



# felix

The award-winning student newspaper of Imperial College

"Keep The Cat Free"

Issue 1,460

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

07.05.10



## Taking the plunge

Life after Imperial isn't all about investment banking; is starting up your own business a real alternative?

See pages 10 & 11

## No frills President

Although there are no grand plans, Alex Kendall will be a breath of fresh air as Union President next year.

See pages 4 & 5

**KENDALL**

### This week...

Business for Engineers exam halted due to 'clerical error'



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Contemporary art at Somerset House



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Remixing cultures: Hip-hop and samurai



Music, Page 18

No expenses: see the world without a wallet



Travel, Page 22



# DPE nominations open

Rox Middleton

You may have thought you'd finished with elections after yesterday, but actually you have yet another chance to exercise your democratic right and guide the direction of Union life. Yes, after the excitement of the Union sabbatical elections, we have entered another set, the aptly named 'Summer elections'. Nominations have opened for nine official positions which will involve their elected nominee in the running of Union in a gamut of ways for next year.

As well as four positions regularly elected in the Summer elections, chairs of RAG, CAG and the Council as well as Equal Opportunities officer, nominations are open for three students to inaugurate the brand spanking new Ents Committee, which will convene throughout the year to review and improve Union Entertainment.

RAG and CAG chairs are responsible for leading two of the Union's leading charitable societies, Raising and Giving, which organises fundraising events throughout the year, and Community Action Group, which organises charitable events and services in London. The Council chair has an important role in hosting Union committee meetings which formulate council policy. The Equal Opportunities Officer is responsible for promoting equal opportunities within Imperial by working closely with sabbatical officers, particularly Deputy President (Welfare) the incumbent Vicki Masding.

Nominations will also be re-opened for one more Student trustee to stand alongside the three elected last term, and finally Deputy President (Education) a paid, sabbatical position which was left empty by Meera Ganeshadevan's recent resignation. This is the sabbatical officer who will be re-



Another chance to make the Union your home, workplace and life...

sponsible for making sure students' voices are heard by the College about their academic life.

More detail about standing for one of these responsibilities can be found on the Union website, along with information about running a campaign, the stringent publicity regulations and the timetable for the election process. Any member of the Union can stand and to do so they must put themselves forward online and

be seconded by ten or twenty others. Nominations close on 17th May, in ten days time. Hustings will be held on the 20th at 6.30pm in daVinci's and voting will be open to everyone online from 24th to the 27th May. The results will be announced the next day.

To stand, visit [imperialcollegeunion.org/vote](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/vote)

## felix 1,460

Felix, Beit Quad, Prince Consort Road, London SW7 2BB. Tel: 020 7594 8072. Fax: 020 7594 8065. Printed by The Harmsworth Printing Ltd, Northcliffe House, Meadow Road, Derby, DE1 2BH Registered newspaper ISSN 1040-0711. Jigsaw font by typotheque.com.

07:05-10

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# The world beyond College walls



Mexico

**C**leanup efforts progressed in the oil spill which has been releasing 5,000 barrels of oil per day into the Gulf of Mexico.

The safety record of Transocean, the Swiss-based firm contracted by BP to drill has been brought into question: last year, the company's board did not award bonuses to its executives because of safety concerns. As the owner of the oil in question, BP stands to be liable for what is estimated to be a \$10 billion cleanup effort; its market capitalisation has dropped by over \$30 billion in trading. The company has procured one third of the world's available dispersants and has already deployed over 600,000 litres into the Gulf and on Wednesday announced that it closed one of the three leak points, which is a significant milestone but does not affect the rate of oil spillage. Komsomolskaya Pravda, Russia's best-selling daily newspaper, published an article recommending that BP employ a Soviet-era tactic of closing the wells through the detonation of atomic weapons. Significant concern has been raised by environmentalists about the impact of the presence of oil and dispersants on the ecosystem of the gulf.



Greece & Germany

**E**urope is at a crossroads. This is about no more and no less than the future of Europe and about Germany's future in Europe, German Chancellor Angela Merkel pronounced on Wednesday regarding the Greek financial crisis.

Merkel and the architects of the bailout package due to be put in place next week are facing doubts from investors over whether the 110 billion Euro bailout will work. Meanwhile, questions are being raised over the consequences if the Greek government does not meet austerity measures demanded as a condition of the loans. European leaders insist that the loan package will be revoked if the agreed conditions are not met; however, the EU's willingness to enforce such rules is unclear because no Euro member has, to date, incurred penalties as should have happened under the 1996 Stability Pact, an agreement that specifies rules and fines for Euro member government spending. Meanwhile, on Wednesday, the crisis took a human toll on as rioters in Athens set fire to a bank building. Three employees were killed.



Cuba

**C**uba has announced plans to lure more investment into its tourism industry by allowing foreign firms to build attractions there.

The Cuban government generally doesn't allow foreigners to own property, but is willing to provide long term leases to firms willing to build golf courses and other attractions. Cuba currently has one golf course, but the government hopes to build ten more with foreign investment. Previous attempts by the Cuban government to raise funds through real estate sales in the 1990s led to lackluster results. At the same time of announcing the new real estate plan, the Cuban government announced its worst sugar harvest in a century.

By Tom Greany

# Printing error halts business exam

3rd year Chem. Engineers criticise Business School after exam is cancelled after 5 minutes, Matt Colvin reports

**C**hemical engineers have been left fuming this week after a printing blunder in their exam papers led to mass confusion and urgent rescheduling.

On Thursday 29th April, 3rd year students were due to take the 'Business for Engineers' (BfE) multiple choice exam from 10am to 12pm. However, candidates found themselves bewildered when their papers listed a choice of three exam numbers to note down on answer sheets. Invigilators were then almost immediately notified that the majority of the papers were incom-

**"...this event highlights how little attention is paid to BfE by the Business School.**

**Oliver Calderbank**  
3rd yr, Chem Eng

plete with alternate pages having been omitted. Amidst the chaotic scenes, students were told to leave the room and were then informed that the exam had been cancelled, to be taken at a later date.

Those affected later received an apologetic email from Dr. Colin Love, Imperial College Business School's Director of Undergraduate Studies, who blamed "a clerical error in the copying process of examination papers" before stating that the incident was "entirely the fault of the Business School". Alongside this, students were informed that the exam



Imperial College Business School has been accused of not paying enough attention to their engineering students

had been rescheduled for the 27th of May, weeks later than anticipated.

Dr. Love, who described the situation at the time as a "cock-up on a monumental scale" spoke to *felix* regarding the measures taken in the aftermath: "There was no option other than to stop the exam. As some had started with the correct paper, it would be argued that to recommence, say, an hour later would have given an unfair advantage. Also, at the time, it was not possible to confirm a restart time."

The new date and resulting delay has not been well received due to its close proximity with the second set of the department's core module examinations, beginning on the 3rd of June. Many were also dissatisfied with the original

time of 6pm chosen for the rescheduled exam, although this was later changed to 2pm. Some have taken this opportunity to criticise the Business School itself for the handling of the BfE course over this academic year.

Ian Swords, a 3rd year student and also Departmental Representative for ChemEng, labels the debacle as, "a simple error that could have been easily prevented which has now caused massive disruption to the year as a whole." He also believes that this is, "In many ways a fitting end to what has been a poor performance by the Business School all round. We all know they can produce world class MBAs (Master of Business Administration) – why is the same quality not reflected in their BfE

courses?"

Fellow 3rd year student Oliver Calderbank agrees, stating that, "this event highlights how little attention is paid to BfE by the Business School. The course seriously needs to be re-designed and more effort put into it."

Victor Dillard, another 3rd year Chemical Engineer, outlines the overall problems that face those affected by the blunder, arguing that, "A lot of time and effort was put in by students to prepare for this exam as there was a substantial amount of material to study. This exam also marked the send-off of the 3rd year Chemical Engineering exams. The cancellation forces us to reshuffle our revision timetables, a big inconvenience when we have nine other exams

to prepare for, all much more difficult than BfE. It seems rather disrespectful to the students that no care was taken to check that the examination paper was faultless before it was handed out - very disappointing from such a highly-reputed institution."

With this event serving as the culmination of a year-long dissatisfaction with the BfE course, it remains to be seen whether there will be any changes in the way the module is run in the future. Until then, a highly "red faced" and repentant Business School is unlikely to be of any consolation to those who now find themselves with even more unexpected revision on their plates as the examination period begins in earnest.

## International Office seek new Rector's Ambassadors for new programme

**Emily Govan**

This week the International Office are seeking new volunteers to take part in this year's Rector's Ambassadors scheme. For those unfamiliar with the concept, the Rector's Ambassadors bring the Departmental Ambassadors together, representing the College as a whole at Open Days and campus-wide tours.

Stephanie Mambo, a 4th year Chem Eng student and Rector's Ambassador, said; "Being a Rector's Ambassador is an honour. It's an opportunity to gain skills such as leadership, interpersonal communication skills and initiative, whilst showcasing Imperial positively."

Stephanie has attended university fairs in Cyprus and Kenya as an Ambassador, and has also participated in college events such as the Post Graduate Open Day.

"The fair in Cyprus was a once in a life time opportunity. I was able to share my experiences and talk in depth about my course to highly driven

students.

"Being a Rector's Ambassador is fun, exciting and full of energy, and the ambassadors all come from a wide range of courses and years. Everyone is outgoing and the atmosphere is great, plus it's a flexible programme that works really well with everyone's schedule."

Solomon Zacharia, studying Civil Engineering, said "It's been a fantastic experience meeting other people and talking to new students. When I'm taking tours, students are engaging and enjoy every bit of the tour. I've also helped out at careers fairs and met lots of people from other universities. I've made good friends here: we all come from different backgrounds and it's good to talk to other people and see how they do things."

**You can apply for the Rector's Ambassador Scheme at:**  
[www.imperial.ac.uk/international/students/rectorsambassadors](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/international/students/rectorsambassadors)



NEXT YEAR'S UNION PRESIDENT, ALEX KENDALL TALKS TO FELIX ABOUT HIS PLANS FOR THE NEW NIGHTCLUB, FOLLOWING THE MEDICS' LEAD WHEN IT COMES TO HAVING FUN AND WHY IMPERIAL STUDENTS SHOULD BE WHINING... AT HIM. WORDS BY DAN WAN



Alex Kendall in the Fellwanderers equipment store room in the West Basement of Beit

# A NEW FACE FOR IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

**Y**ou can see why people have voted Alex in as next year's Imperial College Union President. Although it's hard for me to put forward first impressions of him as I've known him for about six months now (as part of the *felix* team), it's the exact reason why he's President next year. A combination of mild manners, good looks and an active involvement with most things at Imperial means he's a familiar face; a face that other students obviously couldn't resist voting for.

He's on the other side of the bank holiday weekend that has seen him finish his finals in Biology. He has one last stretch of work in the form of a six-week project before he completes his degree and becomes the Union President.

Though by no means has he had aspirations of authority since he arrived at Imperial four years ago.

"In your first two years you're vaguely aware that there's this thing called the Union and they put on bar nights," he says. After he returned from a year in industry working with the Liberal Democrats, he became Fellwanderers society Chair and subsequently more aware of what a student union does.

"Coming to the end of my final year, I discovered a lot I wasn't aware of before and from that I got an idea of the potential of things that could happen, and also about the rather strange structure of the Union which can be made clearer, not redone. I didn't even know what the RWB board was until this year," he says.

Though some might worryingly flag up a lack of experience in the higher structures of the Union considering his time at Imperial, it may come as a blessing in disguise. Alex Kendall is the average Joe of Imperial College; the average Joe you'd probably want representing you, as Imperial students, to other institutions across the country. He's not the type of student that has,

as he puts it, "lived in the Union and knows everything about the Union".

Choosing to work with such a large political body like the Liberal Democrats as part of his degree may lead people to view his time as Union President as another stepping stone in his political ladder. He's keen to dispel this however.

"I'm genuinely not a career politician and I'm not doing this for my CV. I don't agree. No sabbatical I've met has done it purely for their CV," he protests. When I point out the recent resignation of what would have been next year's Deputy President of Education, Meera Ganeshadevan (who instead took up a three month internship at Credit Suisse), Alex is quick to see both sides of the situation.

"In Meera's case, I think she wasn't wholly committed to being Deputy President of Education, but I don't think you could say she doesn't care about students. After all, she decided to run in the first place and there are easier things than putting your face in front of 14,000 students. I appreciate people who are true to their promises, and standing for election is a promise, but I also don't judge people too harshly," he says.

For himself however, he hints there may have been political aspirations once, but says that his time in politics tuned them flat.

"Strangely enough, the experience [with the Lib Dems] also put me off politics, I am now less interested in going into politics than I was." Beyond his interest in student politics then, what does he actually want to do? After deferring a Masters programme at Imperial to take up his Presidency, he's still leaving his future unroofed. His uncertainty is probably oddly familiar to many students at Imperial as he gives his response to my question about his future career.

"I'm not sure what I want to do with my life. It's either science or business,

He's not the type of student that has, as he puts it, "lived in the Union and knows everything about the Union".



Alex on a trip with the Fellwanderers society; with the Sabbatical team he will be in charge of, excluding Meera Ganeshadevan who has already resigned; and finding Muesli in Beit's club store rooms.

but that's pretty much the vaguest answer you can give." He's right. It's the vagueness that most final year Imperial students will exude when asked.

Both his background in Biology and his environmental policy work with the Liberal Democrats means there may be a green agenda coming for the Union.

"The Union's environmental policy runs out at the end of the year. I'll be working over the summer to renew that, with hopefully some additions. Some presidents have concentrated on the environmental agenda, but not all of them," he states before explaining how he intends to change the system by which clubs and societies travel across the globe on tours to be more environmentally-friendly.

The system is way over my head, but it's evident it's a personal concern, especially since he's Chair of Fellwanderers society this year. It is not uncommon to see Alex throwing hiking gear into the back of a minibus on Prince Consort Road come Friday afternoon, as he prepares for a weekend trip to the wild stretches of the county. If working in politics for a year wasn't the pre-cursor to becoming Union President, it's his active involvement with a society that has produced two Sabbatical officers for next year: himself and Deputy President of Clubs & Societies Heather Jones.

"The Fellwanderers showed me that the Union is about developing students' lives in all the areas that College cannot, be that through Sport, learning a new skill, or learning more about yourself. I think that we lose that perspective sometimes, that it is here and now that matters more than the future. I love that about the Union, which is why I wanted to be a part of it."

As great as it is to see someone who has picked up an interest such as Fellwandering at university and run with it, there are many more who just haven't. The lack of involvement many students have shown has been down to the 'general apathy' that exists at Imperial, and Alex is looking to at least make a start on removing it by avoid-

## "When Metric is finished and does what we hope, it's certainly going to be competitive as a venue to [LSE and King's Union]. I have no problem with advertising it to other universities"

ing being what he calls "that faceless Union".

"Emails from the Union need to be more personal, you are more likely to come to an event organised by people you know or have bothered to come talk to you, or at very least people you're familiar with."

Alex is also looking to take a different angle on his approach with Freshers than with previous years. He wants them to see the Union not so much as the sugar-daddy of entertainment and booze, but as lots of older and wiser siblings to join in the fun with.

"It's important that they know all the things they're enjoying are run by students. It's so easy to come from school to this huge university and to think club or bar nights are being run by 'adults' or professionals. But, if we get them to realise everything around them is organised by people that have only been here a year sometimes, it'll encourage them to get involved. If they really want to be involved, it's not that hard and there is a way into it."

The analogies of families within the Union may sound absurd, but the concept is something that the Medics and their Freshers at Imperial thrive on. This hasn't gone unnoticed by Alex either. He's keen to take elements of the Medics' Union and implement them into the central Union in Beit Quad.

Using the Medics' way of communication of representation throughout their students is the first way he will bring faces to the 'faceless Union'.

"I want to know who my year rep is, I want to know what their names are, what they look like and their email address. At the moment you have to navigate your way through the RCSU website to try and find out who they are in Biology. You need to put this somewhere obvious, like up on a board. It's unashamedly copying from the medics, but it works."

On the flip-side and away from academic representation, he wants to bring the fun-loving reputation Medics have to the South Kensington campus.

"When the Medics do their themed bops on Friday nights, they're unique and they're absolutely packed [at Reynolds's Bar]. We need clubs and societies to put in applications to take over the new venue [Metric] and put on themed nights. That's good at attracting people, and it's not run by faceless Union people again," he says. "I think the Union is lagging behind, when compared to the Reynolds's, because the events it puts on are organised for students rather than by students."

As the conversation approaches the subject that is hot on the lips of the casual punter at the Union's bars, Alex gives a wry smile. He knows what's coming with the mention of the new nightclub and bars, and he's obviously keen to talk about it. After all, the Union's bars are what he freely admits is all that most students see as the Union.

"Most students by the end of their first year will either see it as that or get involved with the Union's other as-

pects. It's a problem." How is he going to solve it, then? "It's letting students get involved with the new club and copying the medic 'bop' system they have at Reynolds."

The renovation of dB's nightclub which will see it renamed Metric will also allow an avenue of entertainment which hasn't been seen at the Union before: good live music.

"It's one of the factors of the design and we're hoping to have a really good touring venue for bands." It's the use of students that Metric will make a success of the space that dB's couldn't. "We need more bands from outside as well as more bands from Imperial playing there."

The new nightclub, which sees a substantial part of £2.4 million pumped into it, also opens up the possibility for the Union to benefit from external visitors.

"We are rebuilding it for us and it needs to be primarily for Imperial students. If it isn't, then it's failing."

When I bandy the idea around of Metric being seen alongside King's College or LSE's open student club nights with a slight sense of ridicule, Alex is keen to shoot the ridicule down.

"When Metric is finished and it looks and does what we hope, it's certainly going to be competitive as a venue to those places. I have no problem with advertising it to other universities in London and having multi-university events at Metric."

The nightlife at Imperial isn't the only thing students have been complaining about in recent times. A quick look at Facebook shows nearly 1000 students have joined the "Fuck Our Imperial Lives (FOIL)" group. It is a group where people collectively despair at their perceived hardships at Imperial. Wisely or not, Alex doesn't read too much into it.

"It's tongue in cheek. In a way, it's all self-induced pain because everyone secretly enjoys the fact they're at such a good university and it's nice to complain 'Oh, haven't I got so much work?' and to tell your friends about it. It's not as funny as 'Overheard at Imperial'."

So do Imperial students whine too much?

"No, I don't think so. There are plenty of good reasons to whine, because things do go properly wrong. There is poorly marked coursework and feedback; there are badly taught lectures; lecturers that don't turn up. Those kinds of issues aren't given as much attention as those problems on the FOIL group."

Despite barely containing his excitement about the new venues, they are not Alex's priority. His priority is something which many see as the more mundane side of the Union: the representation network.

"We want to increase the representation network to help them whine! We want whining aimed at the Union rather than at Facebook." It's almost like he's putting himself up for sacrifice. "The representation network depends on people knowing about it and I don't think people feel confident or able to go up the chain of representation when there is a problem. Enabling that to happen doesn't sound like a grand vision but it was something that got me thinking about running for the position in the first place."

