

“Keep the Cat Free”

ISSUE 1469

FELIX



15.10.10

The student voice of Imperial College London since 1949

Freshers' Ball ends early due to Council noise complaint

The Union incurs the wrath of the Council but local residents praise low levels of noise during Welcome Week. **Page 6**

ChemEng nervous as famous spray-on fabric lab shuts

One of Professor Luckham's spray-on fabric labs is closed for safety reasons as department stay tight-lipped. **Page 6**

The Battle of Ideas comes to Imperial

Deputy Editor Gilead Amit meets Claire Fox to discuss science in society and the upcoming Battle of Ideas event at Imperial. **Page 9**

Former Rector Sykes under fire for dodgy Congo deal

Tough questions have been asked of Sir Richard Sykes over the purchase of the Kolwezi copper mine. **Page 14**

Aero damaged by water leak

Charles Betts

A water leak in an Aeronautical Engineering lab has caused extensive material damage within the department.

A PhD student is rumoured to have incorrectly attached a water pipe to a laser cooling supply system on Friday 8th October, however this is unconfirmed. The leaking supply was left running over Friday night, before being detected by Security at 4am on Saturday morning. Power supply was temporarily lost to the building over the weekend due to the flooding. The incident occurred on the third floor of the building, with water flowing down to the lower levels.

Badly affected areas include offices 148A and 148B on the mezzanine floor of the department, the L50 area on the ground floor, the Donald Campbell wind tunnel and rooms 148A and B on the first floor, and the second floor corridor and LTs.

The lecture theatres in the Roderic Hill building were closed on Monday...

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THE BROWNE REVIEW RECOMMENDS

UNLIMITED FEES



BUT HOW WILL IT AFFECT STUDENTS?

PAGES 4-5

SCIENCE



Imperial scientists make Eureka's Top 100: **Page 14**

ARTS



Clash of two Ivans at Fulham's best pub and theatre: **Page 25**

Electrical Engineering postgrads demand pay for teaching

Matt Colvin

The Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering has been forced to clarify its position regarding the payment of its postgraduate students.

Confusion stemmed from some PhD

students claiming that their acceptance letters for the doctoral training scheme did not make clear whether the listed 4 hours of required "support teaching activities" per week (such as assisting undergraduate students) would be paid work.

The course, on which several students are funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), stipulates a requirement by the department for students to complete additional duties alongside their academic work. However, some students

have raised issues with this with respect to guidelines published by the EPSRC which state that, 'if you do demonstration, teaching or other types of employment in an institution, you should be paid for this'.

Continued on page 7

FILM



Felix 'likes' the new Facebook... movie we mean...: **Page 30**

HIGHLIGHTS

On campus

Science and Security

Professor Christopher Andrew, who holds the unprecedented position of official MI5 historian, discusses the evolution of security and secret intelligence over the 20th century. From world wars to modern terrorism, he explores the links that security holds with science and technology in response to ever-evolving crises.

**G16 Sir Alexander Fleming Building
25 October 17:30-18:30**

EDF Annual Lecture

As part of the continuing relationship between EDF and Imperial College London, Senior Nuclear Advisor to the CEO of EDF Georges Servière speaks on the increasing importance and rapid development of nuclear energy and also confronts the continuing challenge of low carbon electricity production.



**G16 Sir Alexander Fleming Building
28 October 17:30-18:30**

Battle of Ideas Festival

Now in its sixth year, the Battle of Ideas Festival continues to promote free speech through debates and discussions about the important issues of today. Speakers from hugely varied backgrounds and professions promise to provide new and challenging perspectives. Organisers have released 30 Imperial-exclusive half-price tickets for the weekend at £25 each. These can be bought through the official website at <http://www.battleofideas.org.uk/>.

**Royal College of Art
30-31 October**

EDITOR'S PICK

The Best of Felix This Week



The Browne Report and what it means for students

It was extremely difficult to choose just one outstanding article this week. So many of Felix's contributors have submitted high quality pieces of writing and journalism and they all deserve congratulations. However the News Team have excelled themselves this week, showing not only a talent for skillful and clear journalism but also great teamwork. They have researched their pieces extremely thoroughly and thanks to them we have a wide range of both College and National news.

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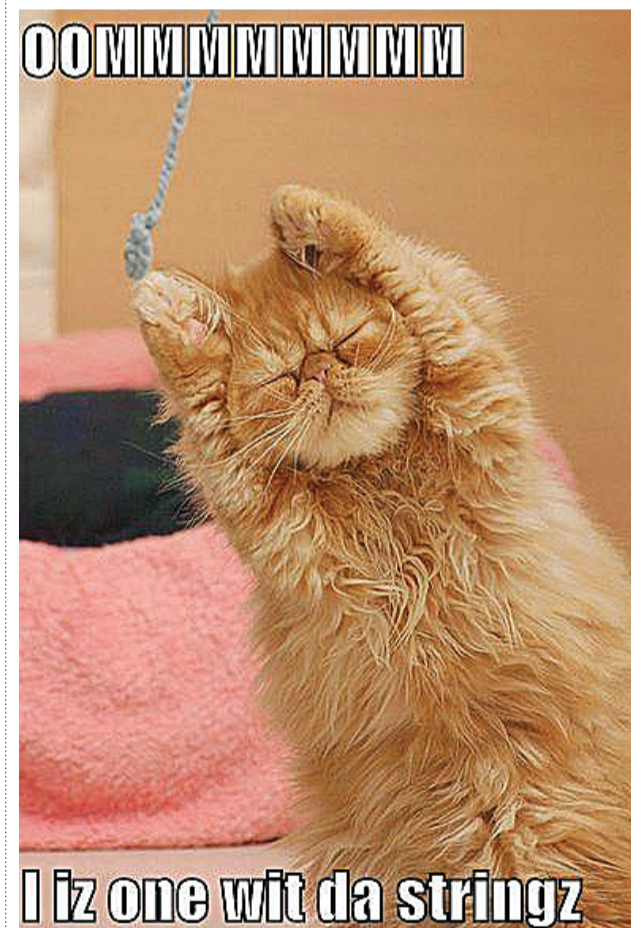
Union Meetings

Council

Higher Education Policy Debate

The next meeting of Union Council is on **Monday the 1st of November**. The Union have just completed a student survey on Higher Education Funding. They will be forming a policy on Higher Education Funding (higher tuition fees and all that) based on the opinions expressed in the survey and then that policy will be debated at Union Council. Students are encouraged to attend and participate in the process. The meeting will be at **6:30pm** in the **Union Dining Hall** and papers can be found online in the week before the meeting or requested at union@imperial.ac.uk

Lolcat of teh week



FELIX

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Printed by The Harmsworth Printing Ltd, 17 Brest Road, Derriford, Plymouth. Registered newspaper ISSN 1040-0711.
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Special thanks to: Ayyub Kamaludin, Stephen Smith, Heather Jones, Slobodan Radosavljevic, Kai Li Loh, Shruti Mishra, Fahmida Mannan, Samir Patel, Gregory Lee, Mitesh Patel, Outi Supponen, Gilead Amit and Dylan Lowe for all their invaluable help this week



Silent disco a hit for RCSU Freshers

Grace Bar in Piccadilly welcomes silent scientists

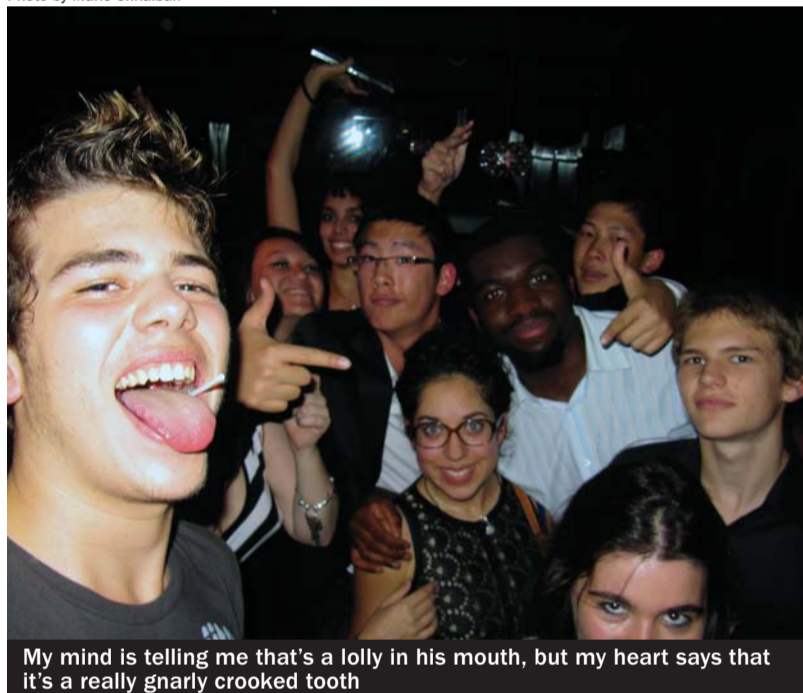
Alex Karapetian

Crowds gathered to break the silence at the RCSU Freshers' Ball, which was held this year at Grace Bar in Piccadilly Circus, noted for its silent disco. The dinner went smoothly, with ticket holders having the chance to mingle with the RCSU committee in addition to being served a fine selection of food, well worth the £22 ticket price. A little confusion occurred when students questioned why framed pictures of bushes and plant wallpaper were in the vicinity, but the bigger picture was soon realised, for the silent disco loomed downstairs.

Using dual channel headphones was slightly surreal, since at any time, one could simply remove them and communicate with others freely and without the need to shout, but clubbing instincts prevailed and many often kept them on and raised their voices instead. Being given a choice of two channels to listen to provided a good reaction of hitting the button rather than turning to tolerance in those 'I hate this song' moments, but listening to the general crowd sing along from the outside resulted in a rather peculiar mashup of conflicting songs.

Nevertheless, the experience was a good one, and compliments go out to the RCSU Committee for their efforts. The event was a well organized ball, but would have attracted much more familiar crowds had it not been advertised with such a focus on freshers and as an Autumn ball instead.

Photo by Marie Chkaiban



My mind is telling me that's a lolly in his mouth, but my heart says that it's a really gnarly crooked tooth

Union Council reject former College staff for Trustee position

Kadhim Shubber

The appointment of former Director of Commercial Services Paddy Jackman to the Union's Trustee Board was rejected last Monday by the Union Council.

The proposal was questioned by RCSU President Scott Heath who claimed that the cost of accommodation at Imperial was proof that the Mr Jackman hadn't had the majority of students' interests at heart during his time at in halls. The claim was rejected by Union President Alex Kendall who said that all students were able to find accommodation and that the free gym was proof that Mr Jackman cared about students. Council voted to reject Mr Jackman by 13 votes to 5 with 5 abstentions. George Palos, a chartered surveyor and former Imperial student was approved by Council by 22 votes to 1 with no abstentions. Mr Jackman said to Felix "Clearly I



Paddy Jackman

am disappointed that I won't be able to play a role in the ICU but naturally respect the Council's decision and wish the organization and all at Imperial every success in the future"

Have you found an error or got a suggestion for Felix?

Speak to the Felix Editor in person on Monday lunchtimes from 12:00 - 12:30 at the Felix stall in the Junior Common Room (JCR)
We hope to see you there!

Postgraduate mingle success delights Union

Post-graduate 'freshers' (all newcomers for Masters' degrees and PhD positions) are commonly over-looked at Imperial. This year, however, the Union and a revitalized Graduate Student Association (GSA) led by Deena Blumenkratz have made a concerted effort to give post-graduates the best possible experience.

They have renamed Freshers' Week to Welcome Week and the GSA have done a much better job of organising events such as pub quizzes than in previous years.

However the icing on the cake was last Saturday's first ever Postgraduate Mingle. The event was a roaring success with over 1000 postgraduates in attendance and a healthy queue at the door. Union President Alex Kendall commented "I'm pretty sure it's the most postgraduates that we've ever had in Beit Quad ever."

Photo by Tom Roberts



Beard... Must get a beard... Come on you bastard! Grow! GROOOOOOOOWWWWWW!!!

NEWS

News Editors: **Matt Colvin**
Alex Karapetian
 news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

University finance

There's a desperate need for extra money for universities

University funding reform has been a long time coming; the principle of free education for all, long a mainstay of British political thought, had to be abandoned in 1998 following a review by Lord Dearing. Public funding had for many years failed to keep pace with increasing student numbers: between 1989 and this first introduction of fees, funding per student fell by 36%.

The initial "top-up" fee of £1000 per year was increased, in 2006, to £3000 (subsequently increasing in line with inflation). This is roughly half the cost of the average university degree; though it only covers a third of the average degree at Imperial. The remainder of the course cost is – theoretically – made up by the Government. However, despite higher fees bringing in an additional £1.3bn, average spending per student is still lower than it was in 1992.

As such, British universities remain heavily underfunded; we spend 1.3% of our total GDP on university education, compared with an OECD average of 1.5%. Given British universities' high quality of education and research compared to our better funded European counterparts, it seems unlikely that "efficiency-drives" are the key to saving this particular government subsidised industry.

This financial difficulty has resulted in many institutions going into the red; 38 out of 142 universities in England and Wales produced a deficit in the academic year ending 2009; a further increase from the 27 in the previous year. While this shows over 70% of universities had a small surplus (Imperial with a relatively high £14m, or about 2% of its operating budget), in general it doesn't mean they are actually coping; universities across the country are closing departments, with other similarly desperate measures being taken. This year one of the best philosophy courses in the English speaking world was closed at Middlesex University because it didn't generate enough profit.

You will no doubt have read in last week's front page article about the controversial and contested Life Sciences restructuring at Imperial, an attempt to eliminate the department's deficit; this is not the only measure the university has taken to balance the books. The university charges twice as much as it needs to for international students, in order to cover the cost of British and Europeans. Certain departmental courses are also heavily over-subscribed, sometimes to the extent that there are more students than seats in lecture halls; this may have contributed to keeping the university in surplus.

Universities are not only centres for education; they are also home to the nation's publically funded research and development. These financial problems will therefore have a profound effect, not only on the quality of education available, but on the quantity of world class research taking place in Britain; both are vital to the long term prospects of any economy.

With this desperate financial situation, change to the system is needed; the question is whether or not Browne's proposals point in the right direction.

Rajat Jain
 Navid Nabijou

Browne points to higher fees

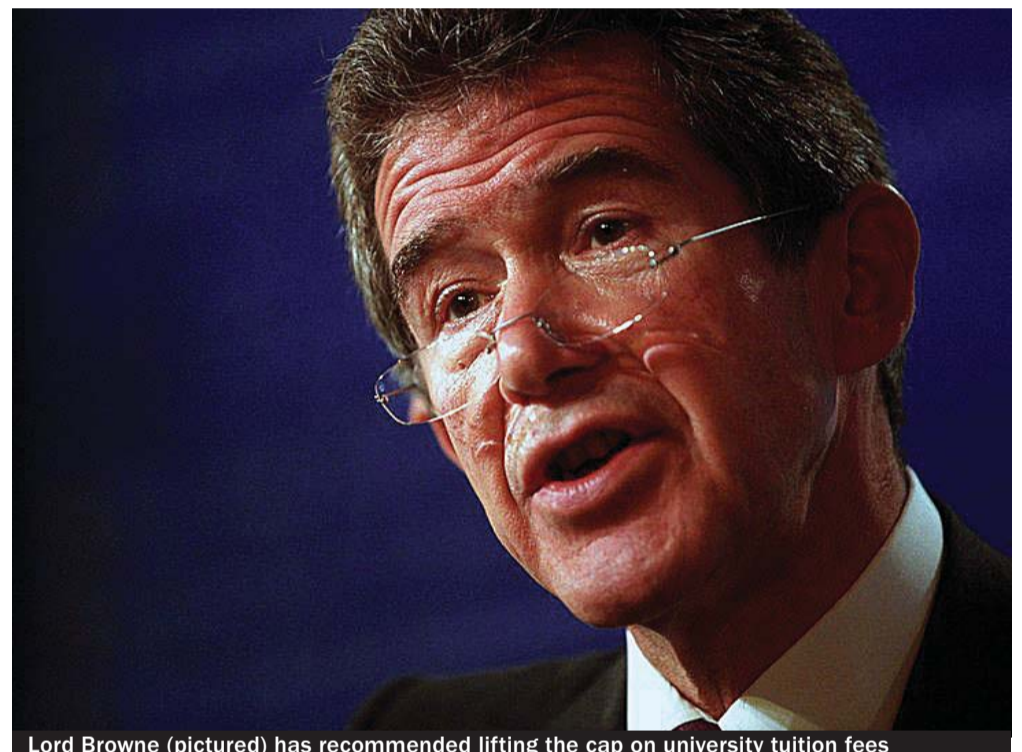
Alex Karapetian
 Anna Perman
 Rory Fenton

Universities should be unlimited in charging fees to students, the Browne review of university funding has recommended. The influential review, released early this week, outlined various proposals and potential changes in higher education funding to the government, including lifting the current cap on annual tuition fees, which currently stand at £3,290. The review also proposed raising the threshold earning salary for graduate repayment to £21,000 to ease the rise.

Lord Browne, a member of the House of Lords, former CEO of BP and President of the Royal Academy of Engineering, started the review panel in November 2009 in order to consider the "balance of contributions to universities by taxpayers, students, graduates and employers to university finances", as described by Lord Mandelson. Initial findings were published in March 2010, where it was heard that students were not deterred by current fees but the system was inadequate, and the full review was published last Tuesday following submissions from various student and university groups.

The main recommendation of the report was that the current cap of £3,290 be lifted, allowing universities the freedom to charge as much as they need. The report, released under the title "Securing a Sustainable Future for Higher Education", made further recommendations that universities no longer be required to provide a minimum bursary (currently £329) for full grant students. Suggestions include distributing this bursary through the grants system instead. Tuition fees up to £6,000 are recommended to be underwritten by the government, and fees greater are levied in that universities keep a diminishing proportion for every thousand over £6,000. Namely 40%, 45% and 50% of the first, second and third respectively.

The report continued to suggest that students should not have to pay tuition fees up front, and that part time students be eligible for loans under the higher education funding scheme. The threshold for graduate repayment is proposed to rise to £21,000 from the current £15,000, with the inclusion of the period after which debts are written off rising to 30 years from the current 25. The inter-



Lord Browne (pictured) has recommended lifting the cap on university tuition fees

The main recommendation is that universities be allowed to charge as much as they want

est rate is applied when earnings reach this threshold and stand at the current amount for borrowing from government (2.2%). Money owed would rise with inflation regardless of earnings. The report also suggests increasing both the maintenance grant to £3,250 from the current £2,906 for households with incomes less than £25,000 and the upper threshold for partial maintenance grants to £60,000 from £50,020.

Alongside changes to fees, the review recommended a shake-up in university regulation. At present there are four higher education bodies; HEFCE; Quality Assurance agency; Office for fair access and the Office of the Independent Adjudicator. The review argued that these should be merged into one Higher Education Council. This body would have the power to bail out failing universities. No university has ever gone bankrupt, but in the 'free-market for education' advocated by Browne, this would be a real possibility. Early calculations suggest that if institutions charge £6,000 per year or less, their overall income would be slightly lower than at present.

Read this article
 online at
felixonline.co.uk

As well as affecting universities as a whole, the regulations would also oblige staff and students to meet higher standards. Academic staff with teaching responsibilities would have to undertake a teaching qualification. The review advised a minimum level of UCAS points for students to be eligible for financial support, taking into account the demand and budget for individual courses. The funding gained by the extra fees would allow a 10% increase in university places over three years. Universities charging over £7,000 per year, will be subject to scrutiny, ensuring that these extra funds are being used fairly to encourage students from poorer backgrounds.

Labour leader Ed Miliband warned against the proposed 'free market' in education. He offered to "work with anybody in the House of Commons who wants a progressive system of finance", an unspoken appeal to members of the Liberal Democrats who campaigned in the general election to keep the current cap on fees.

Lord Browne defended his recommendations, saying "We have taken off the cap, but we haven't taken off the restrictions"

But student groups have criticised the review as unfair on the next generation of students. In this paper, National Union of Students President Aaron

Porter argued that the proposals would “leave graduates with crippling amounts of debt, and deter applicants from poorer backgrounds.”

The NUS also warned the Liberal Democrats against betraying the students who voted for them in the general election. They claimed that if the government adopted the recommendations, they would be handing a ‘blank cheque’ to universities, without any proof that the increased funds would improve standards.

The proposal of increasing the threshold for repayment to £21,000 means graduates will pay 9p of every pound earned above this threshold, meaning that the average Imperial graduate starting on £28,116 will begin paying £53 per month immediately, significantly less than the £91 they would have been paying under the current system. However, the total amount paid back will be considerably greater; not just because of increased fees, but also because the government will now charge real interest on

the loans (previously kept at inflation) of 2.2% on top of inflation. Business Secretary Vince Cable has also suggested a penalty for early repayment of loans, to prevent wealthier graduates paying less by avoiding interest building up.

The proportion of the population going to university has gone up considerably in recent years; increasing by 44% in the last 10 years alone. Many have argued that this has undermined the value of a degree, with many polytechnic colleges becoming universities and many courses being revamped as degrees. The huge boost in funding that these proposals would give to the country’s top universities may start to reverse this trend; with other universities feeling pressured into providing ‘softer’ courses in two years to reduce spending, the elite universities may start to pull ahead as in the past, as potentially the only ones able to afford full degree courses.

There is some doubt as to where this leaves Higher Education in Britain. Lord Browne insists that the proposed

reforms would put more power into the hands of students, on whom universities will be more reliant, enabling them to ‘vote with their money’ and leave unpopular institutions to the mercy of the market. However, many groups (including the NUS) have voiced concerns that potential students from poorer families with the ability to study may be put off by the fees, or choose lesser universities or courses, on the basis of price. There have also been fears aired that the proposals could create a two tiered system of rich and poor universities. Whatever the effects on enrolment, the shift in university education from effectively a state subsidised right to a serious financial investment, the proposals have the potential to change the very way that higher education is seen in this country.

Editorial: Page 18
NUS President: Page 18

Lib Dems in trouble over higher fees

Rory Fenton
Rajat Jain

The last few months have not been good for the Liberal Democrats. With poll ratings plummeting from 23 to 14% since joining the coalition, the reality of power for the first time in over a century is quickly turning into a nightmare. Low party morale and a new (but not, he stresses, New) Labour leader keen to brand the coalition as ‘the nasty parties’ have left the Lib Dem’s top brass finding it increasingly difficult to keep the sizeable left of the party in tow. In short, this is the worst possible time to test the party members’ commitment to the coalition’s shotgun marriage.

Tuesday’s publication of Lord Browne’s Higher Education Review could prove to be the starting gun for dissent among Lib Dem MPs, itching to distance themselves from the already biting austerity measures introduced by the government. The rebels among them accuse their leadership of abandoning a manifesto pledge to scrap fees, not raise them. They also claim that the review’s proposals are against the progressive principles of what it is to be a Liberal Democrat, that the party has lost its identity to the Conservative party, making no real impact on the coalition’s direction.

On the former point, they are undoubtedly correct. The Lib Dem’s made a clear promise that they would push to scrap fees altogether, with Nick Clegg

appearing in a party video targeting students, calling fees ‘wrong’. No amount of clever politics can disguise the fact that accepting the Review’s proposal (or abstaining from the vote) will amount to a complete u-turn: resulting in uncapped fees. Yes, they can blame the economic climate, but they knew the country was strapped for cash before the election.

That the new proposals are regressive, however, is less arguable - the poorest 20% of students will actually pay less under the Browne proposals than they do today. Nonetheless, this doesn’t take away from the dizzying headline figures of potential student debt and the impression this will give the public of impossibly expensive education. The opposition of the NUS doesn’t help, sweeping masses of students into the welcoming arms of Ed Milliband’s Labour party; the same students who just in the last election voted in great numbers for the Lib Dems.

However, there is still hope for the party. The new Austerity Britain is much more open to consider changes in the role of government which would have been unthinkable just 2 years ago. A more open and honest public debate has led to general agreement that the state must tighten its belt and, if Britain’s top universities are to remain competitive, this may have to be made up for with higher fees. While there will likely be no love lost between the Lib Dems and students, the party can still target the much larger slice of the electoral pie that ac-

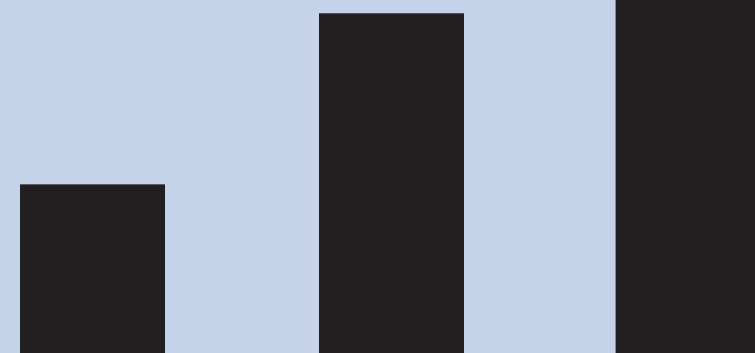


Yep Nick, that’s going to be your hairline when this is all over...

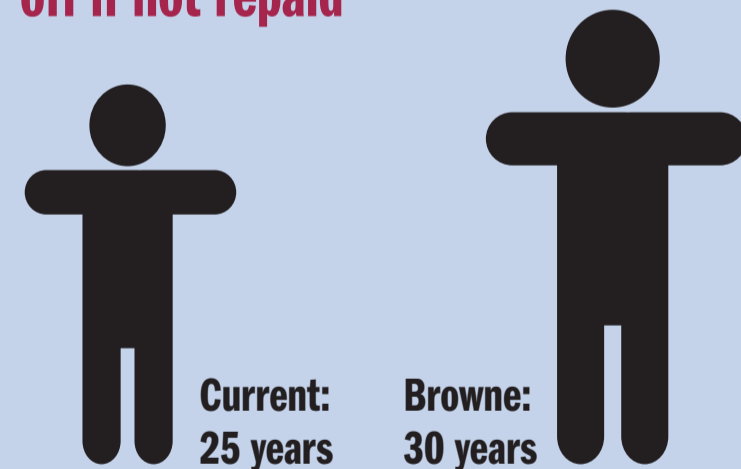
cepts the need for tough fiscal measures. Ed Milliband’s party conference speech about balancing work and life received a lukewarm response from a public wanting fiscal action. The left in the Lib Dems may simply not ‘get’ the public mood. What Clegg and Cable need to convince their party, and the electorate, is that they will somehow reign in what would otherwise have been savage Tory fee increases. By positioning his party as economically responsible yet fairer than the Conservatives, Nick Clegg may yet come out of the Browne debate on top.

What does the review say?

Cap on Fees



Time after which loan is written off if not repaid



Salary at which you start repayments



NEWS

News Editors: **Matt Colvin**
Alex Karapetian
 news.felix@imperial.ac.uk

In brief

Spray-on Fabric lab shut

One of Professor Paul Luckham's research laboratories in the Chemical Engineering department has been closed since Monday 11th of October due to Health and Safety concerns.

Prof Luckham is renowned for developing, in conjunction with Dr Manel Torres, a liquid clothing spray that hardens on the body and turns into a reusable garment. The spray has potential for use to create garments, medical dressings or upholstery for furniture. It is understood that the closed lab is directly related to this field of work.

Prof Andrew Livingston, Head of Chemical Engineering Department told Felix that the affair was an internal matter for the department, and declined to provide any specific details.

