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FELIX



The Student Newspaper of Imperial College

No1018 27JAN95

Christmas Fracas On Queen's Lawn



Peaceful: A quiet summer's day on the Queen's Lawn

BY ANDY SINHARAY

Two members of college staff have been arrested following allegations of a serious assault which took place at the end of last term. It seems an argument between staff, a student and an ex-student of Imperial in the Holland Club led to an assault on the Queen's Lawn.

The incident occurred on Friday 16th December, the last day of term. It was brought to the attention of college authorities after the girlfriend of one of those involved reported the attack to college security. Two security officers were dispatched and on arriving at the scene found the injured. They were found to have various cuts and lacerations.

On being accompanied back to the Holland Club, they were able to identify their alleged assailants who are due to appear

in court on February 6th. Following these events, certain college sources have claimed that three technicians have been dismissed and further suggested that one of the technicians has started proceedings against the College for unfair dismissal.

The events on the Queen's Lawn seem a continuation of the spate of drink related incidents which have hit College recently. Others include the arson attacks in Linstead Hall and violence in Beit Quad. Two weeks ago in a letter to FELIX, Lucy Chothia, ICU President, called for clubs and societies to take more care over drink related activities.

College authorities have also stressed the need for care. Speaking to FELIX, Terry Briley, Deputy Head of Security, advised licensees to 'tighten up rules' to avoid incidents attracting 'the unnecessary attention of police'.

Campaign Manager for New Election

BY ANDREW SMITH

Imperial College Union Elections Committee have taken the controversial decision of appointing a manager for this year's New Election campaign. £40 will be available in the upcoming elections to the manager chosen to oppose those running for the four sabbatical

posts.

The elections committee, announced last week as: the Departmental Representative of Chemical Engineering, the Publications Board Chairman, the RCS President, the RSM Academic Affairs Officer, the SCC Chair and chaired by the ICU President, took the unusual decision at its meeting this

Wednesday. This is in stark contrast to last year's decision by Andrew Wensley, then ICU President, who even discouraged a publicity campaign, the usual practice in previous years.

Earlier Lucy Chothia, ICU President, had told Felix of her preference for merely a publicity campaign, even going so far as to outline the dangers of appointing

a full campaign manager.

While recognising that students always should have a choice, Ms Chothia emphasised that a New Election campaign could get out of control, with people voting for it simply to express disgust of the Union, rather than of the particular candidates.

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(Elections continues from page 1)

After the committee's decision was taken, Ms Chothia struck a conciliatory tone encouraging anyone interested in becoming the manager to come and see her regarding the position. Imperial College Union Council will decide who the successful candidate will be at its next meeting on 13th February.

It is hoped by the committee that the campaign would be run for fun, and that it would also keep the candidates 'on their toes'. At the same time Lucy Chothia stressed that no one would be forced to attend the St

Mary's hustings, noted in the past for its 'lively atmosphere'. Ironically New Election's candidature seems to be the most advanced, as there is no clear picture of who is in the running for the four sabbatical posts.

Suggestions that disaster looms, with the possibility that no one might stand for any of the posts has been denied by various Union sources. Ms Chothia did though urge anyone who might be interested in assuming her role to come and talk to her to find out what the President's job entails. She also encouraged those who might not have

previously considered themselves as candidates to stand, saying that anyone, even those without Union experience, who decided to really dedicate themselves to the job for the year could be a successful Union sabbatical.

It is also being stressed how important next year's sabbaticals will be, with such important long term decisions being considered as the medical merger and the possible move of the Union itself. "It is vital that we get a really good person," Lucy concluded, emphasising the need for a choice of candidates in the forthcoming elections.

RCS to vote on NUS

BY MICHAEL INGRAM

A new twist has been added to the debate on Imperial College Union's (ICU) membership of the National Union of Students (NUS) this week. Members of the Royal College of Science Union (RCSU) look set to have their own vote on the question of affiliating to the national student organisation.

FELIX has learnt that a motion is due to be submitted to the next RCSU Union General Meeting (UGM) on 19th February, which will call for RCSU members to vote on affiliation to the NUS. If passed, the RCSU Executive Committee would be forced either to arrange a referendum of union members or put the issue to a UGM.

Imperial College Union (ICU) and its Constituent College Unions (CCUs) are currently among the small group of student unions who are not affiliated to the NUS. This is in keeping with ICU's trend of remaining apolitical and hostile to affiliation with any politically active organisations.

