

Felix Editor's Report
For Imperial College Union Council Meeting, 9 October 2006
A report by Andy Sykes, Felix Editor

Felix's Production

At the time of this meeting, two issues of Felix have been produced (1357, 28 September and 1358, 5 October). Both of them have been delivered on time. Feedback has been positive, with many welcoming the less sensationalist style and lack of garish colours.

Changes to Felix's publication day

Dave Edwards (editor, 2004-5) moved Felix's date of publication to Thursday from Friday. I am in the process of reversing this change. With publication on a Thursday, the paper goes to press on a Wednesday night. This allows subeditors and contributors only one weekday to produce their content (Monday), and allows the Editor and Deputy Editors only one weekday to work on these pages (Tuesday). Wednesday normally becomes incredibly busy, as the former deadlines inevitably slip. This has resulted in a number of silly mistakes, and a severe decline in the mental health of the deputy editors and myself.

Moving the publication day to Friday allows another weekday for subeditors and contributors to complete their pages, and should mean that Wednesday can be devoted entirely to myself and the deputy editors fixing layout issues and other similar tasks that would otherwise be rushed, resulting in a higher quality newspaper (in theory, anyway).

The Felix editorial team voted unanimously to move the publication day to Friday, and the next issue will be produced on Friday 13 October (wooooo).

Felix's format and printing

The format will remain the same as last year; however, the paper is now entirely colour. This has been possible without a large increase in printing costs by the previous editor moving to a new printer in the summer term. Not only does this reduce the workload of the editorial team, it allows for a cleaner, more consistent design. The number of copies has risen slightly, from 4,500 to 5,000, based on feedback from students about the availability of Felix on campus.

A few issues have arisen regarding the quality of Northcliffe's (our printers) production of Felix. I plan to run a few more issues without changes, to provide a slightly larger test sample of the printing errors, and consult with other student newspapers in London that print with Northcliffe (for example, London Student and LSE's Beaver).

I have also received training from Northcliffe's Technical Manager on various techniques to improve the print quality of Felix – I hope Council have noticed that photos no longer look soft and blurry, and that the colours of the newspaper are much brighter and less

muddy.

Advertising revenue

At the time of writing, Felix has £30,000 of advertising booked. The vast majority of this (more than £22,000) is for the first term's issues. This sum is more than enough than is required to print all the issues of the first and second term. Requests for ad space are still plentiful, though I expect this to slacken off as we approach the new term, based on previous years' experience.

The state of the Felix Office

The Felix Office is a disaster zone. The damage from the flood at the end of last year has still not been repaired, cutting the available office space in two. As such, the editorial team are crammed into the remaining space, resulting in a large amount of mess and disorder. Of course, this has led to the Fire Officer threatening to close the office.

There have also been constant leaks from a steam pipe in the back room, filling the office with steam. A very shoddy repair has been carried out; however, this has left a gaping hole in the wall of the office, and rendered the back office completely unusable. I have reported these defects time and time again, as has the Union's Facilities Manager, but to no avail.

The Union Handbook 2006

The handbook was (eventually) produced over the summer, and I have received numerous positive comments about it, as well as a single complaint.

Guardian Student Media Awards

Both I Science and Felix have been shortlisted (in the magazine and newspaper categories respectively), and several members of the Felix editorial team have been shortlisted in the individual categories.