A College spokesman later told Felix "The College's Safety Director carried out a routine inspection of lab 433 in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Chemical Technology. During the inspection, the Safety Director found that a fume cupboard in the lab needed cleaning, and that the regulator on a gas cylinder needed replacing. As part of the College's health and safety protocol, the laboratory was closed to enable staff to carry out repairs. It is expected that it will reopen again when these repairs have been completed." **Charles Betts**

Photo by Caroline Prew/Imperial College London



CGCU President Resigns

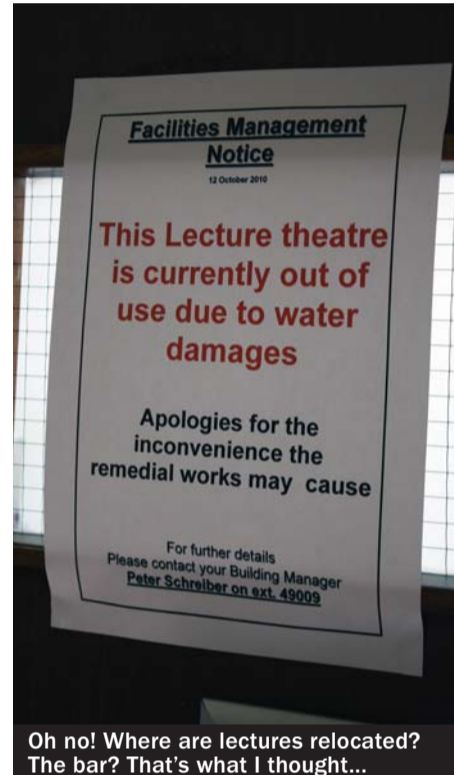
CGCU President He-in Chong has resigned from her position amid conflict within the committee. In a statement to Felix He-in said "I put myself under so much pressure and I want to be my old self again who's relaxed and want to be a better hall senior and a better mechanical engineering student. I really apologize for making the entire CGCU go through another election".

It is believed that disputes arose within the committee regarding last year's Masquerade Ball which made a significant loss leaving the CGCU with an approximate £5,000 debt this year. **Kadhim Shubber**



Pipe fault causes extensive damage to Aero building

Photo by Tom Welch



Charles Betts

continued from front page

...Tuesday and Wednesday, with students redirected to other rooms. All affected areas have been cordoned off.

Delays to research work will inevitably ensue, with staff and postgraduates required to wait until a full assessment of the damage is conducted – not least for insurance purposes. The Head of Department Prof Ferri Aliabadi was unable to comment on the specifics at this present time due to the delicate nature of the insurance claims, though did confirm that the leak originated from the cooling water supply in one of the labs and may have been due to a faulty connection. The full financial cost of the damaged equipment is currently unknown.

Wilson Rios, the Assistant Building Manager, assured Felix that all was being done to get the lecture theatres and labs up and running. Prof Ferri Aliabadi stated that the main concern for the lecture theatres was ensuring that the ceilings were structurally sound – though the lecture theatres should by now be reopened. The labs are expected to take longer

to reopen due to the nature of the damaged equipment.

The ACE & Roderic Hill Building Manager Peter Schreiber was unavailable for comment.

It is unclear as to how the leak occurred made the error in the first place. The lasers in Aero require a constant cooling supply, otherwise they are severely damaged. It is plausible that a PhD student simply forgot to turn off the supply in their excitable anticipation for the PhD Mingle taking place the following day at the Union.

The Student View

3rd Year Aero

I wish things went wrong more often. Room changes make the perfect excuse to be late for lectures or just not turn up. And lets face it we've all wondered what the inside of other departments look like (even our lecturer agreed that RSM has far better lecture theatres). From my inspection of Aero though the damage looks pretty minor. Oh well, there's nothing like beginning-of-term drama.

Council shuts 'noisy' Union

Kadhim Shubber

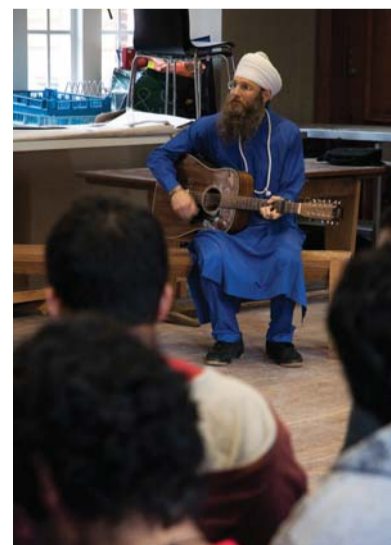
The Union was shut down last Friday at 1:30am by the Council after a complaint was made about the level of noise. The Union said "Following a similar incident at the Summer Ball we have taken many steps to ensure local residents are not affected by our events in the Quad. We have actively met with local residents associations and representatives to work towards an acceptable level of noise."

Neil McIntyre, Warden of Beit Hall, which is most affected by noise from the Union, said that "Noise in the quad from Union events and customers is a huge issue for the health and welfare of students in Beit Hall" and that "our responsibilities for providing entertainment and welfare support are difficult to balance."

The Union believes that the complaint was unlikely to have come from a local resident, "Since last Friday we have received letters of praise from local residents about the low level of noise and disruption caused during Welcome Week. This leads us to believe that the complaint to the Council has come from a resident close to Beit Quad."

Neil McIntyre said "given that it was one of the Union's special annual events, I don't think the noise levels were unacceptable" and that no complaint came from Beit Hall "not unless it came straight from a resident without my knowledge." He playfully added "A long term solution [to noise problems], in theory, would be a purpose-built Union venue well away from the residences – a bunker under the Queen's Lawn is my suggestion!"

Photos by Craig Buchanan



Confusion over post-grad pay

Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering deny foul play and points to confusion over departmental bursary

Matt Colvin

Continued from front page

In one case, a student who was required by the department to invigilate during an undergraduate exam was refused payment by the payroll office.

Speaking to Felix, Head of Department Professor Peter Cheung was keen to right the “mistaken” views that he believes some hold, rigorously denying that there has been any foul play within the department.

He firstly described the “three kinds of funding for postgraduate study: EPSRC, a department bursary or personal

funding.” He then went on to clarify that the confusion surrounding payment is most likely due to the nature of a department bursary, which he claims already includes payment for any work expected to be carried out by a PhD student.

“Paying someone who is funded by a department bursary for work is more or less like paying them for it twice,” he explained.

Professor Cheung also described how those funded by the other two options should fully expect to be paid for any work carried out, “I don’t like people volunteering for work, it would be like they’re doing a favour for us and I don’t want that.”



Peter Cheung, Head of the EEE Department, denies foul play

He also maintained that the current system abides by EPSRC rulings, and that students in the department are more than willing to give their time to such duties, praising the “overall philosophy” of the department and believing it important that students develop professional skills as a result, saying that “all PhD student training should involve education. We should produce brilliant teachers.”

He does however admit that it was the department’s mistake that students were confused by the lack of explanation on the acceptance letter, though he argues that while “our offer letter wasn’t clear... it wasn’t wrong.”

At odds with these views is Andrew

Keenan, Representation Coordinator for Imperial College Union. In contrast to Professor Cheung’s claim that students are ready and willing to take on extra work, Mr Keenan believes that “students shouldn’t be compelled to work [for the department]” and that “students should expect an explicitly agreed rate”.

Mr Keenan links the presence of paid postgraduate students to measures by departments to save more money, stating that “departments are always looking to keep their costs down”. However, he has his own advice for departments seeking this option, explaining that “the best way to keep costs down would be to not ask postgraduates to work!”

Imperial College
London

Get involved

Share your point of view
of life at Imperial

Be a star in photo and video shoots

Show future students what life at Imperial is really like.

Promote your subject

Be featured in the prospectus as a student profile.

Have your voice heard

Take part in our regular focus groups and make your opinions count.

Share your shots on Flickr and YouTube

Share your unique view of life at Imperial in photos and videos by tagging your uploads with IMP150.

Connect with alumni

Help raise funds for Imperial by taking part in alumni telephone campaigns.

► www.imperial.ac.uk/students/getinvolved



Photo by Thomas Welch



RAG Bicycle Auction raises record £1400

The RAG Bicycle Auction last Tuesday raised a record amount with the cheapest bike selling for £0.10 and the most expensive bike selling for £90 (retail price est. £350). The annual event sells off bicycles that are abandoned around College and all proceeds go to charity. The Auction was led by Ravi Pall, Charlotte Ivison, Alex Dahinten and RAG Chair Naida Dzigal with the help of Olle Akesson, Chris Gibbs and Alistair Cott.

There's no need to rush in for Felix on a **Friday morning**



Read the week's issue
online at felixonline.co.uk
from 7am every
Friday morning



INTERVIEW

BATTLE OF IDEAS COMES TO SOUTH KENSINGTON

Gilead Amit speaks to Claire Fox, Director of the Institute of Ideas, ahead of its weekend of debates at the RCA

If I can start by being totally honest, I hadn't heard of the 'Battle of Ideas' before I found out you were coming to the Royal College of Art this year. What would you like people to know before they come along?

When we set it up 6 years ago, we wanted to suggest that there was not an intelligent-enough public debate about very important issues. In the world of science, for example, everyone talks about public engagement or involvement, and that often means 'dumbing down' or patronising the public. So we wanted an intelligent public arena – not academia, but something that allowed people to scrutinise and interrogate some of the big questions of our day.

So we pack a weekend full of debates and discussions, and we emphasise that although there are excellent speakers, nobody gets more than 7 minutes to speak. It doesn't matter how famous they are, or how far they've flown from, everybody gets their 7 minutes, sometimes even less. So we have a panel of 5 people, allowing you, in a 90-minute slot, 45-minutes of open conversation with the audience.

We are always aiming for an audience who are prepared to challenge and be challenged, and think about these questions. We want the kind of people who really think they're not getting the right sort of answers at the moment.

The timetable shows a huge range of subjects covered: from the relationship between teachers and parents, the future of the Catholic Church, crime novels and even the importance of opera. Is there a central, linking theme?

There are some themes, but we're not trying to pretend all the sessions link in. One of the big themes is the climate of distrust, whether or not it's corrosive and creating a cynical and misanthropic atmosphere in society. But examining that issue – possibly the lack of trust is because we're less deferential, which is possibly a good thing.

I'd say that the climate of mistrust has gone too far, and that we've internalised a lack of trust towards each other. We're frightened to let the next-door neighbour look after our kids, we're told that we can't be trusted to go near alcohol or we'll end up as alcoholics. We're being treated as children by those in authority.

Another theme is evidence-based policy – whether there's a move to hide behind the evidence instead of making moral or political decisions, and the danger of this for science, let alone for democracy. So we've got a strand of debates on scientific evidence, looking at controversies around peer review, and whether we're dealing with policy-based evidence, or evidence-based policy.

One of our big themes every year is 'a free society' and the growing climate of illiberalism, that there are things we're not allowed to talk about. That's why the slogan of the festival is 'Free Speech Allowed'.

Why the name 'battle'? What's the conflict about, and who's it against?

We wanted to imply that this was not an anodyne set of discussions. We weren't trying to reach consensus – there are ideas worth fighting over. That's not to say we do school-level debating stuff. It was to imply that sometimes people avoid having arguments over things that matter. Sometimes we're told not to question, whereas we wanted to encourage a more questioning atmosphere, particularly around orthodoxies. People should argue passionately over what they believe in, and that will sometimes mean they argue against each other.

One of the quotations picked up from the booklet was that "morality has been sidelined by facts and statistics". In what sort of areas do you think there's an intrusion from science?

In a lot of social policy areas, such as child-rearing, the government emphasises the need for the state to have policies of early intervention – to intervene in family life ever earlier. The argument

is that the first 18 months of a child's life is the key time, and so parents can't be trusted to get it right and the state needs to intervene. People in these arguments always say that 'the neuroscience shows this.' I feel this is the use of evidence in a very dangerous way. What happens is that it becomes part of a campaigning political agenda you can't oppose because no one knows how to challenge the evidence.

There's a real possible prostitution of science for the needs of policy. A lot of scientists want to feel relevant, and justify the work they've put into the research.

You've invited a lot of very prominent science speakers to the event, such as former Liberal Democrat MP Dr. Evan Harris and The Times Science editor Mark Henderson. What will the debate be like on the subject of the role of science in society?

Our concern is that scientists rarely admit that reality is more complicated than the statistics. They don't trust that the public will be able to handle an is-

sue which has a less black-or-white answer. Scientists contribute to that view, and we suggest we have a more intelligent debate over the role of science in society.

You can't clamp down on the debate, but you have to be able to use your evidence to win the argument. But even when you've proved that, say, the MMR jab doesn't cause autism, you can't force people to take it. People should have the freedom to make their own choices.

Science shouldn't intervene with your own decision-making. In the field of public health, scientists have become too involved in the nanny state system and really quite draconian anti-liberal policies.

There's a tendency to scientism, which is science being overstretched, suggesting that it can explain every human interaction. I feel science is one of the most important human inventions, but it shouldn't make claims it can't support.

The first thing that came to my mind when I heard about your conferences was the similarity to TED. If

their motto is 'Ideas Worth Spreading', would yours be 'Free Speech Allowed'?

I think so. I'm a great admirer of TED, and they have certainly made a greater business case than I. They have the twenty-minute lectures and that's brilliant, but we do believe in live debate – this is quite an important aspect.

The Institute of Ideas is quite controversial. We don't toe the line, and we challenge orthodoxies. We don't try to pretend in all this that we are neutral. We have very strong opinions, and when we put on the Battle of Ideas, we enter the public arena. We don't try to chair neutrally, we try to join in the discussion – while ensuring that we always invite our best opponents to speak.

Organisers of the Battle of Ideas Festival have released 30 Imperial-exclusive half-price tickets for the weekend (30 – 31 Oct) at £25 each. These can be bought through the official website at <http://www.battleofideas.org.uk/>.



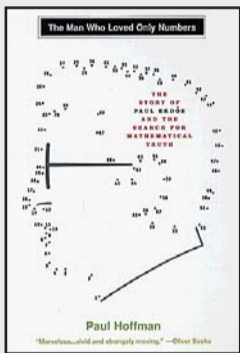
Claire Fox battling it out with her interviewer, Gilead Amit, in a show of wits

SCIENCE

And a few suggestions...

The Man Who Loved Only Numbers

by Paul Hoffman



This captivating biography tells the story of Paul Erdos, a mathematician who devoted every minute of his life to this beautiful discipline. Hoffman takes the reader through Erdos' life in admirably concise detail whilst still providing a highly moving portrayal of mathematics and the

perpetual struggle for knowledge. Erdos comes across as the endearing eccentric, his obsession with numbers and truth is overwhelming, Hoffman himself seems to be in complete awe of his subject and weaves his story with a gratifying humility.

Erdos' genius and quirky tendencies make for a compelling read whilst all the maths is accessible; I found myself enraptured and wishing very strongly that I had his capabilities. Equally, Hoffman's skills as a narrator are exceptional, taking us from Erdos' prodigious childhood in Hungary to his glory years travelling the globe in search of mathematical challenges. We are offered a rare insight into the world of this remarkable being and his overwhelmingly generous approach to what is conventionally an introverted and sometimes egocentric discipline.

Upcoming Science Events

18th October

Public Health: should evidence always dictate policy?
Royal Society of Medicine, 7.00 - 8.30pm

19th October

Cloning, stem cells and regenerative medicine.
Royal Society, 6.30 - 7.30pm

Bubbles in the blood: from the 'bends' to magic bullets.
UCL, 1.15 - 1.55pm

21st October

Royal Society prize for science books 2010.
Royal Society, 6.30 - 8.00pm

Neutrino - Is the Sun still shining?
Royal Institution, 7.00 - 8.30pm, £8

Nature of genius: standing on the shoulders of giants or genes?
Royal College of Music, 7.00 - 8.30pm

From dust to diamonds.
UCL, 1.15 - 1.55pm

Defend our geeks

Protesters descended on the Treasury for the 'Science is Vital' rally last Saturday to fight for science funding

Photo by Thomas Welch



Imperial College students at the 'Science is Vital' rally with (L-R): Colin Blakemore, Evan Harris and Ben Goldacre

Andrew Purcell

Is science vital? Imperial students most certainly think so.

Last Saturday over 2,000 scientists and supporters, with a large contingent from Imperial College, took to the streets outside Whitehall to protest against proposed cuts to the UK science research budget.

The event was the brainchild of Dr Jenny Rohn, who set up the campaign only two weeks ago, following Vince Cable's now infamous remarks calling for scientists to abandon work that was "neither commercially useful nor theoretically outstanding" at Queen Mary, University of London (Full story: Felix, Issue 1468, Scientists Rally to Fight Funding Cuts, 8th October 2010).

The 'Science is Vital' campaign is supported by former Imperial College Rector Sir Roy Anderson and has Professor Stephen Curry of Imperial College London on its organising committee. It is also supported by Imperial

"Politicians must not be allowed to compromise our future"

College Union (indeed Sabbaticals from the Union attended the demonstration).

The campaign has also received much support from CASE (The Campaign for Science and Engineering in the UK), whose director, former Imperial Student Imran Khan, says the rally will "finally force politicians to take scientists seriously".

Mr Khan stressed that the cuts "will not just have a detrimental economic effect, but a political one too".

In a powerful speech, he claimed "the UK already does science on a shoestring" and that politicians "must not be allowed to compromise our future by making cuts to the science research budget".

Other speakers at the event included science writers Ben Goldacre and Simon Singh, who highlighted that UK science

currently "punches seriously above its weight" and warned that "we face taking a severe backward step", should the proposed cuts occur.

These sentiments were echoed by campaign founder Dr Rohn, who warned of the UK's danger of "shooting itself in the foot" and issued a rousing call to arms, telling scientists: "we cannot afford to hide in our labs anymore – we are a political block and we must make our voices heard".

Other speakers at the rally warned of a potential "brain drain", reminiscent of the 1980s exodus when scientists left the UK in droves to pursue research at better-funded institutions abroad.

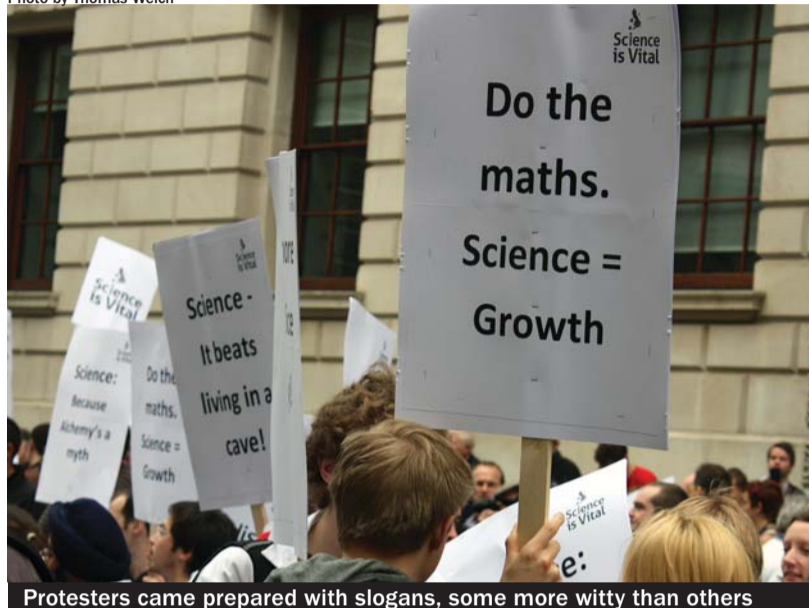
The fear is that, in stark contrast to the current situation, where three Nobel prizes have recently been awarded to researchers working in the UK (two of whom are in fact of Russian origin), the cuts will mean that we will cease to be able to attract the best scientists from around the world.

Yet perhaps even more worryingly,

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Science
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SCIENCE

Photo by Thomas Welch



Protesters came prepared with slogans, some more witty than others

should the cuts be as severe as many analysts predict, there is a danger that our top scientists will start to leave the UK for greener pastures: pastures where science research receives the funding it so fully deserves.

This danger is accentuated by the fact that, at a time when the UK is considering cutting its science research budget, other countries are pumping money into science as a way to boost their economic recovery.

Barack Obama for one has made his feelings about the necessity of well-funded research quite clear: "At such a difficult moment, there are those who say we cannot afford to invest in sci-

ence, that support for research is somehow a luxury at moments defined by necessities. I fundamentally disagree. Science is more essential for our prosperity, our security, our health, our environment, and our quality of life than it has ever been before."

French President Nicolas Sarkozy was also supportive of funding science research in a speech made this summer: "Science is, I am well aware, a fragile enterprise and scientists must be defended against obscurantism, fanaticism, wilful ignorance and contempt for the truth. The economic downturn should not prompt us to postpone investment in science, but rather to bring it forward

and consolidate it."

Yet, perhaps the most damning criticism of the UK government's plan to cut science research funding came not from a world leader, or even from a scientist, journalist or politician, but instead came simply from the daughter of a recent Alzheimer's victim.

Vivienne Hill, whose mother died in April, was speaking at the rally as a champion of the UK Alzheimer's Research Trust, claims that there is a dirty little secret that the government does not want us to know.

The UK is currently second only to Holland in terms of the proportion of its population who give money to medical research charities. This fact has, in her opinion, led the government to believe that any cuts made to funding medical research will be compensated for by the generosity of UK citizens.

"Science is more essential for our prosperity, our security, our health, our environment, and our quality of life than it has ever been before."

She says, "The government simply expects the public to pick up the slack." Plainly, such exploitation of public kindness cannot be tolerated.

Within a matter of just two weeks, the 'Science is Vital' campaign managed to mobilise over 2,000 supporters for last weekend's rally and its online petition now has over 28,000 signatures.

By the time this goes to press, the group will also have lobbied parliament.

However, the scientists' pleas may still prove to have fallen on deaf ears

when George Osborne's Governmental Spending Review is published next Thursday.

Yet, at least one thing is for sure; UK scientists can no longer be accused of taking refuge in their 'ivory towers' and refusing to engage in public debate.

Perhaps the most important point to come out of the rally is that UK scientists have taken their first major step in engaging and communicating their work to the public at large.

In the past, the science community has hardly been held up as a paragon of good PR skills. Yet, it would now seem that more and more scientists are finally realising that their ability to communicate with, and be held accountable by the public at large is an increasingly important element of the role they have to play in today's modern liberal democracy.

At the very least, the rally induced a few translucent-skinned science geeks to leave the lab and seek new frontiers and horizons in the fabled world of 'outdoors'. Who knows, one day they may even return?

Photo by Thomas Welch



The crowd gathered outside the Treasury with high profile campaigners

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Imperial researchers in *Eureka* top 100

50 Prof Sir John Pendry



The highest placed Imperial researcher. Prof Pendry is Chair in Theoretical Solid State Physics in the Dept. of Physics.

Prof Pendry's research is into perfect lenses and metamaterials.

The third Physicist from Imperial College, Prof Virdee works in the High Energy Physics group in the Dept. of Physics.

He also works at CERN, the European particle accelerator in Geneva.

63 Prof Jim Virdee



75 Prof David Nutt



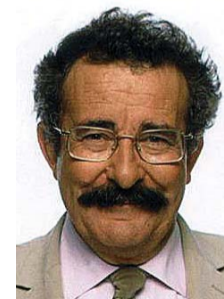
A champion of science-based drug policy, Prof. Nutt holds a Chair in Neuropsychopharmacology.

He was sacked from the Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs earlier this year.

Lord Robert Winston is Imperial College's first Professor of Science and Society.

A household name for his expertise in child development, Winston is Emeritus Professor in Fertility Studies.

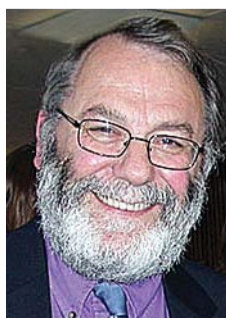
84 Prof Lord Robert Winston



The Deputy Rector for Research at Imperial College, Peter Knight is a Professor of Quantum Mechanics in the Dept. of Physics.

He is also chair of Defence Science Advisory Council.

60 Prof Sir Peter Knight



75 Prof Simon Donaldson



The highest placed non-physicist, from the Dept. of Mathematics, Prof Donaldson holds the Chair in Pure Mathematics.

He is the only mathematician from Imperial College in the top 100.

Prof Yang, a computer scientist at Imperial, works at the Institute of Global Health Innovation.

He also holds the chair in Medical Image Computing at the College.

81 Prof Guang-Zhong Yang



100 Prof Sir Roy Anderson



Roy Anderson was Imperial College's previous rector and is a Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology.

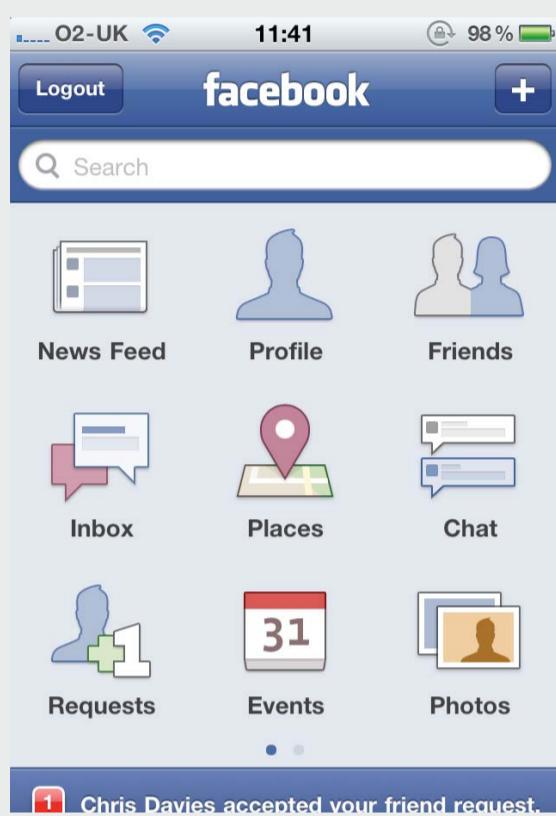
Prof Anderson has also been Chief Science Advisor to the Ministry of Defence.

Technology Editor: **Samuel Gibbs**technology.felix@imperial.ac.uk

TECHNOLOGY

Free App of the Week

iOS - Facebook



Facebook, there's an app for that. Giving you news feed, friend requests, fb chat, photos, Places and events. Everything you could want for free. Just don't sync your contacts if you value your privacy.

Android - Facebook



Android's got an app too, although the free Android app lags behind the iPhone on features and is currently lacking the Places (yuck!) integration.

Facebook: Revolution

From bedroom to billions - **Guo Heng Chin** talks social revolution in the second installment of our Facebook saga

Facebook is taking over the world. From the dorm-run social network exclusive to Ivy-Leaguers six years ago, today it boasts over 500 million users worldwide. That's 13.7% of the world population.

As David Kirkpatrick points out in *The Facebook Effect*, Facebook fills a gap in the online world because it is neither a dating site nor a professional site like its predecessors. It offers the complete social experience. Facebook allows us to literally 'lift' our social networks into the Internet.

Unlike Friendster or MySpace, we use our real identities on Facebook because our Facebook network mirrors that in the real world, a key to how Facebook revolutionized our social lives.

Gone are the times of mustering up courage to ask that pretty girl you met at the party for her number. 'Friend' her on Facebook instead. We now organize events via Facebook. We stay up-to-date with friends on Facebook instead of traditional email. As Sean Parker quoted in the new film on Facebook, *The Social Network*: "We used to live in villages, then we lived in cities, now we live in the Internet".

On founder Mark Zuckerberg's Facebook profile, he lists 'openness' as one of his interests. Openness is a core value of Facebook too, Kirkpatrick points out in his book. Besides connecting people, openness is also what made Facebook into the technology company valued at \$33 billion, as reported in *The Financial Times* this August.