Under the new ICU constitution, it would be possible for any of the CCUs to affiliate to the NUS with a mandate from its members. However, the financial implications of such a move could come under severe opposition from both ICU and the CCU. The NUS charges affiliates an annual fee in proportion to their membership. If ICU were to join, it could be charged as much as £40,000.

The South Kensington based CCUs must have their budgets approved by the ICU Union Finance Committee. ICU insiders have hinted that a CCU wishing to affiliate would have trouble increasing their budget to cover the affiliation fee. The fee would therefore have to be paid for out of the existing

(continues overleaf)

Lunchers Ignore Rape Alarm

BY RACHEL WALTERS

No one within the Union building responded when rape alarms were set off last week. College security were on the scene 'within a minute' but those enjoying their lunchtime pint in the traditional bar stayed put.

The alarms were set off in the 1st floor women's toilets at lunchtime on Wednesday 18th January by Lucy Chothia, ICU President, and Annie Matthewman, ICU Welfare Officer. The test attempted to gauge what response was provoked but although the noise was said to be 'uncomfortably loud' in the traditional bar, no one went up to investigate. "The punters were sitting around looking a bit puzzled," said Ms Matthewman. Apparently, the noise sounds just like a car alarm and those present were not aware of what it was.

The experiment has raised questions about the safety of women in the Union building. "College security should be commended for their prompt response," praised Annie Matthewman, but she felt that those in the Union office should also have been alerted. At present the alarms sound in the traditional bar, in the security lodge in Beit, and in Sheffield security.

A series of proposals



Photo: Diana Harrison

suggested at Monday's welfare committee include the installation of rape alarms in all the toilets, especially those in isolated areas of the building and

having regular random testing of them.

Portable aerosol rape alarms are available free from the Union office.

Security Assaulted

BY TED W. SHIRMAN

Following an incident in the early hours of Saturday morning, it has emerged that an Imperial College student is to appear before the College Disciplinary Committee charged with punching a security officer. The alleged assault took place in the entrance to Beit Quad around 12:30am, and also involved another person who is not an IC student.

Observers claim that the affair started when a group of students attempted to enter the Union against the wishes of the Union stewards. Beit Arch Lodge security, manned 24-hours a day, immediately called for assistance on his security radio. This resulted in the arrival, moments later, of additional security

officers who together with the Union Stewards were able to persuade the persons in question to leave.

Terry Briley, Deputy Head of Security commented that the Beit Arch Lodge security officer was very fortunate in that there was a mobile unit on the corner of Exhibition Road and Prince Consort Road.

While reports from those present have been forwarded to the Union, it has not been established when exactly the alleged assault took place, or what punishment the accused student faces. However, Mr Briley did insist on complimenting those who helped saying, "I'd like to express thanks to the Union stewards for their promptness and professionalism."

Condoms

BY RACHEL WALTERS

Safe sex in the JCR has become a real possibility with the installation of three new condom machines in the Sheffield building.

Machines are being installed in the toilets by the JCR and in the gents round the back of the

security office on the ground floor.

Commenting on the news, Annie Mathewman, ICU Welfare Officer said that she was pleased that college had responded to the Union request. "There's no point in shouting off about safe sex if college don't do anything about it," she said.

(RCS to vote on NUS continues from page 2)

budget allocations, resulting in a considerable effect on its running costs. It is also difficult to see what the benefits of NUS membership would be to a CCU since student bars and catering are managed by ICU.

Representatives from the NUS will be at college on February 3rd, 7th and 10th as part of the consultation period as

ICU reconsiders its status. The financial details are still being examined by union officials, although it has been suggested that if the affiliation cost can be negotiated down, ICU could make considerable savings on the cheaper alcohol that the NUS, as one of the largest buying groups in the country, could supply.

Editorial

Shot through the foot

When I planned the letters page I wanted to make more lively and 'instant' and hoped to receive a large mailbag. As the number of letters has not really increased this year, I can only question why. Two things seem possible.

Firstly, to avoid a 'voice of god' feel I've had different people edit the letters page every week. I reasoned that the letter's editor would be in almost the same position as the writer. Have people been put off because of fear of being outwitted or even attacked in print? Secondly, I decided to give the letter's editor a virtually free hand in what they wrote. When I've disagreed my only option has been to argue with the letter's editor and/or let it go. This week is a good example. Helen and Jane's letter concerning the Ents manager raises an issue which David has dismissed without considering what he's written. The loss of every bit of student control is important. When there were still large numbers of the 'hacks' that David dismisses, they were the butt of many jokes but nowadays anyone who takes an interest in the Union seems more like a worthy lone crusader. There are precious few left.

