

**Felix Editor's Report**  
**For Imperial College Union Council Meeting, 27 April 2009**  
By Jovan Nedić – Felix Editor

**Felix Newspaper**

Since my last report, 9 more issues of *felix* have been printed. We have had some interesting stories this year, including covering the outcome of the Foundation Programme allocation for our Medical students and also an interview with the Rector that had some interesting results.

I must make special mention to my Associate Editor, Gilead Amit, and Louise Etheridge who has worked very hard to ensure that the number of spelling and grammar mistakes in the paper has been reduced. I am grateful for their hard work.

The newer members to the team have been absolutely amazing so far this year. We have had regular pages from the Technology section, something that is not a cheap hobby yet we still have had some excellent issues even covering International Technology Expo's. My gratitude goes to Richard Lai for his dedication and hard work. Other revived sections include the Travel section, with Dylan Lowe picking up the software and style very quickly; something which I think is extraordinary considering he is a first year student. Hopefully we can expect a lot more from him in the future. Finally we have Kawai Wong and Alexandra Ashford, the most recent additions to the team who have given their unique touch to the fashion pages and music pages respectively.

The regulars have also been producing the quality that is expected of them. Jack Cornish and Mustapher Botchway have worked hard to promote the sports pages, with some very interesting interviews with the various captains, something that has proved to be a hit with the sports teams. All the sections have been exceptional and I am indebted to the work and dedication that the section editors have put in this year.

The teamwork and cooperation of the entire team this year showed at the dinner we held last term at Byron; it was great to see so many people turn up and have a great time with the entire team staying there until the restaurant closed. My thanks go to Rosie Grayburn for organizing the event for us, hopefully we can have another one this term with a few awards.

Finally, my congratulations go to Daniel Wan who will be taking over as Felix Editor from August 2009, I look forward to working with him over the summer to ensure a smooth transition.

**Felix Finances**

As mentioned in previous reports, the aim is to raise £70,000 this year and I am glad to say that we have managed to surpass the target and we are currently on £72,500 of expected income. We are hoping for some more advertisers to come this term that will leave the accounts in healthy stead for next year. I am also going to be working hard over the summer with Daniel Wan to ensure that we get a good source of income for the coming academic year.

**Felix Magazines**

The magazines have been going from strength to strength this year with *I,science* in particular taking some risks with the front page and lead story. We are currently working on producing yet another spectacular issue, especially the front cover which will be very different to the ones you've seen before! Mico Tatalovic has been working very hard on ensuring that we keep the high standard that is expected of *I,science* this year and I am honoured to have him as part of the team this year. Both *Phoenix* and *Another Castle* have been exceptional as always and both are expected to go out with a bang. Finally we have *The Rival*, which was a glossy magazine version of the Varsity Pull-Out that we did last year, proved to be a great success with teams from both Imperial and the Medical School enjoying the final product.

The ever increasing quality and success of the magazines can only be positive for the paper, as we will now target specific advertisers for the magazines in the hope of relieving the financial burden on the newspaper itself. All the initial work has been done; we are now just waiting for the final run of magazines to be printed before we begin contacting potential advertisers.

### **Felix Archive**

The archive has been taking up a considerable amount of my time last term, ensuring that the final product is something that we can all be proud of. I have been working closely with Ms Anne Barrett, College Archivist & Corporate Records Manager, as well as representatives from the University of London Computer Centre (ULCC), who will be doing the actual digitizing, and Imperial College Union, especially Alex McKee and Phil Power.

We have received two quotes from ULCC, the first of these is for about £10,000 which will ensure about 80% accuracy on the Optical Character Recognition (OCR), the method by which the text can be searched on PDF's. The second quote is for £25,740.00 which will give roughly 99% accuracy, something that is needed for the older issues as the words are quite small and some have started to fade.

At present, I have managed to secure £6,000 from the IC Trust to go towards the payment of the archive, with *felix* committing to £3,000 of its own money for the project also. I have also submitted a paper to the Exec Committee for £10,000 and I am also trying to arrange a meeting with the College Alumni Department in the hope of getting some funding from them.

An article has been printed in both the newspaper and the College Alumni Magazine, Imperial Matters, to raise awareness of the project and I am pleased to say that the response from the alumni's has been a positive one with many looking forward to viewing the final product which is expected to be finished by November 2009.

During our research of the project, it came to our attention that no other higher education institution in the UK has done anything like this, which would mean that it will be the first of its kind in the UK, something that will definitely please the College and hopefully the Union. We also found that a few universities in the US, namely Harvard, Cornell and Yale, have digitized their student newspaper and the feedback from it has been very successful, something which we hope to emulate here.

Since this will be the first of its kind in the UK, I really want to final product to be of a very high standard, which means that the quality of the digital output and the method by which users can view it, must be very good. To aid this quest, together with the College Archive and Records Department and ULCC, we have put in a bid the Joint Information Systems Committee [JISC] for £30,000 which will go towards the creation of a repository. This is set up as an exemplar project for the digitisation and online repository for student journals throughout HE institutions in the UK. This is a fantastic opportunity for Imperial College Union and *felix* to take the lead in a national project. Then main work in this will be undertaken by the ULCC and the contribution by *felix* is mainly in kind not cash. We were told on Wednesday that the bid was unsuccessful and are currently in the process of appealing and trying other avenues for funding.

### **Felix Website**

With the new digital archive being set up, my hope is to incorporate an improved website for the paper. As such, I will work together with Daniel Wan to ensure that we both get a website that we can be proud of, and one that will be easy to use, both for the administrator and the user.