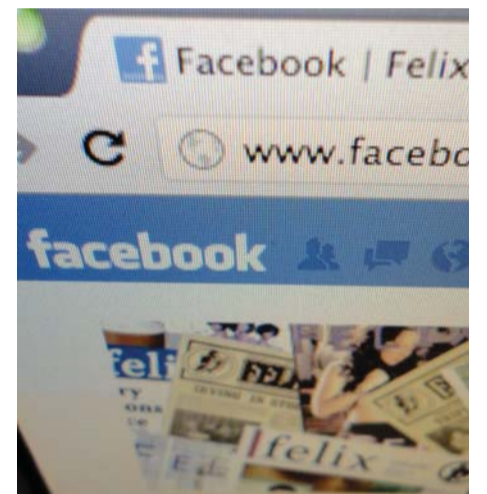
With 500 million users willingly inputting their personal information on Facebook, it is a gold mine for advertisers.

However, Facebook is revolutionary in the world of marketing because you and I list our interests, activities and favourites on our profiles. It is able to target ads with a demographic specificity not found in other web services. I could easily create an ad on Facebook that targets the estimated 3,620 men in UK between 18 – 26 years old, attends university, likes Star Wars, is interested in women and is single. Stanford Professor, BJ Fogg points out in an interview with *Fast Company* that Facebook "takes the dynamics of one-to-one persuasion and scales it up to millions".

The scale of it has certainly manifested in Facebook's revenue. Business Insider estimated that in 2009, Facebook's revenue stood at \$550 million – \$475 million of it comes from advertising.

Wall Street Journal says that Facebook forecasted their earnings to hit between \$1.2 and \$2 billion by 2010. Michael Arrington of TechCrunch says that words are out from mid-level Facebook employees that the company's revenue will top \$2 billion this year. Words may be just words, but Facebook has a history of exceeding its own expectations.

Facebook is constantly innovating new ways to increase the amount of information shared and make easier the process of sharing. News feed turned everyone into a micro-blogger. Facebook Connect lets you use your Facebook pro-



file on other websites; more info on your online behaviour for advertisers. The newly introduced Places now feeds your current location to Facebook. These new innovations are often wrought with controversy and backlash from users.

Already a revolutionary force its short six-year life - where will Facebook be heading next? Certainly the recent defection of top Googlers to Facebook and the coming on-board of Internet superstars hint at the immense potential of Facebook. Catch up with Facebook's future in next week's *Felix*, as I discuss whether Facebook has already peaked, or will soon become, the Big Brother of the Internet-connected world.

Complete your Facebook week -- jump to Page 30 now for the Felix review of [the social network](#)

Finally! Backup your Facebook

Feroz Salam

According to Facebook's statistics page, over 30 billion 'pieces of content' (blog posts, photos, videos, inane comments, fan pages, statuses etc) are uploaded every month to the website. Considering how central Facebook has become to social interactions these days, that figure isn't surprising at all. What is surprising is that there's been no way for you to back up all of this content – until now. Facebook has just begun rolling out the ability to download all your information to your hard drive for 'back-up purposes'.

Once your account has the feature activated, you'll be able to go to Account -> Account Settings -> Download Information to download a zip file containing all the interactions involving your profile since you joined Facebook all

those years ago. That's one massive zip file. Facebook's helpfully included a HTML Facebook page with links to all the information that's backed up. Unfortunately, there is no way of resubmitting the zipped file in order to 'reset' your profile to an earlier state. It's not that kind of backup.

The changes come as Facebook moves to give users more freedom in handling the information that Facebook owns on them. Facebook still refuses to make any guarantees on how long they hold any information about you on their servers though. Privacy issues aside, this should come in very handy if you want to have your own copy of all the photos on your account, rather than trusting Facebook to maintain your profile safely. Get a copy of your profile now and enjoy some offline narcissism while it's fresh.





Browne Review

Alex Kendall
President

The Union's response.

On Tuesday 12 October, the Browne Review was released. It contains the recommendations laid out by Lord Browne's review panel for the future of Higher Education funding in the UK. Imperial College Union broadly supports the proposals in the Review. Though the cap on fees will be lifted, Universities will have to cover some of the cost if they want to charge above £6000/year to prove that the courses really are value for money and that graduates from those courses will be expected to earn more.

To combat the fear many students have about the spectre of high levels of debt, the proposals include the principle that no one should have to pay the tuition fee up-front, merely after they graduate. This will mean that any student with the right academic skills, regardless of their background, can come to Imperial.

Other proposals include increasing the size of the maintenance loan, which is £3750 given to all students to live on. The maintenance grant, which is a means-tested sum of money given on top of the loan to students, will also be increased to a maximum of £3250. The poorest students will thus have access to £7000/year for living, £1000 more than currently.

Imperial also has plans to increase its already large bursary scheme for students who struggle financially, as it aims to attract the best students regardless of their ability to pay, something the Union is working with College towards. Bursaries targeted at the most needy are crucial at helping students through university and will mean that the headline fee (eg. £10,000) will only be paid by the wealthiest. Bursaries can be provided by universities and by businesses, and

a criticism of the Browne Review is that it does nothing to provide incentives for businesses to invest in students' education. 89% of students here who responded to our Browne Review survey wanted to see more business bursaries.

Another aspect of the Browne Review is that government money should be targeted at crucial subjects for which there is a lack of skills in the workplace, or subjects for which education is expensive but salary is not high. STEM subjects and Medicine are all mentioned as subjects to support financially. This proposal will see Science, Medicine and Engineering graduates leave university with similar debts to arts graduates because of government help. We support this principle.

In conclusion, the full policy of the Union on Higher Education funding will be voted on in Union Council on 1 November, this is just our initial response. Any student can attend and speak at Council. The proposals set out, however, are encouraging as they help students from poorer backgrounds more to widen access, maintain the principle that no one should pay up front, give more money to students to live on, set a graduate contribution that is linked to earnings and for which the interest rate only applies, and you only have to pay the loan back, after you are earning £21,000, up from the current baseline of £15,000. Crucially, they also mean that Universities will get the money they need and can charge the cost of the degree, something we need if quality of education is to get higher.

Sexual Health and Guidance Week (SHAG Week)

Pick up one of our SHAG bags from our information stands.

Monday

Union and Terence Higgins Trust stands with free Chlamydia testing

Sherfield Foyer 12:00 – 14:00

Come to our stands throughout the week either in Sherfield or the JCR to get your hands on loads of great freebies as well as great up to date information on how to take care of your sexual health. Free Chlamydia testing for students aged 16 - 24 is also available.

Free Personal Safety For Women Workshops

Activity Space 2, Union Building 12:00 – 13:00, 13:00 – 14:00

Try out our free taster workshops run by professional trainer Sev Necati. She'll be going through tips and advice on personal safety and as well as introducing some basic self defence techniques. The first three workshops are women only, but lads, if you want to come there's one for you on Thursday (see below).

Tuesday

Union and Brook stands with free Chlamydia testing

JCR 12:00 - 14:00

Free Brook Sexual Health Workshop - learn how to take care of your sexual health

Meeting Room 2, Beit Quad East Basement 12:00 – 14:00

Check out Brook's Workshop to learn more about those sexually transmitted nasties as well as the range of contraception options available. Someone will also be on hand to answer any questions you may have.

Special S.H.A.G. edition Pub Quiz

FiveSixEight, Beit Quad 20:00 – 22:00

The very first Pub Quiz to be held in our brand new bar, FiveSixEight. Test your sexual know-how to win prizes!

Thursday

Union, Terence Higgins Trust and Textmate stands with free Chlamydia testing

Sherfield Foyer 12:00 – 14:00

Free Personal Safety For Women Workshop

Activity Space 2, Union Building 12:00 – 13:00

Free Personal Safety For Adults Workshop

Activity Space 2, Union Building 13:00 – 14:00

Ann Summers Try and Buy Party (Girls Only)

Meeting Room 4, Beit Quad East Basement 18:00 – 21:00

Calling all girls! Try out the latest ranges of Ann Summers lingerie, sex toys and more at this exclusive event for IC students. Get advice from an Ann Summers personal shopper and take advantage of loads of discounts!

Friday

Union and Brook stands with free Chlamydia testing

JCR 12:00 - 14:00



Charlotte Ivison
Deputy President (Welfare)

Free Life Drawing Class with LeoSoc

Room 4 and 5 Beit Quad East Basement 18:00 – 20:00

Unleash your inner Leonardo with this workshop run by LeoSoc. Draw with a live model in front of you and get guidance from an on-hand professional tutor. Don't be shy, all skill levels are welcome!

Traffic Light Party @ FiveSixEight

FiveSixEight, Beit Quad 20:00 – 01:00

Chill out after a hard week studying in our brand new bar, FiveSixEight, and have your love life made a little bit easier. Stickers will be handed out on the night for you to wear to indicate your availability – green for single, red for taken and amber for...not quite decided.

BUSINESS

Business Editors: **Sina Atherian**
Afonso Campos
business.felix@imperial.ac.uk

News Summary

Liverpool owners lose court case

The High Court ruled on Wednesday against Liverpool FC owners Tom Hicks and George Gillett attempting to sack the club's Board of Directors.

The pair had been trying to prevent a sale of the club. Justice Floyd told the pack court that this amounted to "the clearest possible breach" of corporate governance rules. The ruling brings the club closer to a takeover by either the American owners of the Boston Red Sox or a Singaporean billionaire.

Mixed signals on UK employment

According to the Office for National Statistics, the UK claimant count rose by 5,300 last month, the biggest rise since January. August's increase was revised up to 3,800. These figures are still far better than recent US employment data, in relative terms.

However, the International Labour Organisation, which measures unemployment in broader terms, reported a fall by 20,000 to 2.448 million in the three months to August. That took the jobless rate down to 7.7 percent from 7.8 percent, the lowest since May 2009.

This was mostly due to a rise in part-time workers, and did little to calm market fears about expected job losses across the public sector.

Google plans inflation index

Complaints about the inaccuracy of government inflation numbers, and their inconsistency with the daily experience of buying and selling, are as old as the statistics themselves.

These numbers are currently collected by hand from arbitrarily selected stores. They can be a month old before release and the product weightings used are typically much older still.

This week Google announced its own inflation index, based on, and weighted by, daily data from online sales prices and volumes. No decision has yet been made about whether to publish it.

Writing for Felix

Felix Business is looking for new contributors this year. We welcome articles about any business-related issue, from students in all departments.

These can be on current business news, your own experience of starting a business, or any topic that interests you. If you have an idea, or would like suggestions for something to write about, email:

business.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Two miners rumble in the Congo

Kazakhstan's largest miner battles Canadian rival over property rights in a war-torn and impoverished region



The much fought-over Kolwezi mine generates a substantial part of the Congo's total government income

Sina Atherian

Last year, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo terminated the mining license of First Quantum Minerals, the Canadian owner of Kolwezi copper mine. This was a considerable blow for First Quantum, which spent US\$750m developing the mine, a move that generated over a quarter of the company's US\$3bn profits in 2008.

The Congolese government cited First Quantum's "unreasonable unwillingness to renegotiate" the amount of taxes they would have to pay once the mine had been made operational as the reason. In early August, the government proceeded in a highly controversial move to sell 50.5% of the mine for US\$175m to Eurasian Natural Resources Corp.

ENRC is one of Kazakhstan's largest companies, but is listed on the London Stock exchange, has full access to global financial markets and employs several high-profile directors. These include the

"The Congolese government gave the reason for this termination as First Quantum's 'unreasonable unwillingness to renegotiate' the amount of taxes they would have to pay"

former Rector of Imperial College, Sir Richard Sykes, who is the company's Senior Independent Director.

Complaints against Sir Richard were first raised by Standard Life, which owns 0.4 per cent of ENRC. They claimed that the former Imperial College Rector had shown bad judgement in buying the rights, given that the mine is still subject to a dispute between the Congolese government and First Quantum.

Sir Richard, who also serves in a num-

ber of philanthropic and business roles outside of ENRC, defended his actions last month, telling the Telegraph that: "It is an issue between First Quantum and the DRC government. First Quantum were given every opportunity to renegotiate their contract with the DRC. They didn't and it was taken off them." Sir Richard added that his company went to considerable effort to ensure there were "no dodgy dealings."

First Quantum is now accusing the company of buying stolen property that belongs to it and has sued ENRC in the International Court of Arbitration. Congo has already promised to respect the court's decision. The lawsuit demands US\$2.5bn, which Newall said was the "calculated market damage done to First Quantum and against our peer group."

In response to the Congolese government's claims of unspecified misconduct by First Quantum, Newall said that "they are making weightless and scurrilous accusations against the manage-

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BUSINESS

ment. We would be delighted to have an independent review. It's extraordinary that ENRC's non-executives would put their names to this."

Meanwhile, CEO Philip Pascall reassured First Quantum's investors that the mine closure "doesn't impact our cash resources and flow sufficiently to affect our projects." He added that he had been in contact with ENRC "to point out the flaw in the way they were going." ENRC's CEO Felix Vulis responded that, "any dispute that First Quantum has is with the relevant [Congolese] authorities. If proceedings are issued, ENRC will defend its legal position vigorously."

The mine is the Congolese government's largest single source of tax revenue, generating US\$55m annually. Congo's ambassador to South Africa said that his government would respect the decision of the International Court of Arbitration, but could not afford to lose its tax revenue in the two to three years that such proceedings typically take. First Quantum has meanwhile said that the tribunal has already barred any

"The mine is the Congolese government's largest single source of tax revenue"

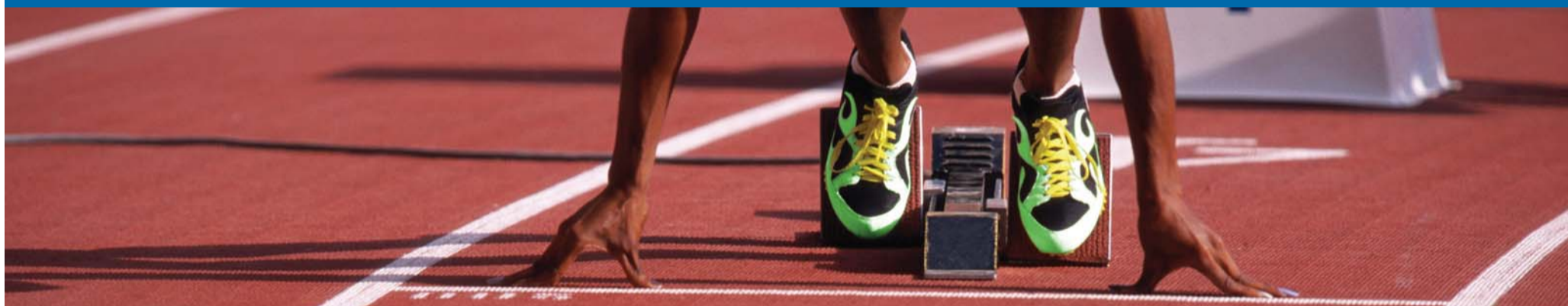
title transfers on the mine: "ENRC has not contacted First Quantum with respect to the status of the arbitration or its legal and contractual rights to the Kolwezi tailings exploitation permit. Any purported transfer of the tailings exploitation permit covering the Kolwezi Project is ineffective and contrary to the orders issued by the tribunal."

The court that reviewed the case in the Congo said that First Quantum should respect the decision of the domestic court and pay it US\$12bn for "damaging the reputation" of Congo's government. The case is currently ongoing through several legal channels and is not expected to be resolved in the next year.



In recent years of relative stability, the Congolese capital Kinsasha has benefited from foreign business interest, hoping to access the country's rich natural resources. The government is keen not to jeopardise this.

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POLITICS

The world beyond College walls



China

A group of 23 Communist Party elders have called for an end to restrictions on the freedom of speech in a letter addressed to the National People's Congress.

This comes ahead of a key policy meeting in China that is expected to shape Chinese policy for years to come. The letter calls for people to be allowed to express themselves freely on the Internet and demands more respect for journalists. The release of this letter follows just days after the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Liu Xiaobo last week, who is currently serving an 11 year sentence for subversion.



USA

The US ban on openly gay military personnel has been suspended by a federal judge.

This follows a ruling by a district judge that the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy was unconstitutional. This ruling was hailed by gay rights activists as a victory for strong national defence. However, they cautioned gay members of the armed forces from coming out as the Obama administration could still appeal this ruling.

The Obama administration has been trying to repeal this policy but has been held up by conservative politicians in the US Senate. More than 12,500 members of the US armed forces have been sacked since 1993 under this policy which is supported by certain parties who claim that having openly gay members in the armed forces would lower troop morale.



Kyrgyzstan

Ballot papers in Kyrgyzstan's first parliamentary elections are to be recounted following the election on Sunday.

This follows widespread concerns about irregularities and protests by losing parties over the election results which saw five of the 29 participating political parties exceeding the 5% threshold needed to enter the 120 seat Parliament.

The far right Ata Zhurt party narrowly won the largest share of the vote with 8.8% of all votes cast, but will not be able to govern on its own. This is the first election in Kyrgyzstan after a new constitution in June, and a mass revolt in April which left hundreds of people dead.

Edited by Kenneth Lee

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Arabs in Israel

Majid Al-Khalil interviews MK Haneen Zoabi

What are your impressions of the current peace talks in light of the end of the settlement freeze?

First of all, there is no end for the settlement freeze. The declaration until now is ambiguous and there is a clear declaration from the side of Netanyahu that the Israeli settlers should play down or act without any announcement, and there is planning [permission] for thousands of housing units that they are just continuing with. More importantly, this is not the discussion. It is another condition – another matter Netanyahu creates in order for the Palestinians to concentrate upon and really it has nothing to do with negotiations, because the negotiations are supposed to end occupation, not to freeze occupation. To make this part of negotiations and to freeze the real negotiations which are supposed to be about dismantling settlements, Jerusalem, refugees and withdrawal from 1967 is a Netanyahu success or an Israeli success.

To what extent are the Israeli Arabs represented in these peace talks?

There are no Israeli Arabs, there are only Palestinian citizens of Israel. They are not represented in these negotiations. The Oslo agreements have excluded the Palestinians and treated them as an internal Israeli issue. The Israelis also treat them as an internal issue, while not treating them as full citizens. We say that we are part of the Palestinian people, we are part of the Arab-Israeli struggle – and should be part of the solution of course! This is part of why we should refuse and even struggle against regarding Israel as a Jewish state and consider it as very dangerous for the whole Palestinian people. Because firstly it will close the doors in front of any possibility for the right of return and secondly because you would legitimise the racism against the Palestinian citizens. The establishment of my party, the National Democratic Assembly, was actually a reaction to the Oslo agreement, which says that the Palestinians are just an occupation issue. We say that no, the Palestinian issue did not start as an occupation issue in 1967. It started as a refugee issue in 1948 and if we want to reach any just solution, the solution must take into consideration what happened in 1948.

Can these talks be seen as legitimate with the exclusion of Hamas?

No, those who negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian people must represent the whole Palestinian people. Hamas was elected by the Palestinian people on the grounds of Oslo. So it is an absurd, tragic and strategic mistake to enter these negotiations without a unified - I would not say Palestinian authority but a unified PLO [Palestinian Liberation Organisation] which should represent the whole Palestinian people. As we know, until now Hamas has not recognised the PLO. However I think they now have a new attitude to being a part of the PLO and recognising the PLO as a representation of the Palestinians. So we must rebuild the PLO



Haneen Zoabi, Arab Member of Knesset, with IC Palestinian Soc spoke with on their trip

in a way that will represent the whole Palestinian people including Hamas. And the PLO must negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians without considering negotiations as a substitute for struggle according to our historical rights and according to international law. Negotiation must be considered as a tool among other legitimate tools and must be according to a clear Palestinian vision of ending occupation.

While we have been travelling in the West Bank we have been shocked by the number of settlements and settler-only roads that cover the entire territory now. It seems unlikely that much, if any, of this will be dismantled so do you still hope for a two-state solution?

Until now we are calling for the ending of occupation and the right of the Palestinians for a sovereign state. But the reality which has been developing over the last 8 or 10 years is

for two nations - because again, we refuse [to recognise] Israel as a Jewish state, we believe it should be a democratic state. When we say two states we must really differentiate between two possibilities: The two states of Netanyahu with [Palestinian controlled] cantons and local authorities and a Jewish state. This is the Israeli scenario of two states which we refuse.

We suggest another scenario. Not with Palestinian cantons without an army, without Jerusalem and keeping the settlements as the Israelis suggest, but a sovereign Palestinian state across the full lands of 1967, Jerusalem and the dismantlement of the settlements; and beside it, a state for all of its citizens. This is what my party, the National Democratic Assembly is calling for: a democratic state within the lands of 1948 which would not give privileges to Israeli Jews at the expense of the Palestinians. So this scenario is not the solution of two nationalist states.

Do you see the dismantlement of these settlements as a real possibility?

This is the minimum condition for peace. I cannot see a Palestinian state, a sovereign strong state, with Jewish settlements. The problem is not how difficult the solution is, but how the Israeli establishment is convinced against it. Again, this is the minimum condition for a just peace. We must remember that we are talking about 22% of historical Palestine.

Many of the people we have talked to have said that they would prefer a single state solution with equal rights and freedom of movement for all. Why is the one-state solution not discussed at a serious level? And is a single state desirable or possible?

Mahmoud Abbas entered negotiations not just

“You realise that during the negotiation no one uses the word occupation”

blocking the chance and in fact the possibility of two states and we [are] going into a reality of a one-state solution. Whether it's one democratic state or a binational solution. But again, our formal attitude should be not the two states of Netanyahu, not the two states of the Zionist parties, not the two states of Israelis but the democratic states which means not two states

without representing the Palestinians of 1948 but also without representing the Palestinians of the Gaza siege. He is not saying anything about the refugees. It is not just a matter of '48. But why now to stress the idea of two states? Because we must end occupation and I don't want to enter into this route of two states or one state as a theoretical discussion.

It is neglecting and marginalising the daily suffering of the Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank and in the refugee camps which pushes us to placing at the head of our agenda the matter of occupation.

I am worried that we will forget even the word occupation – you realise that during the negotiation no one uses the word occupation. We forget that at the centre of negotiations should be ending occupation and not just freezing it and

preserving the status quo. Year after year we are negotiating to freeze the status quo and the real negotiations which take place on the ground leads to expanding settlements. So the aim of these negotiations is just to give legitimacy to occupation instead of ending it. I am afraid that entering your discussion of one state or two states would again change the terminology, and we would again be helping Israel to deepen and expand the occupation.

To many British Arabs, the Labour Party in the UK has played a role in legitimising Israeli aggression. Why did you attend the Labour Party conference?

I attended the Labour Party conference on the invitation of Labour Friends of Palestine who, if they were to lead the

Labour Party would take it to a dramatically different approach to the Palestinian issue, who agree with the Palestinian rights 100%, [sic] who oppose and define Israeli aggression as aggression and Israel as a breaker of international law and with whom I have no party differences.

But even if I was invited by the Labour Party leadership I would go because I was not invited to support the Labour Party's policies. I have been invited to support the Palestinian struggle and to speak of my beliefs on our rights which I have expressed in this interview.

The Israeli attacks on Gaza and the flotilla, the war in Lebanon, the second intifada – there has been a gradual shift in British public opinion. There is now a gap between the British government's position and public opinion regarding the issue of Palestine.

Background facts

Arab Israelis – Currently about 20% of Israel's 7.6m population is of Arab ethnicity.

West Bank barrier – Israel started erecting this concrete separation barrier in 2002. It is planned to be a 709km long at the border between the West Bank and Israel, of which 409km has been constructed (as of August 2009).

Israeli settlements – Jewish communities or towns located in occupied territories Israel captured during the 1967 Six Day war. Israel officially has 227 settlements (considered illegal by the international community) housing 500,000 residents. There are no longer any settlements in the Gaza Strip, following the disengagement in 2005.

These facts are a simple guide to give context to the interview and article. Source for figures is B'Tselem: www.btselem.org

Sadly no simple single solution

In September 2010 members of the IC Palestinian Society travelled in the West Bank and took part in voluntary programs at Al-Najah University and Askar refugee camp

Majid Al-Khalil

After three hours of questioning and "security checks" it was with some relief that our group finally left the bowels of Ben Gurion airport and stepped out into the warm Mediterranean night. Soon after arriving at our first destination of Jerusalem we entered the Old City and wandered through the maze of crooked streets in awe at the splendour and majesty of our surroundings. Jerusalem is a truly special city. The cobbles drip with history and excavations reveal, in distinct layers below the surface, how it was razed and reconstructed repeatedly by different civilisations.

Yet scratch beneath the surface and violence has never been far. Where the Western Wall Plaza now stands used to be the city's ancient Moroccan quarter. On the 10th June 1967, after capturing East Jerusalem from the Jordanians, the Israeli army gave the 650 inhabitants of the quarter a few hours' notice to abandon their homes. They then set about demolishing the entire area to make way for the Plaza. By the admission of Israeli commanders themselves, many of those who refused to leave were killed.

Leaving Jerusalem, it does not take long to reach the now infamous West Bank barrier. Concrete, sheer and topped by great arcs of barbed wire, this symbol of the conflict snakes its way through the country, separating Israeli citizens from the Palestinians Arabs living just behind it.

One of the most striking aspects no-

ticeable while travelling behind the wall is the number of Israeli settlements that pepper the landscape. Huge obstacles to any current peace deal, these colonial outposts are well developed. Ariel, the largest of its kind in the northern West Bank, is home to over 15,000 settlers and has its own university. The settler-only roads that criss-cross the landscape and connect these towns to each other, along with the different number plates that Israeli and Palestinian drivers are forced to use, lead to countless comparisons with apartheid South Africa.

In the midst of all this the one seemingly obvious question which is seldom addressed is the following: "Where exactly is the long-proposed Palestinian state supposed to go?"

The Israelis have de facto annexed almost 50% of the land in the West Bank as fully Israeli controlled or of restricted access to Palestinians. Almost 500,000 Israeli citizens live in settlements located in the West Bank or East Jerusalem – all of which are recognised as illegal under international law by the United Nations, the European Union and the United States.

However, although they are illegal, it is also surely fantasy to imagine that they will ever be removed. The evacuation of all settlements in the Gaza strip and four in the West Bank under Ariel Sharon opened bitter rifts in Israeli society and the task of displacing hundreds of thousands of settlers, many of whom would certainly resist, is not a realistic plan for any future prime minister. Why

then do the negotiating parties continue in the endless stalemate of talks based on a two-state solution that will never be implemented?

Many of the Palestinians we spoke to stated in conversation that they would prefer a single state with equal rights and freedom of movement for all. At the beginning of this month, Gregory Levey, himself a former speechwriter for two Israeli prime ministers, said in an interview with *Time* that increasing numbers of Palestinians are saying "Forget it. We'll have one state. We don't want our own state, but we want a vote." Despite this apparently growing momentum, the one state solution is still often dismissed as a "fad" and not discussed at a serious level.

Paradoxically, when the first ideological settlers started building on the lands captured by Israel in 1967, they put into motion a sequence of events which now makes it seem less likely than ever that Israel can remain a Zionist state. This is because the settlers have entrenched themselves so deeply that they will surely stay, and yet no Israeli leader in the foreseeable future seems likely to attempt the ethnic cleansing that would be necessary to remove the millions of Palestinians living in the West Bank. The result is two communities which, despite their mutual loathing for one another, are bound to living cheek by jowl.

Opponents of the one-state solution including Levey claim that it would lead to civil war, and that the two communi-

ties can never hope to coexist. But this need not be the case. If people are treated with dignity and not subject to ritual humiliation as part of their daily lives then it seems more likely that a situation conducive to peace will form. Things are undeniably better in the West Bank now since the end of the First Intifada – the checkpoints remain but generally allow traffic to pass and the university which we visited boasted truly impressive facilities.

For the 25,000 residents living in the square kilometre slum that is Balata refugee camp, they may as well be living in a constant Intifada. Here, there is abject poverty and Israeli incursions are frequent. The gaps between houses are sometimes not wide enough for two people to walk abreast and with 40% unemployment and an exploding young population (70% are below the age of 18), life is very hard indeed. They are located less than 30 miles from the coastal city of Tel Aviv yet have grown up without ever seeing the sea. The newest generation may turn out to be less moderate and more hardened by war than any that have come before because they will have never tasted the privileges of living in a free society.