And to the people who ask for more FELICES in Chemistry, I shall do my best and thank you for your interest!

Serious Cat?

Not only have I worried about the letters page but a couple of people have said that FELIX is becoming a little too serious. Whilst I won't censure out articles by people with something important to say, I *am* open to new voices. If you have any ideas for funny features or even Pythonesque antics beyond my imagining than please come in. If you can lend a hand in producing them than that's even better.

However, I offer the following joke as a temporary measure:

A miserable man by the name of Paul, who had been disadvantaged since birth by his imperfectly proportioned head, inhabited a small dwelling on the fifth floor of a fifty floor building. It was situated in an area of extreme hardship, having suffered many a tory rate-capping in the years gone by but anyway one day Paul woke to a knocking. Instead of thinking how lucky he was, as latest reports indicate that 2.8% of human beings do not wake in the morning and in fact die in their sleep, a tragedy we should all ponder and write articles about, he instead rushed to answer the door. (This was of course foolish - most break-in

victims let in the assailants. The shotgun at the door lock is a myth). He arrived, as I have stressed and opened it, without even using his door chain.

"Hello?" he enquired. There was no reply. Paul shouldn't have been suprised - he was displaying gross language-centric insensitivity in expecting the person at the door to respond conveniently in his own native tongue. Then Paul closed the door.

He went back to switch on his television and waste several hours in a brain-soddening exercise (Did he ever consider something else, such as learning the flute or perhaps taking up a new sport? He did not).

Paul was roused from his reverie by a further knocking at the door. He was very angry on rising, which was foolish of him. He should have learnt to manage stress at an earlier age, what with all the cruel insults he had to endure due to his head size.

He arrived at the door once more. Foolishly he again adopted none of the security measures we suggested in paragraph one.

"Hello?" he asked again. Rather than arrogantly slamming the door once more, he looked a little further and noticed a small snail innocently perched on the 'Welcome Home' mat.

Angrily, and showing extreme phylumism. (The belief

that one's own class of organism is inherently superior to another because of the supposed greater sophistication of its body plan), he booted the snail at the wall opposite and slammed the door.

Time went by. Paul spent his time in front of mirrors and changing channels, occasionally going for a (time consuming) hair cut. One day his aimless existence was interrupted by a knocking at the door.

"Hello?" Paul enquired.

"What did you do that for?" replied the snail at his feet.

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More more more **FELICES!!!**... the end of the Ents manager ... the rules of Union entry... and entry to the NUS

Edited this week by
David Cohen

Beg and Grovel

Dear Owain ,
We, the undersigned, wish to register our dismay at the paucity of Felix newspapers allegedly distributed by you to the Chemistry and Biochemistry departments. On many occasions we have arrived later on Friday mornings only to discover that there are – shock horror – no Felices (plural of FELIX) in sight! And yet, upon wandering into another of our Royal College of Science departments, such as Physics or Biology, what do we find? Even on Monday evening as I write, still these hallowed departments are blessed with an abundance of newspapers! oh joy, oh bliss
[...blah blah blah – ed.]
sort it out!

Yours most grovellingly,

Helen-Louise Windsor
+several other 1st year
Chemists who prefer
to remain anonymous

I'm sure Owain will be happy to accept gifts of the monetary variety to help refresh his mind every Friday morning at 7:00am (while you are comfortably tucked up in bed!) during the distribution rounds so that he remembers to slip you a few extras...

Alternatively **WAKE UP EARLIER!**

...And more again!

Dear Owain ,
Alas I am undone! This Friday past I once more ventured hesitantly into my departmental lobby in search of my weekly dose of student culture.

But oh! The scenes of horror and desolation which awaited me. The vultures had already descended, consuming the choicest morsels and leaving nothing but the skin, meagre fare for a stewing mind.

And so I must away to more

bountiful pastures, there to take sustenance from the plethora remaining

Sir, I beg you dispose this darken'd cloud and send light raying across the drear landscape of our lives. Please leave a few more copies of your illustrious publication in the Chemistry and Biochemistry departments in future.

I thank you,

A. wandering soul
Biochemistry UG I

Dear Mr. wandering-soul

I am indeed sad to hear of your desperation and so happy to see that you have mastered the use of a thesaurus quite so impeccably. Would you like to come and write for FELIX? This would ensure that you receive a fresh copy of FELIX every week hot off the press! And you can go home and show your mummy all those lovely articles and thoughts you have wrapped up and waiting to explode on to the pages. Go on...

