawson from Imperial stepped up to the mark and beat her opponent with an osoto-gari (large outer reap) counter in a breath taking decider.

The semi-final ended with a comfortable win for the London squad against Aberystwyth (Wales). This put us into the final against Warwick A whom we had met in BUCS last year.

Bronwyn lost the first match, but Sarah, Edouard and Rahul quickly brought the score up to 3-1 for London. Ben started strong with a nice morote seoi-nage (drop shoulder) but was pinned to the ground by his opponent.

In a show of extreme commitment, he was able to escape from this position and to completely reverse the situation by taking his opponent himself into osae-komi.

While Ben, had managed to escape before the 25 seconds were over, his opponent could not which led us to victory. After the referee had given the signal and the fight was over, the sports hall was in turmoil. London A had made it and brought the trophy home for the first time since 2006.

On Saturday night, a suitable level of partying followed...

We would like to thank our great coach Joe Doherty at ULU who has again lead us to victory. We are extremely proud of our beginners at Imperial and expecting great victories in BUCS in the future. We would also like to thank our current coaches at the Imperial College dojo, Wilhelm Kleiminger, Edouard Desclaux and Marc Beirne for their great support.

		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	10	10	0	0	1338	863	475	5.00
3	ICSM Rugby Men's 1st	14	12	1	1	512	159	353	4.14
4	Volleyball Women's 1st	9	8	0	1	17	4	13	4.00
5	Rugby Men's 1st	14	11	2	1	470	88	382	3.93
6	Lacrosse Women's 1st	8	7	0	1	145	21	124	3.88
7	Squash Men's 3rd	7	6	0	1	15	6	9	3.71
8	ICSM Badminton Men's 1st	9	7	1	1	55	17	38	3.67
9	Netball Women's 2nd	9	7	1	1	308	184	124	3.67
10	ICSM Netball Women's 2nd	10	7	2	1	421	290	131	3.50
11	Table Tennis Men's 1st	11	9	0	2	130	57	73	3.36
12	Badminton Men's 1st	11	8	1	2	54	34	20	3.09
13	Squash Women's 1st	11	6	4	1	30	14	16	3.09
14	Lacrosse Men's 1st	8	5	1	2	73	54	19	2.38
15	Fencing Men's 1st	10	7	0	3	1247	1022	225	2.30
16	Hockey Women's 1st	11	7	1	3	51	14	37	2.27
17	ICSM Hockey Men's 1st	11	7	1	3	39	23	16	2.27
18	Squash Men's 1st	9	6	0	3	27	18	9	2.00
19	Badminton Men's 2nd	11	6	1	4	53	35	18	1.45
20	Football Men's 1st	11	6	1	4	32	26	6	1.45
21	ICSM Netball Women's 1st	10	6	0	4	378	314	64	1.40
22	Tennis Men's 1st	12	5	3	4	70	49	21	1.25
23	Tennis Men's 2nd	9	5	0	4	46	44	2	1.00
24	Squash Men's 4th	9	5	0	4	15	12	3	1.00
25	Hockey Men's 2nd	9	3	3	3	19	19	0	1.00
26	Netball Women's 1st	11	6	0	5	450	393	57	0.91
27	Football Men's 3rd	7	3	1	3	8	18	-10	0.71
28	Basketball Men's 1st	8	4	0	4	500	509	-9	0.50
29	Fencing Women's 2nd	10	5	0	5	1052	1235	-183	0.50
30	ICSM Hockey Women's 2nd	10	3	3	4	11	29	-18	0.50
31	Badminton Women's 1st	10	3	3	4	43	37	6	0.50
32	Hockey Women's 2nd	10	4	1	5	20	29	-9	0.20
33	ICSM Hockey Men's 3rd	8	3	1	4	15	29	-14	0.13
34	ICSM Hockey Women's 1st	9	4	0	5	28	23	5	0.00
35	Squash Men's 2nd	9	4	0	5	18	27	-9	0.00
36	Fencing Men's 3rd	10	4	0	6	1054	1163	-109	-0.40
37	ICSM Football Men's 1st	7	2	1	4	9	14	-5	-0.57
38	Rugby Union Men's 2nd	12	4	0	8	222	167	55	-1.00
39	Football Men's 2nd	12	4	0	8	20	30	-10	-1.00
40	Netball Women's 3rd	9	3	0	6	189	281	-92	-1.00
41	Tennis Women's 1st	11	2	2	7	35	75	-40	-1.27
42	Rugby Men's 3rd	10	2	1	7	103	258	-155	-1.60
43	Rugby Union Men's 4th	9	2	0	7	79	220	-141	-2.00
44	ICSM Netball 3rd	8	1	1	6	193	282	-89	-2.13
45	Hockey Men's 1st	9	1	1	7	17	31	-14	-2.33
46	ICSM Rugby Men's 2nd	12	2	0	10	181	371	-190	-2.50
47	ICSM Hockey Men's 2nd	8	0	2	6	8	34	-26	-2.50
48	ICSM Rugby Men's 3rd	12	1	0	11	122	385	-263	-3.25
49	ICSM Football Men's 2nd	8	0	1	7	6	36	-30	-3.25
50	Football Women's 1st	8	0	1	7	2	52	-50	-3.25
51	ICSM Hockey Women's 3rd	8	0	1	7	7	66	-59	-3.25
52	ICSM Football Men's 2nd	7	0	0	7	5	35	-30	-4.00

Footballers into Cup Final

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the goal. His first goal of the season.