If one can take anything from the Western Wall Plaza and Balata camp other than acrid depression, then it should be the deep knowledge that both peoples are there to stay. Neither are going anywhere and there will never be peace in the Middle East until this is accepted.



COMMENT

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FELIX

Imperial students should support the Browne Review's recommendations

The ailments that afflict UK universities are well documented. A rapid increase in the number of students wishing to go to university, combined with declining government funding has left our higher education institutions short of cash and a generation of young people denied the opportunity to study at a higher level.

The argument about who should fund universities has been long settled. We have all agreed that, as it is the individual who benefits from a university education, the individual should also pay for it. Conflating Browne's recommendations with the need to cut the deficit ignores the vital truth that the current debate is all about the need to push the financial burden onto the individual.

So, a graduate tax or unlimited fees? Browne's recommendations are a welcome compromise between the two. They assuage the fears of students like those at Imperial who are worried that a graduate tax would unfairly penalise them for being high-achievers. And ideas like raising the level at which graduates begin paying off their debts, encouraging universities to give more bursaries and a lower rate of interest for low-earning graduates also ensure that students from poorer backgrounds are not put off.

But ultimately, any debate about university funding comes down to one word: debt. Obviously higher tuition fees will result in much larger graduate debt but the difference between this and other funding models is simply a matter of perception. Consider the amount that you would pay through a graduate tax as a lump sum and suddenly you have a mountain of student debt; conversely, think of your tuition fee debt as a monthly deduction to your salary and doesn't it suddenly feel like you're being taxed? Although your student debt may take some time to pay off, it is the friendliest debt you will ever incur.

The benefits derived from a university education (both financial and personal) are substantial. The need for direct and increased university funding is urgent. And the realistic impact of substantial student debt is far less than some would like to portray. Given these three truths, the Browne Review's recommendations are useful, thorough and the ideal medicine for our ailing higher education system.

Reject higher fees

'Crippling' levels of debt are not the way forward for a sustainable higher education system



Aaron Porter
President, National Union of Students

"We will not accept any MPs breaking the pledge they made"

The Browne review into higher education funding and student finance has recommended not only a doubling of tuition fees, but made provisions for a free market in tuition fees.

Such extreme proposals had looked increasingly likely as leaks built up over the last few weeks – but, in many ways, this was always the likely outcome of a review led by the former chief executive of BP, with the rest of the panel made up of three business people, two vice chancellors and a university employee.

The question now turns to how the Government will respond to the review's findings. The make-up of the Government should be in our favour – the Liberal Democrat party have a long-stated belief that tuition fees are regressive and unfair, and have indeed argued that fees should be entirely abolished. Moreover, every single Liberal Democrat MP signed an NUS pledge prior to the election to vote against any rise in tuition fees. It will not be possible to get a rise in the tuition fee cap passed through parliament if the Liberal Democrats stick to this pledge – and so all eyes will be on them over the coming weeks and months.

We will not accept any MPs breaking the pledge that they made to students and their families during the election campaign – you simply can't say one thing one month, only to do the exact



Every Lib Dem MP promised at the election to vote against an increase in tuition fees

opposite once you are in power.

But we must also strongly make the case against any rise in tuition fees to all MPs – they are a regressive model which, as Secretary of State Vince Cable argued this summer, act as a higher education "poll tax". Higher fees would clearly be far worse still, leaving graduates with crippling levels of debt and undoubtedly deterring applicants from poorer backgrounds.

Politicians will argue that tuition fees have to rise given the massive cuts the higher education sector will suffer. This is completely unacceptable – why should students be forced to take on yet more debt simply to lessen the damage of expected government cuts? Students did not cause the recession – it is simply not fair to ask them to pay for the mistakes of others.

What is more, universities made no case as to how they would use higher tuition fees to improve the student experience, let alone accounted for the

Students did not cause the recession – it is simply not fair to ask them to pay for the mistakes of others.

extra income they have received from students' pockets since fees were tripled just four years ago. Student satisfaction has not improved at all in that period. Vice chancellors, on an average salary £219,000, must be disabused of the notion that students and their families would tolerate paying more for less, or indeed to foot the bill for others' excesses.

The Coalition Government has a golden opportunity to implement a fairer, more sustainable alternative to higher tuition fees. If they fail to do so, students and their families, already feeling the pinch, will not forgive or forget.

Have your say on this article at felixonline.co.uk

COMMENT

You're a bunch of greedy t***ts!



Angry Geek

“Come the Revolution, I’ll be using you as the wall against which I’ll shoot the people I dislike slightly less than you”

Oh, I’m sorry. I must’ve been emailing my imaginary Felix editor with an entirely imagined column about the need for you to shut your traps and adjust to life a bit better. My mistake. That would explain the reams of whiny toss on Facebook, Twitter, newspapers and my latest Moaning Gitfaces Weekly. Although the latter was a whiny toss special edition, so that absolves it somewhat.

So the government want to charge more for university, eh? My, that is quite the situation. I mean, the actual amount you pay off each month/year is unlikely to change. And as long as the loans are still available – which they always will be – there’s little barrier to entering university. Will you be paying your loan off for most of your life? Well, yes. Will you notice it between the myriad other bills you’ll be paying? I imagine not.

It’s not your fault. The drive to push more people into university has probably made you feel none of this is a big deal any more. It is, of course. You’re going to voluntarily cough up another

four years of your life to learn almost everything there is to know about a given topic. But because almost everyone you know has also toddled off to university, it feels like it’s just something people do.

As Imperial graduates, you will, almost without doubt, be the highest earners in the country compared with others in your generation. That may not be why you came here, but it is an almost inescapable side effect, unless you’re mentally damaged enough to want to write for Felix and become a journalist, hyuk hyuk.

Field Marshal Happypants Aaron Porter of the National Union of Students has called the cuts ‘crippling’ and ‘reckless’, despite the fact that the qualifying salary for paying back the loan is only a few thousand pounds short of the average wage (a wage which many Imperial students earn from the day they graduate). Even coupled with an interest rate rise, it’s hard to believe that the next generation will be scrabbling around in the dirt looking for theorems to prove.

What does this come down to? For some – but by no means all of you – it is undoubtedly greed. You oppose pay-

ing such large sums for education, not on a moral level, but because you love money. You came to Imperial to work in the oil industry, or as part of a laughable plan to retire at the age of thirty-five or something. After three years of writing this column, I hope I don’t need to remind this particular subsection of Imperial society that, come the revolution, I will be stacking you side by side, slapping cement between the lot of you and using you as the wall against which I’ll shoot the people I dislike slightly less than you.

For the rest of you, I’d imagine it’s a misunderstanding, or a feeling that you’re propping up the rest of society. This might be true, but on some level it’s your duty to do this. You are the most able people in this country, with the brightest future and the most potential. Bottom of the class at Imperial is still world-class in the grand scheme of things. As a member of the undergraduate population, you have a role to play in the world of tomorrow.

So get off your high horse, drink your milk, and get on with that coursework. There’s work to do.

Embrace the Vespa!

Don’t you just love trade unions? The sort that would stampede over their mothers. As the BBC’s darling Nick-specsavers-Robinson was quick to note in his wet dream crescendo that was the Labour leadership contest result, it’s trade unions that forced Ed Miliband into power. And now this bunch of underused and absurd testes has again brought the tube to a standstill in a series of planned strikes.

But perhaps these strikes are a blessing. The tube is gingivitis to any brain-dead commuter at 8am. No one enjoys being crammed 40m underground like a stinking sardine into a neon-lit carriage. Unless of course they are the type that also enjoys looking at a fat man’s haemorrhoids.

The train stops in a tunnel. It’s akin to a sauna, only with no towels provided. You try desperately to imagine yourself in some far away land, perhaps on a beach with Scarlett Johansson, yet the distraction of those around you is too much. There’s an armpit in your face, a handbag rammed into your stomach, a tosser reading over your shoulder, and a midget sniffing your balls. Scarlett Johansson? No, the whole experience is far more Deborah Meaden. If you had a gun you’d probably use it.

It beggars belief that gazillions of Londoners submit themselves to this rather macabre spectacle five days a week. Why? The tube is not cheap, not even for students. It still comes to £70/month. £70 that could have been spent on important things like beer, computer games, or 10g of white Alba truffle.

There is a way out. Get a second-hand Vespa. A jewel of Italian design, a machine that oozes sex appeal. It’s not a scooter. No, it’s pure porn. Commuting no longer feels like having your face slowly chafed against a cheese-grater. It’s like going under the duvet cover when the sheets are clean and its cold. There’s no congestion charge, no parking costs. It doesn’t go on strike and there’s even room for Scarlett at the back.

Charles Betts

Taking an unwelcome break



Rhys Davies

“Motorway services have a captive audience - one that drove into their clutches voluntarily”

Since I live in Cardiff and Imperial is in London, I am well-versed in the pages of English countryside that is the M4 corridor. Queues around Newport, chevrons outside of Bristol, roadworks just past Reading, I’m better than any SatNav. As well as speed cameras, lane narrowing and caravans, there is a section of motorway life that I have grown to know and loathe.

Motorway services. They can be found on every major highway, with more than a hundred of them up and down the country. Everyone has to use them; from the slick, young drivers of Aston Martins and Lamborghinis to the dodderly old dears in their caravans and Winnebagos. Few other public amenities can boast of such widespread usage.

If only the ‘services’ part could be boasted of as well. A stay-over can range in terms of pleasantness from a stroll in the park on an overcast day to waiting in a bank queue in purgatory. Every services will have a fast-food outlet and a quasi-restaurant-café affair and the only difference between them is that the burger bar is a bit more honest about the ‘quality’ of the food. And the trays are different colours.

In addition to this, their prices – as well as those of the customary shop (in-

variably a WH Smith) – are extortionate. A pack of chewing gum once cost me 75p. 75p?! You could buy a small country for that price (admittedly, a very small country). In fact, it was more expensive than the overpoweringly odorous meal that I had before it. But they are the only services for at least twenty miles and the really clever part is that they have a captive audience that drove into their clutches voluntarily.

Services are always busy and nowhere is this truer than the toilets. There have been times when I’ve visited the gents that there has been standing room only – even in the cubicles. This isn’t surprising since they are the main reason why most people stop at the places to begin with. Given their rate of thoroughfare, they present another opportunity for commercial ventures. Notice, for a start, how they are always located at the back of the services so to reach them you have to pass through the inveiglements of all the shops and food outlets. In truly hectic times, the queues will snake back past the arcades – very shrewd architectural planning and a temptation not easily resisted. But the selling goes on even inside the toilets. Condoms are standard fare but more eclectic choices include chewable toothbrushes, balls of wet wipes and, my personal favourite,

“horny goat weed complex”. And that doesn’t even cover the services advertised in the cubicles.

Some services have a bridge that spans across the motorway. I know of no-one who has gone over one and returned to tell the tale. Still, that doesn’t stop absent-minded wonderings over a Costa coffee and a Little Chef burger. Maybe the bridge leads to a nightmarish other-world filled with esoteric horrors and once familiar things now eldritch. Or maybe it leads to the services on the other side of the motorway, I don’t know.

Up until now, I’ve been rather critical of motorway services but they are not all bad. No matter what misadventures you may experience within, they do offer rest from the monotony of motorway driving. Without them, we would be driven to either tedium or insanity, neither of which is a preferable destination. To take half an hour out to relax and do nothing can only be good for us.

It is only a shame that we don’t apply this logic of the highways to the rest of our lives. As we struggle ever closer to the twenty-five hour day, cramming more and more stuff in an already packed schedule, we miss out on the vital benefits of doing sod all. I blame the motorway services. Only they could make the art of nothing a chore.

COMMENT

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Innocent until proven guilty



Kahfeel Hussain

“What is imperative is that the issues from the spot-fixing fiasco are not be swept under the carpet”

Unlike most cricket fans, some of us have been praying for the season to come to an end, and finally it has. It's been a summer full of controversy, centring on the enigma that is Pakistan. The Pakistan cricket team that is, though the same could be said for the country itself. This is a very unfortunate passage in the history of cricket but fortunately one that comes around as often as Halley's comet. What is imperative is that the issues from the spot-fixing fiasco must not be swept under the carpet, something the cricketing world fears is on the horizon.

The controversy surrounded allegations of spot-fixing, of three no-balls revolving around the captain Salman Butt along with seamers Mohammed Asif and Mohammed Amir. An accusation heralded by the ever-trustworthy News of the World. Their story was corroborated however, by video evidence that suggests the tale is nothing but true.

This is not the first time the Pakistani team has been on the regulators' radar and, regretfully, it will not be the last. It is a country plagued by corruption, from the playground to the President (himself commonly known as 'Mr 10 percent'). Naturally this corruption seeps into

the cricket, especially when the cricket board itself is government run, under the rule of 'officials' such as Ijaz Butt. Prior to the recent events, there were controversies at the Oval test in Pakistan's last tour of England and many other accusations of ball tampering on countless other occasions.

Though proud, Pakistanis have often maintained that such suspicions are a knee-jerk reaction from certain quarters to the 'reverse-swing kings' they produced over the decades (such as Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis), it is a stance that becomes hard to keep up when one of the greatest emerging talents in the world, Mohammed Amir, also falls prey to the same messy business. 'Allegedly', I should say, though the video evidence of the two yard no-ball does seem conclusive if we follow the official version of events.

The punishments for this scandal are of utmost importance to purge such actions from the game cricketing fans are so proud of. However, the reaction by the media has been bizarre to say the least. Many have called for life bans for the players involved in the 'spot'-fixing allegations, without properly justifying this stance at all. It appears that some renowned pundits have let loose their anger

and have finally got the opportunity to vent past piques without fear of reprisal. Some have gone even further demanding the temporary ban of the whole Pakistani cricket team, such as the likes of Malcolm Speed (ex ICC chairman) and Sir Ian Botham in particular. It is also strange but at the same time appalling to not only see a blind eye being turned but many, to the likes of Herschelle Gibbs and others who have themselves been at the other end of match-fixing allegations but received mediocre disciplinary action.

Some other experts have followed a similar line, but focussing on past accusations and placing Pakistan at fault where it could never be proven so. An example is of the infamous Oval test, from the previous tour, where some have vindicated the actions of Umpire Darel Hair, though I fail to see the connection between the exaggerated no ball from Mohammed Amir and the behaviour of the Pakistan captain (at the time Inzamam-ul-Haq) and Umpire Hair at the Oval.

Neutral opinions, such as that of West Indian fast bowling legend turned commenting legend Michael Holding, have come to more logical and thought out conclusions. What the Pakistan play-

ers have done on this dark day must certainly be condemned if proven true. However Michael is a proponent of the second chance philosophy, and therefore believes in a limited ban. It must also be realised that this was not an incident of match-fixing as the game had not been thrown away deliberately by any team. This viewpoint is also echoed by Pakistani Captain turned politician Imran Khan who is now the chairman of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (Movement for Justice). The much admired, World Cup winning Pakistani captain, who famously demanded of his players at the World Cup final to fight like cornered tigers. In this case the Pakistanis were definitely cornered but they made the suicidal mistake of locking themselves in with lions.

Regardless of this saga, the majority of British born Pakistanis continue to remain staunch Pakistani cricket supporters ahead of the national England side. The question is why and there really isn't any logical answer. This is an extremely emotive time for Pakistan. A country in which cricket can define its people. Ultimately the reputation of the sport of cricket has been scarred, leaving many of us with doubt as to whether what we are actually seeing will ever be a hundred percent genuine.

Letters

Dear Sir, In the Freshers' Issue of Felix Simon Worthington wrote an entertaining piece about how to get Xboxes online without having to jump through the hoops that ICT puts in your path. Some "workarounds" were suggested and though Simon was (to quote him) "too much of a pussy" to recommend them to you, recommend them he did.

Simon was absolutely right in that both of his suggestions *are* against the Acceptable Use Policy of the network.

His first suggestion was to muck about with MAC addresses. We call this "spoofing" and don't like it very much. At best it is unhelpful when we're debugging a network issue and at worst fraudulent. We also have a legal obligation, reinforced by our upstream internet provider (ja.net, the UK academic network) to be able to tie all traffic back to a known source. Deliberate concealment by spoofing is frowned upon and so we look out for it. 'Nuff said.

As for sticking a router on the network – we really don't like that. Apart from our macho need to be in control of the active devices on the network, routers and suchlike almost by definition interfere with its operation. Worse, they can affect other people – perhaps even

denying them connectivity (for example, they run a dhcp server). Managing networks well when you don't control all the components is impossible, so we ask you not to plug in anything that is not a properly registered host.

However, of most interest to me was the impression given in the article that registering a device is hard. Is it? Harder than spoofing your MAC address? If it genuinely is, please let me know and I'll try to do something about it. My team do respond to registration requests immediately, not that we get all that many (five last year, I think).

Simon is kind enough to say that Imperial Internet is one of the fastest around. We work hard to achieve this. For you. We *like* it to be used, for recreational as well as academic purposes. We only try to prevent illegal activities and actions which interfere with another user. The AUP is there because the network is a shared environment, so there needs to be an operating framework.

After all, without rules where would we be?

Yours sincerely,
Matthew Williams
Network manager, ICT

Apologies + Corrections

Last week Felix published a letter which in retrospect was inappropriate. It incorrectly stated that Jane Neary is the Head of Catering (she is the Director of Commercial Services, Jemma Morris is the Head of Catering) and belittled the efforts of catering staff in the Senior Common Room (SCR). It is not Felix's desire this year to unnecessarily attack hard working College staff and in that respect the letter was an unfortunate blip. We did not make the appropriate efforts to represent opposing views of catering in the SCR or to ensure the right-to-reply and we apologise for that. In addition we recognise the negative impact that the letter had on staff morale and we further apologise for any hurt or offense caused. Felix is completely editorially independent of the Union and articles published in Felix are in no way a reflection of the Union's positions. The letter represented the views of the author (a student) and the author only. Felix will continue to publish the views of students (however controversial) and support their right to do so, but will strive to do this in a more responsible manner in future.

The Editor



An alternative view of catering in the SCR

The Opportunity

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**Heather Jones Deputy President
(Clubs & Societies)**

**“Those pesky clubs sure do
generate a lot of paperwork...”**

Do you want to do a centrefold? Email felix@imperial.ac.uk

Arts Editor: **Rox Middleton**arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

ARTS

If you read nothing else this week...

Charles Betts tells us about his favourite author and just about picks his favourite book

Tales of the Unexpected

by Roald Dahl

As another winter fast approaches, so too does another instalment of the never ending Harry Potter series. Inevitably, reviews will swoon at how wonderfully dark the films have become, how fantastically magical Hogwarts is, and how brilliantly the annoying brats seize the day. And yet all I feel when I see this wizard boy with silly specs and about as much acting talent as a giraffe-impersonating lion on stilts is a nostalgic yearning for the days when I first picked up a Roald Dahl book.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, *The Twits*, *George's Marvellous Medicine*, *Matilda*, *The Witches*. Each and every one of these books has its own brilliant array of grotesque adults and rotten children. Voldemort could learn a thing or two from the Grand High Witch and Miss Trunchbull. The black comedy is simply mesmerising. It's no surprise that Tim Burton felt compelled to delve into the disturbing world of Willy Wonka. Dahl's books are to Harry Potter what Dracula is to Twilight.



But arguably Dahl's most compelling work is reserved for adults, an audience for which he holds no reigns on his macabre and wry sense of humour. *Tales of the Unexpected* is a literary gem, a sublime collection of 16 sinister short stories with a gripping dearth of morality. Whether it's the traveller who throws himself overboard on a cruise liner so as to win a bet or the harmless and mild mannered landlady whose guests stay for longer than expected, each tale comes with its own concoction of comedy and horror, and its own startling twist.

Dahl's books are all classics and have been read by children and adults for over fifty years. They are all page-turners, all simultaneously enchanting, shocking, compelling, and vile. To pick a favourite is like asking Silvio Berlusconi to pick his pet mistress. It can be done, but not easily. *Tales of the Unexpected* is my pick of the bunch.

Which book do you love more than any other? Tell us why it's so good - Send 300 to 400 words to arts.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Fun and fighting at the

The Finborough theatre in Fulham is a pub-theatre renowned for its small cast and actors, despite its tiny size. Last week we went there to check out a musical.

Nigel Fullerton

The Finborough Theatre occupies a small room above a Kensington pub (The Finborough) and seems the most unlikely place to put on a large cast musical by the great Broadway duo Rodgers and Hammerstein. Now I'm a massive fan of the intimate theatre but a Broadway musical? All I can say is that "Me and Juliet" triumphed in it and in fact only a few minutes into the show the size of the place completely left my mind; quite a tricky but vital thing to achieve when putting on such a show.

The only thing that unsuspended my disbelief if you will, was the large, sweaty bloke who decided to sit next to me and provide an unpleasant olfactory reminder of our proximity. A combination of enveloping myself in the drama and breathing through my mouth allowed me to enjoy the night regardless.

The play is set with a touring musical company performing a show, also rather confusingly called "Me and Juliet". The characters consist of the chorus girl and her brutish stagehand boyfriend, the Assistant Stage Manager who quietly swoons and several other colourful theatre types, including the massive luvvy lead actor, all with hilarious 'New Yoik' accents. The girl goes for the quiet, sensitive stage manager and the nasty crew-member swears to kill him. But of course!

The play within the play is a brilliant take-off of the tailcoats and canes, top hats and charles-



Look in the nooks and crannies with this actor and you'll be pleasantly surprised.

ton musicals of the 30s and 40s. If you'd seen any such musicals, then you could not help but laugh out loud at the ridiculous grins and over the top ah-ah-ah-ing. The company really pulled the laughs out of these chorus numbers considering they were written with 47 cast members in mind and they were only 11.

The company as a whole was excellent though there were one or two personal performances that brought it down. The stagehand boyfriend wasn't nearly enough of a psycho dickwad to convince me that he would actually do harm to the loved-up stage manager. To be honest I've heard 12 year old children say "I'll

kill you!" more convincingly than he did. So he was a bit wooden and one other character's accent seemed to sway between New Yorker and Scottish but apart from that it was an all-round fun and clever show, brought to life in a challenging venue.

My parting message to you would be: don't think that London theatre is confined to the West End. There are dozens of "pub theatres" like the Finborough that offer great theatre in interesting venues with very fine performances. So break the mould, look in the nooks and crannies, you will most likely be pleasantly surprised.

Imperial does The Ugly One

Eva Rosenthal Mena

Beauty does not bring true happiness. Marius von Mayenburg's "The Ugly One", produced by the IC Drama Society, discusses this theme in a comedic and slightly ridiculous approach whilst never letting us forget the tragedy of trying to conform to social norms.

Lette is a man who finds out that he is incredibly ugly and reacts by having his face surgically remodelled. We watch his ascent to attractiveness and power before the surgeon's actions become his undoing.

A cast of only four actors play the eight characters and the scenes are made to shift seamlessly into one another. At times, the actors transform from character to character with barely a moment's pause. The flawlessness of these complicated scene changes was a credit to the direction; the constant shifts kept my attention continually on the action.

Luke Daley, Shamini Bundell and Phil Ray-

mond were good in their respective parts, with Raymond providing some excellent comic relief as the gay son of a very sexually active seventy-year-old woman. However, Tosin Ajayi, who played the very similar characters of Lette's surgeon and boss, outshone the rest of the cast. Ajayi's nuanced performance gave each character a true and distinct personality even though both characters were not only fun-

"Phil Raymond was very good, providing some excellent comic relief as the gay son of a very sexually active seventy-year-old woman"

damentally the same persona, but also followed similar storylines.

I attended a rehearsal of "The Ugly One" with no lighting effects, performed in the middle of a simple meeting room. Although the extra effects in performance will undoubtedly improve the fluidity of the scene changes, I enjoyed watching the raw talent of the actors.

Although "The Ugly One" was essentially about the power of beauty in our society and the true uniqueness of inner beauty, they were at times trying to convey too many messages. Everything from domineering mothers to doctor-patient relationships were there so although the play was a wonderful showcase of the acting talent at Imperial, it left me slightly confused as to the playwright's overall intended message.

**Friday 15th/Saturday 16th.
in the Union Concert Hall.
Tickets £4 (£2 for students)**

e Finborough

for showcasing new and neglected writers
check out two new plays

Jordi Brown

The tale of Ivan vs. Ivan is a newly adapted play by the Canadian based company Talk Is Free Theatre. Showing till the end of this month; the cast and crew bring an inspired and witty piece of work to life with fun use of props and musical accompaniment. The play is narrated throughout by the fantastic David Dodsley, whose sometimes spontaneous outbursts crafts the play's comedy and instigates the slapstick humour of Ivan Nikiforovich (Colin Doyle).

The play opens with an introduction of the two Ivan's; Ivan Ivanovich (Milosh Rodic), a tall lanky man possessing great eloquence and mischievous character and Ivan Nikiforovich, the complete opposite of the former; a short fat man, straight talking and somewhat of a prat in nature. The pair are a picture of perfect friendship, living as neighbours in their small town of Mirgorod. One day Ivan Ivanovich sees that Ivan Nikiforovich has hanging on his clothes line a new gun. Ivan Ivanovich, a proud and noble man, feels that he has everything in the world that he needs and shows off to the audience his property (a miniature prop that at first seems amateurish is employed to hilarious effect), becomes mightily jealous. Ivanovich proceeds to attempt to convince Nikiforovich that he should swap this gun for two sacks of oats. Absurd chaos ensues and the friends wreak havoc upon each other, bringing the town into mayhem and the pair to court.

The cast is engaging and from the outset encourage the audience to clap and cheer and makes them feel genuinely a part of the spectacle. Rodic brings a pantomimic physicality and manic, nearly psychotic mannerisms and expressions which deliver a compelling performance. It's this quality in conjunction with the rest of the cast's versatility in changing roles that really roots the show. The ever evolving



Ivan vs. Ivan: question is, will Ivan win?

absurdity parallels with the narrator's unraveling mismanagement as the story draws to a conclusion and particularly drives the slapstick.

The direction and acting is so punchy and over the top that the play really runs ahead of itself at the beginning and ends up being left behind. The momentum is not built up and instead finds that it slows down through the 90 minute performance. The underlying plot and what the audience may imagine as a moral standing is clearly never touched upon. The show just leaves you with a lack of feeling and thought and the departing words of the narrator fall foul and without dignity. If Gogol meant for you to capture some sentiment, you certainly don't leave with it.

Me and Juliet and Ivan vs. Ivan both run throughout October, tickets between £9 and £15

Imperial students make their last 'Panto'

The director tells us about their very unusual interpretation of a seasonal favourite

Omar Hafeez-Bore

Over the last couple of years I have had the pleasure of putting on three little known, but well received, performances of what was code-named 'Panto'. In two weeks time we'll stage the final Panto Show, laying the series to rest once and for all.

"Oh no you won't!"

Oh yes, I will. Just one more, with no mistakes. We want to go out with a bang!

But, why 'Panto'? It rolls off the tongue more easily than 'our-top-secret-show-with-a-top-secret-surprise', and once made us feel like cool and edgy artistes; subverting this light-hearted entertainment staple for something so cool. And edgy. Anyone who came expecting ex-soap stars in drag and saucy innuendos were disappointed.

All we have, and all we've ever had since Panto 1, is an idea for a show that could surprise a media-savvy bunch of students who had seen it all before, and had the YouTube favourites to prove it.

So ambitious! So mysterious! So "embarrassing" was how my trusted friend described our run-through the day before the show. I pretended that it was all part of The Plan™. I ignored the fact that we'd only planned half a show. I even ignored the fact that my guys had not paid fees to miss a whole day's lectures (yes, I went there) to prepare a show that was borderline retarded.