Buzzz....

Dear Owain,
Currently, entertainments (fondly known as Ents) are organised by the Entertainments & Publicity Manager and although the position of Ents Chair still exists it remains unfilled. This may not stay the same for long as the Union President intends to destroy this area of student representation making it more professionally run. It is thought that this is already the case, incorrectly so, by some people, after being misled at the last Union Council Meeting. It seems that we are on the way to losing a Student Officer with no one realising – or possibly even caring? Currently we employ three ex- or full-time students as our representatives, we want to consider "professionalism" of the way services in the Union are run then perhaps it would be wiser to employ two full time members of staff?

At the moment the two main decision making bodies of the Union (i.e: Council and Union

Finance Committee) are letting the Sabbaticals get away with murder – very similar to how they did last year! It takes students caring about their Union to make things happen – or stop things being taken away from them.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Teasdale and Jane Hoyle
Math III and Biology III

Hackerty hack hack!

Sounds to me like someone has a bee in their bonnet about the Union's reorganisation. With the way things are going the Union will soon be streamlined into a economically viable business venture. Small wonder the devolution of the Ents chair is imminent.

Not a bad thing either, all it does is provide service, the cheaper for the students the better. Does it really matter whether it's student or staff run?

Re-entry

Dear Sir,
I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the position regarding entrance to Union events. The numbers of people that we allow in is determined by the Fire Authority and is dependent on the fire limit that they have set on the rooms that are being used. No-one is allowed into an event after we have sold this number of tickets. We do not operate a 'one out, one in' policy. This has been agreed with the local police as they do not want people in the street waiting for people to leave. They fear that this would disturb local residents, including those students living in Beit Hall.

While mentioning those living in Beit, could I remind those students that regularly attend Union events that we do ask you to leave the building quietly so that the inconvenience to those in Halls is minimised.

Yours Sincerely,

Dan Look
Deputy President
(Finances and Services)

Money's too tight to mention...

Dear Owain,
Reading last terms issues of Felix, one could not help noticing the statement given by Ms Chothia on the subject of Imperial not belonging to the NUS. She explained how being a member would not benefit the Union and implied we were better off for not joining.

But what Ms Chothia did not mention is the loss of benefits to each individual student through not having an NUS membership card. I do not profess to be an expert on the subject but I have not been able to ignore the benefits I personally have had to miss out on.

I have only been a student here since September but I have already found that my ICU card does not bring any discount into showcase cinemas, or any cinemas in my home town plus it does not bring me reductions in any stationers (although I have not tried in London branches after being rebuffed at home) – all of which the NUS card does. These are just a couple of examples, and although they may not seem like much to Ms Chothia and some students here, as a student trying to survive on a grant it is small discounts like these which would help.

Yours,

L. Grogan

P.S: Production of an NUS card also gets you free fries at McDonalds! (when buying a burger.)

Damn! I'm a veggie.

Letters may be commented on by a guest editor, whose opinions may not be necessarily those of the editor, and possibly cut due to space restrictions. Deadline: Monday 6.00pm.