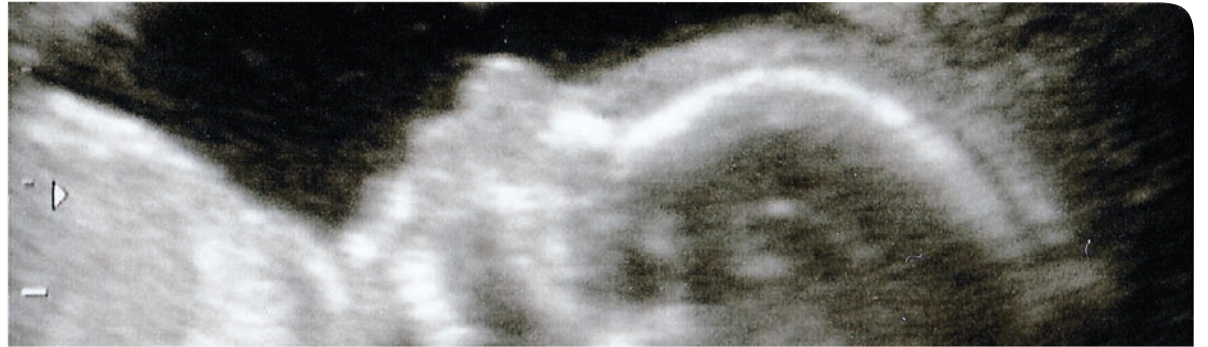
So is Alex a commanding officer or a front-line soldier? Surprisingly, for someone so perfectly legible to be the new face of Imperial College Union, it looks like he's happy to drive the Union tank from the back seats, albeit with his head poking out the top.



# Gilead Amit isn't convinced by UK politics



"Few things have annoyed me more than the blanket assumption that the public can't think for itself."



After years of labour, the agonising gestation period is finally over. We have had risks of abnormalities and complications, moments of crisis and panic, but at last the great Mother Democracy has brought forth a leader, still covered in amniotic fluid and wailing in shock, into the arms of a proud and expectant public.

As of last night you are the lucky owners of a bouncing baby Prime Minister. And yes, it's a boy. Let the bells ring out, the trumpets blare, and the wine pour forth like ash from a dyspeptic volcano. Deck Ed Balls with boughs of holly and have George Osborne dipped in gold and sold as a commemorative figurine.

How relieved you must be that the election worked out as it did. I know I am very happy for you. And I am also incredibly glad that the whole sensational and sensationalist mess is behind us. I think it only fair of me to point out that I don't have an English passport – I

gave it up for Lent. But seeing as I live in your country and nap in the dark corners of your universities, I feel it would be rude of me not to take an interest in the internal rumblings of the British political stomach. It would be like a lodger in a provincial bed and breakfast taking no notice of a fire in the bathroom unless it singed his bowels. Sorry, that should be towels.

But, as I believe you say in this country, my tongue is not yet suited to your mother. My ears flap helplessly in the wind broken by your rapid speech, and I often find myself incapable of understanding your iron railings against authority. Or should that be ironic?

Small wonder, then, that I should have such trouble understanding a word familiar to the meanest intellects the length and breadth and width and height and depth of your remarkably pointy country. If you will pardon me to ask, what is meant (a thousand apologies for disturbing your peace) by this

word 'Change'?

Your well-known Face Book (written, I believe, by William the Conqueror in an attempt to catalogue the facial features of the Anglo-Saxon race), is not particularly helpful. "If David Cameron wants Change so badly," it suggests, "give him 30p and tell him to fuck off." Not only does this seem a disrespectful way to address a man who is/was/will be leader of the country/a politician with a face best remembered as having launched a thousand memes, but it doesn't make a great deal of sense.

Is this the sort of Change that Cameron wanted? The Change that Nick Clegg so passionately campaigned for? The Change that Gordon Brown desperately claimed he could bring? Who knows. All I can say for certain is that I was as fed up with having 'Change' flung in my direction from posters, broadcasts, leaflets and newspapers as I am with having change flung at me by shopkeepers, vending machines, bus

drivers and rich passers-by who tell me not to spend it on drink.

General elections are a fun and exciting break from the monotony of daily politics. They provide clean wholesome fun for all the family, and usually come with a five year money-back guarantee. They are also, paradoxically enough, among the most depressing times to be a member of the general public.

I dislike being taken for an idiot. As discussed at some length above I am not English, so I am averse to presuming as to your own feelings on the subject. But few things have annoyed me more about this national campaign than the blanket assumption rolled across the country and tucked in at Dover that the public can't think for itself.

By the time you read this one of the guys who will cut taxes and implement change in ways eerily similar to and yet utterly different from the other

two guys will have won. Coalitions will be discussed, political careers will end, and the embarrassing business of campaigning will be forgotten.

And now that \_\_\_\_\_ is contentedly playing with a slinky down the staircase of Number 10 (it is left as an exercise to the reader to fill in the gaps in the preceding clause), it does seem a little churlish to dwell on the past few frenetic weeks. The birth of a baby is, after all, the sign that friends and well-wishers can finally release months of pent-up emotion and go to buy it clothes.

And so I should, by rights, be picking out the tiny onesies of expectation and the matching bonnets of hope for our beloved newborn. At the same time, my arms should overflow with the nappies of cynicism, ready to mop up the copious doo-doo that your national baby will doubtless be emitting.

Next time, have a look at birth control.

# Joy Balmer compares the PM with oranges



"I allude not to their waxy skin, their shiny image or their potential for acidic disappointment..."



This morning as I was writing a wry-thing, I glimpsed, nay gaped while glimpsing, and furthermore glanced and goggled and gaped at a glimption, aghast I gasped with gumption, and so forth, a very rare sight.

The sight which so shocked me was none other than an orange, sitting softly, sumptuously and succulently (but if this description is anything to go by, not succinctly) on the side of my desk. Perhaps this may seem an everyday occurrence. (Certainly, to a grocer, the citric orb perched nearby must be a veritable leitmotif (or rather life motif)). But I sensed a certain kinship, the orange and I, regarding each other silently over the

half written page.

For Oranges may not be the only fruit, but proud, as I am, to be amongst the ranks of those not providing evidence of that particular aphorism, I can stand up for the oranges. Conventional he may be in these days of jet-setting ex-patting exoticism, and I must admit, the orange is no pineapple. It's a fruit which says, have fun kids, but keep safe. The frivolity of the moderate bourgeois if you will. I aim to live up to the orange, spitting forth a similar sweet and zesty piquancy and leaving pithy lines between your teeth.

But as I watched the orange, we seemed no longer so close, what I had perceived as our shared function,

turned out to be no more than a tangent, and while I could aspire to become a tan gent, the orange would be tango before my tan went. This bright sphere, cousin of the fabled fruit in the trees below the Beatles' marmalade skies, would dream instead of marmalade 'pi's, just half of which will send even the merest tan of tangerine to infinity and back.

The orange does, however, have something in common with the three candidates for prime minister, who by now have reached the end of their electoral race. I allude not to their waxy skin, their shiny image or their potential for acidic disappointment, but instead to their excellently smooth chins.

For not one of the leaders of Britain's three main political parties sports a beard.

The beard, considered a masculine essential in a great many societies, but reviled in others, has been entirely out of fashion, and certainly out of political fashion for many years now.

This election begs to differ though, politicians more divided over missiles than bristles on which they stand cheek to closely shorn cheek (or maybe chic). All this is the explanation for my advice not to abandon your shaving-ism as you might your chauvinism.

Yet I must admit a certain sadness as the election campaign stops like a speeding ballot, leaving maybe only a

week of political speculation. I will miss the intense commentary, for election time is when everyone has their say, especially in these days of Twitter and reinstated status of status (forget cars and clothes, smileys are the new status symbols). I think it's glorious to know that the comments are being written, tirelessly, again and again, this is what real social commentary is made of! Given my penchant for roomy ruminations and attractive tracts, it's been a nice variety. By next week we will be back to the usual few common-tators, but for now, my heart pounds to the pitter-patter of a tinny beat, the key strokes of stroke keys and the fingers tapping on the thinking man's drumkit.

# Rhys Davies knows the power of words



“And as with anything, with all their uses, words have their misuse.”



Sticks and stones can break my bones but words can never hurt me.

Ah, a popular children's idiom, especially for those who had more words than stones hurled at them in their formative years, but I'm not keen on it. For one, it's completely wrong, and two, far more importantly, it sells words short by a wide margin. Words have power, far more power than we give them credit for.

It all started, as most things did, in the dimly lit caves of prehistory. All men were equal (Women weren't, sadly). As utopic as this sounds, they didn't get very far. Since they had no way of communicating, aside from charades and shadow puppet theatre, complex tasks like organising mammoth-hunts or guard-duty from hungry leopards didn't really get off the ground. Our ancestors didn't know who to turn to, who the brains of their operations were. Re-

member, this was before the invention of glasses. Then an outsider of the group, chastised for his mutation of a slimmer tongue, finer vocal cords, or maybe a novel approach to temporal lobe architecture, stood up, cleared his throat and said, "Excuse me, chaps. I don't mean to be a bother but I think you would have rather more luck with those dastardly *Mammuthus primigenius* if you gave them a good going over with sticks a mite sharper than your current arsenal. Can you see my, ahem, point?"

And thus, Language was born! With the pun following close behind.

Once his comrades realised these new-fangled words could help procure their basic living needs, they began to ponder what else they could be used for. Could they, for example, woo and charm their ladyfolk to relations of a more intimate nature? The answer was yes, and so Poetry was discovered. After this, they found more and more uses for

words and society really kicked off. All thanks to some rather odd-sounding grunts.

And as with anything, with all their uses, words have their misuse. They can be used to insult and demean, to hold people back. From the playground to the workplace, psychological bullying, of which words are the tools, cuts far deeper than a mere pummelling. A comment, thrown away in spite, can worm its way into a person's head and heart. There, it can grow and fester like a cancer, with all the same poisonous potential. You only have to pick up the Metro to read of someone who took their own life over a tirade of taunting. That's not right. Words aren't meant for that.

With arguably less maleficence, words can also be used to exclude. From the impenetrable wall of jargon that renders the scientist dumb and the public deaf to the difficulties of asking for directions in French, instead of going between people,

words get in between people. This can promote social inclusion to those fortunate enough to speak the spiel but at the expense who left their phrase-books at home.

But words can be used to bring people together as well. Countless people through the ages have drawn spiritual comfort from the religions and oral histories of their ancestors and, in more recent times, football anthems. In the political sphere, the best orators and demagogues throughout history have known how to mould and manipulate the populace with a cleverly crafted turn of phrase. And the greatest way of reaching someone is, of course, comedy. This can range from the humeral malapropism (Or rather, humorous) to the Freudian cock-up (I mean slip-up!) to the ubiquitous pun (They're infamous – every time I tell one, people have it for me).

If you're still in doubt of the power

words can hold, simply look to the field of medicine. Oh, go on – it won't bite. It is thought that Shakespeare coined eight thousand new words – that's hardly one chapter of even the briefest of medical dictionaries. Doctors boldly operate with the ethos that brevity is for sissies. And yet most of their vocabulary is within one syllable of each other! But it's the pharmaceutical companies who have taken this to a whole other level. Every new drug they release has a name that is half a dictionary long, utterly unpronounceable and reads like an incantation from the Necronomicon. Ph'nglui mglw'nafh Cthulhu R'lyeh wgah'nagl fhtagn...Abciximab.

But this barely scratches the surface. You could fill a dictionary with morphemes, portmanteaus, syntaxes, homonyms, jokes, rhetoric, one-liners and War and Peace. Except that's not what a dictionary is for. So I'll simply say this: Ciao!

# Angry Geek contemplates the elections



“The government is going to do what the government likes...and you will probably live life oblivious to it.”



Well, now. Aren't I in a bit of a position this week. I'm writing this pre-election, you're reading this post-election; what to do, what to do. Do I rail at you for bringing in Cameron and dooming us to a future of death and dirty looks from China? Do I chuckle at the idealistic thought that a hung parliament might "make them work together"? I'm in a bind here.

Oh but you'd planned ahead for this, hadn't you. You planned ahead by all acting like a riotous band of tossers from start to finish in this election campaign, thus giving me this point to reflect on - no matter who you elect in this week, you've only gone and proved that democracy in this country is one epic game of the blind leading the Arse-

Elbow Differentiation Society.

From the very first television debate, where you watched one man shout slightly louder than two other, uglier men and decided that he was charismatic on that basis, every single one of you has done nothing but drive me round the fucking bend. I've heard so much contradictory bullshit in the last month that by Friday I'm expecting us to have seventeen different Prime Ministers, with the economy simultaneously recovering and dipping back into recession. That's going to be a tough weekend, eh?

Bad news guys! Whoever you just elected, it turns out, has exactly the same debt to clear, has told almost the same number of lies, and cares as much about your personal situation as the two guys you thought were total shit.

The minor points - the tax break here, the immigrant-burning power stations there - they're just fluff to distract you. The government is going to do what the government likes, and just like the other three and a half years prior to January when you couldn't give a tinker's cuss, you will probably live life oblivious to it.

And I don't mind, I don't. But I have to sit through hours of your pseud bullshit, listening about how "the country" either used to be a certain way, is a certain way, or will be a certain way. About how you're emigrating, or staying here all your life, or wah, wah, wah. Just because you've finally got to grips with the big nine-letter words the Economist uses doesn't mean that I want to inhale the second-hand opinion you've been getting off your local

dealer in Tesco's.

I sat revising with Lord Factshtitter II the other day, having every attempt at learning a formula punctuated with some comment about marginals. Nothing gets that man hot like the fiery taste of single-figure percentage swings. Phwoar. Three-way marginal, you say? You dirty, dirty electorate, you.

I'm sat there wondering what this man does when Dimbleby isn't on the news at least twice a day, and all he is doing is tripping facts off about the Labour party. You remember that time last month when that girl turned down an offer of naked hijinx because she found out you think Lost's a bit over-rated? That was Labour's fault, it turns out. That time in primary school where you shat yourself instead of answering

a question in front of the class? Even then was the hand of the Left wing at work.

Of course, every election should make people feel slightly desperate and hopeless about their future. If an election is particularly good, it'll also make you despise the media and all those associated with it. But I didn't think that it could make you hate the voters themselves. If ever there was an argument for despotism, then there are several hundred of them milling around Queen's Tower on weekdays right now.

So I'm left feeling that whoever you elect on Thursday, no amount of political activism will allow me to vote in a new generation of students. Sod emigrating to the States, I'm off to North Korea. It might be a bit drab, but the newspapers probably read better.

Imperial's arts magazine is  
rising from the ashes...

PHOENIX

H. G. WELLS

1904 ANNUAL

Phoenix, Imperial's historic arts magazine, returns in its original form as an annual this year. It was created in 1904 by Imperial alumnus and famous author, H.G. Wells .

Phoenix needs student contributions. If you're feeling the strains of science or just enjoy being creative, **send in your poetry, fiction, photography and artwork to [phoenix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:phoenix@imperial.ac.uk) by Friday 21st May.**

Phoenix 2010 due out June 2010.





# A Volcano erupted a wee while back...

The eruptions of Eyjafjallajökull have taught us to not underestimate nature, and to realise where we stand

**Nathan Ley** Science Editor

It was all a bit sudden when, on April 15th 2010, the world suddenly became interested in a plume of ash that had come from a volcano in southern Iceland. Why was this? Well it was because from that day onwards a large proportion of European airspace was closed off, resulting in the cancellation of flights. Of course, you know all this already. After all, it happened in the middle of the Easter break when you were deep in revision (may still be) and occasionally heard the odd snippet of news about Gordon Brown slagging off a pensioner for not liking how the demographic of her town was deteriorating. OK, so the volcano itself is old news, but what was the timescale and what actually happened? Is it even still going off?

Eyjafjallajökull has erupted frequent-

ly since the last Ice Age. The Icelandic Meteorological Office published data in December which indicated an increase in residual seismic activity around the area during the years 2006–2009, culminating in December 2009 with thousands of small earthquakes detected (of magnitude 1–2

**“Eyjafjallajökull has erupted frequently since the last Ice Age”**

(Mw) This most recent major eruption (April 14th) has not come out of the blue, as many people have suggested.

It still rages, too. Whilst the situation with the airspace - as far as most people care - became much more relaxed in Britain on April 20th, the ash still remains (it has been suggested that we even saved 200,000 tonnes per a day of CO2 emissions as a result of cancelled flights). As recently as the 4th May, a fresh plume was pushed 5.5km into the air. As a result of this massively dynamic situation, local airspace restrictions are being applied and removed constantly.

Now this all sounds reasonable, and should offer a nice amount of context to put the headlines in to.

However, there are problems with modern media and the associated hysteria. As far as I'm concerned, very little fundamental information has been conveyed to the people. Sure, we heard from a lot of people who's flight from Barcelona back to Manchester was cancelled, and they were "ABSOLUTELY OUTRAGED!!!" We even heard from a sober Scotsman who screamed "I HATE ICELAAAAAND" down the camera. Well that's nice for you mate but seriously? Volcanoes are as much a part of life as me or you. They are a product of having a planet based on a molten core.

The eruptions were not, as some people have suggested, 'an act of god'. An act of God means nothing. It was bad enough that the media threw this phrase around, but worse is that this is the same wafer thin defence behind which faceless insurance companies have sat, in an attempt to avoid major payouts to customers.

Professor Brian Cox recently gave his opinion on that matter, in a more rational manner. He said "Next time you get upset because you can't get strawberries or asparagus, remember that without volcanoes there would be no atmosphere on this planet," And he



Spectacular scenes at Eyjafjallajökull light up the night sky

has a point.

The flight restrictions placed upon airspace by the authorities may have been a little draconian, but that's not the key point, and neither is the point that the media has been blinkered (which is to be expected). The point, is that as humans we don't own the world. We may be the most dominant species, but there are forces and laws

at work that are, quite simply, greater than any possible man-made construction. As Professor Cox said, if it weren't for volcanoes, we would have no atmosphere, no gravity, and hence no existence. Maybe we should put things into context and bear these ideas in mind next time we're devastated and realise that our week in Benidorm has been cancelled.

110

The number of millions of cubic metres of tephra ejected during the eruption of the 14th April

# Rotting fish give insights into fossil interpretation

**James Goldsack**

Rotting fish could give scientists an insight into how to interpret some of the oldest and most important fossils. By finding patterns in rotting fish, a greater understanding of fossilised sea creatures can be gained. The study revealed how primitive marine creatures may have changed as they decayed.

The researchers have identified certain particular patterns of deterioration that should help scientists identify very early marine fossils more accurately. Dr Rob Sansom from the University of Leicester, who led the study, said that fossil examination is similar to forensic analysis. "Unlike forensics, however, we are dealing with life from millions of years ago," he said.

"What we want to get at is what an animal was like before it died and, as with forensic analysis, knowing how the decomposition that took place after death altered the body provides important clues to its original anatomy."

This is most important for animals preserved as soft tissue remains, the case for some of the earliest creatures in the fossil record. These are marine creatures that lived up to 500 million years ago. The earliest known chordates had no skeleton but luckily in rare conditions their soft bodies were fossilised and preserved partially intact. The researchers were hoping to

find out how the forms of the animals have changed during decay, between death and fossilisation.

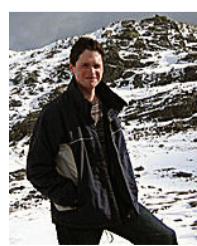
Dr Mark Purnell, a member of the study, explained that this involved "some very unpleasant experiments". He and his colleagues studied some primitive marine vertebrates, including lampreys.