The remainder of the game was played with the pressure on RUMS to press forward to try and snatch an equaliser. The impenetrable back-four dealt with these attempts competently, with Hayes narrowly missing an opportunity to double Imperial's lead, narrowly shaving the upright with a fiercely driven shot.

The fresh legs of Gavin Graham and Mamzi Roshid did well to stretch the left side of RUMS, creating and exploiting the space available to them. RUMS final chance arrived five minutes before the end of the game where

the same strike in the first half was played through, this time bringing a smart save from Botchway who rushed from his line to intercept the shot.

Imperial played 'keep-ball' to the end and emerged one-nil victors at the end of the game. Jubilant scenes followed on the converted farmland of Hertfordshire and the team were, and are, still buzzing from the prospect of playing in the ULU Cup final, two years after their last visit.

LSE 1st XI are the opponents in the match that will determine the best footballing university team in London.

(The final takes place on Sunday 21 March at the private member's club, the Bank of England Sports Centre, Roehampton. Supporters are more than welcome!)

Imperial Squad: M. Botchway, T. Tofis, T. Fryatt, D. Sapin, P. McMullen, D. Hayes, J. Hill, R. Chauvet, M. Smith, C. Paxton, D. Phelan, W. Swain, G. Graham, M. Roshid



Depleted 1st XI edge into Cup Final

Mustapher Botchway Football



ULU Challenge Cup Semi-Final
Imperial College Men's 1st XI 1
RUMS 1st XI 0

Saturday 20 February was meant to be a free day for Imperial's 1st XI. Given the fact that just under half of the starting XI were abroad, captain Mustapher Botchway had informally agreed with the RUMS (UCL Medicals) captain to reschedule the ULU Challenge Cup Semi-Final to the week after (27 February). However, in attempt to capitalise on this, the captain had reneged on this agreement and stipulated that the game was to take place on its original date, to avoid conceding a walkover.

A 2-hour public transport journey to Shenley (Hertfordshire) later, Imperial were eager to wipe the smile off their London neighbour's faces in Imperial's biggest game of the season. The semi-final began in a tense fashion with Imperial testing the RUMS defence with probing long balls. RUMS' tactic of using the wings were nullified by the combative Imperial midfield. RUMS then tried to resort to using the individual talent of their central midfielder to create opening for their strikers.

Playing a 4-4-1-1 formation, Imperial's 2nd XI captain and stand in front man, Damian Phelan lacked the partner he needed to capitalise on his ability to hold the ball up. Romain Chauvet went up-front as the ubiquitous 4-4-2 was restored for the remainder of the half and more chances were created from the menacing work of left midfielder David Hayes and central midfielder Caspar Paxton who brought an excellent save from the RUMS UCL 1st XI keeper on the 35 minute mark.

Five minutes before half time, with Imperial controlling much of the possession, the RUMS striker intercepted a pass in Imperial's third and was

through on goal. The efforts of defenders Patrick McMullen and David Sapin, with the goalkeeper Botchway doing just enough to put him off balance, the striker played a weak shot towards goal, that centre back Tom Fryatt cleared with ease.

Imperial played with possession for the remainder of the half. The team felt that though they had possession they were not playing as well as they could, given the occasion. Incompletion of passes and the lack of pressing in the midfield were areas which needed to be addressed if Imperial were to take significant control of the game.

The second half started at a high tempo, with the strategy of pressing RUMS as soon as they approached Imperial's half being adopted. This produced frequent changes of possession that brought an element of unpredictability to the game.

Fifteen minutes into the second half a RUMS corner was dealt with inefficiently with Botchway getting fingertips to the cross, which slightly deflected its path towards the striker who was unable to beat McMullen who cleared it swiftly.

Theocharis Tofis worked well with Hayes on the left hand side that created more unconverted half-chances for Phelan and Will Swain up front. Central midfielder Jonathan Hill, whose role this season has been to afford no space to the opposition midfield, did so diligently, with well timed tackles and excellent vision to kick-start Imperial's breaks.

With Fifteen minutes to go, some bright interchange between right midfielder Mark Smith and Phelan drew the RUMS defence out of position. The ball was played to Hill, who scored what any footballing fan would describe as a screamer. Picking the ball up, he took one touch and shot from 25 yards out, beating the UCL 1st XI goalkeeper to the top right corner of

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Four year trophy wait for Judo

Edouard Desclaux Judo

Last weekend, three London teams entered the 18th edition of Sheffield USIST, the biggest international student judo tournament held in the UK.

This team event involves 4 guys and 2 girls fighting in weight order.

This year, 4 students from Imperial made it into the London A team:

Bronwyn Dawson (-57kg), Edouard Desclaux (-73kg), Rahul Bose (-81kg) and Ben Browne (-90kg). Sarah Taylor from UCL (+57kg) and Constantine Lerounis from King's College (+90kg) completed the line-up.

The two other London teams, London B and C were also mostly drawn from Imperial freshers who had just started judo last term. Given their lack of experience and the fact that they were up against players who had competed for most of their lives, our rookies did extremely well.

London B faced very tough opposition in their pools with the hosts, Sheffield A and the A team from Southampton. While Sheffield proved to be too experienced, Kwasi and Ualikhan managed to win their fights against Southampton.



London C also faced tough opposition in their first pool fight against Newcastle A. Despite losing all their matches they showed great spirit and fought back well against Nottingham B.

Captained by Joe Skerman-Gray,

Pasha Normahani nicely caught out his opponent with a hip throw. Lucien Copus managed to take his opponent down into ne-waza (groundwork) and won his fight with a hold down.

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