iCU

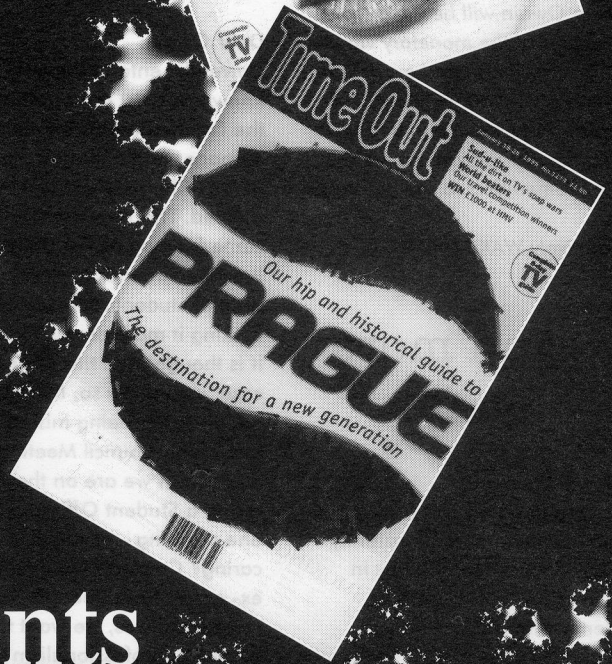
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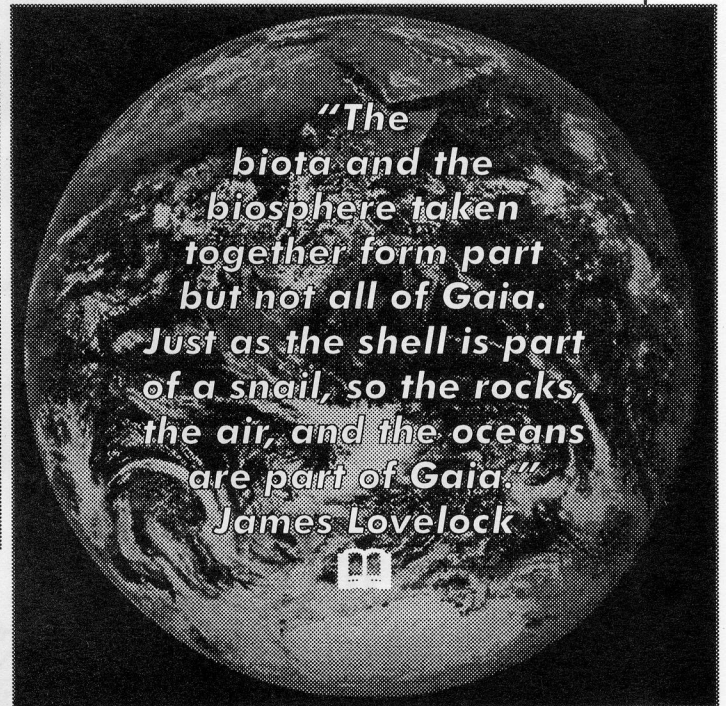
THE BIG BLUE



The establishment decides what you and I read, learn and believe in. In America classes are giving equal time to creation theory and Darwin's theory of natural selection. In Britain the establishment is noted for its slowness to accept (and teach) new ideas.

Antigravity, cold fusion and the Gaia hypothesis. Science fact or science fiction? What they share is that they are outside the cosy realm of establishment science, their proponents facing long years of struggle for recognition. Science is littered with similar examples (Darwin/Galileo). In the so-called information age, surely we should be welcoming new ideas. Scientists such as Sandy Kidd and James Lovelock are not so much discussed as mocked in universities and research establishments, so you won't find them in your text books or lecture halls. Are these scientists 'one-off-weirdoes' or are British scientists rejecting what they don't understand? Decide for yourself.

S-Files



"The biota and the biosphere taken together form part but not all of Gaia. Just as the shell is part of a snail, so the rocks, the air, and the oceans are part of Gaia."
James Lovelock



Class Notes #1

Sandy Kidd



Who is he? Engineer/inventor

Background? Graduated from the 'garden shed' university of life.

What did he discover? The Kidd antigravity machine.

...which is? A pair of gyroscopes, angularly set and rotating centrifugally...whilst allowing upward movement.

...pardon? You'd have to read the book.

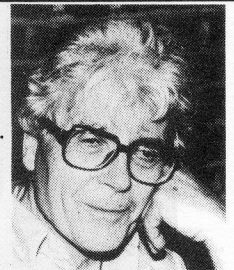
So what's the problem? Newton's third law of motion (every force applied must have an equal and opposite reaction). His critics said that it would have to defy Newton's third law to work, as no opposing force is produced. But supporters (Prof. Laithwaite, ex-IC) reckon that it exploits a loophole in the law. Newton's law is applied to bodies either travelling in a straight line or rotating, not both. After many years trying to convince the establishment, the Australians whisked him off for development. He has since provided scientifically rigorous evidence for his device. The real barrier to acceptance is that no one knows how it works. **What will happen?** When there is a mechanism, the phrase 'the sky's the limit' will probably have to be rewritten for Kidd. Aside from speedy space travel and pollution free transport, the applications are mindblowing. Either way, Kidd will have the last laugh. Then there will be books, films, pencil cases...

Info overload: Natasha Loder * Layout: Mark * Pic: www.nasa.gov



Class Notes #2

James Lovelock



Who is he? geophysicologist/inventor

Background? Professor, FRS. Whilst at NASA he successfully predicted that Mars would be lifeless because its atmosphere was at chemical equilibrium.

What did he discover? The GAIA hypothesis

...which is? The idea that Earth's biota evolves to maintain conditions for life.

...pardon? You'd have to read the book.