**“We're dealing with life from millions of years ago”**

They also examined some close relatives of vertebrates. The dead creatures were placed in clear containers and they watched how each specimen changed as it rotted. The team discovered that some of the defining characteristics used by biologists to identify fossils were fundamentally altered by decay.

Features including the muscular patterns and shapes changed dramatically during decomposition. Now traced, these changes and patterns can be used by scientists to better interpret some of the most ancient marine fossils.

"We need to understand how they decayed if we're going to put them in the right place in the tree of life," said Dr Purnell. "The work doesn't appeal to everyone, but it's worth the effort."



Lead author Dr Rob Sansom, who caught the wild fish and watched them decay, much to the dismay of visitors to the department

500

The age (in millions of years) of the earliest marine creatures that maintained their skeletons

1

The number of times the study has been cited in new research, since it's publication in January 2010



# Ever thought about taking the plunge?

Kadhim Shubber interviews Likebees founder Yannick Roux about the risks and rewards of starting-up

Looking forward to a career in investment banking? Got an internship for the summer? Looking forward to a career in investment banking? Young entrepreneur Yannick Roux offers a refreshing new perspective for business-minded students who aren't quite ready to sell their souls to the big banks.

On paper, Yannick seems to be shaped in the same mould as every other suit that speeds past you on a Monday morning. He's got a degree in Business Administration from Bocconi University in Milan and a Masters of Science in Accounting & Finance from LSE, and he worked at Macquarie Capital for two years - exactly two years. He emphasises, "I quit on the exact same day that they hired me two years before". But it's quickly apparent that behind the CV hides a person with the courage to quit the rat race to make his own way in the world, "You don't have to follow the masses and do what everyone else is doing, because there is more to life than investment banks."

There probably isn't anyone more qualified than Yannick Roux to offer that advice. At the age of 25, he quit a cushy job at the Australian investment bank Macquarie to start his own business in an uncertain economy. Why

**"...rationally, if you have a choice between starting up a business and buying a lottery ticket, you should always buy the ticket"**

would anyone want to do that, I ask?

"If you think about it rationally, if you have a choice between starting up a business and buying a lottery ticket, you should always buy the ticket. But ever since I was an undergraduate, I've wanted to run my own business. I did a semester at Babson College in Boston, which is number one in Entrepreneurship. Every student at Babson had their own business and when I heard these people talk about their businesses during class I got very excited. Since then I've known that I did not want to work for someone else."

But is it just about being your own boss? Surely you could work hard for this or that promotion, become head of your team, head of a particular division in this or that area, but for Yannick it's not simply about having power, "No, it's about wanting to create something from scratch on your own. You know the feeling? Wanting to be 100% responsible for it. Seeing something going from zero to somewhere is great."

This is probably why he seems so up-

beat as we're talking in the Union Quad. After years of dreaming Yannick finally launched Likebees.com in March with his life-long best friend ("Whether I would strongly recommend it [partnering with his best friend], I'll tell you in some more time.") The company organises heavily discounted deals on otherwise expensive activities like Pilates classes, haircuts at top salons or meals at fine restaurants by utilising the power of mass-purchasing through its online community. If enough people buy into a deal, the deal is activated; otherwise it's cancelled. The idea originated from the popular US-based website Groupon.

"After I left Macquarie I took a few months out to think about what I would do. During my years at the bank

I compiled a long list of business ideas, both online and offline. Given the size of our pockets, it was obvious to use the internet because it's the least capital-intensive place to start. Obviously the risk is that without a super-technical idea with a lot of IP [intellectual property], anyone can copy you. But ideas

**"You don't have to follow the masses... there is more to life than investment banks"**

are commodities, anyone with a brain or an internet connection has got ideas, what makes a business is how you execute your ideas. How do you drive traffic to your website in a smart way? How do you create an engaged community? How do you scale, and how do you monetise that scale? We looked at Groupon and thought "That's a clever business model, you don't need a huge scale and it's easily monetisable. How can we make it better?"

Nowadays people are willing to share everything, they are on Facebook most of their time anyway. At the time we were banking on the fact that we would be the only ones doing this in London and in fact in Europe. So we thought, let's do this now, let's go."

But in this new internet economy,

Yannick stresses, it is the technical specialists, and not the businessmen who have the edge. As he tells it, the guy who knows how to code his own website is miles ahead of any Business Studies graduate.

"What I've lacked is the technical background - how can this work? How long will it take? I could never tell. I had no background in computer science so I always had to ask someone else. If I could do my studies again, I would do something technical so if I had an idea I could spend one night doing a prototype. Right now I have twenty ideas I want to do but I cannot, because I do not know how. If you can build your own ideas, all you have to do is spend a few nights on it. And then you show it to people, get them excited about your product, see what they think. Right now I cannot create something on my own. I have to pay people and so it is not worth it and I do not do it. But if you can do it yourself, then do it. The worst that could happen is that you spend two nights making something that is not valuable. Otherwise, find a technical co-founder who is willing to code in exchange for equity, but it's hard to excite developers with equity, they like cash a lot more."

It's been a long journey for Yannick and looking back, it's obvious that it hasn't been straightforward. Without

**"anyone with an internet connection has got ideas, what makes a business is how you execute your ideas"**

a clear idea of what he wanted to do, he found himself buffeted and pressured by the storms of ambition at LSE, "When I got there I still had no idea what I wanted to do. But everyone I saw had done applications to fifteen banks. So I thought 'Wow, I must be late for something.'"

He ended up following the crowd and headed for the big banks like everyone else, with limited success, "I started applying to banks, for everything - I applied for derivatives, cash equities, trading, IB... I had no clue what I wanted to do. I did some interviews where I got grilled, I didn't have any internships on my CV and of course the banks like you a lot more if you've been there before."

It's difficult to pinpoint where exactly the young, perhaps naïve Yannick Roux transformed into the confident entrepreneur he is today, but I suspect he was forged somewhere in the furnace of his time as an investment banker. "You do not have any time to think about other things in life when you work for an investment bank, you work so hard that your brain is com-



Yannick Roux has always had a passion for taking up exciting, new challenges - a vital trait for budding entrepreneurs

pletely washed out of everything else. So your either burn out or make a decision like mine. That is why they pay so much and make you work so hard, because otherwise you would just leave. Money is a pain-killer. And then obviously after the crash I realised even the financial rewards I expected were not there. That's when my brain went back to what I wanted to be doing. For example I really hated not being able to plan a holiday. Every time I made plans, some big deal would happen that week by coincidence. The first time was okay, the second time well okay, but after a while..."

He trails off but the end of the sentence is obvious and refreshing, "...after

a while, you quit the rat race and follow your dream of starting your own business".

So after years of following the crowds, and heading in the wrong direction, Yannick is finally the person that he wanted to be all those years ago during that life-changing semester at Babson College.

He runs his own company, he's creating something from the ground up and he's happy. "If I'm up working until 3 or 4, it's okay. I decide, I could just go to bed. It's up to me."

But if it all doesn't work out, I ask, does he have a backup plan?

"Yes, I do, but I'm not doing this because I want to get rich; I'm do-

ing it because it is an experience. If it does not work, I will do something else. If I run out of money, I'll find another job and save as much money as possible to start my next business. Although at school they tell you that you need a good, safe job – that is not all there is to life. I do not tell anyone to avoid investment banking, but make sure you enjoy it and take time to think if it is what you really want to do with your life. If everyone is telling you to go to Goldman Sachs, question it."

You can contact Yannick via @yanroux on Twitter

## What is Likebees all about anyway?

Likebees.com is a website that features discounted deals on things to do in London (from restaurants to Pilates classes, from charity events to spas and hair salons). Deals run one at a time and for a limited period of time: if enough people buy before the deal ends, then everyone gets it, otherwise the deal is cancelled and no one is charged. And for each friend that you refer to Likebees, you can make £5 in credit!



### Competition Time

Likebees is offering £50 free credit to two lucky Imperial students. Simply go to <http://imperial.likebees.com> to qualify for the competition

## Yannick's top tips for budding entrepreneurs

### Save money

If by any chance you get into a well-paid investment bank, make sure you do not lose track of the value of money. You all dream about the lifestyle that money can buy you, but really, let me tell you, it's not all about playing the high-roller at a posh club. Save money now so if one day you decide to start your business you will have the funds to do it; if you spend all your salary, all you can do is keep running the rat race! Another good way to save money is using Likebees.com.

### Go for it!

If you have ideas, go for it. If you do not do it now, you will always regret it. When you are thirty, you will think, "Why did I not do that when I was twenty?" When I am thirty-five, I will probably not leave a job to start my own business because by then I will have a family and so on. You either do it now or you forget about it. And find a co-founder, possibly with a different set of skills.

### Network

If you go on meetup.com there are tons of events in London on any given area of business every day. I was able to build a network in two months because I was in London. That is how I found the guy who developed the website. That is how I met some potential investors. You have to network. It is the best way to be aware of what is going in your industry and meet the relevant people.

### Iterate

Nowadays, when you set up a website, you need to iterate constantly with your customers. You make a prototype, which might work, it might not work. Reid Hoffman, a famous investor and entrepreneur in Silicon Valley, once said that if you are not ashamed of your prototype, you have launched too late. If you can find ten people who like what you're doing, they will help you get there. The best way to go is by iteration. Have a product, show it to your friends, get them to try it and love it, get feedback. Then go to investors.

### Play the game

In the internet space, no one knows who the underdog is. You can look a lot bigger and more organised than what you are; appearance plays a lot. Offline is similar: have nice looking slides, flashy business cards, dress smartly. But the other thing is you have to manage expectations. You can't bullshit. You get people to take you seriously by being honest. Particularly with clients. You want them to come back to you.

## OSTEOPATHY



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## Purely psychedelic

Rosie Milton Arts Editor

It certainly feels like this week's Arts is calling upon our more colourful, psychic sensibilities. Whether the theatre is your thing, or if you are more of an art person, this week's articles should brighten up the exam gloom!

This week we have made room for more images as well, to fill the centre of the newspaper with colour – I think you'll agree! So what exactly have we on offer? Caz Knight has been busy in London's theatres: an excellent production of the beloved, swinging Hair is currently showing at the Guild Theatre and elsewhere, at the Peacock, the subject of neuroscience is under the limelight. The excellent Les doigts de la main – a French dance troupe perform a physical, poetic interpretation of vary-

ing mental illnesses. Clearly it is a spectacle, with sensitive undertones.

As for me, I have engaged with one difficult subject: the display of a work of art by recognised criminal Charles Bronson (about whom a feature-length film was out in cinemas only recently) in the public space of the London Underground.

Elsewhere, I had the pleasure of visiting Pick Me Up – a novel contemporary art fair, held this year at Somerset House. Graphic art is quite different from traditional works of art, and delighted me in quite a different way. Hopefully we will be seeing more of this in the future. As for the upcoming weeks, there are a few good shows in the private galleries of Mayfair and of course, the larger galleries also.

## Charles Bronson: criminal and artist apparently

The recent installation of an artwork by criminal Charles Bronson on the London Underground by apparent guerilla group Art Below invites the reconsideration of morals in several areas.

It has become a question of correctness: political and social. How can we justify admiring the work of a violent criminal in our public places? After the current political climate and the excitement of the general election, we are seeing every law and promise of moral justice strapped down and tightened until the country is practically turning blue. This attitude smacks of currying favour. As a cultural aesthete I support the chance to see the inner-workings – some call it soul, Vasari called it 'genius' – of a criminalised thug, by the visual transliteration of his artworks. My curiosity in this respect, is what has allowed me to consider his work. However, in traditional terms of competence, Bronson is somewhat lacking. His drawings would benefit from a more rounded form to appear less flat. The reality is closer to the dozy, fantastical doodlings

of a day-dreaming schoolboy than the next workings of a Hans Bellmer.

The subject matter has raised the most protests: a head with three grinning faces, two with bared teeth and tongues hanging out, the schizophrenic body buckled down into a straight-jacket, clearly labelled 'restraint'. The cartoon-like style is distantly similar to the animation of The Yellow Submarine (1968). The message implies a disturbed mind: whether of the artist himself, or merely of the character he has depicted, the implication is there.

The problem with Art Below's intentions is that they are very obviously capitalizing on Bronson's celebrity status. It is unlikely that any inmate of this country's penitentiary establishment has managed to reach the public to his extent with their work, before or even again, under any other circumstances. Perhaps we will be seeing a series of inmate's works, with Bronson's the first to catch our attention, or possibly a slew of bizarre celebrities' attempts at art. Whatever the case, Art Below have certainly embraced the modern more of star exploitation with this affair. -RM



'Triptophrenia' at Angel tube station

## Psychotic? Just plain Psy with 'Les doigts de la main'

Caz Knight goes to the Peacock Theatre to watch the delicately choreographed interpretation of mental illness on the stage

One in four people will be diagnosed with a mental illness in their life. The human brain each day consumes the equivalent energy of two bananas and contains around 100 billion neurons, each making up to 10,000 synapses. It is not often that a show starts with the audience being given a very short introduction to neuroscience as the spotlight is shined on them, but thus starts Psy at Sadler's Wells' Peacock Theatre – the latest energetic offering from French-Canadian dance troupe 'Les 7 doigts de la main' (the 7 Fingers). It has not been often, either, that the subject of mental illness has been explored, portrayed by and given rise to such an explosion of dance, trapeze swinging, gymnastics, knife throwing, somersaulting and more. The eleven member troupe, many of whom trained at the National Circus School in Montreal, each assume the identity of one mental illness and adjust their performance styles accordingly so that every motion, jump and expression illustrates and brings alive perfectly the nature of their character's condition. The eclectic mix of agoraphobia, mania, addiction, OCD, insomnia and amnesia to name a few is oddly reminiscent of Ken Kesey's One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (a dance version of which is actually coming to the Peacock Theatre in June), without being constrained by the rigid rules of a psychiatric ward. Psy balances the mix of individual and group routines as well as interludes of comical dialogue, with each member of the troupe given the chance to convey their mentally ill persona via their specific talents, as well as

coming together to execute some finely honed routines together. An especially impressive feat of choreography was the juggling 'en masse' involving all eleven dancers. There was also Johnny the constantly horny Addict whirling about in his German wheel; Suzi, with Intermittent Explosive Disorder astounding all with her knife manipulation skills to the sound of slow and deliberate dubstep and a very sad and moving scene where John? Joe? Jim? the Amnesiac (tries to) remember his juggling skills against an urban backdrop, swapping his props for juggling pins and pins for props.

The team chemistry and synchronicity is impressive and evident as they move seamlessly with and around each other – moving as if part of one interconnected organism, their routines flowing and changing like an Escher drawing. The playlist that accompanies the wild routine moves between the sad and classical and the very modern and includes music from the film Amelie by Yann Tiersen, hip hop and the very apt song Frontier Psychiatrist ("...that boy needs therapy...") by the Avalanches which plays as Dexter with Multiple Personality Disorder vaults and catapults off his teeterboard.

However, it seems unfair to single out any of the routines for they were all jaw dropping and all the dancers equally talented, performing their pieces with precision and to perfection: never has the audience ever broken into applause so frequently in any show before, ending by giving the 7 Fingers an extremely well deserved standing ovation.

Psy continues at the Peacock Theatre, Portugal Street, until May 15th. Tickets start at 10 pounds.



One of the acrobatic displays as performed by the Seven Fingers dance troupe for their riveting performance of Psy

# A colourful new fair rolls into London

Rosie Milton goes to Somerset House to see the work of up-and-coming contemporary graphic artists

So the first fair of the year for me, Pick Me Up: Contemporary Graphic Art Fair – held last week at Somerset House – is apparently the first of its kind in this country. Set out along two floors in a wing of the regal Somerset House, the event was welcoming and intimate (as opposed to the overwhelming Frieze).

The décor, by way of primary-coloured arrows and shapes, immediately tells you that the contents will offer simple forms. This is the attraction of graphic art. The experience is something like being in a sweet shop: so much candy on display you want to collect and consume. I found myself assessing the prices of several of the prints, eager to add something to my (small, but growing) collection of art. To get an idea, digital prints by graphic artist James Joyce ranged from £85-£95 for one of five editions.

The prints that caught my eye were one large-scale graphic of a plastic fish soy sauce container (such as you find often with take-away sushi), almost empty of its liquid and another of a large black droplet with the words 'we're doomed' illustrating light catching the curved edge.

Much is pleasing about the graphic style and illustration: crisp, bright colours, simple signs and text are combined, resulting in a composition usually found on consumer product packaging or those achingly cool, glossy urban magazines, whose purpose is rarely clear. Here then, the purpose of Pick Me Up is to bring recognition to graphic art in market terms.

I would have to agree that I would be happy having 85% of what was on display here, than much of the conceptual work found at Frieze. At least prints, drawings and 3D models are tangible, as opposed to an idea.

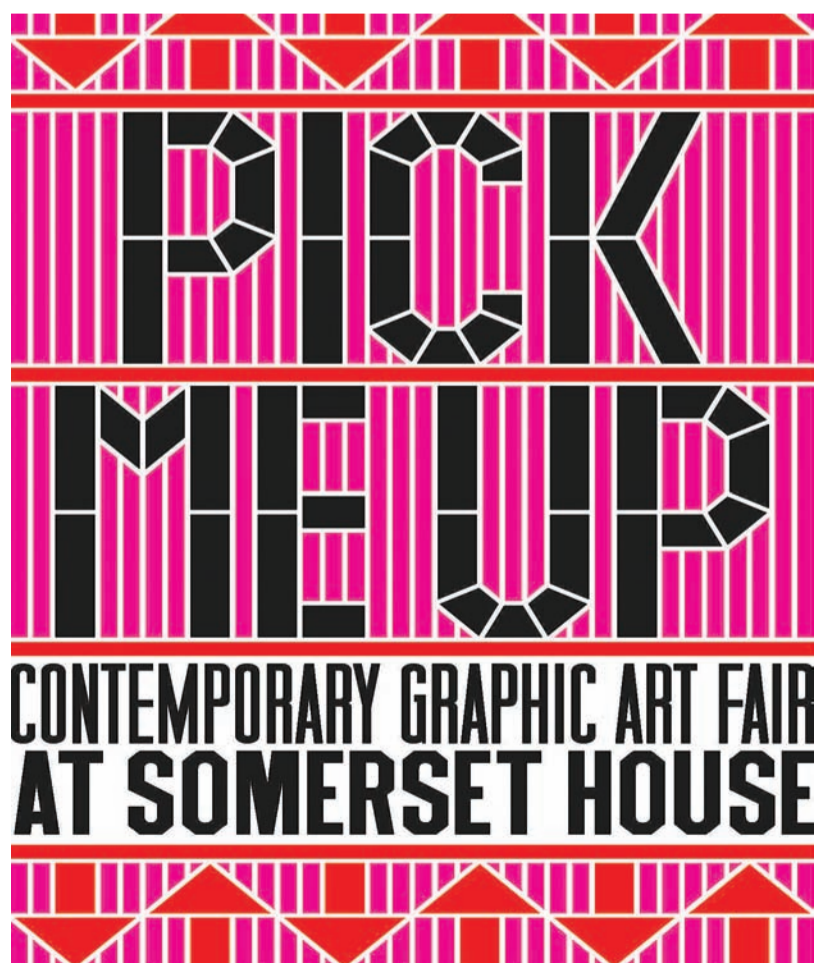
To expand on the media used in the displays, there were not only digital prints, but also screen printing, block printing (actually live by the studio Peepshow, set up in one niche of the room), textile prints, illustration, hand-drawn graphics and 3D models such as painted wooden toys. In a separate room a film was playing and in another niche of the main room was a stall displaying the treasures of an East London printing shop, Nobrow. As I pored over the rich illustrations, I caught a whiff of freshly printed ink and the boy sitting on the stall confirmed to me that these picture books were hot off the press.