I was tactically avoiding publicising the event. The fewer people that saw the show, the fewer people who'd have nightmares about me, the crazed, perverted abuser of solidly entertaining evenings.

Around 50 (lost?) people still turned up;

enough to successfully lobby for my withdrawal from university, or perhaps, Life itself. This was going to be horrific.

It wasn't. Despite the odd fumbled line and a completely free-styled ending, the novelty of the show went a long way. People laughed. People gasped (and not in an 'i-actually-feel-physically-violated-by-this-crappy-show' way). They even stood up and pulled poses on request. Best of all, the surprises actually surprised.

'Panto' quickly became a sort-of franchise. We put on a fundraiser sequel and then, a year after the first, we attempted what was to be our Magnum Opus; a sequel to Slumdog Millionaire with a Panto-twist.

So ambitious! So mysterious! So "embarrassing"

Objectively, it was our best Panto yet. It had a big audience. It had a bizarre dairy-based story arc. It had a guy who interpreted my pre-show advice to "have lots of fun so the audience do too" as "rip open your shirt when you say your first line of the whole play". It had it all.

But, it wasn't quite complete. This wasn't yet The Panto™ that I envisioned all those Pantos ago. A bit more time and we would have nailed it. TV interviews, top-ten lists, the works. Instead we got a heartfelt round of applause, people telling us they loved it and the now-customary feeling of having gotten away with it. But it wasn't complete.

So I'm back. We're back. Slumdog Millionaire 2: Jamal Got Broke is back.

It will be one evening in which a small group from the Islamic Society (whoops, forgot that) try and put on a show with few resources but lots of heart and raise money for charity in the process. And honestly, I think you'll be presently surprised. You have my name, if not: Omar Hafeez-Bore, Director of The Last Panto.

Thursday 28th October 7pm, SAF LT1. £3

JONATHAN FRANZEN IS TOTALLY OVERRATED

David Carr

Apparently, very big things are happening in American Literary Fiction (ALF). In August, Time Magazine put author Jonathan Franzen on its front cover and the whole of the ALF establishment went bonkers. I confess that I haven't read Franzen's new 'masterpiece', but last year I did force myself through his previous work, *The Corrections*.

Franzen is in a difficult spot at the moment. Proclaimed, as he is, as the doyen of ALF, he sneered at and refused his Oprah Winfrey Book Club nomination and yet on the front of my copy of *The Corrections* it reads '360 billion copies sold'.



For someone so widely popular (there are probably only about four people who really care that Franzen is on the front of Time) how can he maintain his hubris?

Perhaps it is all an act and he doesn't really need those thick, black-framed glasses and he doesn't really work in a dark room with ear plugs in. His image has been as finely crafted as that of Katie Price, whose book I also haven't read yet so can't fully comment on its merits, so it seems to me that the ALF world is just a highbrow version of the Asda Price

bargain book bin.

For a novel centring on a family reunion I found myself totally unaffected by *The Corrections*. The characters (a Schopenhauer-quoting, Parkinson's-suffering Dad, a bitter but hopeful mother, a pseudo-lesbian daughter... oh I can't go on - read it if you must) were parodies of an age that was too knowingly constructed by Franzen to feel in any way real.

With Franzen's books, as perhaps with the entire ALF genre, there is a huge amount of brain, but if his new novel *Freedom* follows in a similar vein, and it does again have as its focus American middle class family life, I can't help wondering where its heart is.

In brief

IC Radio star Roushan Alam nominated at Student Radio Association awards

IC Radio celebrated last Wednesday at the Student Radio Association awards as they were nominated for Best Student Chart Show. "The best chart nomination is a reflection of the hard work, dedication, effort and passion at IC Radio, contradicted only by our absence in every other category," said Roushan Alam, presenter of the nominated chart show who was sadly rejected from 3 other categories



Raise your hands and give a cheer! Raising and Giving (RAG) is here!

RAG at Imperial and in general in the UK is well established within the student body. Every university has such



a society – a collection of people who constantly reinvent new ways to catch the public eye, perform crazy tasks, all for the purpose of attracting attention to collect money for charity. In case you want to join in on the fun or just subscribe to the mailing list, contact ragchair@imperial.ac.uk. Events in store for this year include LOST, a hitch to Prague and Morocco, a Newcastle Megaraid, a London Megaraid and a Fire-walk in the Spring term. The 1st RAG Week will be taking place from the 8th – 14th of November with an inter-university mingle in Metric, an off-site RAG Ball in Soho and LOST. LOST is an event where students are dropped off at a remote location and then have to make their way back to IC Union in a single day. They collect money on the way and are not allowed to use technology or money to get back to the Union.

All RAG needs now is the support of Imperial College students and staff. The question remaining is whether you like a challenge Imperial?

Kenyan Orphan Project (KOP)

If you would like to get involved with the Kenyan Orphan Project (referenced in last week's Felix) then contact cag-kop@imperial.ac.uk or head along to their inductive evening on Thursday 21st October, 6:30pm, Huxley 308. Free refreshments.

TREKKING IN THE ALPS

Fellwanderers are up to their usual antics including experiencing some of Europe's most stunning scenery

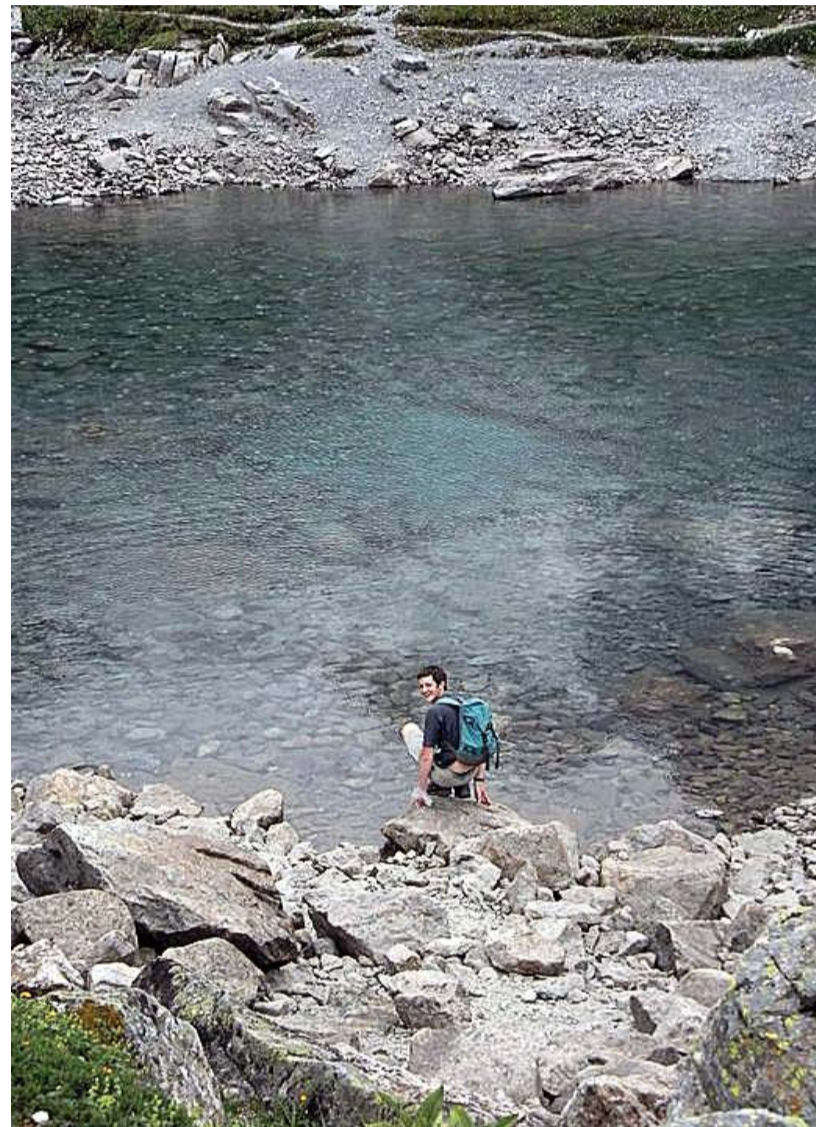
Sarah Martin

Each year a group of intrepid Fellwanderers leave the UK to undertake an ambitious two week trek overseas. This year was no different. The chosen trek was the breathtaking Tour of the Jungfrau, winding its way among some of the most spectacular and best-loved mountain scenery in the Swiss Alps.

The circular trek took the group through the Bernese Oberland's most spectacular mountain scenery, in the shadow of such iconic peaks as the Wetterhorn, Monch, Eiger, and Jungfrau finally summiting the iconic Schilthorn at the end of the route

The start of the real hiking was from Schynige Platte, which was accessible by mountain railway so we stayed the first night a little lower down at Wilderswil. Tired from the long journey and early morning, we went to bed early, excited about getting the real walking the next day. So the next day, we got the mountain railway up to Schynige Platte. On the way back, we actually saw the mountain railway come apart as it left the station so we appear to have been quite lucky in not encountering problems. On the first day, we walked from Schynige Platte to First via the Faulhorn (2686m). We walked the last 40 minutes in ridiculously heavy rain and then got to the hut. As we were cooking dinner, Jim had the first porridge spillage disaster of the trip – his bag of porridge had come open and the rain had mixed with it to form porridge. It stuck to all his stuff and the hallway when he emptied his bag out.

The next day was lovely and warm, and



we walked from First to Grindewald, a valley town. On this walk we really started to get our first views of the amazing mountains we were going to see throughout the two weeks. We walked past the Wetterhorn and were heading down to the valley. At this point, Jim, Joe, Ande and Ben decided to extend the walk to the Gleckstein Hut (2317m). Treading in the footsteps of Winston Churchill (who used the hut as a base to summit the Wetterhorn), they traversed up steep-sided slopes above a gorge before emerging into a high alpine valley in which the hut lay. Here, Ande's coke addiction was satisfied as they were rewarded with the first view from within the high alps of the first days of the tour. However (and this will become an emerging theme) I decided on the easier option and walked down the valley to the

"After a very precipitous ascent, they were forced to turn back some 200m from the top due to worsening weather conditions in the face of a tough climb up rocks. The rest of us learnt crazy dominoes"

campsite.

We originally just planned to stay the night at Grindewald but after much discussion we decided to stay at the campsite for an extra day, the justifications being we could eat more food, therefore carry less up the mountain, and there was more to do in Grindewald than Alpigen in terms of rest day fun. Jim, Joe (these two didn't actually have a rest day for the whole trip!) Ande and Ben decided to attempt to reach new heights by ascending to another hut lying next to a glacier at 2800m. After a very precipitous ascent, they were forced to turn back some 200m from the top due to worsening weather conditions in the face of a tough climb up rocks. The rest of us learnt crazy dominoes, courtesy of Rafal. He won... Coincidence? I think not. But then Yvonne and I beat Peter and Rafal at bowls. So balance was restored, despite (false) allegations of witchcraft. That evening Chris arrived and we watched a World Cup match on the TV at the campsite.

So the next day we went to Alpigen, taking us out of the valley. We got there just before lunch, ate lunch and got shown into a lovely hut. It wasn't so lovely the next morning when we were woken up by flies at 3 in the morning. That night I was introduced to President, the card game with a player hierarchy that actively encourages social inequality by making it almost impossible to get out of the peasant role once you're there.

The next day we walked on to Kleine Schliedegg, past Eiger, Monch and Jungfrau. Jim, Peter, Joe and Ande bravely "climbed" all of 3 feet of the North Face of the Eiger. We then



This picture looks happy and normal, but look closer... count the fingers... Did you count them? Crazy right?

walked on to Kleine Sclidegg to a campsite behind a restaurant and were joined by some rather charming French children and musical goats. The restaurant had a lovely view of Grindelwald and the route we had walked. The next day we started our descent back into a valley, we went to Schelberg to the campsite Rutti. This was quite a nice campsite location-wise, but some thieving foxes stole both Yvonne's and my lunchboxes (they just couldn't resist the taste of the amazing Polenta we cooked...) and the washing machine stole Rafal's socks. Very strange. We decided to extend our stay here by another day and do a day walk up to a hut where Jim's clever disguise fell apart and revealed he was actually Gollum. We have evidence: climbing down a moraine and trying to fish in a lake on the way back.

We got to the hut, really impressing the owners with our massive bags and obvious hardcore hiking spirit, only to disappoint them the next day by lying in and going on pathetic short walks. This hut was the nicest place we stayed, we had a lovely view of the mountains and the people that owned it were absolutely lovely. The food was delicious and plentiful, they actually managed to fill Jim up both nights in a row, a task up until now thought impossible.

On the rest day, Jim and Joe went off and did their mental walk down to a hut somewhere miles away, and up something that people with climbing gear turned away from because it looked a bit hard. This was The Vendre Butlasse and at 3031m, the near fatal scrambling it took to get to the top paid off as they finally broke the 3000m. The dodgy scrambling un-

“Jim's clever disguise fell apart and revealed he was actually Gollum. We have evidence: climbing down a moraine and trying to fish in a lake on the way back”

doubtedly amused the on-looking Ibex, seemingly always above the two.

The rest of us did a mixture of either walking up to a pass nearby that had a view of some mountains further on and then swimming in a lake made of snowmelt (freezing but beautiful) or staying in the hut playing games. There were some rather sweet American kids who watched the game playing, giving out handy tips and insulting Ande, so they were pretty popular with everyone, especially Rafal who got on with everyone like a house on fire.

We had another night of lovely food and discovered the game Blokus, a funny variation of Tetris that was completely impossible to everyone except Ande who almost exploded because he couldn't quite believe we made the moves that we chose and kept asking scary questions like “But why did you put that there?” when there was probably no right answer.

There was a massive cable car all the way up

the mountain and we all felt very smug reaching the top with our heavy bags. There was a cable car load that arrived about when we did and Chris and Ande accosted some poor tourists and told them all about our trip for hours (I was told it was the other way round and they wanted to know about our trip but I'm not sure either Chris or Ande know how to stop talking).

While we were up there, we watched a video about the Schilthorn being the set for the Bond film “On Her Majesty's Secret Service” which featured not just clips from the film but a lot of cheesy shots of Switzerland and a crazy dancing lady dressed in white who popped up every so often for no apparent reason. The view from the Schilthorn was fantastic; we saw all the mountains we had been walking past for the last week and more much further on.

We walked down to Blumenthal to camp behind a restaurant again that had a trampoline (!!), and Raf had his first ever go on a trampoline. We also washed the MSR pots properly for the first time on the trip. They were SO SHINY. Then we went down to Suls to the hut there. We had our last dinner which didn't quite trump the infamous Gouda cheese cake of last year for inventive inedibility, but it was at least tasty. The starter was a slightly bizarre tinned-meat-and-pastry-twists thing (the less said the better really), then we had chilli which resembled real chilli in that it was made with smoked sausage, ginger and celeriac... The win of the evening was the waffles with fried pineapple, chocolate, condensed milk and apple puree. The next day was the final walk back down to Wilderswil to complete our circle. We

stocked up on chocolate to take home and alcohol to drink and went for the last supper at a local restaurant.

The next day we went to Zurich to get the flight home. We spent a few hours looking around at all these lovely shops we could never afford to buy anything from and then went to the airport to find that our flight had been delayed, by what was to become 4.5 hours. But some of us managed to swindle EasyJet out of an extra food voucher and we did manage to get on the plane in the end – it was a bit of a squeeze because after noon some sort of noise reduction law meant that there were no flights allowed and we boarded the plane at quarter to, but it happened and we got back.

Thus concludes the tale of one group's tour through breathtaking scenery, defying backpack-induced hardship, painful ascents and questionable cuisine to complete one of the most awe-inspiring routes on the planet, the Tour of the Jungfrau. The summer tour finished off what has been, for me, an amazing year with the Fellwanderers. The club is accessible for people of any level of fitness or experience and everyone in the club is really sociable, friendly, fun and up for a challenge. The weekend trips throughout the year were a great way to get away from work and out of London and the tours are fantastic holidays that give a real sense of achievement.

If this appeals to you then come and get in contact with this year's president, Jim Carr at james.carr08@imperial.ac.uk. Hope to see you soon!

MUSIC

Music Editors: **Greg Power**
Luke Turner
Christopher Walmsley
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Album of The Week



Grinderman
 Grinderman 2
 Mute Records/ANTI-
 2010

This record is aptly named 'Grinderman 2' and feels like the logical continuation of their first record. Nick Cave and his gloomy crew have – for the most part – stuck to their trademark evil aggressive blues rock and start this album off in climatic fashion with filthy bass and raw guitars on 'Mickey Mouse and the Goodbye Man'. There is slightly more groove to be found in 'Heathen Child' but raucous guitars are still prowling in the choruses to shake things up. It is far from a one dimensional album however; respite from the noise can be found in songs like the delicate 'What I Know' and the upbeat 'Palaces of Montezuma'. Grinderman are unlikely to carve radical new musical ground, but what they have done with albums number one and two is define their scope and produce two very good albums within that. - **Christopher Walmsley**

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

1. Radiohead
2. The xx
3. Arcade Fire
4. Bloc Party
5. Muse
6. Four Tet
7. Caribou
8. The Beatles
9. Florence + The Machine
10. Lady Gaga

Make sure not to miss

Easy Star All-Stars

Scala
 19th October
 7:30pm

Acclaimed the world over since their 2003 classic 'Dub Side of the Moon' fused Pink Floyd's seminal piece with reggae/dub beats, followed by their take on Radiohead's 'OK Computer' (affectionately re-titled 'Radiodread', 2006), the musically misfit American quartet return to the UK with a headline set at the Scala, drawing from their extensive back-catalogue as well as their new masterpiece 'Easy Star's Lonely Hearts Dub Band'. The latter brilliantly expands the psychadelia-tinged Beatles' album into a full-out dub assault, and will without a doubt get you boppin' up and down all night, waving around dodgy-looking 'cigarettes' and shouting out the lyrics to 'With a Little Help from My Friends'. Dub-tastic. - **Greg Power**

Another fantastic year for Bestival



The sun in your eyes, everything is slightly blurred, strange drum circle; yep this photo sums up Bestival

Luke Turner

Two joyous rabbits called Flipsy and Flopsy were bounding through a southern isle, frolicking in the late sunshine and falling leaves, hopping over mushrooms and nibbling at colourful carrots. Suddenly, they found themselves before an enormous stage, stunned, and they looked up to see a dancing woman projected above their heads. Her colourful legs parted as a figure appeared from the screen, who rolled from the stage in an oversized hamster ball over the heads of the wide-eyed, bushy-tailed rabbits and into a crowd filled with creatures from elves and unicorns to genies and caterpillars. One caterpillar enticed the bunnies, and Flipsy and Flopsy started to dance under a rainbow that descended above their long bunny ears. Their blue eyes glittered in amazement at the striped tents that towered above their little heads, and they bounced for joy like never before. They had stumbled into Bestival as **The Flaming Lips** began the journey of their unforgettable performance, for if this was anywhere else I would have discarded their story as myth.

The Flaming Lips gave Bestival goes an experience which was as beautiful as it was confusing and as colourful as it was loud. They raced through their psychedelic minds and unleashed the musical accompaniment unto us, blowing away everything in front of the stage with a whirlwind of emotion. Through fuzzy riffs, distorted voices, and numerous animal impressions, **The Flaming Lips** opened their parachute of 'Do You

Realise?' and brought the entire crowd softly gliding back to Earth, not one without a smile.

Flipsy and Flopsy bunny-jived their way over to the **Wishing Tree** and **Chai Wallah** tent's miraculous mixing and beats that could shift tectonic plates. Stumbling over a rabbit hole, they decided to venture down, popping up in a magical meadow. This was actually the **Magic Meadow** where **Alice in Wonderland** figures dotted the pathways, and the **Rock and Roll** stage showcased **New Young Pony Club**, **Mount Kimbies** and the amazing **Lizzie**. Playing endearing Americana style rock folk, **Lizzie** had everyone clinging to the 'sustain' of her electric guitar.

Feeling energetic, they scampered as fast as their little bunny legs would take them up a hill and into the woods where tiny tents played big music as people skiffled to the beat, in the most relaxed and colourful area of Bestival. Sculptures snuggled between trees, free tea and cakes were abundant and the stars were clearly dancing above above their heads; the two bunnies had to stop to take it all in.

Standing over a twinkling view of the whole of Bestival, Flipsy and Flopsy lovingly joined

"If this was anywhere else I would have discarded their story as myth"

hands and at that very instant an enormous gust of wind swept them from the hillside, up into the air, and down onto the **Arcadia** stage. Shit just got serious. With sets from **Darwin Deez** and **Todd Edwards**, this stage was so full of movement and energy that from time to time fire erupted from a giant metallic spider which encased the stage itself.

Flipsy and Flopsy's experience of Bestival continued with **The Prodigy** following up after **Chase and Status** on the main stage with brilliant energy, despite performing the same set they have done for years. However a real highlight were the **Wailers**, with their endless summertime good vibes, reeling off Marley hits and lifting everyone to high spirits. **The xx**, having just won the Mercury Prize, performed flawlessly despite the overpopulated **Big Top** tent. The **Big Top** tent also revealed to the adventurous rabbits the likes of **Skream**, **Jonsi**, **Fever Ray** and the riot fuelled **LCD Soundsystem**, all of which broke bones, hearts and vocal chords, giving Bestival everything it could have wished for.

Strolling out of **Caribou's** set would have exposed a huge firework display above a flaming castle, spreading the magic to the sky as everyone congregated together in a final showdown of the fantastic and wonderful versus the world. These two rabbits had learned an awful lot in such a small space of time; they were so happy that they decided that they would hop and hop and spread the love they had gained at Bestival knowing full well that there was enough love there to last a lifetime.

MUSIC

A plethora of reviews from brand spanking new writers!

Batshit crazy psychedelic-rock outfit **Of Montreal** lay waste to Koko, in a haze of theatrics and musical mastery.

Of Montreal
Koko
6th October 2010
★★★★☆

Christopher Richardson

A far cry from the clichés of apathy and rigidity that plague the indie genre today, **Of Montreal's** October show at Koko was truly a haven of all things weird and wonderful. 2010 has seen the 7-piece bring out a jamboree of funky new tracks in the form of 'False Priest' that certainly had everyone in the vicinity pulling violent shapes and grooving on down, and will probably continue to invoke such energy for quite some time.

The evening kicked off with a vibrant set from 'Cats in Paris'; they certainly had a charm and charisma about them as a group but one wonders whether they'll be forever confined to the dim-lit cul-de-sac of supporting acts. The standard use of incorporating lenseless frames and pretty colours invoked more a cynical eye and left everyone in a state of lethargy, which was quickly fixed by a snappy trip to Koko's swanky and (relatively) reasonably-priced bar.

Of Montreal's anticipated opening was a bizarre contrast of the eerie and the energetic (think Willy Wonka's 'Pure Imagination' meets Justice's

'Genesis'), as the band were joined on stage by some kind of aquatic abomination before front man Kevin Barnes bounded on stage in a frilly tutu and belted 'Coquet Coquette', one of False Priest's better efforts. It's brilliant when an act can maintain such enthusiasm from the audience by ingeniously weaving those old forgotten classics amongst the heap of new material that they're trying to sell, which is exactly what they did to perfection.

The set was more like a theatrical performance, what with all of the confetti, kitsch decor and on-stage body painting sessions. But let us not forget the music itself; there wasn't the all too common increasing of the tempo, and the band really interacted with one another as well as the audience in a special kind of way. It was particularly interesting to see obviously more personal, emotive melodies written by Barnes being engaged in by the other band members to such a degree, and the epic 11-minute 'The Past is a Grottesque Animal' is one of the most fantastic encores I've had the pleasure of witnessing.

All in all, a brilliant performance from a talented group who will never fail to mesmerise. Be sure to check out their latest album 'False Priest' as well as 'Hissing Fauna' from their extensive back catalogue (and catch them live if you can!).



Kevin Barnes: coming to a living room near you...

The Slips
93 Feet East
8th October 2010
★★★★★

Alex Malcolm

In the dark and cramped backroom of east London's favourite bar, 93 Feet East the slips are running late. The smell of sweat and overpriced red stripe hangs in the air but the crowd seems undeterred, jostling about and expectant to see whether the self-titled 'electro renegades' will live up to such a claim. From the moment they take the stage, the lights are off and the silence broken as pulsing electronica punctures the darkness. While the two front men alternate between singing and thrashing their macbooks, the drummer curls over and manically assaults the kit in front of him.

Our ears are treated to a range of remixes including Daft Punk and Crystal Fighter's 'I love london' which from the crowds cheers, they evidently make their own. But the best is to follow as the trio dive into their science inspired track '4 elements'. As the speakers spit justice-inspired noise, images of DNA and the periodic table flash behind them, they must have known imperial students were coming.

As the set comes to a close I wonder whether 3rd down the list is fair, the slips seem set to steal the night from under the nose of headline act Cassette Jam and a look to the front confirms it, even the hipsters can be seen dancing: they must be on to a winner.

A playlist from...
Business Editor
Afonso Campos

Business by day, dancing queen by night: my man Fonzie will float your boat any time of day.

Islands -
Rough Gem

New Order -
Age of Consent

Iggy Pop -
Real Wild Child

The Black Keys -
I Got Mine

David Bowie -
Let's Dance

Ariel Pink -
Interesting Results

Slow Club -
Giving Up On Love

Elton John -
Mona Lisas and Mad Hatters

If you want to share a mind-blowing playlist send it in to music.felix@gmail.com

Red Sparowes
La Scala, King's Cross
11th October 2010
★★★★☆

Niraj Patel

Red Sparowes are quite an easy band to characterise. Formed by members of bands like ISIS, Neurosis and Pelican, the direction and aesthetic is predictable. Groups described as post-metal tend to have long instrumental focused compositions that lean towards the nastier and dirtier textures. What makes them such a wonderful listen, unlike your traditional dreary post-rock outfit, is the songwriting, as Red Sparowes construct songs by amalgamating catchy middle 8s with an undercurrent of meaningful direction. The average song ends precisely when you want it to. Consequently, you may not remember the song's title, but you

will remember each distinct journey. I daresay they are a much more graceful band than those mentioned earlier.

The gig itself was nicely orchestrated, starting with heavier numbers from their first two albums, 'At The Soundless Dawn' and 'Every Red Heart Shines Towards the Sun'. I'd quote song titles, but they tend to be overwrought sentences. Fluidly switching between a three electric guitar attack and a pedal steel guitar assisted by piano setup, the band never bored. When playing the newer material, which I wasn't familiar with, I got a chance to focus on the the visuals and I was very, very impressed.

It would've been easy for the band to slap together predictable natural imagery, but the wide range of images kept the audience on their toes and in fact posed a lot of questions regarding the songs. While never forcing a picture or theme into my mind, they merely sug-

gested and teased the potential context of a song's meaning. Since they don't play with a click track or a tightly synchronised video feed, there was no cliché editing to fit the song's tempo. As a result, it felt very very organic. All in all, the video meant I was kept thoroughly drawn in during songs I had never heard before, which is a massive accomplish-

ment.

Red Sparowes may not jump out in lists of music recommendations, neither will they set the world on fire, but they are brilliant at what they do. If post-rock geeks want a barometer, I had more fun that night than I ever did at a Mogwai or Explosions in the Sky concert. That says it all.