Although there was a slight sense of art-school-amateurism about the show – the opening gambit being "20 up-and-coming-artists", the work was good and widely ranging in subject matter, style and media.

Still considering purchasing an artwork when I came to the end of the exhibition, a room lined with an exclusive prints for the show by each of the artists seemed a more appealing and 'cheaper' option for an art-show-tourist like myself. I purchased a cheery orange illustration of an Indian girl with a child on her back for £20, delighted that I could take a piece of the show with me. I will definitely be making a bee-line for this show next year, if it is to continue.



Andrew Rae, 'King of Beasts', 2008-09, courtesy and copyright: Peepshow. Peepshow had a pop-up shop at the show



Anthony Burrill, 'Pick Me Up: Contemporary Graphic Art Fair', 2009



Nobrow, Miscellaneous Nobrow Press publications, courtesy: Nobrow. Nobrow is located at <http://www.nobrow.net>

# Let the sun shine! Hallelujahs with Hair

Caz Knight takes her 21st-century sentiments to a re-adaptation of the hit 1960s musical at the Gielgud Theatre



The cast in all their rapturous, colourful glory on stage at the Gielgud. The show is said to be extremely inviting – with the cast members actually beckoning members of the audience onto the stage!

Forty-three years on and Hair is still “blowing the roof off” our theatres – according to both London producer Cameron Mackintosh and this reviewer. The American tribal love-rock musical was written by young people for young people and marked the beginning of a time where said young people began to actually want to go to the theatre. Daring, absurd, surreal, lewd and crude all at once, Hair is also both fun and deeply political, tracking the lives of a tribe of New York hippies as they rebel against the government, ‘square’ parents and the draft. Free love, free acid and free flowing hair abound but the looming threat and arrival of the draft throw hippy Claude into moral indecision as he deliberates over whether to resist the draft or resist pacifism.

With book and lyrics by Gerome Ragni and James Rado (spotted in the audience looking very well preserved for his seventy eight years) and music by Galt Macdermot, this colourful and groovy show began life in 1967 off-Broadway and has since enjoyed lengthy runs on both sides of the Atlantic as well as countless recordings of the soundtrack, a film adaptation and several awards including a Tony Award and a Drama Desk Award won by the 2009 Broadway cast. The same

cast and director Diana Paulus have now been whisked over to London for the next six months to continue in the West End for the current production at the Gielgud theatre.

The excitement before the show was utterly palpable and continued that way throughout every second of the following two and a half hours, largely due to the electric cast who brought the forty songs, multiple dance routines and plentiful comedy to life. The cast members are evidently completely in love with each other, confirmed by ‘tribe member’ Crystal Jones speaking after the show – and is it any wonder, following month after month of performing love-and-drug-fuelled Be-Ins and salacious choreography. The fun they have together is highly infectious.

Wonderful cast aside, this production of Hair is also magnificent from a purely technical point of view. Stage, costume, lighting and sound designers, not to mention the stellar on-stage band, have come together beautifully to create an on-stage psychedelic haven which creates a powerful atmosphere throughout, especially during Claude’s last acid trip before being sent off to Nam (where a Black, female Abe Lincoln makes an appearance).

In true hippy style, the audience are hugged, touched, given flowers and invited to a Be-In. Those in the front row

also get the special treat of a close up view of loose cannon Berger’s (played by Will Swenson) loincloth-clad package. The show culminates in the interactive Be-In where the audience are tugged from their seats and invited to rave away to Let the Sunshine In as the cast dole out more hugs.

Not only did Hair get more young people going to the theatre but it also paved the way for rock music to be introduced into theatre. Now we have Jesus Christ Superstar, the Rocky Horror Show and We Will Rock You, to name a few.

Director and critic Charles Marowitz wrote of London’s 1968 production of the musical, “it is almost entirely nourished by the current generation’s hatred of what its ‘senior citizens’ have allowed America to become”. Words that echo uncannily what many of today’s youth feel towards the hippy/baby boomer generation regarding global warming. Will such feelings of resentment spawn a modern day equivalent of Hair in protest?

Regardless, this vanguard musical is brimming with great music, super songs and a beautiful cast. To miss it would be criminal.

**The Broadway cast of Hair continues until September. Thereafter an English cast takes over.**



The smouldering protagonist himself: Berger, as played by dude Will Swenson

# Witness the fall of classical antiquity

## Agora

**Director** Alejandro Amenábar  
**Screenwriter** Mateo Gil  
**Cast** Rachel Weisz, Max Minghella, Oscar Isaac

## John Park

The events in *Agora* take place in 391 A.D. as the sun starts to set on the Roman Empire. Christianity is gaining more and more power from the public and the number of believers is growing exponentially every day. This means trouble for the pagans and the atheists. As the Christians are growing in momentum and power, their hatred towards other religions also grows. It

appears the city of Alexandria will not be a safe place unless the place is dominated by a single religion.

All of this sounds incredibly religion-heavy – a major downer. But fear not, for *Agora* is not just about the religious conflicts. Director Amenábar amazingly manages to include astronomy, philosophy, geometry, mathematics and romance in the midst of the city's turmoil. The film's protagonist, Hypatia (Rachel Weisz), is an atheist philosopher and teacher who is forever fascinated by and is trying to figure out how Earth fits into the solar system. She has some rough ideas, but nothing is definite for sure. She has love interests, Orestes (Oscar Isaac), her student and Davus (Max Minghella), her slave, but she is far too busy to address them. She does notice them but her love towards them is strictly platonic: a true

philosopher, she is focused solely on her research and her academia.

The hefty number of Goyas (Spanish equivalent of the Oscars) won by the technical departments of the film goes to show that one of the biggest accomplishments of *Agora* lies in the special effects, cinematography, costume, make-up, and production design crews. They have all been justly awarded and it's easy to marvel at the endless technical achievements. *Agora* immediately turns into a visual treat, with the flawless, epic recreation of Alexandria, recapturing the city in all its glory initially, but later, in its decline. The details are hard to ignore and the grandness of it all is a dazzling view. Crucial events occur in the biggest places, the library of Alexandria, the town square etc, and they are sights to behold. The sacking of the Alexandria library carried out by the Christians who drive out the pagans from the library is handled with perfectly controlled pace. There is enough speed to build up plenty of tension and a strong sense of urgency but it's never rushed past, the camera does linger in certain places to give the audience the maximum amount of detailed, vivid drama, and a chance for the excellent musical score to thrive.

Amenábar is a big fan of using aerial shots and he uses them in all the right moments. And with these shots, he can show the spectacularly rebuilt city of Alexandria in one big sweep, as well as the large crowds of people flowing in and out of the city that closely resemble little bugs swarming the place, which is a truly exhilarating visual experience. The struggles surrounding

the different religions are given the extra dramatic push with the wonderful camerawork and music. Massacres are never easy to watch but they're even more disturbing to watch when they happen repeatedly; Amenábar doesn't go overboard though, so they never get boring.

The action is handled well by much technical flourish, but the rest is up to the actors. Weisz is on fine form as usual as the intelligent, independent woman who craves knowledge more than anything else in the world. She is an atheist, and this does inevitably land her into trouble, but she is not a weak-spirited person. She is headstrong and brave, qualities Weisz portrays beautifully. Minghella, the slave, therefore creating the forbidden love subplot, is also hugely effective. The frustration and confusion his character experiences as he finds himself torn between religion and his eternal love for a woman he never will be able to have for himself are well established by the young actor's exceptional performance.

He doesn't have a lot of dialogue and relies on his body movements to do the acting, a method that pays off immensely due to his talent. Yet another stand-out here is Isaac, playing the character that completes the love triangle. He's a slimy, arrogant student to start with but his character changes: his af-

fection towards Hypatia remains but as he gets older he turns into a man of slightly more insight and intelligence, a change that is convincingly showed throughout by Isaac.

*Agora* is a stirring, epic journey that takes us to unique places and explores fascinating characters who get caught up in extraordinary events. It certainly is a welcome return from the always masterful Amenábar who can bring out

all sorts of heart-wrenching emotions with the help of his talented cast and crew. Ancient history has never looked so good.



## THEY CALL HIM MACHETE



The explosive trailer for *Machete* has just gone up on the internet. A bit ironic when you consider that the film is based on a fake trailer itself. Oh well, feast your eyes on this impressive cast - Dany Trejo, Michelle Rodriguez, Cheech Marin, Jessica Alba, Steven Seagal and Robert de Niro! Robert Rodriguez has promised this film is going to be pure Mexploitation. Watch the trailer now at <http://bit.ly/bfBGon>

## Kicks - two girls, one footballer

### Kicks

**Director** Lindy Heymann  
**Screenwriter** Leigh Campbell  
**Cast** Nichola Burley, Kerrie Hayes, Jaimie Doyle

**Ed Knock** Film Editor

Emerging from Liverpool after the city's stint as European Capital of Culture, *Kicks* is a dark slow drama delving into the world of celebrity obsession. And I mean slow, the snailpace of this film drags out its bare plot to the point of exasperation.

Nichola Burley, last seen viciously seeking revenge in *Donkey Punch*, slips easily into the role of Jasmine, desperate to fulfil her dream of marrying a footballer and getting her 'tits' done. After meeting Nicole (newcomer Kerrie Hayes), the two girls bond over their love for Liverpool United superstar Lee Cassidy (Jamie Doyle). Cue endless shots of the mottled concrete that infests Merseyside as the girls stalk their idol at his home and club.

Lee is deliberately played with all the arrogant unpleasantness you'd

expect of a Premiership footballer who finds himself on the wrong side of the girls' affections, when a transfer to Madrid is approved. At the heart of the film lies the relationship between the girls, whose worship of the celebrity footballer arises due to broken families. The shy Nicole is portrayed rather brilliantly by Hayes, whose delicate innocence is caused by the absence of her parents whereas Jasmine is showered with money and clothes but finds comfort with Nicole that her crass parents can never offer.

Unfortunately the performances are

let down by the story which never really amounts to anything. It is at times painful to watch the plot meander towards the predictable climax which is where the film breaks down, the writers apparently not sure what to do.

The soundtrack is provided by the Scouse electro pop outfit *Ladytron* which makes up for some of the originality lacking in the film. *Kicks* has its faults but it has many strong points too, especially in the rising stars of Nichola Burley and Kerrie Hayes. Essentially it's a flawed fable about the dangers of celebrity culture.



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Facebook: Felix Fan Page

Text: 07832670472

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## The Election: And The Winner Is...

It's going to be Cameron, defo, as much as I hate to admit it. Even if he is a posh git with an unnaturally smooth forehead.

First Year Computing Student

I agree with Nick.

Third Year Biologist

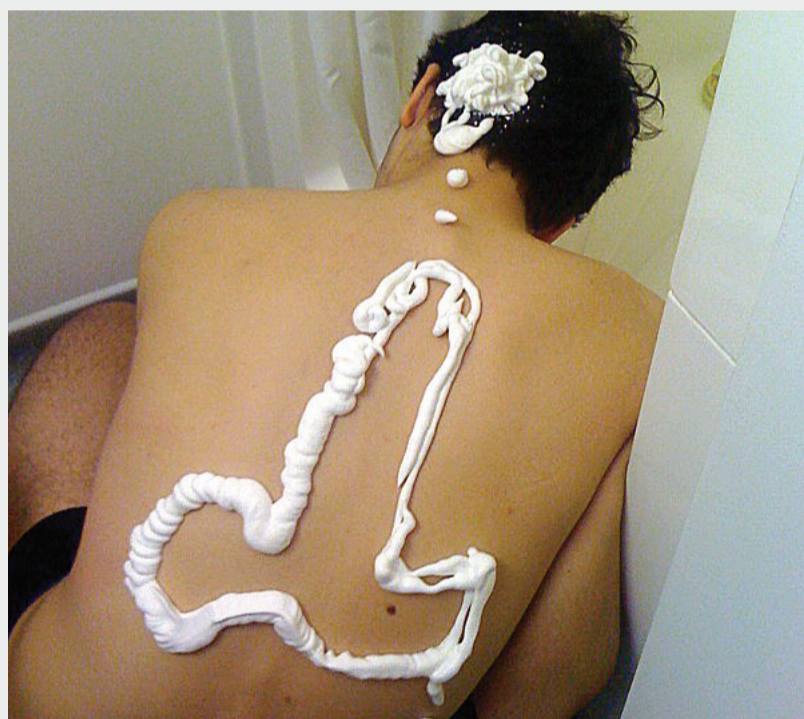
Do you think the reason Cameron keeps bringing up these people he met is because he ran over a prostitute in the Conservative party bus and is desperately trying to establish an alibi?

Second Year Medic

If it's a hung parliament, does that mean that Brown and Clegg have to fuse into Prime Minister Clown? Bregg?!

First Year Engineer

## Drunken-mate photo of the week



Drunk mates make the perfect canvas for shaving foam masterpieces. When this guy woke up, he found himself as a prize exhibit in the Tate Modern.

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

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

## A letter over toilets

It's a funny thing; anonymity. I have not quite pinned down what I want this column to be about, its raison d'être if you will. I don't even know if this constitutes a column or as I write whether this will make *felix*.

Anyway, as the name suggests, I do enjoy a certain American drama and as a result, thought that I might amuse myself with certain musings I had during my exam period. It is also an excuse for not concentrating on regurgitating endless reams of exam-rot. There were certain things that kept me going and it was my idea to share some with you. Things like the bittersweet smell of a toilet that the previous occupant had chosen to disembowel himself on and had the nerve to look you in the eye as he watched you walk into that wall of striking stench. Or how about the savages who mummy never taught to say 'thank you' when someone holds a door open for you...assholes.

So where was I? I hope that I am allowed to continue in my anonymity and evolve this contribution. As many of you fellow closet Gossip Girl enthusiasts will appreciate I think that this paper can do with more contributions from the readers. So next time you see someone on their lonesome reading a Felix engage them on the topic of this offering. Live a little and tell the spellcheck to screw itself (not advised in a coursework submission). If you think of something that really gets your goat then hit me up and I will vent through the veil of anonymity [read Cowardice] with unbridled passion and illiteracy.

From the lower south side,  
Gossip Boyo

## With numbers (and other things), Aunty McPickle likes them the bigger the better!

Dear Aunty McPickle,

I am writing to you in a state of sheer panic. I have recently participated in an EXPERIMENTAL foursome with three mechengers. It was all a bit of drunken fun.

The problems is I am now carrying a womb-curse of a baby. It was dark at the time, I was disorientated but I've narrowed it down to two potential fathers, thanks to one cumming on another boy's leg.

What should I do?

Big Phil

Dear Phil,

I am already acquainted with this story, as are most of your peers. I suggest you dig up the video evidence that is doing the rounds. You should be able to piece it together from that. Hope you sort it out.

Aunty McPickle xxx

Dear Aunty McPickle,

I had a recent epiphany during a group sexual encounter that involved several close friends. Secretions were flying back and forth.

On reaching a gyrating climax, my friend pulled out and exploded on my leg.

My initial horror was short-lived and a wave of joy over came me. I've since been fantasising about his love-juice and can't bring myself to wash it off. Is this normal?

Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

Please see response below. (I think this means you can wash)

Aunty McPickle xxx

Dear Aunty McPickle,

Whilst taking part in a sexual team sport, I came on a teammate's leg. It appeared to be an accident but was actually a passionate sign of my deepest affections. Finally acting out my leg fantasy has made me realise I need him more than ever. What to do?

Barry LAD Chuckle

Dear Barry,

Coincidentally I have been contacted by the concerned party and suggest you pursue a long-term arrangement to



It's Time for some afternoon delight!

satisfy both your needs. Please let us know how your new found relationship develops.

Aunty McPickle xxx





# OUTDOOR CLUB

Want to pose naked for your club or society? [felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:felix@imperial.ac.uk)

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# Hip-hop and oriental philosophy...?

Greg Power explores the unlikely fusion of gangsta rap and samurai warriors

**D**id you know that hip-hop was invented in Feudal Japan? No? Well neither did I until I watched *Tajomaru*, a 2009 Japanese movie about an outlawed Royal who leaves his kingdom to become a badass with an oversized sword. Besides being a decent hack'n'slash 16th Century Japanese epic, there was one scene which completely destroyed the po-faced tone of the movie: when the exiled swordsman meets a group of bandits pillaging a village, they stop and present themselves and their wonderful lives of rape and murder in rap format, complete with breakdancing and all. It's a hilarious moment which seems weird at first but is actually quite fitting in the context.

This got me thinking about how intertwined hip-hop and oriental culture have become over the years. These two seemingly opposing worlds have collided in numerous media formats leading me to the conclusion that there must be some sort of link between the two.

Indeed, since starting out in 1992, the **Wu-Tang Clan** – arguably the greatest hip-hop crew ever – have based their entire mythology and lyrical content on Chinese culture, Tao-

ism and kung-fu movies adapted to their experiences of life on the streets of New York City. They incorporate comic book imagery of kung fu fighting into the hardships of being gangsta, mixing Chinese words with their own slang (for example they refer to their native Staten Island as "Shaolin"). The Clan's spiritual leader and producer **RZA** has written two philosophical books titled "The Wu-Tang Manual" and "The Tao of Wu" which describe in depth the beliefs and founding principles of the group.

This is where the link is: self-proclaimed "gangstas" may rap about murder, prison, misogyny and arson but they all stick to a certain code among their individual circles. Honour thine Homie, rob from the rich and give to the poor, live by the sword and die by the sword and so on. There is a certain morality to their lyrics which can only be related back to things like the Bushido, the Samurai code by which retainers were taught to obey and defend their feudal lord above all else. These warriors were ready to sacrifice their lives in the name of a cause which may seem ridiculous in our day and age, but back then meant everything. It is all about honour, much like rap battles are all about coming out victorious having crushed your enemy on the lyrical bat-

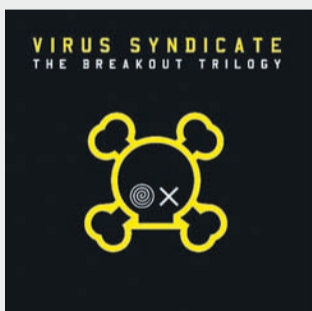
tlefield. In Kobayashi's 1962 classic *Harakiri* the hero defeats an entire band of samurai and proceeds to cut their topknots off, the sign of their samurai status, knowing they will have to kill themselves because of the disgrace of this loss. In the same way one decisive verbal jab about how overweight an opponent's mother is results in his utter humiliation, loss of honour and subsequent stutter of death.

These analogies are best exemplified in Jim Jarmusch's incredible *Ghost Dog: Way of The Samurai*, the story of a ghetto hit man who lives by the codes of the Hagakure, an 18th-century Japanese warrior text. The soundtrack is hip-hop in all its glory (scored by the RZA) and Forest Whitaker is spot-on as the gangster-turned-modern samurai who carries the film to its final massacre. Another tribute to kung fu movies and Japanese anime was Tarantino's *Kill Bill*, again scored by the RZA and featuring some tasty beats over a blood-splattered bride killing everyone in her way. These Western movies both associate tales of revenge carried out by honour-bound warriors with a hip-hop soundtrack.