Red Sparowes hypnotized by a giant eye: trippy as shit

Wilder

Skyful of Rainbows
Rough Trade
★★★★☆



'Skyful of Rainbows', Wilder's new single, does not sound anything like the Fleet Foxes as their label would have you believe. Instead they're more akin to chirpy Klaxons ripoffs. Betting on the current syth revival (thank you La Roux), the song has an energetic riff built over a robotic chorus that culminates into a finale that would be fitting for any club. However, the same clichéd angle in the lyrics, which held so much promise with its quirky title, rellegates it to chart fodder. Mood enhancer: yes, teen anthem: no. - **Jonathan Wang**

Film Editors: **Jade Hoffman**
Matt Allinson
Ed Knock

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FILM

Classic Cinema

Back To The Future is re-released to celebrate its 25th Anniversary



An accurate representation of the EEE department

It's hard to know where to start when writing a review of a childhood favourite film. I think in all embarrassing truthfulness, the reason I love the *Back to the Future* films so much is because when I was very young we had *Back to the Future III* on Sega Mega Drive and I used to love watching my older brother and sister complete the incredibly difficult (and even then I seem to remember, wholly infidelitous to the plot) final level on the train. Admittedly the reason I loved it was because it had a train in it, and as a small boy I was a massive train geek, but I've heard of worse reasons for liking a film: like watching *Dune* because you fancy Sting.

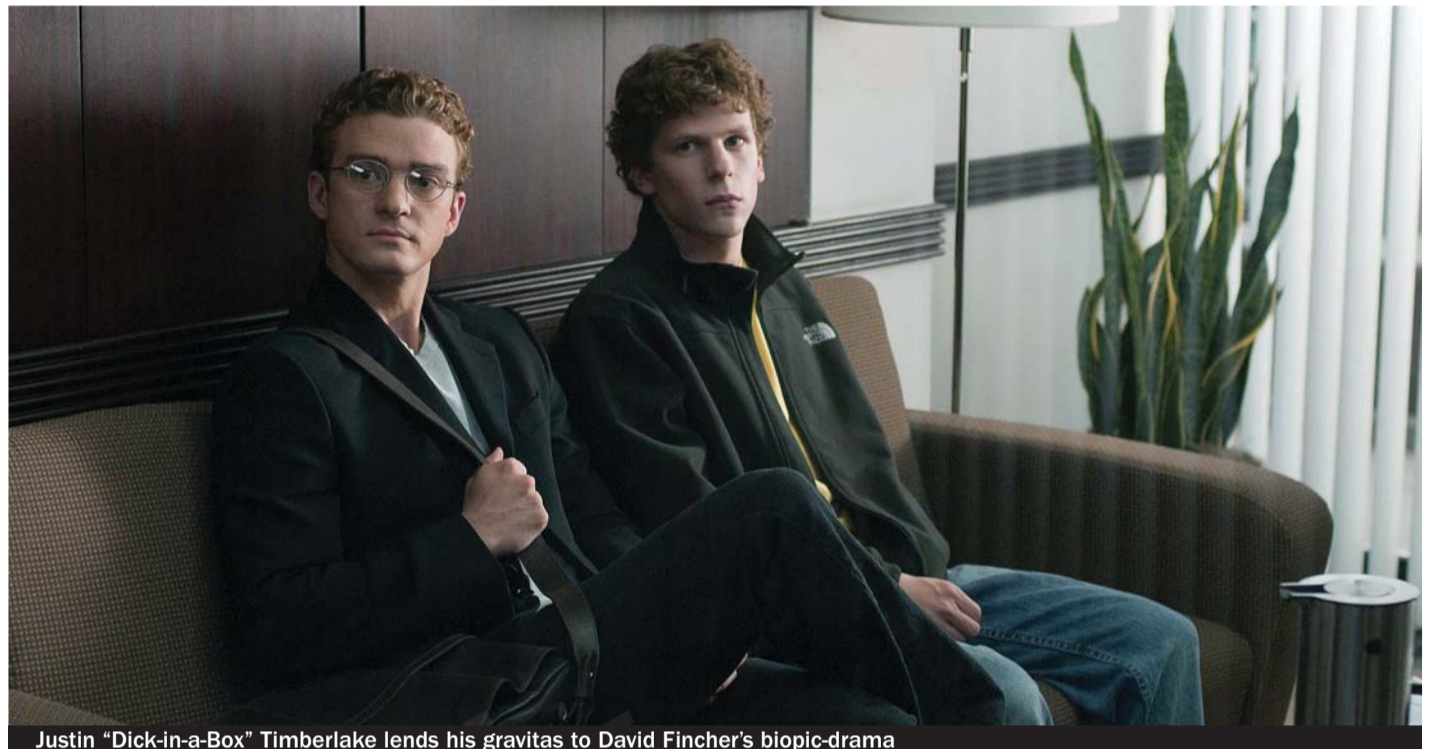
As films get older: their captive childhood audiences become adults with money to spend and wistful memories; their VHSs become obsolete or broken (not to mention their Sega Mega Drives); and their creators become old enough to either need the money without bothering to produce a new film, or to no longer be able to fight off speculative distributors who want a guaranteed money-maker. Thus, to this cynical old soul, the Re-issue is born. Luckily it has avoided having the 3D treatment currently being forced upon the original *Star Wars* trilogy.

I am frankly foaming at the mouth with excitement at the thought of going to see it, even though I wouldn't say that I am a complete *B2TF* nut. Although, now I think about it, I do have the official soundtrack on vinyl LP but that's only because I saw it in a charity shop for £1.50. Oh and I have four pairs of Nike airforce ones simply because Marty wears them; and that before said trainer became fashionable over here I had to order them from the US. And I know exactly the point in Part Two where you can see the five-year old Elijah Wood on screen. And that the Amplifier in the beginning of Part One is called a CRM-114, in homage to Kubrick's "Dr. Strangelove". Also the first song I ever learnt on guitar was Johnny B Goode. So yeah I'm a massive *B2TF* nut. I've even watched *Backsides to the Future*, despite usually steering clear of novelty porn films.

I said at the beginning that it's hard to know where to start when reviewing a beloved children's film, and I've realised I haven't even done that, just rattled off my favourite moments. All I can really say is that, seeing those Oscar-winning-but-naff 80's special effects on the big screen they were made for will tide me over for childish glee quite comfortably until the Harry Potters come blasting our way at Christmas.



Felix likes this...



Justin "Dick-in-a-Box" Timberlake lends his gravitas to David Fincher's biopic-drama

The Social Network

Director David Fincher
Screenwriter Aaron Sorkin
Cast Jesse Eisenberg, Rooney Mara, Justin Timberlake, Andrew Garfield

Guo Heng Chin

The Social Network may just be the movie that defines our generation. It tackles a subject that certainly defined our generation – Facebook – and after barely a month in the cinemas, critics already call it a classic. What's the fuss about?

For one, it's directed by David Fincher, a familiar name in smart cult movies (*Fight Club*) and Oscar heavy weights (*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*). In addition to that, the screenwriting comes from scriptwriter extraordinaire Aaron Sorkin (*The West Wing*, *A Few Good Men*). Based on Ben Mezrich's bestseller, *The Accidental Billionaires*, the film trails the rise of Mark Zuckerberg from frustrated college nerd to the youngest billionaire on Earth, and the genesis of a social platform that revolutionized the way we communicate with each other.

It is, as Fincher puts it, a *Citizen Kane* of our era. There certainly are parallels between *The Social Network* and the 'greatest movie of all time'. Both depict the meteoric rise of a controversial figure after founding an empire. Both figures soon – like a meteor – burn their closest friends and those who helped them reach such heights. And both end up at the top of the world, alone.

The heroes of both films are based on real people. Though Orson Welles' movie is a film à clef, *The Social Network* deals with the man himself, Mark Zuckerberg, albeit a fictionalized version. As scriptwriter Sorkin put it in a New York Magazine interview: "I don't want my fidelity to be to the truth; I want it to be to

The Zuckerberg of the film is a tour de force of a character

storytelling". And it is storytelling at its finest. *The Social Network* is a contemporary tale of friendship, jealousy, betrayal and – above all – ambition. It is an epic modern mythos, exploring the most fundamental and everlasting themes in storytelling.

Zuckerberg himself voiced his reservations of the film prior to its release. "I wish that no one made a movie about me when I was alive," he said in a recent interview. Flattering though it may seem, to have a biopic released whilst you are not just still alive but a mere twenty-six, Zuckerberg does have reasons to fear for his reputation. His reputation took a double beating this year when Silicon Alley Insider twice leaked IM logs detailing a darker (or rather, more adolescent) side of Mark when he first founded Facebook.

It is Zuckerberg's own 'FuckGate', revealing that he called early Facebook users "dumb fucks" and his plan to deal with rival Harvard Connection – whose creators later sued Zuckerberg, accusing him of appropriating their ideas for Facebook – was to "fuck them". He subsequently apologised for this in a recent interview with *The New Yorker*. With the new film depicting him as a rule-breaking rebel and prompting new questions about the claim, Zuckerberg is understandably not too happy, especially after the out-of-court settlement of \$65 million to the founders of Harvard Connection, the Winklevoss twins.

Fortunately for Zuckerberg, however, the movie actually does not portray him in such a way that would damage his fragile reputation further. Based mostly on Aaron Sorkin's own

research, the Zuckerberg of the film is a tour de force of a character and may go down as one of the most iconic anti-heroes in modern cinema. He is highly intelligent and extremely self-assured, yet he craves social validity and is hurt the most by social rejection.

An embodiment of 'the geek shall inherit the Earth', he affronts people on the basis of his intellectual capability. He is not socially awkward, but rather lacks fundamental social empathy in a borderline Asperger's way. This sometimes comes across as endearingly good, but mostly just leaves a trail of pissed-off people. Zuckerberg is a Byronic hero for the Internet age, a visionary genius who, despite changing the social world, is himself socially flawed.

Jesse Eisenberg (*Zombieland*) brings to life a complex protagonist with many conflicting characteristics. His portrayal of Zuckerberg possesses a subtle undercurrent of sensitivity amidst his social stoicism, and reminds us that, though genius, he is still human.

Andrew Garfield's (*Never Let Me Go*) performance of Mark's BFF is haunting. His gradual but inevitable progression from Mark's confidante to victim of Mark's ambition is especially heart wrenching. Justin Timberlake (*Alpha Dogs*, *Shrek Forever After*) sweeps the table as the charismatic silicon valley playboy and Zuckerberg's idol Sean Parker, who much to Saverin's dismay, would soon become Facebook's first president. Ironically, the role that would define the acting career of one of the most successful male musicians in the world would be that of the founder of Napster.

Fincher's superbly stylish cinematography captures the audience in a surreal ride with Zuckerberg. Sorkin's script is genius of its own, with top notch lines and bashing wit.

The Social Network is going to be big at the Oscars, launch the careers of its young stars and might just go down in history as the film that defined the cinema of our time.

A Swedish social commentary

Involuntary

Director Ruben Östlund
Screenwriter Erik Hemmendorg, Ruben Östlund
Cast Villmark Björkman, Linnea Carl-Lamy, Leif Edlund, Sara Eriksson

Oliver Calderbank

When a friend asked me to review a film as a favour, I (as most people would have) said yes. His way of convincing me was “there are two good-looking Swedish girls in”. What my friend didn’t tell me was that the film was rather low budget and had five story lines that didn’t overlap at all.

The film in question is a Swedish film called *Involuntary*, written and directed by Ruben Östlund. It’s a tragic comedy based on human group behaviour or, to put it simply, peer pressure. The film consists of five separate story lines, each showing a situation that most people can relate to or have experienced. There’s the story of a grumpy old man refusing healthcare; a bitchy actress who lets a five year old kid take the fall for an action she committed; two teenage girls who dress provocatively and drink too much (a critique on the MTV culture we live in); five grown-up men who drink too much and “experiment”; and finally, a story of a teacher who speaks up to prevent child abuse and is ostracised by her colleagues. Unlike cult classics like *Pulp Fiction* or *Amores Perros* there is no overlap between the story lines, each one stands on its own to make a statement about group pressures.

The film draws you in by being so relatable and through Östlund’s use of subtle directing techniques. His unique directing style is evident straight away as he challenges both himself and the audience to interact with and respond to the film. You are drawn in by his choice of keeping some characters out of shot, allowing you to hear them but never see their faces, instead focusing on the reaction shots of the main characters. This technique is highly effective at making the viewer feel more involved.

Watching the film I felt as though I could draw parallels between myself and some characters, making me wonder how differently I act when I want to impress a friend or not let someone down. *Involuntary* will have you stuck to your seat, and then leave you questioning your actions and friends. Don’t expect a high budget film with a twist at the end, but do expect to have your beliefs challenged.

I spoke to Ruben Östlund about his directorial choices and future work:

Where do you draw your inspiration?

The concept is a thematic film about group behaviour. I think this is some-



The classic teenage-girl webcam shot is aptly recreated in Östlund’s film

thing very fundamental about being a human being, that we are herd animals. I made my first feature, *Gitarrmogot* [literally: *The Guitar Mongoloid*] about being individuals that don’t pay attention to the group, and while I was



Director, Ruben Östlund

making it I got very interested in the complete opposite, about how the group influences the way you behave. All the five situations in *Involuntary* come from situations from my life or other people in my life

You seem to have a very unique directing style through using long takes from a stationary camera, is there a reason

for this style?

From the beginning I needed limitations from which I could draw creative energy and one limitation is to have a fixed camera. With this, the scene could take place in front of the camera or not, so I have to make decisions that allow the scene to work. In the beginning, I used the fixed camera as a method by which I could make the scene’s focus 100% in front of the camera, instead of taking ten different angles in the same scene. When you are on set, it takes so much time and effort to move the cameras around that you can’t fully focus on what is actually going on in the scene.

Why do you keep people’s heads and bodies out of shot?

I am very interested in the real time aspect that works in film. There are few other art forms where the real time aspect is as obvious as it is in film. In shots where people are off the screen or you can’t see the head, what I’m aiming for is to activate the audience, making them use their brains to figure out what is going on. The easiest way to do that is to make something happen off the screen so the audience have to work it out

Which story line is your favourite?

I like all of them and I think all of them are very important; I wanted all the

groups to be very different. A personal favourite may be the storyline on the bus, where the actor breaks a curtain, and the driver refuses to move any further until whoever did it confesses. It’s a classic situation where you have a few seconds where you can say, “Oh, I’m sorry – it was me,” but if you miss that, it becomes harder and harder to confess.

I think the situation is very universal as humans are so afraid of losing face in front of each other, and there are many cases in history where people are more afraid of losing face than actually dying.

An inspiration for this comes from a famous Swedish adventurer called S.A. Andrée, who, in the 1800s, decided to fly by hot air balloon to the North Pole. Of course, when you look at that even today, you would think that’s to-

tally crazy and everyone on the expedition died. But as you read his diaries from the time you find out that even he thought it was doomed to failure but the social implications of giving up once he started were so great that he still hopped in the balloon, knowing the probable consequences.

You started off directing skiing films and then went to film school, but how would you advise getting into directing?

I think the background with skiing was very important for me, because what lots of people who want to get into the film industry is for the red carpet and all the glamour. When filming skiing, I was a fanatic skier so I was pointing the camera towards something I was interested in. I think this is the best way to get into the industry because other people decide that they want to be in the industry and then have to choose what to point the camera at. If you know what you are interested in, then that is a good start - point the camera in that direction.

Are there any plans to do English language films?

Maybe. We are working with a company called Third and one of their directors, Duane Hopkins and it might be that way in the future if we can get some money from the British Film Institute.

Involuntary will have you questioning your actions and friends

Games Editor: **Simon Worthington**games.felix@imperial.ac.uk

GAMES

Web Games

Each week we're going to bring you a selection of fresh, free and fun web games that you can play right away in your browser. Unless specifically mentioned to the contrary you're going to need the Adobe Flash Player plug-in which can be installed from <http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>.

Depict1 tinyurl.com/depict1



In this retro platformer you control a small boy lost in a world of invisible walls, infinite pits and shadowy enemies. Led by a mysterious narrator whose advice is not as helpful as it initially might seem, you and the boy must journey in the hope of finding some escape despite the narrator insisting that there is none to be found. Depict1 turns a lot of the traditional staples of video games, such as spiky pits, bonus diamonds and timed levels, on their head and forces the player to re-examine everything they thought they knew about platformers. After a few levels there comes a feeling that the entire game is both unpredictable and out to get you which makes for an original and exciting experience. The adrenaline is kept high by the constant suspicious thoughts about what might happen next, and even working out how to move is a challenge in itself.

Backed up by some pretty graphics that give the game a professional polish, Depict1 is a game that grabs hold of you and won't let go until the end, despite some slow levels early on. There are two endings to be found, one significantly harder than the other, and the final level is a genuine stumper that might take you a while to figure out. Go to the website, click Depict1 and then follow the links to the Flash version on the right.



Every time you do, this guy secretly laughs at you

Booze away the boredom

What happens when you take drinking to the next level

After the initial excitement of Welcome Week, the thrill of being asked to 'down it, fresher' wears a bit thin and suddenly the simple act of increasing your blood alcohol level beyond reasonable limits becomes tedious. Today's would-be wasters need flashing lights, sound effects and the thrill of adrenaline to keep them interested, but if disgusting clubs don't tickle your fancy what other option do you have?

The solution comes from Cardiff-based company 'Games&Gadgets' in the form of 'Lucky Escape', their flagship electronic drinking game that's a mix between roulette, Trivial Pursuit and downing shots. Glasses are filled with different drinks and placed into a special circular tray, with each glass corresponding to a light on a central podium. When a big, inviting red button is pressed the lights spin and flash, eventually slowing down to seal your fate: should a glass be lit up by the flashing board you must down it, but should the central light be lit the game has offered you redemption in the form of a question. Get it right and you're safe but get it wrong and you must spin again. We got our grubby mitts on a copy of 'Lucky Escape' and thought that, obviously in the name of science and fair review or whatever, we should have a go at it ourselves.

With the lights suitably dimmed, the first pleasant surprise was how pretty the game looked when switched on. With the red, green and yellow lights softly lighting the sweet liquids in the tumblers, the black and green plastic tray suddenly took on a new, sophisticated ambience that would fit right in at a classy party as well as slightly less urbane drinks sessions.

Now that everything was ready, all that was required was a volunteer to go first. Initially people seemed a little intimidated and the usual

party conversation was worryingly absent. Eventually though a plucky Northerner stepped up and tried his luck. As the lights span and the game clicked like the roulette wheel it was simulating, the room was genuinely tense. The lights ground to a halt and we were met with green flashing and a fanfare. He'd got relatively lucky with the 'nicest' drink – in our case, some sherry. While sober, the sound effects did grate against our nerves, but once we'd had a bit to drink it didn't seem to matter as much. One thing that became apparent very quickly was how large the shot glasses provided with the game are; downing one full cup would've sent a significant quantity of liquid down the hatch. Even our resident boozehound (he's a Medic, so he knows what he's talking about) described the size of the glasses as 'gutsy', and the game would hugely benefit from smaller glasses that held more manageable amounts of liquid.

After the first few spins the atmosphere became more relaxed and the game was definitely a focal point of the evening. Although conversation continued whilst the board was making up its mind (as it should) people kept paying attention to what was happening. When the wheel landed on red – the 'nastiest' drink which in our case was straight Southern Comfort – there were laughs at the expense of the unfortunate player and when the result came up green or yellow there were some similar inhalations of mutual relief.

One aspect that has yet to be touched upon is the role that questions play in 'Lucky Escape', and that's because it took two complete rounds for the game to even try asking us any. Instead, much like some of the creepier inhabitants of Imperial College, the game seemed to be trying to get us drunk before it took things any further. Once we were ready though questions came regularly and were actually quite challeng-



ing, rewarding players who had kept their wits about them. 'James Bond's favourite drink' and 'the country associated with Sambuca' were two pieces of knowledge demanded of us and, being inebriated, the answers got to the tip of our tongues but no further.

We managed a handful of rounds of 'Lucky Escape' before the game finally fell down due to a need for organisation. Drinks need to be topped up semi-regularly and some people found huge chalices of Southern Comfort a bit much to take in one gulp and so held on to their glasses long after their turn. Eventually we all decided to call it a day, but the game had served its purpose and it had done so admirably. Although while sober 'Lucky Escape' initially seemed a bit mediocre, once a few rounds had been played and a few drinks have been downed it did quite well at entertaining us and produced some genuinely hilarious moments.

GET FREE STUFF!

We've got sixteen copies of 'Lucky Escape' to give away! To get one, visit our Page at [facebook.com/FelixImperial](https://www.facebook.com/FelixImperial) and tell us the name of your favourite board game!

Blizzard bans single-player hackers

Simon Worthington

Game developer Blizzard, who are most famous for their massively multiplayer online game *World Of Warcraft*, have been discovered to be handing out suspensions to offline players of their real-time strategy game *Starcraft 2*. Players were handed both temporary and permanent bans after being found to be using third party programs whilst playing the single-player campaign or skirmish matches. The story was broken by CheatHappens.com whose members were subject to bans that, in some, cases left their CD keys permanently disabled.

The action taken by Blizzard is unusual as suspension from a gaming service is normally only given out as a punishment to hackers in online multiplayer. Although critics have questioned the legality of the bans, the terms are

clear in the *Starcraft 2* EULA that the developers have "the right to ban your battle.net account and/or CD key from ever playing again, online or off".

We contacted Blizzard directly and received no comment in response to their action, but from what can be learned from press releases and replies to appeals, Blizzard seems to have taken the view that as 'achievements' can be unlocked in single player there is a good reason to ban players who try to gain them unfairly, even though not all cheat programs are used for this reason. Some players like to use 'trainers' to make the game easier or just for messing around, and these players have also felt the effects of the famous Blizzard BanHammer.

Reaction from the *StarCraft 2* community has been mixed. Some regard the action as completely justified and have "cheered on the

bans", whereas others have reacted angrily and have even called for a boycott of the game. "As long as these cheats don't affect anyone but the person using them, why does anyone care?" says CheatHappens.com editor Chris O'Rorke, echoing similar arguments by other players as to why the bans are unjustified. Some question the severity of the punishment, suggesting that simply removing achievements from cheating players would be a less objectionable solution.

Affected players have little option but to sit out the suspension or to shell out more money for a new copy of the game in the case of a permanent ban. Increasing numbers also seem to be turning to piracy, which allows play of the single-player campaign for free. Banned layers who wish to appeal are advised to contact Blizzard directly and be prepared for a long, drawn-out exchange will probably be unsuccessful.

FiveSixEight.

OPENS MONDAY 18 OCTOBER

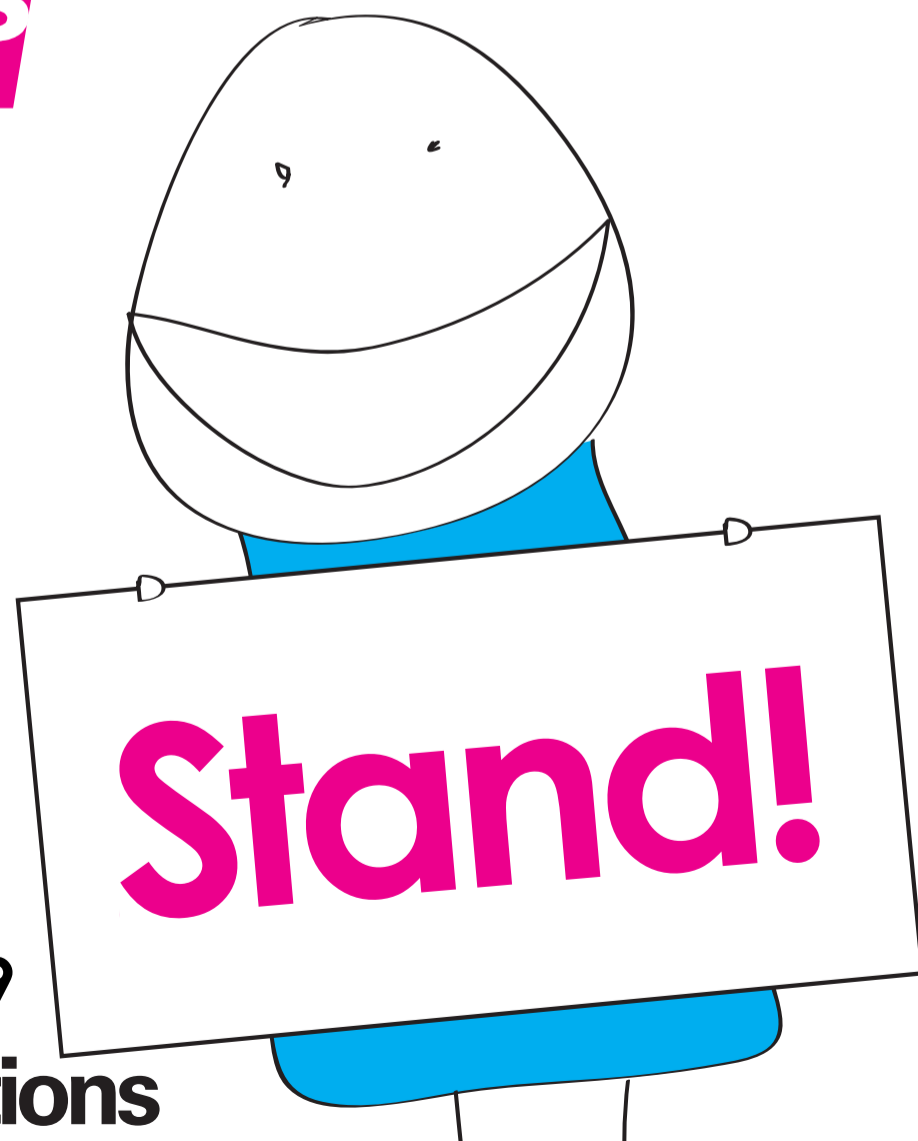
The Union's brand new bar
serving great food and drink
from midday until late.

**Autumn Elections
2010**

Stand for a Union position and help
to shape the future of your Students'
Union, through
Policy,
Entertainment,
or Welfare Campaigns.

Nominations close 17 October 23:59

imperialcollegeunion.org/elections



Food Editor: **Dana Li**

FOOD

food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Your review

Katie says:

If you are starting to get bored of eating JCR panini for lunch, make a trip to Fernandez & Wells and try their rare topside beef with horseradish baguette, or the recommended black pudding and egg baguette. There is also a wide range of coffee drinks, not just your usual cappuccino and cafe latte options. It is here where you will discover the very adorably named coffees: 'piccolo' and 'stumpy'. 43 Lexington St, London W1F 9AL; 73 Beak Street, W1F 9SR; 16a St. Anne's Court, W1. <http://www.fernandezandwells.com>

Share your favourite restaurant or cafe in 80-100 words with us, send it to food.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Sea bass and pancetta



by Jamie Oliver

8 thin slices of pancetta
4 x 150g (8½oz) fillets of sea bass, skin on, scaled and pin-boned
1tsp fennel seeds
1 lemon

- Put the pancetta into the frying pan with a drizzle of olive oil. Keep an eye on it, turning when crispy.
- Remove it to a plate, leaving the fat in the pan. Add the fish to the pan, skin side down. Use a spatula to press the fillets flat for a few seconds.
- Pound 1tsp of fennel seeds in a pestle and mortar and scatter over the fish with a pinch of salt and pepper. Finely grate over the zest of 1 lemon, then cut the lemon into quarters and set aside.
- Check the fish - once the skin is golden and crispy, turn the heat down - but let the skin become good and crispy before reducing the heat.
- Take the pan of fish off the heat and flip the fillets over so they gently finish cooking the flesh. Return the pancetta to the pan to warm, then serve the fish and pancetta. Serve the lemon wedges on the side and sprinkle over the reserved coriander.

EVENTS

Malaysian Soc Hari Raya + Deepavali
FREE FOOD
15th October, 7pm
Holiday Villa, 37 Leinster Gardens,
London W3 3AN

Jamie's 20-hour overdose

Thank God he's back to save us from Gordon Ramsey!!!

Dana Li

This week saw Jamie Oliver return to our TVs with his new show *Jamie's 30-minute meals*. And by "this week", I mean every single weekday night for a whole friggin' month. That transpires into 10 hours in total of your time, which doesn't even include the other twenty episodes that are due next year... I'm not a JO hater, quite the contrary in fact.