It would seem that it is also a two-way street then, since hip-hop is now becoming a typical soundtrack for samurai warriors to bop their heads to

as they slice and dice. Shinichiro Watanabe's anime series *Samurai Champloo* which aired in Japan in 2005 frequently inserted elements of hip hop culture in every episode; rap, break dancing, turntablism, hip hop slang, and graffiti are aplenty. The crossover is complete.

The ultimate fusion of both cultures arrived in 2007 when Takashi Okazaki's love of hip-hop music and American media were combined in his avant-garde manga *Afro Samurai*, featuring an African-American samurai who travels the land killing hundreds of enemies in a quest to avenge his father's death. This was later adapted into an award-winning anime series scored by (you guessed it) the RZA and voiced by Samuel L. Jackson. It is now being developed as a Hollywood movie, which just goes to show how the two seemingly opposite worlds have become almost synonymous in some people's minds. And with good reason: they're both hella badass.



## Virus Syndicate The Breakout Trilogy

Virus Syndicate ally the murky beats of dubstep, courtesy of DJ MRK1, with the grime vocals of emcees Goldfinger, JSD and Nika D. But this ain't Kode9 & Spaceape. The tracks here have lost the grittiness of both aforementioned genres by being completely overproduced. They differ from the growing number of generic dubstep "tunes" by the vocals, but these range from menacing (Anything) to comedic (Crazy) to melodramatic and plain laughable (Believe). The only genuine tune is *Talk to Frank*, an ode to the drugs industry with a genius chorus. In the end, though, they're just flogging a stillborn horse with "pop-step" written all over it.

- Greg Power



## Motorpsycho Heavy Metal Fruit

Motorpsycho are an institution in their native Norway, described as "one of music's best kept secrets". This statement does not seem far-fetched upon listening to their fourteenth full-length album (and 50th-something release counting EPs and live albums since the band's inception in 1989) *Heavy Metal Fruit*.

Equal parts prog-rock, psychedelic jams and stoner-metal, Motorpsycho produce songs fusing the raw heaviness and dynamic range of Kyuss with the structural complexity of Tool, throwing in some incredible jazz licks and rock n' roll riffs. Six tracks of glorious sing-a-long vocals and far-out lyrics make for an exhilarating and trippy hour-long space odyssey.

- Greg Power

## The Great Escape

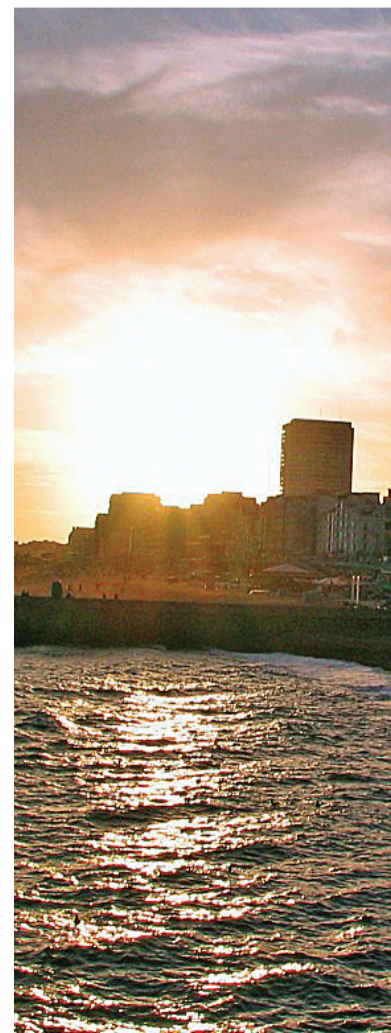
If you're lucky enough not to be revising (and you must be if you're reading this) how about heading down to Brighton for a weekend festival this month? Over 350 bands are playing at various clubs and venues around the town and if it's sunny you might even enjoy the beaches too.

### Who:

Where do I even begin? If you're fond of sand dunes and salty air there's Groove Armada, punk-reggae legends The Slits, indie cool kids like The Big Pink and Wild Beasts. Here's a very shortened list: The Sunshine Underground, Crystal Fighters, Chase & Status, Tinie Tempah, Broken Social Scene, Japandroids, I Blame Coco, These New Puritans, The Walkmen, Cornershop, Slow Club, Tuung, Ellie Goulding, Marina & the Diamonds, Mount Kimbie, Django Django, and so on...

### When & Where:

Brighton  
 13th - 14th May  
 £55 (3 day ticket) or less for single days  
 More Info and Full Lineup  
<http://www.escapegreat.com>



## Hush - 12th May

Hush...! Don't tell everyone but there's a show combining all sorts of fun happenings a mere stone's throw from Imperial at the Royal Albert Hall. Hush combines indie-folk and classical music, beatboxing, stand-up comedy and flamenco dancing. What's not to like? It's a night of folksy bliss and enchantment. It's always good to see bands playing out here in often music-barren South London, so you don't have to trek half way down Oxford Street or all the way to Shoreditch. On top of that, it's only £7.50!

### Who:

Headlining is the indie-folk fantastic **Peggy Sue**, one of Kadhim's favourite artists. Joining them is pop singer-songwriter **Anna Calvi** and the earthy orchestral rock of Canada's **the Rural Alberta Advantage**.

### When & Where:

Elgar Room @ The Royal Albert Hall  
 12th May  
 £7.50  
 More Info  
<http://www.royalalberthall.co.uk>

# French band the Shoes on remixes and casual racism

**How do each of you contribute to each song you make? And how do you tell the other if they have a rubbish idea that you don't want to use? Or do you politely accept it and cry yourselves to sleep?**

We say it very directly. "C'est de la merde". But I think we need to find another technique, because when Ben says that to me I can disappear from the studio for two or three days to be angry on my own like a kid, thinking that I'm a genius and how much I don't need him... But I'm always back, and... hmm... yes it was shit!

**How important are the visual aspects (artwork, videos, or even the way you present yourselves)? Do you see the whole thing as one or are they all vehicles to carry your music?**

I think it's a whole project. I am very bored with Graphic design, and graphic designers (I think 90% of the hipsters think they are graphic designers). We prefer photography, something simple. Not too many colours. That's why we worked with Gavin Watsons (He did the famous picture books called "Skins" and "Rave 89")

**You've done a lot of remixes for other bands, is it simply a case of trans-**



This was a full length picture but we don't have space for it. bet you're wondering what their shoes are like, aren't you?

**forming a song into an alternative version when you do this? Do you put a "The Shoes" twist on it, or perhaps polish it into a version of what you think it should sound like?**

We love doing remixes. It a funny game. We only keep Vocals. Always. Because it's really cool to create a new harmony with the vocal line. With the

same vocals melody you can create so many different atmospheres. Our favourite remixes are the "pop" ones. Not club. We love to do something soft and very pop. Unexpected. For example, check our remix of Telepathe or our remix of Adam Keshner. Sometimes we're a bit bored with dance remixes. We never dance by the way.

**And how do you feel when other people have re-worked your songs, does it take a while to get used to the fact that they have completely messed with it?**

It's always the same. At the first listen, we always hate it! It's always very strange. And we listen to it again and again. And sometimes it's very good, even better than the original. For our next EP we did a song with Esser called "Stay The Same", we've got a lot of great remixes! From Etienne de Crecy, IsolZe, Harvard Bass and Siriusmo. Classy remixers, we are very proud.

**You're taking part in the Oui Love Exchange Tour which will make people more aware of some of the latest French acts. Apart from Daft Punk and Air, what other artists would you recommend in order to rid our ignorance of French music? Why do you think that there is such a lack of French musicians in the mainstream charts in the UK?**

Because you're Racist! Hahaha, seriously, I think (I hope) that it's changing step by step. Before, the famous French artists were only in electronic music, like Daft Punk. But since the success of Phoenix, we've begun to be good at pop music and rock'n'roll.

And there are a lot of good bands right now. If before the French weren't in the UK it was because they were not good enough I guess.

**As an artist, what do you think makes a good gig? How do you try to distinguish yourselves from other bands in the live scene in order to make sure that the audience walk away knowing they have had a unique "The Shoes" experience?**

The Oui Love tour will be the first time we'll play our new live show. Before, we were in a kind of "electronic DJ" performance. A dance music act. Now we want to show what our record is. So we play a lot of crazy keyboard, we sing, there are even soft songs. It's gonna be the "pop" side of The Shoes. The side we prefer at the moment. So we are very excited!

Interview by Lily Le

The Shoes are playing in London at the Mac Beth on the 14th of May, get your shoes on and go see them!

## Imperial College London

# Summer Accommodation

### Book Now!

**We've got rooms available in Wilson House, Paddington and Fisher Hall, South Kensington, which are both ideal for getting around London.**

**reminder**

**If you're staying in London over the Summer or you're just visiting for a few days, keep things simple by staying with us.**

**More information can be found online:**  
[www.imperial.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/accommodation)  
**t: 020 7594 9444**  
**e: accommodation@imperial.ac.uk**

## A first look at your new bar and nightclub

As work continues in what was dB's our architect has been working on the designs for the new bar and Metric. These designs are based on the feedback from our working group as well as from staff and sabbaticals.

We are really excited to show them to you now and get your feedback. These are the first of many detailed designs that we will have over the coming months as building work ramps up on both the nightclub and the bar.

### Metric

Our new nightclub Metric will inherit much of it's look and feel from the features we have uncovered during the demolition process. The club will feature a main section with a warehouse feel. The floor and bar will be polished concrete which is not only hard wearing, but also provides an edgy, modern urbanity feel. The walls and ceiling will have exposed brick work and beams making the most of the space we have available. The main area also features booth seating which faces towards the dancefloor and stage.

The dancefloor in Metric will be wooden to distinguish the area from the rest of the club. The stage will be raised with a permanent DJ booth behind it. The DJ booth will be a centrepiece of Metric complete with an LED acrylic wall which can change colour and design.

Since Metric needs to be an inviting venue on non-club nights too, the bar also faces onto a lounge area which has a lower ceiling and more comfortable seating. This area is intended to be more chilled out offering an ideal area for a drink during the day or a break from the bustle of the dancefloor.

### The Bar/Cafe

The still-to-be-named bar and cafe will have a very bright and fresh feel so that it serves as an ideal destination to go for a drink or meal.

The existing booth seating will be replaced with more space-efficient booths that link the walled seating with the rest of the room. The room will feature exposed brickwork behind the bar and polished wooden flooring.

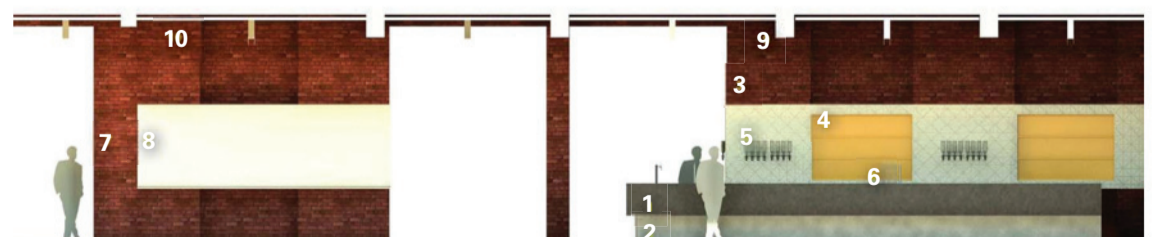
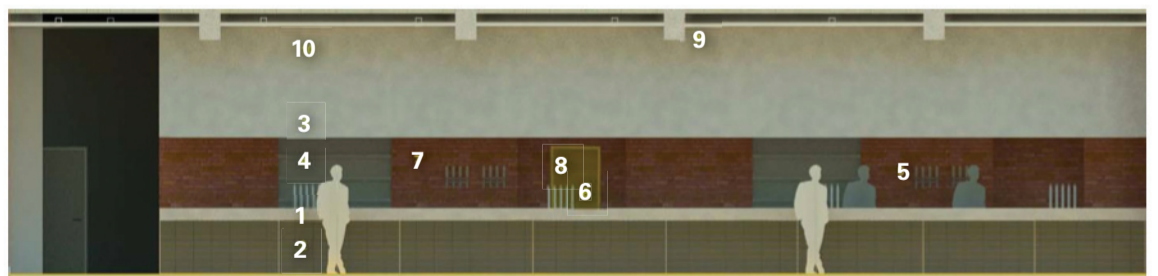
The bar itself will be considerably longer than it currently is in da Vinci's allowing for faster service. Again, the bar will be made of concrete and above the bar will also be concrete. We hope to project onto the concrete above the bar to show sports and television programmes.

Behind the bar will be new offices for the bar team as well as a new large cellar which will service all the bars across the entire venue. There will also be a new kitchen designed for quicker service both at lunchtimes and in the evenings.



For more images and information online, head to the Phase 3 blog: [imperialcollegeunion.org/phase3](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/phase3).

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Grey polished concrete bar   | 5. Spirit optics                                     |
| 2. Black tiles to front of bar with full length steel kick bar Feature 'ribbon' wall behind bar | 6. Beer font/serving stations                        |
| 3. Grey polished concrete panels  | 7. Exposed brickwork                                 |
| 4. Recessed illuminated bar shelving units  | 8. New door to manager's office                      |
|   | 9. Exposed structural beams                          |
|   | 10. Plasterboard soffit with recessed light fittings |
- 
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Black polished concrete bar   | 5. Spirit optics  |
| 2. Grey polished concrete bar underside with power jet cut holes for integrated displacement ventilation | 6. Beer font/serving stations                               |
| 3. Feature 'ribbon' wall behind bar  | 7. Exposed brickwork  |
| 4. Recessed illuminated bar shelving units   | 8. Feature ribbon with integrated ventilation system behind |
|  | 9. Exposed structural beams                                 |
|  | 10. Acoustic board treatment to soffit                      |



# 2010 Summer Elections – Nominations open NOW!

## Nominations are now open for the 2010 Summer Elections.

This year's elections are especially important because we will be electing a Sabbatical Officer to fill the Deputy President (Education) role – which is now vacant following the resignation of last term's winning candidate – as well as numerous Union Officers.

We are also electing people to stand on a new board: the Ents Committee.

This committee will have its first meeting later this term. It will convene termly to give opinion on how the Union's Entertainments are being run, and suggest any improvements.

The Ents Committee will also play a big part in a new initiative we will be implementing next term, currently tentatively known as "Club Nights". Next year, once Metric is open, the Union will host Club Nights fortnightly on Thursdays and Saturdays. Union clubs and societies will have the opportunity to use Metric to host themed parties on these nights, aimed at the entire student body, not just members of their society.

If your society wants to host a Club Night, you will have to submit an idea to the Ents Committee, which will then vote to determine the best proposal. We will be taking submissions for the autumn 2010 Club Nights later this term once the Ents Committee has formed.

For fuller information on Club Nights, head to the Phase 3 blog: [imperialcollegeunion.org/phase3](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/phase3).

If you would like to be on this committee and help shape the Union's Entertainments, or many other facets of the Union, make sure you stand in these 2010 Summer Elections.

The full list of positions available is:

• **Deputy President (Education)** – this is a full-time, paid position requiring the winning candidate to take a year out of their studies.



- 1 x Student Trustee
- 3 x Ents Committee Members
- Equal Opportunities Officer
- Council Chair
- RAG Chair
- CAG Chair

For more information on the elections, including descriptions of each position, campaign rules and a full timetable head online to [imperialcollegeunion.org/elections](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/elections) where you can download a Candidates Pack.

To stand for election head to the voting site: [imperialcollegeunion.org/vote](http://imperialcollegeunion.org/vote).

Nominations close on the 17 May at 23:59  
Voting opens 24 May at 00:01 and closes on the 27 May at 23:59  
Results announced 28 May.

## Colours nominations open now



### What are Colours?

Colours are a type of award that Imperial College Union can give to anybody to recognise the service, contribution and dedication of someone to the Union. There are five types of Colours that are broadly separated into two groups. The first three Colours, which are Half Colours, Full Colours and Outstanding Service Awards, are awarded in recognition of one year's service to the Union. The other two Colours, which are Fellowships and Distinguished Fellowships, are awarded in recognition of many year's service to the Union.

### Who can be nominated for Colours?

Anybody can be nominated for these awards, except the Union Sabbatical Officers and the Felix Editor.

### Who can nominate someone for Colours?

Any Imperial student can complete a nomination form, but it's best not to nominate yourself!

### What happens if you are awarded a Colours

Being awarded a Colours is a great honour and privilege. Those who receive these awards are presented with an award certificate at a ceremony, a tie or pin, and in the case of the higher awards a gift like an engraved tankard or Honorary Life membership of the Union. The Union keeps a record of all the people awarded Colours.

### What do you need to do to be awarded a Colour?

- To be awarded Half Colours you need to have made a "positive contribution to the general life of the Union in an extraordinary fashion."
- To be awarded Full Colours you have to "repeatedly, through outstanding achievements, over the course of the year, have made a significant contribution to the life of the Union."
- For an Outstanding Service Award "you will have displayed continuous outstanding achievement across a broad spectrum of Union activities." Few of these are given out, only five a year at most.
- The Fellowship and Distinguished Fellowship awards are much harder to get as they are based on the contribution the awardee has made over a length of time.
- To receive a Union Fellowship award you need to "have continuously served the Union in an exceptional manner." Very few of these are given out.
- To receive a Distinguished Fellowship you need to have "served the Union in a selfless and dedicated manner which is both exceptional and beyond reproach."

If you don't know which award to nominate someone for then choose the one you feel is appropriate and the Colours Committee will change if necessary.

### How can I nominate someone?

Nominations are open from Tuesday 4th May 2010 to midnight Tuesday 25 May at 12 noon. Nomination forms can be downloaded from the Union website and should be emailed to [colours@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:colours@imperial.ac.uk).

You'll have to give the name of the nominee, the award you are nominating them for and tell us, in less than 200 words, why you think they should get it. Also include your name and CID.

### What happens then?

Your nominations will be considered by the Union's Colours Committee and then the results will be announced towards the end of the term in Felix and successful nominees will be given their awards at a Colours ceremony which will take place on the 11th June in the Union Dining Hall at 6.30pm.





# Experiences don't cost anything

Gap year free of charge? Globetrotting penniless? *felix* seeks ways to take advantage of the tourism industry's little nuggets, and examines how money-saving these freebies truly are in planning your big trip

Nothing is truly free nowadays. *De facto*. Don't succumb to the sweet enticing promises of freebies thinking it's an absolute loss-free advantage, because even during our runs of 'fortune', money still leaks out of our wallets like a prickled barrel. Needless to say, this applies to the travel industry as well: like the online surveys you fill in to win luxury holiday packages, which is preceded by an Internet bill; like the free-boat-ride-for-three that comes with a box of cereal that you purchased. And it isn't just the monetary stuff we're talking about: time, energy, moral obligations, all indication that the free-of-charge ideal simply cannot exist.

Despair not, fellow travellers. I didn't imply that there's nothing out there that will help you save a few bucks when you're out on the road. Combine a little bit of wit and resourcefulness, a dash of corporate promotional giveaways, plus a whack load of genuine charity and hospitality, you might just have yourself a concoction that will help you patch up that barrel of yours.

And so we analyse some ways you can adapt to travel without having to casting a single penny.

## FREE Tours

Many cities have tour companies that offer free tour, usually in an effort to entice customers with charismatic guides, animated presentations and a more casual atmosphere in order to sell other priced services it offers.

**Verdict:** 🍌🍌🍌🍌  
A free tour is free, but then so is wandering down the street. A relatively petty gain. At least if you think the tour guide as the charisma of a rotten carrot you won't feel bad (to yourself) for leaving.



## FREE Transport

### Hike till you drop

You can always consider the option of walking. It certainly isn't the most appealing idea ever, though it does have immense health and spiritual benefits. Britt Das, who runs the charity 'Footprints for Freedom', walked from her native Netherlands to Tibet to raise awareness for world peace.

On the flip side, both physical prowess and mental toughness are tested. Cautionary tales include Matt Boyle's quest to trek from Bristol to India, whose journey fell short of completion when he gave up in Calais due to a 'language barrier'.

**Verdict:** 🍌🍌🍌🍌  
Too much effort, says the Travel Editor, and infinitely unappealing to those who are slothful and unfit, both traits that he possesses.

## FREE Credit Card Bonuses

If the creditor is mortal manifestation of Death himself, then surely the credit card is his scythe. For all the living inferno caused by the credit crunch, and the reckless spending they represent, which we as students strive to avoid like the plague, little wonder credit cards are generally dismissed solely as a means to burn money. Not if you look more closely at some of the benefits that come with a card application, and manage your spending a little more wisely.

### Getting Air Miles

Many frequent flyer programmes have affiliated credit cards that allow you to convert your daily spending into air miles, which can be used to redeem free flights, hotel rooms, etc. Additionally, some offer benefits to charm customers into scrambling for an application form. While some cards require an annual fee, the ones we are concerning ourselves here are completely free-of-charge.

It is, however, important to compare to make sure you've got the best deal. The British Airways Amex Credit Card, for instance, gives away one BA Mile for every £1 spent, as well as 1000 BA Miles when you spend more than £500 within the first three months of the membership. In contrast, the Lloyds TSB Airmiles Duo offers a 1500 mile voucher when you spend £10 in the first two months, along with one mile for every £10 spent. Nevertheless 1500 Lloyds TSB Airmiles is enough for redeeming two flights to a Zone 1 destination – Paris, Amsterdam and Dublin for instance – British Airways' equivalent of which would demand a whopping 18,000 BA Miles.

**Verdict:** 🍌🍌🍌🍌  
Potentially shockingly good deals to be pocketed, though the research phase of the bargain-hunting isn't exactly effortless. And let's not forget the money that has to be spent before you start earning air miles. Oversee with caution or the credit cards may turn out to be a financial burden.

## FREE Accommodation

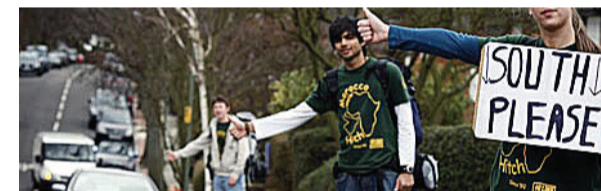
If in desperation, cardboard boxes are always free. Though sleeping rough isn't something *felix* advocates. Well, not saying it isn't fun or eye-opening – well, I'm drifting into a tangent now. There are many online communities that offer to facilitate house swaps, couch lending etc. among travellers.

### CouchSurfing Got Couch?

Oh CouchSurfing ([www.couchsurfing.org](http://www.couchsurfing.org)), that absolutely legendary network that seems to hang on the tip of every traveller's tongue. It is the non-profitable organisation's mission to connect travellers with locals, and judging by how often it dominates as topic of travel-related conversations since founded in 2004, there is little doubt that it's a phenomenal success.

For the benefit of those unfamiliar with CouchSurfing, it is a website where members host a traveller in their homes, and/or themselves being hosted by fellow members, by prior exchange and arrangement online. Bluntly, a free bed given that you would provide likewise, though no such obligation is compulsory.

**Verdict:** 🍌🍌🍌🍌  
Nobody can refuse a free bed. I do, however, avoid CouchSurfing due to the simple fact that I can't host anyone – sometimes moral obligations can be more demanding than coerced cooperation. Some travellers may have trust issues and feel insecure in strangers' homes, which is understandable. Another similar network worth considering is The Hospitality Club ([www.hospitalityclub.org](http://www.hospitalityclub.org)), which came into existence in 2000 and is eponymously hospitality-themed. Being one of the older kids in the neighbourhood it has a more extensive database of members than CouchSurfing and is definitely worth your while.



### Hitchhiking

You know me: I cannot recommend this enough. Far from being a lost art, it's very much alive – not only does it exist as RAG or charity events, many hitchhikers hitch-hike as an ordinary means of getting from A to B. In Germany, for example, I had stumbled across Germans and foreigners (including myself) alike huddled in petrol stations and waving their thumbs in an attempt to get a lift.

**Verdict:** 🍌🍌🍌🍌  
It's a wonderful way to get around. Your exposure to new cultures, languages, customs will commence the moment you hitch your first ride. The unpredictability of hitchhiking will be your supplier of free thrills, and the sheer joy in creating friendships out of complete strangers within fleeting encounters is, in all honesty, overwhelming. Here are the downsides: it's potentially dangerous, it's not for the squeamish, and it certainly isn't for the freakishly pre-prepared.



## FREE Expenses

There are many more ways to travel for free than begging, stealing, and becoming an MP. Here are *felix*Travel's personal favourites:

### Travel Writing

The Dream Job couldn't be spelt in another way: every avid traveller craves to write their way around the world.

Truth is, it's a less profitable profession than you think.

While professional and freelance travel writers are assumed to be travelling at the expense of their newspaper or magazine editors, publications don't like subsidised trips. Not only because they would hate to part with their cash – should the writers be claiming expenses – they see a piece written by someone who has received freebies as compromised and biased. Not saying one's destined to be uncritical, but that it happens.

With the rise of travel blogging, bloggers

very often receive offers to review products free of charge.

**Verdict:** 🍌🍌🍌🍌  
A controversial one. The compulsion is that you write favourably to repaying the generosity of your client. Or you can grow a conscience and see where that takes you. On top of that, one major flaw: your writing career will not take flight when you can't write to save your own life.

### Volunteering

Not the pretentious CV-booster volunteering tourism that costs a grand. Thousands of non-profitable organisations are actively seeking extra hands and will happily provide food and accommodation in exchange for a good day's work. MatadorNetwork has a list of ten volunteer opportunities that come with little or no cost ([matadornetwork.com](http://matadornetwork.com)), which is a good starting point for searching for a reputable organisation to work with.

**Verdict:** 🍌🍌🍌🍌  
This is what volunteerism is all about, instead of slum excursions offered by hotels and unscrupulous, highly profitable enterprises that have more interest in beguiling than helping those in need. Rather than paying for a tailor-made volunteering programme that is no different to a package holiday and offers little freedom, enjoy the spontaneity and confrontation with serendipity a good programme brings. The inconvenience, of course, is finding one.



# The World Cup in HD

There are only 34 days left till kick off. Are you and your TV ready?

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

The World Cup is coming and it's only 34 days away! That's 32 of the best teams from around the world, battling it out over 30 days, through group stages and knockout games, all to get their hands on that elusive golden trophy. That's a lot of quality football, and this year we'll get the chance to see the whole lot in glorious HD.

Meh, I hear you say. Why would I want to see football in HD? What possible benefit is it to football? Well, I could bang on about how HD has up to 5 times the level of detail of SD, and that it's broadcast with a Dolby Digital sound track, but I'm not going to hit you over the head with that old rhetoric.

**"everything that's exciting about football is pin sharp and in exquisite detail"**

What does HD mean for the World Cup? Watching the World Cup in HD is about as close as most of us are going to get to actually being there. The colours are vibrant and rich, the crowd roars as if you were there whilst the players dance their skilful moves now shown in incredible clarity allowing you to see exactly what they're doing. And the goals; every curve of the ball; every swerve in the air; the rebounds, the deflections, everything that's exciting about football, is pin sharp and in exquisite detail.

OK, OK, it sounds awesome. How do I get it? I have an HDTV, I already have it right? Contrary to popular belief, just because you might have an HDTV,



HD-ready or Full HD, it doesn't mean you're watching an HD broadcast. But it's an easy and relatively painless upgrade for most, now that Freeview has gone HD. For those of us in London, the Freeview service that you know and love began broadcasting in HD in December of last year. Unfortunately to receive the HD channels, BBC HD, ITV HD and Channel 4 HD, you'll have to either buy a new TV with Freeview HD built-in or buy a new Freeview HD receiver. Similar to the Freeview boxes that were bought to receive the digital free-to-air service in the beginning, these Freeview HD boxes pick up both SD and HD channels using only your TV aerial. If you're in London you'll have to have your TV aerial pointed at Crystal Palace, which most already will be, so once you plug the box into it and your TV, you're set. A Freeview HD box will cost somewhere in the region of £100 to £180, with Freeview HD PVRs starting at about £250. There is one caveat however, if you live in a block of flats, the internal aerial feed may be filtered causing problems with the HD broadcasts. If you think you might have this problem, buy a Freeview HD box from a retailer that offers refunds if it won't work for you.

Of course Freeview HD, although the most recent service to introduce HD broadcasting, isn't the only way to

get the World Cup in HD. The other free-to-air service FreeSat HD, a partnership between the BBC and ITV, currently offers BBC HD and ITV HD, with other HD channels promised in the next couple of years. As the name implies, FreeSat uses a satellite dish to pull down its signal, which is great if you happen to be living in a place with a Sky dish or other digital satellite dish on the roof. Whether you're thinking of getting rid of your Sky service or want to put up a new satellite dish, FreeSat carries loads of free-to-air channels as well as HD offerings. To take advantage of FreeSat HD, you again need an HD capable FreeSat box, which starts at around £100 or an HDTV with FreeSat HD built-in. FreeSat HD PVRs are also available and they start around the £250 mark.

If you want more channels than the free-to-air services provide, then you might want to look at the various subscription services that are available. If you're in a cable area then you can take advantage of Virgin Media's HD packages with a V HD box costing you a one off fee of £49 or free on the TV XL package. You then pay for one of the Virgin Media TV packages, which range from £11.50 to £29 without a Virgin phone line. Virgin Media also offer a HD PVR box called the V+ HD, which also costs £49 but has a £5 per month extra service fee attached to it.

The venerable Sky also offers HD packages with the UK's largest selection of HD channels. Sky HD is available in a dizzying plethora of options, packages and charges starting with the £28 Sky+HD starter. That includes 2Mb broadband as well, although you'll have to have a BT phone line to take advantage of it. That'll give you the all important BBC HD and ITV HD channels among others.

And finally, if none of that's possible, your budget's a bit tight perhaps, then your best bet is to find yourself a pub with the games in HD, or take beers round to your mates place and camp in front of his massive HDTV.



## Eye-bleeding detail abound

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

**H**D, it's the future and it's here now! Or is 3D the future? Why not 3DHD? 3DHD on your 52" OLED FreeviewHD TV. What a mouthful, and it looks like it's only going to get worse in the near future with all sorts of new acronym-brandishing technologies on their way.

It's not all bad though, because presumably one day HD won't be high-definition any more, once everything is HD. At that point we'll get 4KHD; four times the eye-bleeding detail of regular HD. We already have cameras recording things in 4K and even 8K, but that's a good thing, because once the relentless onward march of technology gets those kinds of displays into our homes, we'll already have the content available to make them shine. The BBC and alike have been recording things with HD cameras for years, which is why you can get the old, yet still digitally recorded programs in HD now.

Blu-Ray has been making ground in recent months, having shown a relatively lacklustre adoption after 'winning' the format war with HD-DVD. Blu-Ray

might be the last of its kind however, if Microsoft and others have their way. Gone will be the physical discs of yesterday, and in will be the newfangled super-highspeed super-mega-turbo-ultra connections and their instant downloads. Problem is Britain's certainly not going to be ready for it if we go along with what government calls 'highspeed internet'. That's 2Mbit 'broadband' if you didn't know. My cellphone gets that kind of bandwidth and honestly, I think it's practically crawling. What will 2Mbit be like in the future, or even 2012 for that matter? The internet with the hand brake on I'm guessing.

But what is government expected to do? Especially in this economic climate? In all honesty, I don't know. I hope companies like Virgin Media and BT, pile the investment in, to get us truly connected in the Gbps realm, at least in major cities. You can't expect a company that has to make money to fork out a boat load to make sure Fred living on his country estate is connected. The digital divide might end up evolving into the high-speed divide in the modern interconnected world.

## Can't get enough tech news?

Then why not check out the UK's weekly tech podcast brought to you by two Imperialites and a Bulgarian.

The Wrap Sheet Podcast

Available on iTunes or at [www.thewrapsheet.co.uk](http://www.thewrapsheet.co.uk)



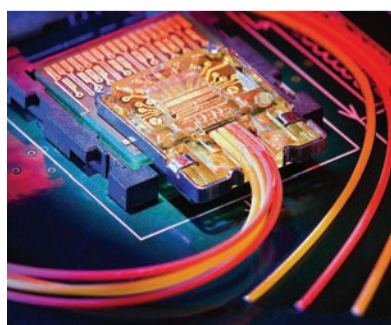
## Weekly Wrap-up: A quick guide to the best of the rest you might have missed

Samuel Gibbs Technology Editor

Another week in tech has flown by whilst the majority of you have been fighting your way through exams. So let's have a quick recap to see what you might have missed in a pretty much Apple free week.

Intel's been busy this week with two separate announcements the first of which we've talked about in *felix* before: Light Peak. If you remember, Light Peak is Intel and Apple's shot at USB3 using the power of light. Yes, as the name suggests, Light Peak pumps data down optical fibres, as well as the more traditional copper variety. This week Intel showed off a laptop kitted out with the optical technology,

retrofitted into a regular USB cable. The demonstration unit pumped two simultaneous HD streams down one cable without even a stutter. According to Intel, the initial 10Gbps bandwidth

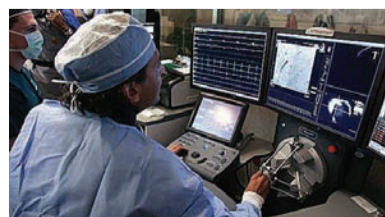


The power of light. Intel's Light Peak

Light Peak will be capable of is only the beginning, with trillions of bits per second theoretically possible over optical fibre. If Intel and Apple get their way, Light Peak could end up replacing almost every type of connection; displays, data, networking, everything.

Intel also announced this week that we could have smartphones with '10 days of standby time', thanks to its Atom Z-series of processors. Previously known as Moorestown, Intel hopes the Atom Z will enable it to get a proper foothold in the smartphone market currently dominated by ARM based chips like Qualcomm's Snapdragon. Ten days worth of standby time is apparently achievable by only switching on those parts of the chip that are required at any one time; a bit like only

switching on the lights in the room you're in. Intel also showed a prototype Atom Z-packing phone running Quake 3 at 100fps, which is way too fast to actually play, but impressive nonetheless. Intel's making some bold claims however, and faces an uphill battle against the extremely efficient and moderately powerful ARM competitors.



Hold still a minute will you?

Dr. Andre Ng became the first cardiologist to use a robot to complete a remote heart operation, at the Glenfield Hospital in Leicester this week. By using a robot, cardiac surgeons can avoid the cumulative effects of exposure to X-rays, which are used to monitor the progress of the operation. 'As long as the connection's reliable, the operation could be performed from anywhere in the world,' Dr. Ng was quoted as saying. Is this the future of surgery, since brain surgery and a kidney transplant have already been performed using robots?

And finally, those 3D specs you got with your 3DTV could work fine with your mates incompatible 3DTV, just by turning them upside down. Apparently incompatibility solved. Format war averted. Absurdity inevitable.

*"Who writes this crap?"*

Dan Wan, Editor-in-Chief

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

Ravi Pall, Comment Editor

*"I think felix gave me  
cancer"*

Alex Dahinten, RAG Chair

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

Sasha Nicoletti, Copy Chief

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

Carlos Karingal, Layout Editor

**Help us out here.**

**We're begging you.**

**Send your articles in to:  
felix@imperial.ac.uk**





**Photograph of the week**

**'Hatt'**

by **Farjana Kazi, 1st Year Mech. Eng.**

This photo is taken in March 2010, amidst a bazaar, or a 'hatt' in rural Bangladesh. Groceries are bought like this all over the country.

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



## COFFEE BREAK

Coffee Break Editor Charlie Murdoch

coffee.felix@imperial.ac.uk



### Fights and crashes

Charlie Murdoch Coffee Break Editor

So, we've a fighter on our hands. If any of you've ever had the pleasure of meeting our 'fewix editorr' Dan Wan, you wouldn't think of him as a fighter. Well, my friends, he is. He managed to get into a brawl last Friday over this paper. Hats off for sticking up for all this hard work that someone was throwing about the place; plus, the guy was massive. Even comparing it to David and Goliath would be a favourable comparison for Wan. On the other hand, the Union 's already a Deputy President (Education) short for next year, and if Dan keeps on trying to start fights that he's always going to lose we're going to be a *felix* Editor short too!

So the next time you come to the office to complain about a spelling error, keep a stiff eye on Dan as he's more likely than not to, upon his own volition, belt you. Enough of him.

My week has been a little different to normal, been in quite high spirits to be honest. However, last Monday morning I was coming in to College on my motorbike for an early morning revision session. Being a bank holiday, sunny and about 8.30am I was gunning it,

Valentino Rossi style. This was to be the main downfall, as Rossi has a bike designed to be ridden fast. Me, not so much. Coming up to my favourite turn I decide to nail it. First mistake. The foot peg dug into the road, lifted up the back wheel and spat me down the road.

Using all my sense, I decided to hang onto the bike to stop it getting too damaged. However all I really succeeded in doing was damaging myself more as I slid down the road, face down, still holding the handlebars. At this point I was pretty sure I looked spectacular. Once the bike (with me still attached) came to a halt, I picked it up, forgetting to pull the clutch in. Second mistake. The bike lurched forward, and I, right in front of my newly founded stunt fan club, once again preceded to fall over with the bike on top of me. At this point I was just embarrassed. It's one thing to practise a fast dismount, because it can be useful in situations where you are being chased by a gang of hoodies, maybe. But falling over like a toddler who's just learning to walk is more embarrassing that watching Dan Wan fight. [Ed - events described are only half-true...]

## FUCWIT League Table

### Teams:

Harry Potter Trio	251 Points
The Tough Brets	148 Points
The Cool Kids and Fergal	40 Points

### Individuals:

Matthew Colvin	214 Points
Sheryl	195 Points
Kelvin Wong	111 Points

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

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

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

## Etymology

Technical term meaning: 'word origin/ history'.

Yesterday the country and I voted for our favourite party. They all want to hold their party at the same venue at the same time so they ask us to vote for them based on how many balloons and the size of the cake they promise. They are almost always lying and it will be another five years before we get the option to attend a different party! So now the stress of it is all over, here is an explanation of an overused term from the election period, the so-called 'underemployment' all the parties

are combating (do not mistake with unemployment, this is worse because a party is at stake, and cake is involved).

**UNDEREMPLOYMENT (adj.)**  
The root of this word is ploy, meaning a maneuver or trick made to gain advantage in a situation. Political parties often use multiple ploys in each election i.e. an m-ploy election strategy. A political party using this strategy is said to be in a state of 'mployment'.