Ever since he graced our screens with his Naked Chef days, we have seen him grow into the humanitarian chef that he is today - putting his reputation on the line to train youngsters for his restaurant *Fifteen*, teaching us that only the insane eat battery chickens, and infamously making a nuisance of himself with the nation's dinner ladies by reforming school dinners. There's no doubt about it: the guy makes food programmes that are both unpretentious and aesthetically pleasing. Plus, he doesn't seem too bad a guy, apparently spending holidays at home in Essex and liking The xx.

Reportedly earning an estimated £25m from *Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution* in which he persuaded Americans to cut down on junk food; the money will undoubtedly continue to pour in with the new stint. And it shows: his increasingly stocky appearance and the swarming 'Jamie's Italian' chain restaurants opening around the country is a tell-tale of his enormous wealth.

Back to the show though, *30-minute meals* is Channel 4's third offering of Mr. JO this year, which, if you like the man, then HURRAH because his 5.30pm slot will be convenient for those making dinner (or for those slumped on the sofa procrastinating from work). Those who feel nauseous from the JO overdose though, flick over to E4 where there will be ANOTHER Friends episode.



The G-&-Tea Party

Not just a drink for drunk old grannies by **Nadia Paes**

So as Fresher's Fortnight draws to a close I am sure you will have noticed that gin features highly in many a night out for the Imperial student. Particularly the Medics. We have all, with time, come to fondly call it Gindamycin: our favourite natural antibiotic. As freshers fortnight ends and freshers flu fortnight begins gin may be your greatest ally. I jest. Drinking is bad kids. But if, like me, you came to IC with a limited love of gin at best (mine was promptly killed after a year of Medics related events) then here are a few quick gin cocktail recipes to make it seem a little more palatable...

Good luck to you all with your sports and society fines to be paid in gin. Hope these help!

Singapore Sling

My favourite! Got its name from the Long Bar in Singapore where it was first made:

- 1½ shots of gin
- ¾ shot of cherry liqueur or cherry brandy
- ½ shot of lemon juice
- Club Soda
- Sugar

Combine gin, lemon juice, and sugar in a shaker with ice. Shake well. Strain into a chilled glass with ice. Fill with soda and float the cherry liqueur/brandy on top. Garnish with a twist of lemon.

Dry Martini

Well it was good enough for Mr Bond.

- ¾ shot of dry vermouth
- 2 ½ shots of gin
- 2 dashes of orange bitters (optional)

Half fill a cocktail shaker with ice and shake with vermouth. Strain to discard excess, leaving ice coated with vermouth. Pour over the gin, shake (or stir, depending on if you're into Bond or not) and strain in to a chilled glass. Garnish with an olive and chill James Bond style.

The Hummingbird bakery

Dana Li

Hummingbird Bakery has been supplying Portobello Road go-ers with their cakes since 2004. Originally a British creation, Hummingbird is based on American recipes, and is famed for bringing the Red Velvet cake to the UK. I is the Londoner's go-to-bakery for an instant sugar fix, and with one branch situated in South Kensington, naturally I had to visit the café to demand an interview from an employee who'd like to be known as **Don't-Mention-the-word-Red-Velvet**.

So, what is your favourite Hummingbird cupcake flavour?

Well everybody seems to like the Black Bottom cupcake, but I think cupcakes are overrated. I shudder at the two words "Red Velvet" because I spend half my day explaining to customers what's in a Red Velvet and Black Bottom! I don't understand why people are still coming up with cupcake companies. Totally not what you want to know, but my favourite is the chocolate chip whoopee pie - it's really crunchy on the outside and has marshmallow in the middle which is chocolate flavoured. I don't think the other whoopee pies are like that.

What is a whoopee pie?

It looks like a hamburger. The 'cake' bit is basically the same mixture you would make a

cupcake with, but it is baked on a baking tray, so it looks a bit like two Ben's Cookies with a layer of marshmallow sandwiched in between. Kind of like a super-sized macaron... but more American style, not posh French style!

Is it really airy fairy working at Hummingbird?

If your team works together, it's really fun. But the staff gets treated like shit, the girls would be made to do weekend shifts whilst the boys get off lightly. We usually work shifts but generally 9-6pm. It gets really busy between 3-5pm every day, and the queues go out the door! But the customers are great actually and really polite.

Do you get free cakes at the end of the day?

Yeah if they're unwanted! But the longer you take to pack your cakes, the less time you take to close the shop so staff generally just take a few. After a few days, you get really put off because you see them throwing away, quite possibly, a hundred cupcakes if it's a bad day.

What's your favourite bakery in London?

Bea's of Bloomsbury. The cupcakes are good - the icing isn't sugar based, more light and creamy, and the cake is feather-light.

And your favourite restaurant?

(Pierre) Koffman's. Hands down. But Hix in Soho comes a close second.

Photo by Marie Chkaiban



London bakeries also worth visiting...

Dana Li & Nadia Paes

The smell of freshly baked bread has this amazing opioid effect on anyone who walks past a bakery, as I'm sure you'll know.

But if The Hummingbird Bakery does not fulfil your cupcake addiction, there is an abundance of other bakeries in London which are inspired by the likes of Scandinavia, Italy and America. Whether it's a mere cupcake that you're after, or a more sophisticated pastry-filled dinner with friends in an Milanese bakery, there's no end to what you can find in London.

Here are a handful of our favourites that we would definitely recommend you to visit you're hungry and cruising around our glorious London town:



Nordic Bakery

In stark contrast to the delicate French pastries that flood the bakery scene, Nordic Bakery prides itself on their wholesome rye bread, Finnish cinnamon buns and savoury delights such as the "Egg and Anchovy", which I think, has an uncanny resemblance to a morula... You'll find that Norwegians like their coffee served black and strong, so forget Starbucks and hop along to this Soho treat.

14 Golden Square, London W1F 9JG.



Princi

Dubbed the 'Armani of bread', Princi is the baby of Rocco Princi and Alan Yau, the latter famed for creating Wagamama, Yauatcha and the more upmarket Hakkasan. Originating from Milan, the bakery is an experience itself with granite islands to perch at and a central table decked in bronze. The food ranges from olive breads and passionfruit cheesecake, to hot Italian favourites such as *aubergine parmigiana*. Reasonably priced with a vibrant atmosphere. 135 Wardour Street, W1F 0UT



Love Bakery

What started with a mum causing a sugar-fuelled stir at her daughter's school fair has turned into the Kings Road's personal slice of quirky. These cupcakes are sold to you by people with character. They'll sit and chat about anything from tattoos to camera apertures and fine art degrees as they draw the day's labels. There is nothing American, false or pretentious about LOVE. If charm is what you're after, this is the only place worth visiting. 319 Kings Road, London SW3 5EP.



Buttercup Cake Shop

In the back streets in High Street Kensington is this little gem. Donna, the founder, created her first cake recipe "Joy Cake" at the mere age of 8 years old. After sharing her joy of baking with friends and family in places such as California, New York, Mexico, Paris and now London, her creations now also grace Westfield Shopping Centre and Bluewater Shopping Centre. Around 18 flavours available currently, the Elvis Presley is a particular hit with the customers. 16 St Alban's Grove, London. W8 5BP.

Travel Editor: **Dylan Lowe**

travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk

TRAVEL

Wishing You Were Here



Moroccan spice merchant by Charles Betts

Want to see your travel photograph featured here? Send it to travel.felix@imperial.ac.uk.

Travel Blog of the Week



Who: Globetrooper's founders, Lauren McLeod and Todd Sullivan, and an active online community of travellers.

About: Adventure. Travel companionship. Group travel. Globetrooper is all about establishing links and relationships among the travel community, or, as the founders put it, "a tool to find travel partners for group trips and world adventures, for adventurous travellers to create trips and invite people from all over the world to join them".

Why: The sort of travel-dating service is a fantastic concept, through which many friendships and companionships were forged; registration takes little more than a few simple steps, the procedure to create expeditions and get involved in them mere clicks away. The blog offers extensive advices on adventure travelling, backpacking, travel budgeting and responsible travelling.

Recommended: Leave no trace or go to space; Create a travel budget you'll stick to; Choose a backpack for RTW travel; The science behind venomous snake bites

Link: <http://www.globetrooper.com>

Twitter: @globetrooper

Got a question for the gurus? Tag it in your tweet with #FelixTravel and your enquiry will be answered by a community of travel bloggers and experts.

Tourism held hostage?

To travel, or not to travel – amidst travel alerts and predictions of terrorist activities, is submitting to the warnings and fears a safe choice? **By Dylan Lowe**

Despite being seven hundred miles away from the scene of the hostage situation, I felt trapped.

The city of Hong Kong reached a state of media gridlock as every TV channel turned their immediate attention to a dozen of its residents, encased in a tour bus in the possession of a hostile ex-police-cum-gunman, and the rescue mission by a Filipino S.W.A.T. team whose performance outdid any parody of law-enforcement blockbusters.

Painstakingly, though somewhat patiently, I shrugged off a dinner appointment and became stranded before the live broadcast, occasionally hurling insults at any latest act of idiocy – tossing the sledge hammer through windows whilst battering them, for instance – at the entourage of never-to-be rescuers. I feared that if I'd taken my eyes off the news coverage I would miss a vital development. I even feared for the fate of the hostages. But then, within me lurked a fear which would continue to haunt me after the incident.

I feared for the Filipino travel industry. I feared for the inevitable cancellation of my trip to the Philippines.

Confirming my worries, the repercussion struck within 24 hours of the eventual release of the surviving hostages: a code-black travel warning issued by the Hong Kong government.

Danger simply doesn't persist only in the Southeast Asian island country: indeed, the Manila incident has been eclipsed by recent natural

“Within the past month over 50 countries have been pitted against by travel alerts”

disasters – one of which rendered an area the size of Italy submerged, with another delivering hundreds of violent aftershocks – turbulence in the Middle East, and promise of terrorist attacks in Europe by the US intelligence.

Within the past month, over 50 countries have been faced with by a fresh surge of travel alerts, which urge subjects of the respective nations to practise acute caution – while some actively advise against – travelling to the imperilled locations. Dominating the spotlight is, most certainly, Europe's latest designation as a high-risk target of terrorism, which resulted in the US government issuing an official warning and raising awareness of the 'imminent' threat of terrorism.

The British Foreign Office, France, Sweden and Japan have since reciprocated with similar warnings of their own, further highlighting



One S.W.A.T. team, one hammer to share, infinite buffoonery: this is CSI: Manila

public transport systems and popular tourist spots as potential targets.

The alert has been a fairly effective deterrent so far: a recent survey shows that 19% of US travellers have consequently cancelled their visit to Europe, with 52% citing Europe as a no-go zone for as long as the alerts prevail.

These are troubled times for the travel industry. Especially when it has enjoyed much success in the recent years thanks to a revival of interest – evidently so judging by the social media attention it is receiving – and regarding Europe's status as a fashionable tourist destination. It will definitely suffer, above all in the monetary sense, and will most likely continue to suffer long after the US travel alert expires next January.

But how does it affect us as independent travellers? Should we suppress our appetite for travel, for the sake of our safety?

The world has never been truly hazard-free. Even back in the 1970s, a time epitomised as the golden age of free-roamers and peace-loving travellers, grievous words of violence and monstrosities still hung on to tips of tongues.

Pre-coup Afghanistan may then be the Mecca of hippism, hitchhiking then the trendiest method of travel. But people had other concerns: the communist regimes cast shadows over Russia and China; the majority of the African continent was engaged in civil feuds; the aftermath of Vietnam War and the thriving drug trade left most travellers shunning Southeast Asia.

Combined with more advanced technology, safer modes of transport, more ethical practices of human rights, the modern world is in comparison a much safer place for the traveller.

Many fears have to be attributed to the general melancholic and pessimistic attitudes of our society, often those carved out of media portrayals. For instance, many would-be visitors to Europe – which include businessmen and exchange students – have been pressurised into

reconsidering their travel plans since insurance companies cited 'victimisation under terrorism' as an ineligible claim to compensation.

So here is my plea: do not fret over the travel alerts and feel intimidated by public speculations. Bear a realistic, yet optimistic, approach when it comes down to planning your next adventure, the same way you would remain undeterred by the latest cyclist accident from cycling to college.

This isn't to say that no precaution should be taken while travelling – quite the contrary in fact. Do remind yourself to stay alert to your surroundings and ward off potential dangers,

“Visit lesser-known destinations that are threat-free and more charming than their touristic counterparts”

as long as such alertness doesn't dampen your capacity of having a good time.

And since terrorist activities are aimed at major cities for maximum impact, may I suggest visiting lesser-known destinations that are threat-free and, in most cases, more charming than their touristic counterparts? This is a fantastic opportunity to explore the so-called off-beaten tracks – it's when I get to prioritise my curiosity and sense of security over an obsession of clichés and the fear of unpredictability.

In hindsight, I should have gone to the Philippines – not only a dismissal of my fears and fears of others, or a gathering of better understanding of the current situation, but a show of faith, as a traveller and travel writer, to the Filipino tourism industry.

HANGMAN

hangman.felix@imperial.ac.uk

Twitter



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87

Any1 watch live coverage of the Chilean miners?



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

Nah mate, borin as shit. I thought they wer gona shoot them up liek space mountain or sumthin



SexyOsama69

Obie was fuckin lovin it! sendin dem cute little messages and stuff



Barack_attack_l33thaxor

stfu Osie, my wife made me send dem. I fuckin hate da Chilean miners



SexyOsama69

lol calm down. It was a joke. Anywayz cave party at mine dis thursday?



The_Cleggomatortrontown <3

Sorry, got work to do runnin the country - haven't we cammy?



Cameron_DA_Maneron!!!

Osie whats the theme? Pls Pls pls make it biggie smalls or tupac



Barack_attack_l33thaxor

Shotgun Biggie Smalls!



SUPERACEGORTHEROAR87

Dammit!



SexyOsama69

Cleggman obviously wasn't invited anyway

DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK

Send your photos to
felix@imperial.ac.uk

Too many pointless protests, thanks France!!! Eugh...

Just keep your damn shouty opinions to yourself Mr. and Mrs. Protestor. Or just write some crap for Felix. Simple!

I really hate protestors. Angry people shouting at a building and blocking my path – that's how I see it. And I see it every day because, for some reason, I can't seem to avoid middle-eastern Embassies. I could swear they stalk me. I have to peer anxiously through my blinds every morning just to check that an embassy hasn't moved in across the street.

"Hey Mr Tyrannical Dictator, you might want to stop and think before you give the go-ahead to slaughter hundreds of thousands of innocent women and children."

"Why?"

"Oh well, you see there are about fifty angry people outside our embassy in London, shouting."

"What are they going to do? Shout me into resignation?"

"They're burning a picture of your face"

"They're doing what!? Oh shit! Bring me the resignation papers – quick!"

The thing about protestors is that they will protest anything – offensive remarks, offensive cartoons, offensive headwear or seemingly inoffensive books that then rouse suspicion for being so inoffensive that they offend someone. I assume that there is a similar saying for protests as there is for fetishes: 'If you can think of it – someone is protesting it (or masturbating over it)'.

Now I'm not against protesting in theory, it's just that those who usually put it into practise are unbelievably stupid. The right to protest is a civil liberty, like the right to free speech, the right to privacy and the right to keep your slave in the cellar, WHERE HE FUCKING BELONGS! Civil liberties become a problem, however, when you start handing them to stupid people. You see when stupid people are given the freedom to think, they are given the freedom to form an opinion. And because they are stupid, their opinion is equally, if not more, stupid.

If these stupid people then meet with other stupid people and consolidate all

DRUNKEN MATE OF THE WEEK



Jack Dudley, what would your parents think? I'll tell you, "What a lad! ooh-er he's pretty." Weird...



What happened next? Vicious police brutality or insane martial arts sequence?

their stupid opinions into one mega-super-really stupid opinion, then you're sadly left with no choice but to cross the road and walk around them because they're BLOCKING THE FUCKING PAVEMENT! I – I SAID, YOU'RE BLOCKING THE FUCKING PAVE ME– THE GAYS DID WHAT!?! TSUNAMI? HAND ME A SIGN!

And so that's why there's nothing we can do. When the voice of Science, the voice of intelligence, the voice of common sense finally needs to shout at a building, no-one really cares because Gamu didn't make it to the final twelve in X-Factor and Oh my god Can you believe Cheryl Cole, that was well out of order, but at the end of the day it was her opinion and she's the judge.

It was touching to see so many awkward and bashful scientists take to the streets, clearly unsure of what a protest actually entails, but resolute in standing up for something that actually matters. If the right to protest wasn't soiled by stupid people, perhaps George Osborne might give the tiniest minuscule of a shit. Wait a second – we're scientists. We don't need to wave signs around like foaming morons. You go plant the nuclear warheads under the houses of parliament and I'll write the death threat to David Cameron.

But before we start can someone please call the police because there's a Middle-Eastern embassy outside my house and I promise you it wasn't there this morning...

Read this sentence on this page...

THE NEWS WITHOUT THE NEWS



“Mexican Prisoner defeated by new security measures”

Aunty McPickle is here to solve all of your problems



Dear Aunty McPickle,

I took home a guy last Friday and when I went down on him I found an infested forest with creepy crawlies, I'm a biology student and am now shit scared of forests, I've got a field trip coming up soon and can't bear the thought of going. I need your help...

Yours Sincerely,
Scared Biologist

Dear Scared Biologist,

Now then biogirl, your predicament though disturbing is quite common, it is called hairyknobophobia and is cured by counselling and subsequent practical cleaning sessions with the beast in question, meet me tomorrow in my office with a shaver, shaving cream and the guy.

Most Clean,
Aunty McPickle

Dear Aunty McPickle,

I got home last night to find my housemate banging a mannequin he stole from a clothes shop last week, I'm scared he thinks that the mannequin is a real woman. I'm worried he won't find a real girl for himself.

Sincerely,
Worried Housemate

Dear Worried Housemate,

Now this is certainly something I have never heard of before! I suggest you dispose of the mannequin and bring home a hooker for the night, it should cure his problems, if this doesn't work, which I doubt will, I suggest you pack your bags and leave.

Shocked,
Aunty McPickle

Horoscopes

Aries

This week you notice that someone has replaced all the milk in your fridge with their own breast milk. Taking a sip, you find the texture deliciously creamy. You hunt down the maker of this milk, only to find it's from a bald hairy guy called Bob.

Gemini

This week you decide to go to a dirty, rodent infested, level 4 bio-hazard of a restaurant with two of your invisible friends. The waiters keep plying you with food. You ask what is next week's special. They smile and lick their fangs.

Leo

You are a fat loser who decides to hold everyone up by using the elevator even though you live on floor 2. To repent for this you must buy all your clothes from Topman, punch a medic and start smoking. In that order. If you don't, Jingles the clown will eat you.

Libra

This week you decide to show off your dance moves to your fellow 35 year-old freshers. As you're all gyrating to Craig David you feel a damp sensation below, looking down you see an elf giving you a blowjob, you smile and decide to knit him a new jumper.

Sagittarius

After seeing the girl-whose-name-you-can't-remember get off with your hall senior, you decide to end your pathetic existence and jump off your balcony. But the fucking door only opens two inches so you decide to fist your roommate with a mouldy baguette instead.

Aquarius

Looking for cheaper car insurance?

Fuck off and die.

Taurus

During a lecture you develop an itch in your pubic region. Unable to resist the scratching you slightly peer under your boxers to find a colony of lice performing a sacrificial dance around your scrotum. You decide to quit university and become their new queen.

Cancer

Having spent your loan on getting girls drunk but still failing to shag them, you decide to live in a cardboard box underneath SAF. Unfortunately a homeless guy called Ronald also has the same idea, you fight and he bites your hand off. You die a slow death.

Virgo

This week you notice that after years in this place, you haven't aged a single day. You find this extremely odd, but because you're an arrogant prick, it turns you on. In actual fact, you are a fuck-up; living life through WoW and haven't attended a lecture since 1998.

Scorpio

You find out you have grown a tail. Soon other people also start to notice, well done. You now have the popularity you so desperately sought out since the age of nine. Now you can form your own society and spam everyone else's inbox with 30 shitty messages a day.

Capricorn

You have a wank in the medical section of the library because pictures of STI-ridden vaginas turn you on. Just before you blow your load, you see someone from the corner of your eye. IT'S THE LIBRARIAN COMING TO STICK A TEST TUBE UP YOUR ARSE!!!

Pisces

I regret to inform you that it is now college procedure for you to wear a paper bag over your head at all times. Actually, fuck that, I don't regret it at all you ugly, arrogant twat.

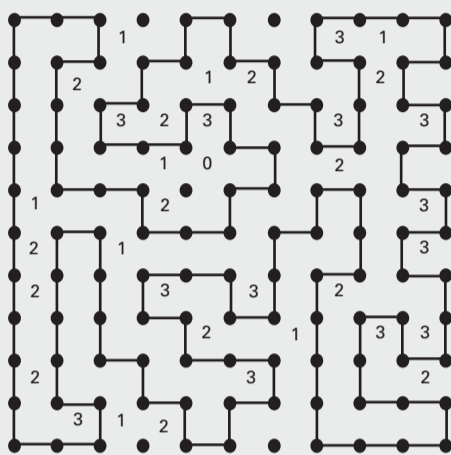
Puzzles Editors: **Polly Bennett**
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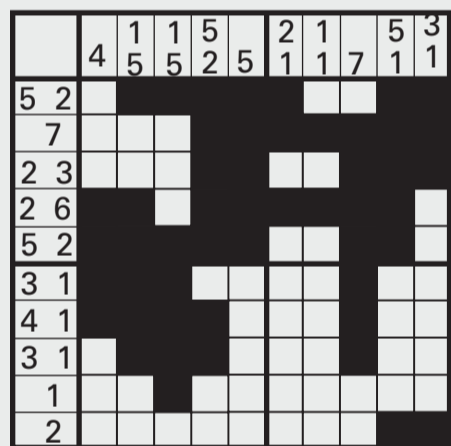
PUZZLES

Last Week's Solutions

Slitherlink



Nonogram



Wordoku

H	N	I	D	E	R	A	S	P
A	P	E	H	N	S	I	D	R
R	S	D	I	A	P	H	N	E
D	A	N	R	P	I	E	H	S
P	I	H	N	S	E	R	A	D
E	R	S	A	D	H	P	I	N
N	E	R	S	I	A	D	P	H
I	D	P	E	H	N	S	R	A
S	H	A	P	R	D	N	E	I

Going Underground

H	A	M	M	E	R	S	M	I	T	H
8	1	13	13	5	18	19	13	9	20	8

FUCWIT League Table

Teams:	
Killuminati	5 Points
Mike the Crossdresser	4 Points
Individuals:	
James Ko	5 Points
Shadi Sharbain	4 Points
Jordan Noble	3 Points

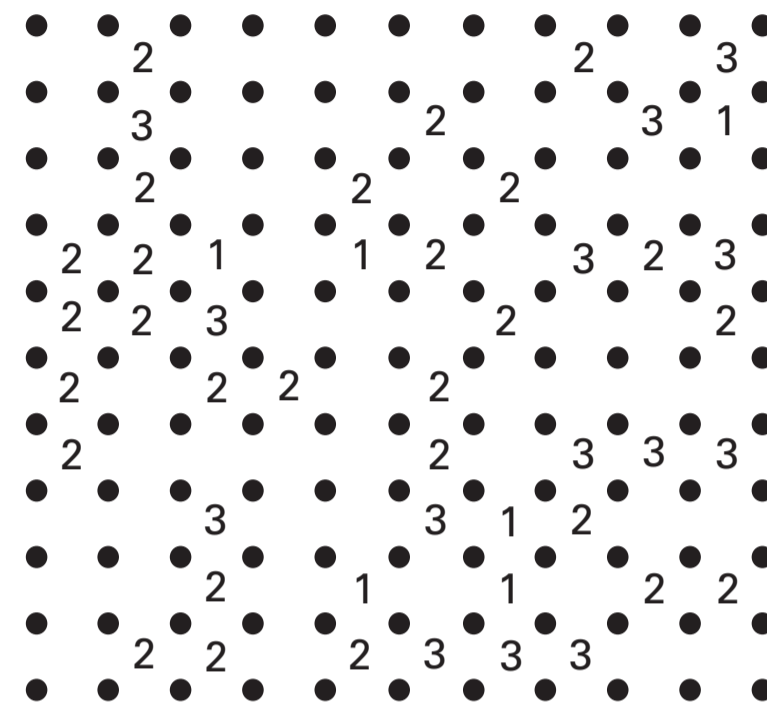
The Felix University/College-Wide Invitational Tournament League is new and improved, with prizes for both the winning team and the winning individual.

So you get points for doing the puzzles and at the end of the year, the winning team and the winning individual will win an iPod nano!

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. Double points will be awarded for cryptic crossword answers.

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

SLITHERLINK



You love it, your mates love it, even your gran loves this mental, mind fuck of a puzzle. I've even seen the lecturers do them in their spare time. No jokes...

If you've ever played minesweeper, then you should be able to understand

this puzzle. The number in each box represents the number of lines that can exist around it. Lines can never cross! In the end, you will end up with a closed loop. Just have a look at the same in the next column.

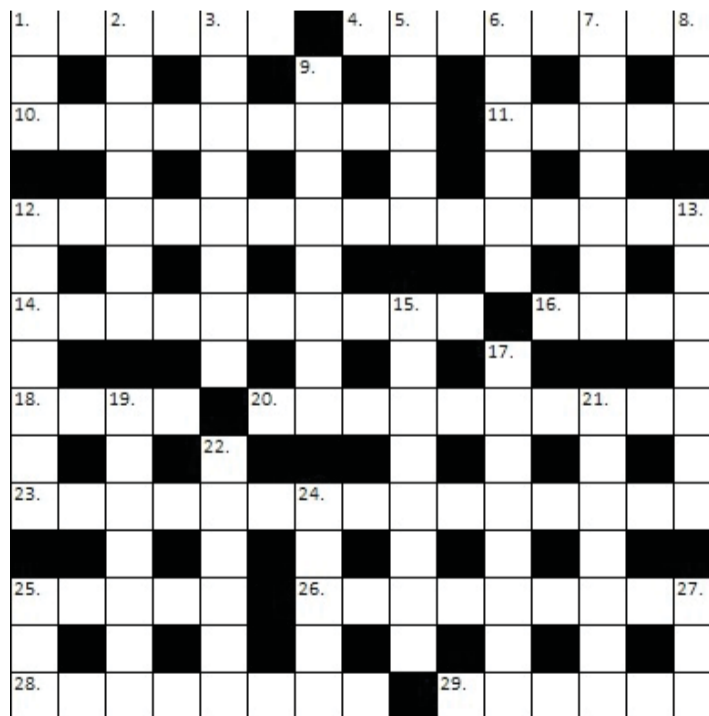
Crossword

Answers to both are the same for this week only, if yo cryptic skillz are rusty

Quick

- Across**
- Disco lighting (6)
 - Footwear fastener (8)
 - Twain protagonist (3,6)
 - Subsequent (5)
 - Severance pay (6,9)
 - Emergency exit (4,6)
 - Celestial being (4)
 - Fundamental building block (4)
 - Relating to charge flow (10)
 - Gamble (6,2,7)
 - BMI > 30 (5)
 - Flag (5,4)
 - Dilapidated (8)

- Down**
- Make ready (3)
 - Hiker (7)
 - Wristband (8)
 - Wading bird (5)
 - Hire (6)
 - Exert a force (on) (7)
 - Be incorrect (3)
 - Fabulous (8)
 - Charitable policy of the 1990 Finance Act (4,3)
 - Noise-cancelling aid (7)
 - Nut based pastry (5,3)
 - Affectation (8)
 - Luxurious (7)
 - Temperature; ambience (7)
 - Cloth covering for arm (6)
 - Cell (5)
 - Cereal grass (3)
 - Unlocking device (3)



Cryptic

- Across**
- Saintly gown - it produces light (6)
 - With this, secures spade, lacking fifth ace (8)
 - Literary figure in agitated, steamy row (3,6)
 - Following for contents of Chocolate Rain (5)
 - Termination incentive for Midas, perhaps? (6,9)
 - Drop key for exit door (4,6)
 - Rodents turned A-lister (4)
 - First half of alphabet is very small thing (4)
 - Vote Imperial College! One surrounded right and left by engineering faculty (10)
 - Honour corrupted with this resolving debt lingo? (6,2,7)

- Overweight Spanish contained by order of the British Empire (5)
- Society to raise flag (5,4)
- Cheapness of tax exempt Commie in shreds (8)
- Shaking, reel in Cyprus veg (6)
- Specify group (3)
- Fellwanderer, perhaps, one constructing bad sentences (7)
- Couple permit jewellery (8)
- Newton after champion bird (5)
- Recruit: "Attention! Back two move to the front!" (6)
- Draw cat art messily around ten (7)
- Stray Russian behind hospital ward (3)
- False claim thy concocted (8)
- Picture thanks identifier of tax break (4,3)
- Bear heads off rising swallow, it's quieter with this (7)
- Receptacle covered in half of seasoning, that is to say, a dessert (5,3)
- Unsupportable quality before base by civ. enger (8)
- Before uni work, gave to rich (7)
- Surroundings for unfinished video by friend (7)
- Second retirement announced for record holder (6)
- Oscar saw the French egg (5)
- Grass canoe, for instance, with bow destroyed (3)
- Half-ape is pivotal (3)

SPORT

Footballers spread culture to Budapest and Bratislava...

<< continued from back page

a goal from Felch-Phallus. Confusion between Marc-Vivien Lobbé and Dirk Kunt at the back led to the ex-pats taking the lead again before Huvely received the ball and was able to whip it into the corner to equalize. IC saw out another 2-2 draw taking it to penalties. Unfortunately Penetration 0 and AIDS bottled their big moments and the victory went to Celtic.

A trip to both Morrison's 1 and 2 ensued, with both clubs infested with skirt. In Morrison's 1 Dirk Kunt made good friends with the local ditch pig, dutifully taking in all the things she said, whilst Kernkraft 400 returned to the hostel to have a dig in the whiskers of one of the staff under the watchful eye of Earthworm Jim. Over in Morrison's 2 Maly Penis was having a psychedelic yawn in each of the toilets whilst Huvely was living up to his name and attracting all manner of men. Earthworm Jim Del Boy-ed through a door, leaving him lying in the grot while a bemused Hungarian looked on pitifully. Penetration 0 almost became Penetration 1 with a high-calibre young female, though it all went to shit soon after as a nosebleed interrupted his progress. Susan Boyle had no such problems however as his Last Throw of the Dice tactics paid dividends down a dark alley.

The final beautiful day in Budapest was brought in with the discovery of a bollard accrued by Gary Glitter and the contents of a man's wallet obtained by Muhammed. The Hungarian sister of Paper Tiger was visited, though Papier Tigris failed to live up to the high onion-ridden standards of its South Kensington equivalent. The third game of tour against a local Irish team took place that evening and began well with goals from Bola Bola Loser Cunt, Susan Boyle and Velezzeraptor giving IC a 3-1 lead. IC

contrived to throw the match away, either distracted by the middle aged Hungarian woman doing hula hoops on the touchline or the tactical ineptitude of the manager, with the game finishing 5-3.

That night the party visited the island, though the clubs were empty and Velezzeraptor resorted to stealing a bike to ride around – a fetish he would later revisit. Everyone returned to Runkert, site of an excellent night a few days earlier, where Kernkraft 400 received some painful friction burns from a toothy young maiden called Fanny. Scatman continued his lairy adventures and, along with Lobbé and AIDS, was comfortably dispatched by the Hungarian Kimbo Slice.

The travelling pack of airborne rangers then made their way to their second destination on the Danube by means of a train - their first contact on tour with something older than Marc-Vivien Lobbé. Having taken seats in 6 man booths, they proceeded to drink the bar dry. Cockles and his dutiful assistant Velezzeraptor obliged. Having already purchased 3 bunches of heather for the journey, Velezzeraptor decided to donate these and one free ticket to his premier streaking performance to the huvely in his booth. Momo Sissoko and Emmanuel Petit put in noteworthy performances as we arrived at our hostel.

Slovakian Bar One was the setting for the first dinner in Bratislava, and luckily for Bola Bola Loser Cunt they were able to serve Hawaiian pizzas without the pineapple. Velezzeraptor, fresh from his role as bar assistant, was now undertaking the duties of toilet cleaner as he missed his call on the big white telephone. Scatman and Huvely's date bore no fruit as both decided their crockery made for suitable pillows, much to the waitress' disgust.

Nu Spirit was the venue of choice for the rest of the evening's events, as 90c beers and deep house

eased the Rangers into the early hours. Leroy Lighter and Hartlepool United gave pleasing performances with Velezzeraptor bearing his chest in celebration. Susan Boyle was so overwhelmed he was required to reboot. Earthworm Jim's request for a lady to reveal her Jabulanis was met with contempt, as was the follow up appeal for her to play his vuvuzela. Marc-Vivien Lobbé was simply content with a pint of milk. Muhammed and Penetration 0 had earlier split from the group and were now in the company of Slovakian international Martin Skrtel, fresh from his side's loss to Holland in the secondary football event of the summer.

Thursday yielded no scheduled game for IC, so a majority made their way to a local lake. Velezzeraptor, again, cycled. With an exponential increase in the protection provided by their sun cream, the pasty Englishmen took in the remarkable view and left the local talent fizzing at the bung-hole. A few looked to emulate the antics of Andrew Flintoff by hiring pedalos, whilst others were content to bask in the glorious 30 degree heat and densely packed Slovakian fuzz. Earthworm Jim's nipple hair provided light relief, as did Brown the Down's retarded doggy paddle.

As the evening rolled in, those who had disregarded their tie when deciding on essential items for tour were suitably reprimanded. As lesser men struggled, Evan Davies stood tall and in the valley of the blind, the one eyed man was King. Gary Glitter, unable to regurgitate his reprimand, decided the most honourable method to achieve such would be to neck another beer. Belliot Gaylord remained firmly tucked in his arsehole. Velezzeraptor had somehow agreed to buy a live chicken for the patty sum of 12 euros. With a flick knife for guarantee, the raptor sat awaiting his livestock. With Evan Davies now tucked up in bed with a Polish man the group were kicking up a storm in another club called Rio. Dave brought his special brand of French romance to the table by going bareback on a girl's arm. Maly Penis, having been involved in a disagreement with a particularly large Slovakian club-goer, took evasive action by inverting his white t-shirt. The Black Plague, historically caused by rats, was now in hot pursuit of one and was left behind as Maly Penis' cunning disguise allowed the group to safely evacuate the dancefloor. Even a slap of encouragement from Susan Boyle and Buckaroo to the buttocks of The Black Plague's aforementioned rat gave rise to no further incident

in the evening. The same, though, could not be said for Bill and Ben. The innocent flower pot men were ravaged by AIDS and bought to an untimely demise on the backstreets of Bratislava.

Friday brought IC's last touring match against KPMG Bratislava. IC started typically slowly, with the robust KPMG side bossing the midfield. The score remained 0-0 only due to excellent goal-keeping from Dave. A break down the right from Maly Penis saw him awarded a penalty. The Black Plague stood up to take the spot kick and proceeded to tamely knock the ball into the keeper's hands. KPMG gained impetus from this and by half time were 1-0 to the good. A rousing team talk from Huvely saw an inspired IC team take complete control of the second half and they were soon 3-1 ahead thanks to a low strike from Scatman and Ronaldinho-esque cross-shots from Maly Penis and Brown the Down. IC survived a late surge from KPMG to come out of the game with a 3-2 victory, their first of the tour.

It being the last day of tour, the group descended upon a sports bar for their tour dinner. The service was slower than Earthworm Jim's football and the food colder than Velezzeraptor's heart but Luis Suarez provided a hand in giving us a penalty shoot-out for dessert and the touring party returned to their hostel for the awards of tour to be announced. Evan Davies was awarded Player of Tour for his accomplished performances at centre back throughout the 4 games. Man of Tour was awarded to Earthworm Jim for his incessant laughter throughout the 7 days, and his dismal performances in all 4 games. A new award introduced especially for this year, Lad of Tour, was awarded to Velezzeraptor for his all round ridiculousness.

For their last night in Bratislava, IC frequented Sub Club where the basslines were dirty but the huvely was sparse. Whilst some of the group continued to skank the night away, others returned to Rio where much was to be gained. With the whole group congregated at the hostel, Dave managed a solid conversion. Susan Boyle, though, was left picking up the pisses of his IBM career. Kernkraft 400 saw the hostel no longer fit for purpose, and successfully sought alternative accommodation for the night with the local constabulary.

The following day saw our flight back to Blighty. Unfortunately, gnats were not permitted on the flight, so The Black Plague was left playing 7 hours of extra time as the rest of the group returned home.



The current crop of airborne rangers, amazingly all still intact

“With an exponential increase in the protection provided by their suncream, the pasty Englishmen took in the remarkable view and left the local fizzing at the bung-hole”

SPORT

Felix Sports League



sponsored by

 ERNST & YOUNG
 Quality In Everything We Do

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Diff	Index
1 Volleyball M1	10	10	0	0	20	1	19	5.00
2 Fencing W1	10	10	0	0	1338	863	475	5.00
3 ICSM Rugby M1	14	12	1	1	512	159	353	4.14
4 Volleyball W1	9	8	0	1	17	4	13	4.00
5 Rugby M1	14	11	2	1	470	88	382	3.93
6 Lacrosse W1	8	7	0	1	145	21	124	3.88
7 Squash M3	7	6	0	1	15	6	9	3.71
8 ICSM Badminton M1	9	7	1	1	55	17	38	3.67
9 Netball W2	9	7	1	1	308	184	124	3.67
10 ICSM Netball W2	10	7	2	1	421	290	131	3.50
11 Table Tennis M1	11	9	0	2	130	57	73	3.36
12 Badminton M1	11	8	1	2	54	34	20	3.09
13 Squash W1	11	6	4	1	30	14	16	3.09
14 Lacrosse M1	8	5	1	2	73	54	19	2.38
15 Fencing M1	10	7	0	3	1247	1022	225	2.30
16 Hockey W1	11	7	1	3	51	14	37	2.27
17 ICSM Hockey M1	11	7	1	3	39	23	16	2.27
18 Squash M1	9	6	0	3	27	18	9	2.00
19 Badminton M2	11	6	1	4	53	35	18	1.45
20 Football M1	11	6	1	4	32	26	6	1.45
21 ICSM Netball W1	10	6	0	4	378	314	64	1.40
22 Tennis M1	12	5	3	4	70	49	21	1.25
23 Tennis M2	9	5	0	4	46	44	2	1.00
24 Squash M4	9	5	0	4	15	12	3	1.00
25 Hockey M2	9	3	3	3	19	19	0	1.00
26 Netball W1	11	6	0	5	450	393	57	0.91
27 Football M3	7	3	1	3	8	18	-10	0.71
28 Basketball M1	8	4	0	4	500	509	-9	0.50
29 Fencing W2	10	5	0	5	1052	1235	-183	0.50
30 ICSM Hockey W2	10	3	3	4	11	29	-18	0.50
31 Badminton W1	10	3	3	4	43	37	6	0.50
32 Hockey W2	10	4	1	5	20	29	-9	0.20
33 ICSM Hockey M3	8	3	1	4	15	29	-14	0.13
34 ICSM Hockey W1	9	4	0	5	28	23	5	0.00
35 Squash M2	9	4	0	5	18	27	-9	0.00
36 Fencing M3	10	4	0	6	1054	1163	-109	-0.40
37 ICSM Football M1	7	2	1	4	9	14	-5	-0.57
38 Rugby Union M2	12	4	0	8	222	167	55	-1.00
39 Football M2	12	4	0	8	20	30	-10	-1.00
40 Netball W3	9	3	0	6	189	281	-92	-1.00
41 Tennis W1	11	2	2	7	35	75	-40	-1.27
42 Rugby M3	10	2	1	7	103	258	-155	-1.60
43 Rugby Union M4	9	2	0	7	79	220	-141	-2.00
44 ICSM Netball W3	8	1	1	6	193	282	-89	-2.13
45 Hockey M1	9	1	1	7	17	31	-14	-2.33
46 ICSM Rugby M2	12	2	0	10	181	371	-190	-2.50
47 ICSM Hockey M2	8	0	2	6	8	34	-26	-2.50
48 ICSM Rugby M3	12	1	0	11	122	385	-263	-3.25
49 ICSM Football M2	8	0	1	7	6	36	-30	-3.25
50 Football W1	8	0	1	7	2	52	-50	-3.25
51 ICSM Hockey W3	8	0	1	7	7	66	-59	-3.25
52 ICSM Football M2	7	0	0	7	5	35	-30	-4.00

Welcome

to the Felix Sports League, now in its fourth year and going from strength to strength. Unlike the Union and Sport Imperial Awards, this is purely based on your performance compared to the rest of the College teams. Only BUCS league games count, so if you're not on their website, you're not in the league; apologies also to the ULU teams, but we can't fit you all on here. The system is simple, you win a game, you get 5 points; you draw a game, you get 2 points, but if you lose a game, you are deducted 4 points. All scores are then normalised by the number of games played to get the final index score. At the end of the year, the winning team get a brand new set of polo-shirts, kindly provided by our sponsors Ernst & Young. We shall update the league next week, when more teams have actually played some games, because at the moment, the Men's Rugby 4th team would be top!

Rugby: First win of the season for IC 1st XV

David Wilson

Rugby Union

Imperial 1s 37 - 3 RUMS 1s

Imperial College Mens 1st XV began their title seeking season with an impressive victory over RUMS at Harlington. A draw against the same opposition at Harlington last season cost Imperial promotion and the division title and the team were eager to avoid another below par result this time around. The victory followed on from the successful summer tour to Japan and an intense pre-season programme in which some of the squad made appearances for the London Nigerian side. The team was predominately comprised of experienced university players although four first years started in Caolan Cotter's first competitive match as captain.

Nick Johnson took over kicking duties from his now graduated brother and duly slotted the first points of the match within the first ten minutes. RUMS were able to draw level due to Imperial's ill discipline at the breakdown resulting after big covering tackles from Cotter and lock Charlie Esberger. This was to be where tit for tat points scoring ended as Imperial asserted their dominant hold over the game. The front five were hitting rucks effectively without being needlessly sucked in which allowed hair-band-ed scrum-half Graham Riddler to produce quick ball for the back line with Louie Barnet and full back Max Joachim combining well down the left wing. Ben Adubi, making his first appearance for Imperial, produced some evasive and hard hitting lines and was rewarded with the first of his two tries halfway through the first half after Johnson had kicked another penalty. First year biomedical science student Tom Stone added another try before half time, allowing the team to go into the break in a comfortable position.

In an act reminiscent of the supposed half-time meeting between Frank Rijkaard and Anders Frisk in 2005, Imperial coach Richard Birkett sought the referee to remind him of the newly enforced rules relating to the tackle area. Unsurprisingly, within the first minute of the second half, Imperial were awarded a penalty when RUMS tacklers didn't release the Chris McGeough before attempting to steal possession from him. David Bowe provided decent field position with his kicking from hand and Imperial began to impose themselves upon their opposition who were struggling in the scrum with debutante prop, Simon Fenton, proving to be a natural in his new position. Although Birkett rang the changes mid way through the second half, the energy and work rate did not suffer as Imperial ran in a further three tries courtesy of Cotter, Adubi and replacement centre Adam Foley.

This was a promising and commanding performance from the whole team who will be looking to push on and remain unbeaten throughout the season.



Chris McGeough jumps for the ball during a line out producing quick ball for the backs

Rugby: Flash of pink inspires 3rd XV to victory over Reading

David Wilson

Rugby Union

Imperial 3s 40 - 0 Reading 3s

Stade Francais. Everton. Middlesex. Imperial 3s. What do they all have in common? Pink playing shirts. Garish pink sports kit is commonly seen as something of a signal; if a team has the minerals to turn up and play in kit which looks so hideously amazing they must be good. The common train of thought within the felixSport office is that Stade Francais' barren trophy shelf is the reason for a dramatic decline in the amount of pink sported on their playing kit.

The kit intended for Imperial 3s had not been returned from the printers who were attaching sponsor details as a result the Old Boys kit was donated to the team for the match on Wednesday and it worked wonders.

The 3s were captained by Paddy Snape as Tom Mcfadden is currently out injured. Snape produced a mercurial performance reminiscent of a young Jonny Wilkinson which allowed his outside backs to flourish. Debutante winger

Ed Willans was rewarded with a brace of tries showing his deft footwork and blistering pace along the touchline whilst Dominic Swift yet again proved his ability under the high ball despite what critics say.

Jack Goring took time away from his farm to produce a spirited performance in the back row. Many believe its just a matter of time before Warren Gatland gives Goring his big break. Ed Jinks, the captain from last year, as always, gave everything out on the pitch and dominated in the lineouts.

The referee allowed the match to flow which benefited Imperial; the forwards were supreme producing quick ball for the backs to attack the poorly formed Reading defence. Chris Funnando ran lovely lines through the centres and was ably supported by a multitude of runners on numerous occasions.

Jamie Thomas produced a brilliant solo try; receiving the ball in his own 22, he stepped the defending winger before gassing the full back in a footrace to the line. A great result. Some would have even called it 'a walkover'. Oh wait, they did...

SPORT



Netball: LSE girls more interested in nails than netball game

Feroza Kassam & Lucie Hazell

Netball

IC 3s 28 - 20 LSE 4s

In mis-matched kit, the Imperial girls nervously eyed up the tall, skinny, LSE blondes, dressed in their deceptively impressive black kit. Yes they were fit, but no, they couldn't play netball (for fear of breaking a nail).

Our start of season enthusiasm was quickly quashed when our only Centre tumbled (*cough* pushed *cough*) to the floor and had to be carried to the sidelines. 30 seconds of an Imperial netball career and it's game over for her. Lucky escape really.

Our gallant captain stepped up to the plate and subbed herself in as Center, against her better judgement and fitness record.

With renewed optimism, we fought hard in what proved to be an unexpectedly close quarter. However, given our superior passing and some well aimed shots from Netball Fresher Sally B, Imperial maintained the lead throughout.

It was a few minutes into the second quarter that some of the team's absence from pre season really came to light and LSE gained some ground. Imperial kept a cool head and despite LSE pushing deep into our own half we kept up a solid defence; shot after shot was blocked by Fern and Nakai as they really piled

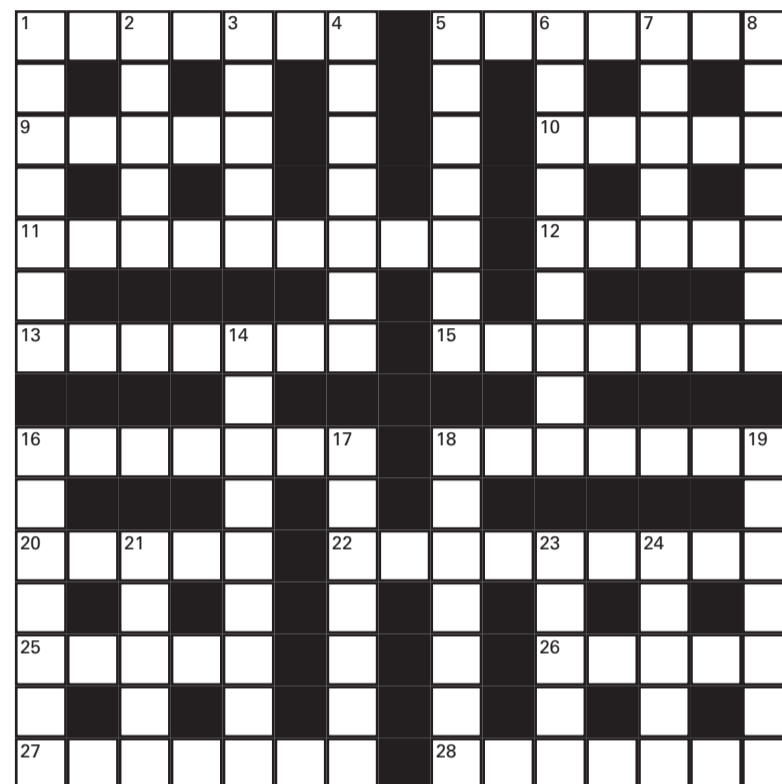
the pressure on.

Knowing we had to take this game into our own hands, we worked to maintain possession in the third quarter. Controlling the pace and movement of the game meant we could really break away, despite Lucie, our Captain having to play GS because she hyperventilated too severely to stay on centre court.

The second half of the match saw some really remarkable plays around the D and the game finished with a well deserved victory for Imperial, beating LSE 4s 28-20.

In the dying seconds of the game, LSE, desperate to salvage some respect, cheekily tried to accuse the scorer of miscounting the goals.

Cryptic Crossword 1,469



Across

- 1. In sermons, terrible beast (7)
- 5. Non-permanent worker queens frames of mind (7)
- 9. South Easterners drink fluid (5)
- 10. For locating objects in tundra darkness (5)
- 11. East African citizen hit English piano curiously (9)
- 12. Enlist two points and turn without fifty (5)
- 13. Beautiful German and one American in tirade (7)
- 15. Dear Sir mutilated the attackers (7)
- 16. Stir wet stormy tornado (7)
- 18. Grind, ie. grain, an African state (7)
- 20. One gram toilet house (5)
- 22. Butchered 17 without rivers precedes track back specialist (9)
- 25. Greek letter publication in reverse, endless publication (5)
- 26. Lift up and destroy completely, we're told (5)
- 27. Apparatus to produce energy about thespian (7)

28. Breathe about steeple (7)

Down

- 1. Church service in front of incomplete European muscle manipulator (7)
- 2. Prickly thorn gives direction (5)
- 3. Speed within totem pole (5)
- 4. Cloud of anger in cluttered mistake (3,4)
- 5. Rough terrain shoe (7)
- 6. Killing eccentrically erring mud (9)
- 7. Ancient tree (5)
- 8. Unused Knight, we hear, add! (7)
- 14. Spaceman is roast blasted before zero, we hear (9)
- 16. Pooh's bouncy friend gets royal catch (7)
- 17. Cock list holding ball (7)
- 18. Crazier hard fruit layer (7)
- 19. Cross the late sportsman (7)
- 21. Cook 1000 meal making a mathematical statement (5)
- 23. Man-eating giants king goes awkwardly (5)
- 24. Genial ibis contains crime cover story (5)

Fixtures & Results

in association with Sports Partnership imperial college union sport Imperial

Monday 11 October 2010

NETBALL
3s ULU 28
LSE 4s ULU 20

Wednesday 13 October 2010

HOCKEY
Men's 2s ULU 0
RUMS Men's 1s ULU 7

Women's 2s ULU 0
Queen Mary Women's 1s ULU 8

Men's 4s ULU 2
King's Men's 3s ULU 1

RUGBY

Men's 1st 37
RUMS Men's 1st 3
Men's 2nd 22
UCL Men's 1st 29

Men's 3rd 40
Reading Men's 3rd 0

Men's 4th 47
LSE Men's 3rd 5

Saturday 16 October 2010

FOOTBALL
Men's 3s ULU
King's Medicals Men's 2s ULU

Men's 2s ULU
King's Men's 2s ULU

Men's 4s ULU
LSE Men's 4s ULU

Men's 5s ULU
School of Slavonic & East European Studies Men's 1s ULU

Men's 1s ULU
Queen Mary Men's 1s ULU

Men's 7s ULU
Royal Vet College Men's 2s ULU

Men's 6s ULU
King's Men's 5s ULU

LACROSSE

Mixed 1s ULU
St Bart's Mixed 1s ULU

Sunday 17 October 2010

FOOTBALL
Women's 1s ULU
King's Medicals Women's 2s ULU

HOCKEY
Men's 1s ULU
UCL Men's 1s ULU

Women's 1s ULU
King's Women's 1st ULU

Men's 3s ULU
UCL Men's 3s ULU

Monday 18 October 2010

BADMINTON
Mixed 1s ULU
SOAS Mixed 1 ULU

BASKETBALL
Women's 1s ULU
Goldsmiths Women's 1s ULU

Men's 2nd ULU
St George's Men's 1sts ULU

Men's 1s ULU
Queen Mary Men's 1sts ULU

NETBALL

2s ULU
Royal Veterinary College 3s ULU

4s ULU
Queen Mary 4s ULU

1s ULU
LSE 1s ULU

SQUASH
Men's 4s ULU
RUMS 1s ULU

Women's 1s ULU
Imperial Medicals Women's 1s ULU

Men's 1s ULU
LSE Men's 1s ULU

Men's 3s ULU
LSE Men's 2s ULU

VOLLEYBALL
Mixed 1s ULU
Goldsmiths Mixed 1s ULU

WATER POLO
1st ULU
King's 1st ULU

ICUAFC Tour 2010: The Best Thing Since a Pint of Milk

Edgar Lobb & Sid Kilroy

An early morning Wetherspoons heralded the beginning of the ICUAFC Tour 2010, with 21 of the current batch of Airborne Rangers primed to spread their unique culture to Budapest and Bratislava. Little time was wasted on arrival in Budapest and Szimpla was the first port of call. Militant tour matchbox was initiated and several pints of Hungarian mind-alterer consumed. Their properties were soon on show as The Black Plague declined to follow the convention of closing the door when liberating Richard the Third. The night advanced to Runkert on the banks of the Danube where Harry Potter was lurking ready to acquaint itself with Susan Boyle. A wedgie of outrageous proportions was dispatched, ending in Earthworm Jim displaying his earthworm on the dance floor.

The first full day of the trip brought the arrival of the Human Malteser and the first game against local ex-pat outfit Budapest Celtic. The game started well for IC with Bola Bola Loser Cunt converting a simple tap in and Penetration 0 doubling the advantage soon after. Earthworm Jim was taking an enforced rest under the subs bench, but may have been more use in goal where The Black Plague somehow let a shot through his considerable frame. Against all odds a

late equaliser arrived for Celtic and the game finished 2-2.

A pizzeria run by a character from The League of Gentlemen provided nourishment for the evening, as Richie decided to take a 45 minute sojourn on the throne. Dirk Kunt, Evan Davies and Brown the Down arrived having eaten elsewhere, only for the latter to quickly dispatch a slap round the chops of Buckaroo. Melancholy and wracked with guilt, he went round the corner for a little cry. The party then advanced to the much-vaunted Rio where merry was made, despite the place being dryer than Ghandi's flip-flops. Both tour goalkeepers excelled themselves, as The Black Plague became intimately familiar with various nabbags and Buckaroo set up camp for the night in the back streets of the city.

Monday morning was greeted with discussion of Felch-Phallus' substantial lips and Bola Bola Loser Cunt's unending pursuit of still water. Hungarian shop owners do not take kindly to customer enquiries and the proprietor of the local five-and ten, in cold blood, hounded him from the store with a crowbar and a baseball bat. The second leg of the tie with Budapest Celtic took place that evening. The local side took the lead when their player released the kraken from the edge of the box, though IC came back with

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IC were never far from conceding the next goal

RUGBY

All four rugby teams impress in their respective first fixtures of the season. **1st XV match report Page 42**

TRAVEL

To travel or not to travel, that is the question.

Is it too dangerous to travel? **Page 36**



CLUBS & SOCS

Fellwanderers are up to their usual antics including experiencing some of Europe's most stunning scenery. **Pages 26-27**