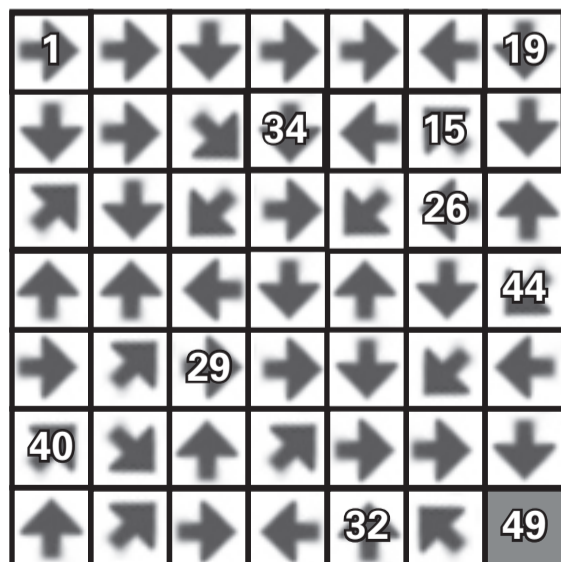
're-employment' is when a previously used employment is repeated and is generally bad as it didn't win the party enough votes the first time and/or the other parties are aware of those strategies that were used in previous elections. For this reason the parties hire individuals to de-employment their campaign strategy. Other parties will in turn attempt to reverse those efforts and this is the 'un-de-re-mployment' problem that every party has to address. It's a bit like tennis.

If you have a word whose origin you're interested in, send your request to us at [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk).

Music Quote  
of the Week

**Led Zeppelin:** "These are the seasons of emotion and like the winds they rise and fall... Upon us all a little rain must fall."

## Arrow Maze 1,460



### How to play:

Fill all the squares with numbers to form a path from 1 to 49, such that the arrow under each number points to the square containing the number one greater (except for 49 obviously, which has no arrow, being the end of the path).

### Hints:

26 is pointed to by three arrows but only one of them is pointing *only* at 26, so *this* square must be 25. The square immediately right of 4 is only pointing to one square so can temporarily be labelled 'A' and the square it's pointing to can be labelled 'A+1'. Now we no longer consider 'A+1' as a destination for other arrows.

### Solution 1459

1	2	19	40	10	3	32
14	18	36	37	39	28	38
26	15	16	41	11	47	27
45	25	5	42	6	24	46
9	8	35	7	21	23	31
4	12	44	34	22	17	33
13	48	20	43	30	29	49

Well done to last week's winner **Matthew Colvin**. Not too many answers to this puzzle, so let us know if you like it by sending answers in. If it doesn't get attention it dies. It's a puzzle eat puzzle world... in here.

As always we can put a guest puzzle in, so if you fancy your name in print drop us an email at

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

[Include a puzzle with your email or we won't bother with the ink.]

Wordoku will be back soon and will reclaim this space if the Arrows make you cry. Or, if you like both, let us know and you get to keep all of them.

## Wordpath 1,460

### ORIGIN:

**PUNCH**

### DESTINATION:

**FIGHT**

### 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. WORDS -> WARDS

**Anagram:** Rearrange the letters.

e.g. WORDS -> SWORD

**Wordslide:** Replace the current word with a new 5 letter word from any 6+ letter word that contains them both.

e.g. WORDS -> CROSS (via CROSSWORDS)

No consecutive steps may be made by the same method.

e.g. WORDS -> WARDS (by LS) -> WARES (by LS) would be **invalid**.

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

### Solution 1459

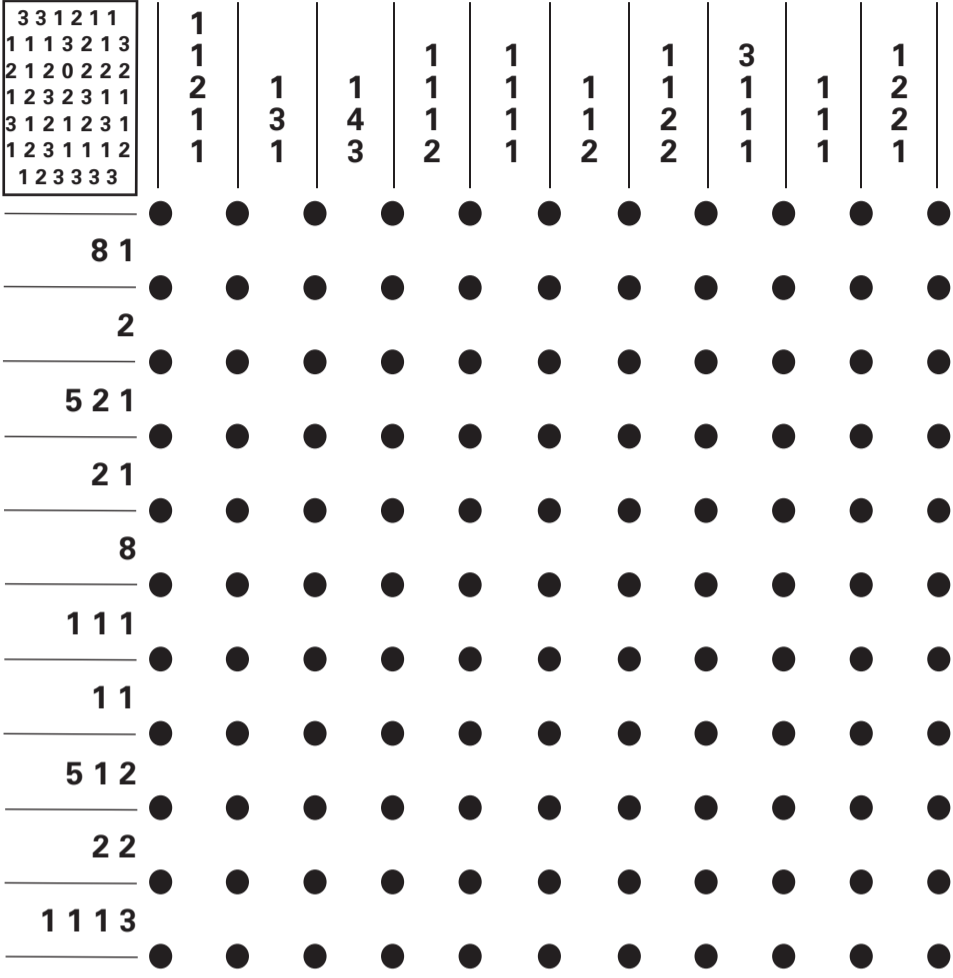
**FELIX**  
FELID (LS)  
FIELD (ANA)  
MOUSE via  
*FIELDMOUSE*  
HOUSE (LS)  
LIGHT via  
*LIGHTHOUSE*  
EIGHT (LS)  
**PAPER** via  
PAPERWEIGHT

Again, last week's winner was **Team Dirty Medics**. Please can we stop those horrible scummy c-nuts beating us. Come on guys do it for yourselves at least.

**Scribble box**

COFFEE BREAK

# Nonolink 1,460



Sheryl submitted the first complete shading bit, but **Matthew Colvin** did the first proper complete solution. So meah. Points all round. You won't catch me being this nice again! Well done on the massive number of entries for this puzzle last week- it has to be exam time.

**How to play:**

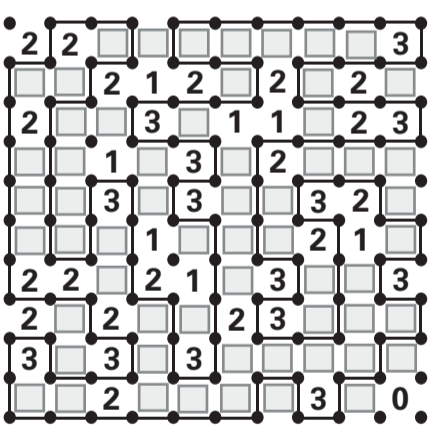
The numbers at the side represent the size and order of blocks in each column and row. There must be at least one space between each block.

Then insert the numbers from the box in the top left corner into the unshaded cells and proceed as for a normal 'Slitherlink':

All numbered cells must be surrounded by the corresponding number of edges. The solution consists of one continuous line. Any cells without a number can have any number of edges.

See last issue's solution (right) for more help. Send your solutions to us at [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk)

**Solution 1459**

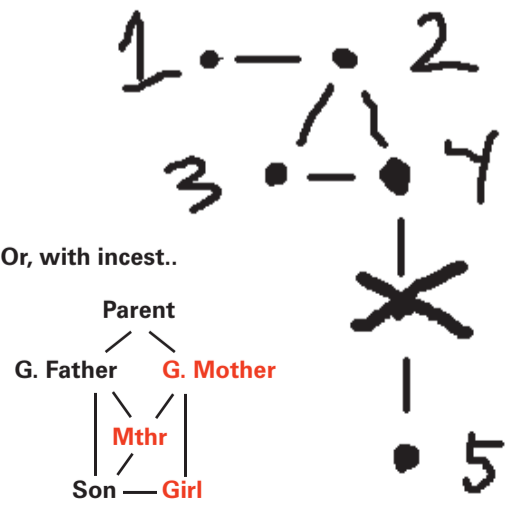


# Riddle 1,460

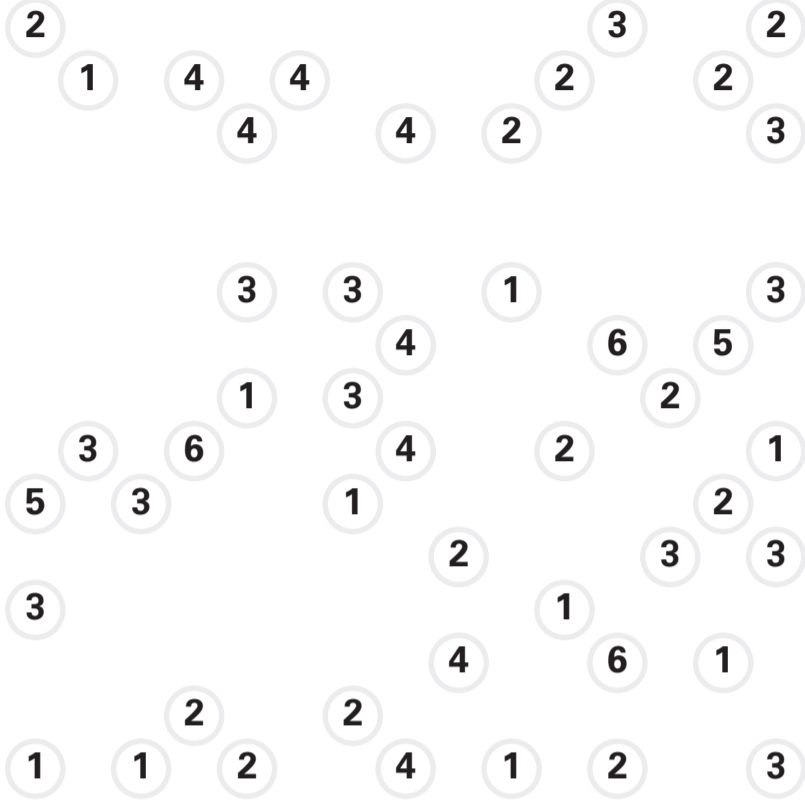
Ok. So the real answer was three women, but incest needed to be allowed for that to happen. I overruled the Puzzles Commodore, and sent him to get his head looked at. So answers of five were accepted.

Below is the answer from **Martin Hague**.

'Look, I am an artist, I drew a pretty family tree! Horizontal lines are sisters, vertical mother - daughters; so 1 is 5's great-great-aunt, 2 is 5's great-grandmother, 4 is 5's grandmother, 5 is 3's grandniece, 1 is 4's aunt, 1 and 2 are sisters, so are 3 and 4, 3 is 2's daughter, and so is 4, and that should be all boxes ticked - with five girls.'



# Bridges 1,460



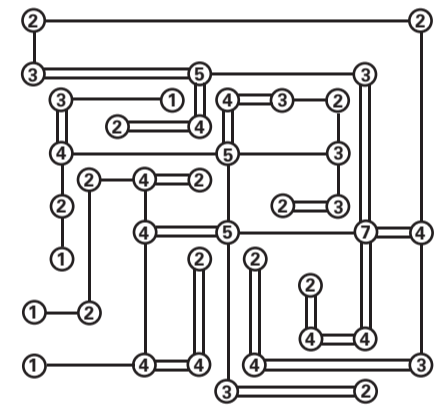
**How to play:**


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

Well done to team GLT another win for this puzzle last week.  
 This puzzle seems to be one you like with lots of entries this week, but please keep them coming, remember those iPods we promised. Well we may start thinking about them soon. Possibly.  
 Anyways, the deal is you keep on sending shit in and we keep on making up more nice new puzzles for you. That's a dealbreaker.

If you would like to design a puzzle and see it printed in *felix* but don't want to do one every week, just send us your ideas to the usual place - [sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:sudoku.felix@imperial.ac.uk) and if we like them we'll print them!

**Solution 1459**





**felix  
Lovestruck**

07726 799 424

"Dan Wan fewix editor. Saw you fighting outside the union last friday. It made me wet to see your chinese muscles ripple in the moonlight and the beads of sweat drip from your forehead. Can you take me home and throw me about like that bloke was doing with you paper? Don't worry I'm not as loose as the pages. I also

like a bit of rough S&M"  
**Orlandina**

"Cud the tranny in the chemistry pc room buy a butt plug ti stretch out ur bum hold for my massive willy? Thanks in advance."  
**Bum Bandit**

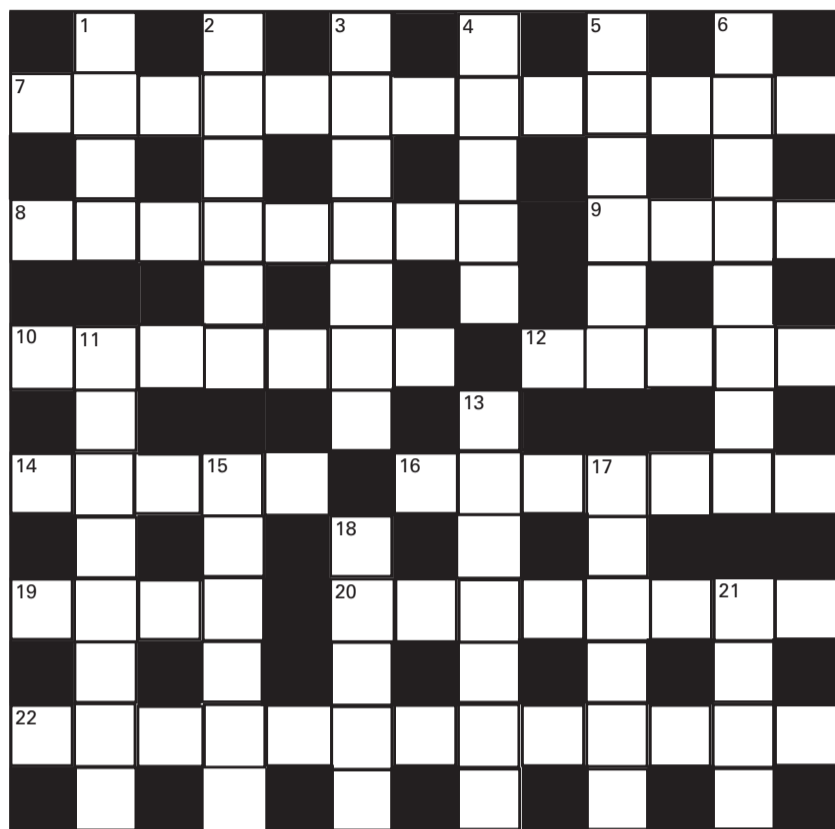
"I hate his feature."  
**Me too**



# Best of this week's lol catz

WHERE THE FUCK AM I?

# A quickie (crossword) 1,460



## ACROSS

- 7 Candlewax on balls/Handcuffing/Whipping/Kick in the nackers etc... (13)  
 8 Meathead (8)  
 9 M-er F-er (4)  
 10 Smelly orifice (7)  
 12 Drug addicts (5)  
 14 English county (5)  
 16 Leonardo, Donatello, Wolverine? (7)  
 19/20 Canonical Brit dish (4,3,5)  
 20 See 20 across  
 22 Possessing both "chopper" and "front-bottom" (13)

- 18 Evil bee-like insect (5)  
 21 Mediterranean bread envelope (4)

## Solution 1459



Well done to last week's winner **Sheryl**. Make sure you get those answers in as soon as you pick the paper up. To be honest they needn't even be correct, it's unlikely that I'd notice. Well, back to revision.

Crossword by **Peter Logg**

## DOWN

- 1 Walking aid - Get arseholed (4)  
 2 Sponge (6)  
 3 One of Jeezas's stories (7)  
 4 "Hiya!" (5)  
 5 Doubting apostle (6)  
 6 Bring on oneself (3,3,2)  
 11 Cleanly (8)  
 13 Homocides (7)  
 15 Dig up (6)  
 17 Greenflies (6)

## Scribble box

# Horo-mopes: Horoscopes but a hella broody too

It's exam season, no one's reading. Who cares anyway? F\*ck this. I've only had seven coffees today. Woe me!



## Aquarius

You meet a horrible old lady who insists that your views on immigration are wrong. She makes you look silly so

you go home and cry to mummy. Whilst unbuttoning your trousers mummy tells you that the bigoted old woman was wrong; you feel much better and put on your robe and wizard hat.



## Pisces

You celebrate your 5th birthday as your song 'Baby' hits #1 on every bloody chart.

Unfortunately the backwards Icelandic people think your corpse will appease Eyjafjallajökull and the rest of the world think you're a fucking git. The cries you let out as they remove your skin sound kind of like the chorus to your hit single but better.



## Aries

You discover the wonder that is Imperial Fitfinder and stumble upon a description of a girl that sounds just like your mum. Un-

bearably aroused, you go to her alleged location on 5th. Some minger is waiting with chloroform; you awake to find she has cut off your right hand and injected you with cat aids. Serves you right for wasting your time on that website, you sad twat.



## Taurus

Because you're an idiot, you skipped your Business for Engineers lectures. To try and score some extra marks on your exam

you seduce your lecturer. Sadly he is actually the ugliest, fattest man ever (may actually be a Vogon) and crushes your lungs whilst thrusting. He finishes up and leaves your corpse in Prince's Gardens for the pigeons to fight over.



## Gemini

Someone's whispering in your ear. You have no idea who it is. It's a female voice and it's been going on all day. You're trying to get on with

your day but the voice isn't letting you. You turn around wrap your shovel around whoever's head is making those noises. Turns out it's your mum and she's asking you what you want for your birthday. You ungrateful son of a bitch.



## Cancer

Election fever dies down, and the exams loom. All excitement in life has gone, and even the elections aren't exciting.

You retreat to the library, and spend the next few weeks subsisting off the library café's produce. Subsisting would imply nourishment however. In fact you nearly die of a surfeit of melted cheese. Or cheese fumes. It's hard to tell.



## Leo

You rock up to the library for your millionth night in a row to find the cafe has run out of Juiced Energy. You harass the

bitch of cashier but she refuses to help; you skin her alive, drain her of all fluids, make your own energy drink and leave her corpse for the other employees on Queen's Lawn as a reminder to fucking stock up on Relentless for fuck's sake!



## Virgo

Your cat has AIDS. It's official. Tinkerbell just didn't know how to break it to you, so he left a note on the kettle.

Tinkerbell's no where to be seen, but the note says that you should definitely get yourself checked out. The scratches around your groin are beginning to tell a different story to the one you initially had in your head. Oh dear.



## Libra

Libra, libra – oh, to be free, and not chained to this library desk, revising. The chain's the least of your problems, however –

you wait till you see what the librarian's going to do with that stamp. You naughty girl – all those overdue books... Oh, three overdue notices. What you gonna do about them with your frumpy yet SEXY mullet.



## Scorpio

You've found yourself asleep in the park. It's dark, wet and you have no idea what time it is. There's some old timers making noises behind

those trees. Maybe the world's ended and they're survivors of the apocalypse too. You groggily head over to see they need and help. Turns out you're on Hampstead Heath and they're having their 'midnight snack'. Well, if in doubt....



## Sagittarius

You hear that it's much easier to remember facts if you make a story out of them, and use this to aid your revision. It works. Unfortunately,

you're a pervert, and murmuring your filth to yourself in the exam, you get a giant erection, which raises your table slightly. Your lecturer gives you a knowing smile, calmly walks over to your table and gives the two-knock-two-minute signal.



## Capricorn

Celebrating after the exams, you act like a complete twat in the Union, unleashing a torrent of abuse on

the bar staff. You then order a Guinness, and feel bad when you see they've drawn a shamrock in it, bless. *How do they do it?* You feel even worse when you see the barman drying his knob off. Pint?

# Hangman

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

## Ahh..Revision...blah blah...shut the f\*ck up

A rant, a door, a panini and definitely no conclusion whatsoever

It's safe to say that people piss me off. You're probably pissing me off right now. I don't know what you've done, but you're probably one of those people who just has a really annoying face. Or you have an annoying laugh. Or an annoying face twitch. Or you say 'lmao' like it's a real word. Or you like that fucking nauseating 'Gap Yahh' video and intermittently quote it hoping to get a cheap laugh. What's this? A sketch that exaggerates an archetypal member of British society, complete with an identifiable vernacular and memorable catchphrase? No-one has ever done this before! Better make it my facebook status. Yeah but, No but, yeah but this is never going to get stale!

Sorry, this is beginning to sound like a rant. I've been slowly turning insane from the surrounding horde of drooling zombies who occasionally gurgle,

'I hate revision' or 'Who you going to vote for?'. I resorted to talking to my bedroom door, just for a change of conversation. No, seriously, I actually talked to my bedroom door. He likes to read trashy horror novels and thinks Family Guy is very meh. He wishes he had more time to see the kids.

The Election is like the Ashes – suddenly everybody knows everything about cricket and won't stop talking about it. You can't go anywhere without people judging your every move. I notice you have tomato in your panini, so I guess you're voting Labour. You don't have to shove your political sandwich in everybody's face you know! ALRIGHT! I'll take the tomato out! Oh I see, so now you don't believe in democracy. Are you a hippie? Are you anti-capitalism? Don't you care about the future of our economy? Alright fine, I'll add some mustard! See, now

I'm voting Lib Dem and this is my Lib Dem panini. And I suppose you paid for it with your 1% levy on my Dad's house. You know what, fuck it I'm moving to North Korea.

On a lighter note, at least I no longer have to listen to celebrities singing for Haiti. In fact, I'm pretty sure that no-one talks about Haiti anymore. It's like it's suddenly become a really unfashionable charity. I heard that Haiti are releasing their own charity single for the poor souls that were exposed to the vile slaughter of REM's 'Everybody Hurts'.

They would have made a lot more money if they just gave us the ultimatum of money or charity single. OK! Please take my money, take my house, for God's sakes just don't make a ten-minute-long cringe-worthy video of Cheryl Cole, Susan Boyle and Rod Stewart crying over news footage.



## TWITTER



[SexyOsama69](#)

So how did the elections go guys? Was gona watch results on da nets, but I realised I'm 2 eps behind on Glee!



[Cameron\\_DA\\_Maneron!!!](#)

Elections? Who gives a shit about the elections? Halo Reach beta is out! I'm gona get sum skunk and jet-pack everywher with my sniper



[Barack\\_attack\\_l33thaxor](#)

FFS! Dey've made it so u can't watch me teabagging ur dead corpse. I spose dat's a good thing for you Gor :p



[SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87](#)

stfu Osie :p just coz I teabagged ur Shelly at Copenhagen. Her face looks gud with my balls on em lol! And Cammy - splits on the skunk?



[Cameron\\_DA\\_Maneron!!!](#)

Nah I'll giv u sum on the house coz u let me use ur face on my billboards lol. Me and Cleggman r goin to Bestival this year. Ne1 else up 4 it?

# Procrastination Olympics

Every point you earn will be sent to Haiti. Not translated to cash form or anything...just points

### 1. ULTIMATE FACEBOOK STALKING

Yeah, we all like to stalk random people we don't know, but what about the person sitting next to us in the library or computer room? Here's the game: Do whatever you can to find out the name of the person sitting next to you. (You can't sit next to your friends) Now open their facebook page and just stare at it, or perhaps laugh at their status. Tilt the screen slightly to ensure you ensure that your stalkee has clear view. You get 1 point if they move away and double points if they file a restraining order.

### 2. DAWN OF THE ASIANS

That's right, you're trapped in a mall full of brain-dead zombies, only this time, the mall is the Library and the zombies are Asians. If you touch or make eye contact with an Asian, you become infected and lose. You'll need a medikit, food supply and a shotgun. Don't forget to use your melee attack. I've lost too many friends to Asians because they forgot their melee attack. You can respawn at the cafe coke machine.



### 3. SAVING PRIVATE RYMAN

This is a great game for you and your friends. The idea is to re-enact the Ohama Beach landing with your stationary. Choose your teams (Generally your worst friends are nominated as the Germans) and then find your Tom Hanks HB pencil. Using pencil cases as the landing boats and computers as German casemates (those turret things) try to get your Tom Hanks HB to your French Nemesis, who will be launching every item of stationary they have at you. For extra realism, bring tomato ketchup for blood and perhaps torch one of the computers if you have time. You'll need to use a mirror on a stick like Tom Hank does. Just do everything Tom Hank does. Don't let your Tom Hanks HB die.



### 4. ULTIMATE REVISION

Wait a second! This doesn't sound like a game that comes under procrastination! That is unless you're revising for a subject that you're not even taking! This game is so insanely badass it practically seems stupid. Ultimate Revision has been cited as the next base jumping and the new rush for thrill-seekers.

### 5. HAPPY 'WTF?' SLAPPING!

Get your mobile phone camera out, run up to someone and then slap *yourself* in the face.

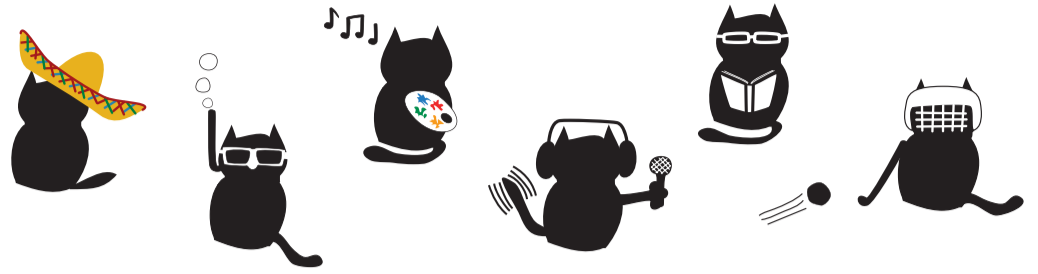
Send videos to hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

# What's on...

## Clubs & Societies Calendar

Editor – Ziggi Szafranski

whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk



### Weds 12th May

#### DramSoc Summer Workshop

- 2 - 4pm in Activity Space 2
- Free to everyone this term
- This is the latest in DramSoc's exciting series of Sumer Workshops. Come along and have a break from revision with two hours of fun followed by biscuits!

### To Do...

- 1) Say hello to everyone...Hello!
- 2) Send in your events!! This page only works if you actually send me things! Email your events to:  
**whatson.felix@imperial.ac.uk**  
(Club name & event, time, place, price, pics...) **by end of Tues 11th May**
- 3) Did I mention to send in your events?!

We know it's exam season, but **SOMEONE MUST BE DOING SOMETHING!**  
**Want more people at your event? ADVERTISE IT HERE!**

### Anything else?....

Umm yes...send in your events? Pretty please?

Thanks, but without events we might have to find some pretty pictures of tumbleweed...or maybe paint drying...

### Sat 15th May

#### ICSM Music Society invite you to "A Night at the Movies"

- Doors open at 7pm for a 7.30 start
- St. Stephen's Church, Gloucester Road
- Students free, all others £6
- ICSM Music Society presents a selection of music from films old and new including Carmina Burana, music from Chicago, Lord of the Rings plus much more.

# Sailing brave the cold February waves to compete at BUSA championship

Chris O'Donnell Sailing

On a cold February morning, the Imperial College Sailing Club ventured into the depths of Oxford for the southern qualifiers to the British University Sailing Association (BUSA) team racing championships. The weather offered a light fog and little wind- giving a bleak view of the Oxford countryside and a bleak view of the weekend ahead. It's a shame this rather romantic image of the countryside was shattered by one of the Imperial team, who managed to soak his kit in milk on the train journey and the stench was beginning to engulf the whole of Oxford.

Imperial's first races did not go to plan, with no wind and poor starts giving easy victories to Portsmouth 2 and Southampton 2. The smell, the two defeats and the lack of wind put the Imperial team in a foul mood ahead of their race against previous BUSA champions University of London 1st (ULU 1).

During this race the wind picked up and while Imperial did not win the race, they put up a good fight and attacked at every opportunity. Fiona Wall and Claire Trant got in a particularly vicious fight, engaging the ULU 1 team captain in a gripping start line battle. With a steady breeze now blowing away the fog to reveal the gentle Oxford countryside, Imperial were now warmed up and ready for their



They don't look very happy, but neither would you if you were stuck on a freezing cold lake with the stale stench of milk

race against their regular training partners ULU 3.

Both teams got off to an equal start and Imperial sailors Chris O'Donnell and Martin Hauge were first to the windward mark, followed loosely by

two ULU 3 sailors. Despite having a boat in first place, Imperial were losing the race...but only just. Chris and Martin stopped at the second mark, waiting to pounce on the two ULU 3 sailors behind them, attacking them and let-

ting Imperial team mates through. Despite ULU 3's best efforts, the trap was executed smoothly, allowing Imperial to win the race.

Fiona and Claire started the next race against Brunel with some unusual

tactics- chatting up the opposition and serenading ducks.

This insane behaviour must have distracted Brunel because it gave Imperial the lead right from the start. Imperial wanted to keep this lead secure by taking out the Brunel boats and leaving them no chance to fight back. Instead, Chris and Martin (who were again in first) sailed off, leaving Gavin MacAulay and Henley Leong alone to fight 2 Brunel boats by themselves.

This cowardly streak from Chris and Martin vanished by the last mark where they acquired right of way and tried to T-bone a Brunel boat, forcing them to get out the way. This gave Imperial a solid victory.

Finally Imperial beat Oxford 3s, securing their place for the next day's sailing, while 5 teams were knocked out. This left Imperial with a night full of pubs, jump starting cars and generally getting lost (yes, that is possible, even in Oxford!) before the next day of sailing.

Fate, however, had other plans for Imperial. In order to get full rankings, the organisers decided that there would not be enough wind to complete enough races, so two teams had to be eliminated. This meant Imperial, who only won the races necessary in order to qualify for the second day, along with Reading, were eliminated without the chance to fight for a better place.

Imperial finished the weekend by coming joint 11th out of 17 teams.

## Other stories from the sporting week whilst nothing's happening at Imperial

David Wilson Sports Editor

There has been very little in the way of sporting activity at Imperial College during the first few weeks of the summer term presumably due to the exam slog associated with the summer term. As a result felixSport have resorted to including adverts for osteopathy treatment and trawling for snippets of global sports news to fill up our pages. So, if there are any of you taking part in summer sports activities with the college, send in your reports so that you can immortalized in the pages of felix.

Joe Cole, Frank Lampard and John Terry were among a host of top names who turned out at Upton Park for the academy director, Tony Carr's, testimonial. Although the Chelsea players were unable to play in the match due to the Premier League run in, all three sheepishly donned West Ham United kits which was a sight in itself. The West Ham fans managed to refrain from the 'Fat' Frank jibes and were almost clambering over each other to get autographs off the Chelsea players. Fickle game, football.

Meanwhile, over in America, Rory McIlroy won his first PGA tour title at the Quail Hollow Open over the weekend. The Irishman scored a final round of 62, that would be an impressive 10-under-par and he finished four shots ahead of Phil Mickelson who is soon expected to overtake Tiger Woods in the rankings as World

number one. Even more impressive is that McIlroy, at twenty years of age, became the youngest winner of a PGA tour event since 1996 when a certain Tiger Woods burst onto the scene. Woods, the global sports phenomenon turned professional at 21. McIlroy? Oh he's been around since he was 18.

Mark Cavendish was withdrawn from the Tour de Romandie by his team after winning the second stage for sticking his fingers up at his critics. Literally. Cavendish apologized for his actions which he claims were aimed at his critics, some of whom had claimed he had gone off the boil. As well as being withdrawn from the competition, Cavendish was also fined £3,640. Hopefully the Manxman will return to dominate the sprint sections of this years prestigious Tour de France, sans two fingered salute.

Reports this week are claiming that Joe Calzaghe could be tempted out of retirement for a 'superfight' rematch with Bernard Hopkins. No, Floyd Mayweather against Manny Pacquiao would be true superfight, any matchup between Calzaghe and Hopkins would surely be an exhibition fight from a previous era. Anyone who witnessed the first fight between these two surely would not want to endure another. There is no doubting that they were both great fighters; Hopkins dominated the middleweight division for years but now aged 45 he's far and away over the hill. Calzaghe became joined an

elite club bowing out with world titles and an unblemished record intact. Calzaghe seems to have succumbed to the greatest vice of all retired boxers; boredom. Many of the greats couldn't resist one final crack all glory, Marciano, Foreman, Balboa and Holyfield at present. But as Calzaghe's father and trainer Enzo nicely put it "If Joe comes back now, he's playing with danger because he has nothing to gain and everything to lose".

England cricket coach Andy Flower labeled his team as 'dangerous' before their Twenty20 super eights showdown with Pakistan yesterday. It has been recently shown that the greatest danger associated with English cricket is the expectations and hope which the fans place upon the team.

Manchester United's striker Michael Owen has not had a season to remember; his appearances on the pitch were limited and he then suffered a hamstring injury in the Carling Cup final which demolished any small change of him going to South Africa. Owen's poor luck continued as Nemo Spirit, the horse he part owns disappointed at the Chester Cup. Teammates Nani and John O'Shea fared better as both racked up betting wins.

The most pleasing news for Global male population is that Anna Kournikova is returning to Wimbledon to play in a veterans tournament this summer, at the grand old age of 28. Veteran indeed.

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# 1st XI continue fine form with another victory

Imperial 1st XI defeat their Sussex counterparts while the 2nd XI are left looking for a win after defeat against Sussex 2nd XI

Ankit Patel Cricket

Imperial College Men's 1st XI 200 for 5 after 37.5 overs  
University of Sussex 1st XI 199 for 9 after 50 overs

Imperial won by 5 wickets

Pete Swallow Cricket

Imperial College Men's 2nd XI 81 all out  
University of Sussex 2nd XI 168 all out

Imperial lost by 86 runs

gust, the umpire's only option was to use the old innings ball. Not concentrating, he skied the next ball high over mid-off, who completed an impressive catch over his shoulder. Matt attacked in similar style to reach a quickfire 45, taking 20 runs off one over which included a huge six over midwicket. The rest of the chase was fairly uneventful with the IC batsman all contributing but then getting out. Yasir Bin Riaz (26), Ankit Patel (24) and Mehta (34) all chipped in, until keeper and premier finisher Adam Hugill (50 not out) calmly finished the chase in 37.5 overs.

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After the 1 and a half hour minibus ride to Brighton and arriving in time for a novel pre-match warm up, Captain Pete Swallow won the toss and decided to bowl. President Andy Payne was given the first over and had obviously been watching the 2006/7 Ashes as preparation, imitating Steve Harmison and opening with a wide ball, before rectifying his shocking start with six dot balls in a row. Shouldering responsibility, Swallow (2-15) took the second over and things started to improve as he soon bowled both openers with firstly a cunning slower ball and then a faster yorker. Things got even better as Payne got in on the act with a vicious lifter to hit the gloves and have the batsman caught behind. To keep the pressure high, Ian Woolf and Rajiv Bhar were brought on and the wickets continued to fall with Bhar eventually taking 4-29.

Woolfy somehow managed to not take a single wicket despite having the slip cordon salivating for his entire 10 over spell. Sussex managed to steady the ship near the end and progressed to a large total. Fortunately, Payne (3-39) and fresher Jonny Cooper managed to take the remaining 3 wickets to leave Imperial needing 169 to win.

With a second pair of openers in as many matches, Imperial got off to a slow start that turned sour with the loss of the opening pair for single figures. In came Payne and Rohan Babla, who managed to get the innings going with a 50 partnership.

The stand was dominated by Payne, with an innings of 41 which was typically brutal to both sides, as when he wasn't smashing the ball to all parts of the leg side boundary he was watching the ball whistle past his off stump. A massive DFL maximum over long-on



was the highlight, closely followed by an impressive argument with the Sussex team about fielding restrictions. Unfortunately, the journey to the seaside had wiped all notion of the purpose of a cricket bat from the other Imperial players and their serene progress was spectacularly halted when Babla (with the second-highest score of 10) and Payne both got out in the

space of two balls. Babla took a rash swipe and skied the ball before Payne, still angry at how Babla had given his wicket away, lofted an easy catch to mid-off; this triggered the mother of all collapses where Imperial fell from 75-2 to 81 all out.

A dejected Imperial team made their way back to London, where Andy showed his prowess at driving the min-

ibus by stalling twice in two minutes, which cheered up everyone no-end.

The team performance was excellent given the available players and there was an impressive improvement in fielding from the match on the previous Sunday. If improvements are made in the batting order and with more players hitting the ball, IC 2nd XI will be a force to be reckoned with.

**I**C Cricket 1st XI travelled to Harlington on Wednesday for their BUCS fixture against University of Sussex 1st XI. With IC losing the toss once again, University of Sussex elected to bat first.

The Sussex openers made a steady start by accumulating 61 runs in 12 overs before Ankit Patel got one to seam back in to get the Sussex captain LBW. Navin Surtani made a breakthrough with a slower ball which was caught at mid off, sending the second opener back to the pavilion. Soon after IC brought on the first of three spinners they employed during their time in the field. Hasit Mehta bowled with supreme accuracy; hitting the right areas to make it incredibly difficult to score. Coupled with tight fielding, pressure began to build on the Sussex middle order, which turned out to be their downfall. Hasit picked up 4 wickets for just 20 runs in his 10 overs.

Tight bowling at the other end from Rehan Ali and Pawan Patel didn't let Sussex get away. Rahul Pai continued were Hasit left off, keeping the Pavilion end tight, while at the M4 end Anirudh Sompalli kept getting the odd wicket as the end of the innings approached. University of Sussex ended on 199-9 from their 50 overs.

In reply IC's new and incredibly attacking opener, Sompalli, dispatched the second ball for four over extra cover. In fact, he smacked it so hard that despite 15 players looking for the it in the sidelines, the brand new Readers ball was not found. To Sompalli's dis-