So what's the problem? Darwin's theory of natural selection. Opponents to Lovelock say that individual organisms would have to act teleologically (with predetermined design or purpose) and non-selfishly. Lovelock argues that individuals can benefit by making local climate alterations (such as retaining water or reflecting sunlight). And that something must be maintaining the Earth's climate, as the Sun's output has increased by 30% since the Earth's origin. A computer simulation looks promising but will not yet convince the cynics.

What will happen? When a mechanism is established parts of Lovelock's hypothesis look feasible. But ecological theory takes a lot longer to test, prove and accept than physics. Lovelock has a long wait.

Lovelock's book is: *The ages of Gaia: a biography of our living earth*. Oxford University Press (1988). Also: *Gaia: a new look at life on earth*, Oxford University Press (1979).

hyperrefs

Kidd's book is: *Beyond 2001: the laws of physics revolutionised*. Sidgwick & Jackson (1990).

The 44th Annual Engineers' Ball

Saturday
17th February
1995

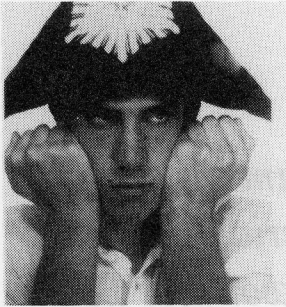
at
The
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Today is the last day of ticket sales

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Managing Director, British Airways Engineering*

*Tickets are available
from the City and Guilds Union Office, Room 340, Mech. Eng
priced at £90 a double ticket (single tickets are not available).*

Frater Fiam writes



Aha! I must take a break from this self mutilation and write another column. So witness as I, your good Frater, lay down my sacred knives and needles to instead draw out some spiritual blood, lest my genuine flow should cause untoward squeam to my delicate readers. And what of his life, you may ask? Well, my friends, the robes and wands have been laid down as ritualising takes a more inner form. I have turned once more to the jewels of understanding hidden within the ancient texts. All is peaceful and introspective, the macrocosmos having to take a well earned second place. And yet it seems that the world is in an unholy turmoil!

An associate of mine (the more astute among you may have deduced by now that your Frater has only accomplices, acquaintances and associates) tried hard to convince me that one should care equally for all humans, regardless

of familial or geographical ties. Though he argued soundly I find it difficult to realise his ideals, and feel that they must be flawed; for even your sincere FF (rugged cynic though he is) is more shocked by harm caused to those close, than to those afar. It seems that such harm may necessarily cause personal pain due to the effect it has on the brain. Each person, and indeed each concept, is connected within the mind to countless others in the form of an 'associational network'. Damage to someone close will affect that person's network. And thus, by the endless web of memorial connections, does the knowledge of the relative's pain afflict the whole of the brain, and thus all of emotion. Even the greatest of idealists cannot deny the relevance of damage to his own mental structure, the wounding of his microcosmos.

Such facts were brought to my awareness by events of afar. When a distant land is rent apart the newsmongers bring us gratuitous images for our sordid titillation. However those self same images can also bring the world closer, and one can discover that associates are not neighbours, but may inhabit unknown spaces. In these instant times, such friends may inhabit the other side of the world; yet they seem as near and the damage becomes genuinely, for a shocking moment at least, as close as that.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Science has been called a religion. It is claimed that it has a priesthood, cabalistic knowledge and provides objective truth. While I agree with the first two (priesthood=scientists, cabalistic knowledge=theorems), there is a problem in that science does not, in fact, produce objective truth. For non-believers, agnostics and priests to call Science a religion is, therefore, wrong.

The attack on the claim that Science produces objective truth is two-fold. For the word "objective" we can inspect the more political/ideological aspects of Science. It is doubtful, especially in technology and especially when Science means funding of millions of pounds, that there is not an agenda or a motive. The battle may be purely political (American vs Soviet Science) or personal (the fame of being the first to discover X). Where the agenda is hidden, the objectivity is suspect.

More concrete criticisms can be made of the word "truth". An idea, a fact, is truthful if it always holds, whatever the case. But Science - essentially we are talking about experimental science - can only come up with theories via Induction: Because A holds in all currently known situations, a Scientist assumes that A is true.

But this is not the case. Consider the trivial but illuminating case of the Inductivist Turkey. At

the start of the year the Turkey was fed every morning. This happened under all conditions: on Tuesdays; when it was sunny; whether young calves were flown to France or not. So the Turkey concluded that it must be true that he would be fed every morning. This theorem was true, until the morning of the 25th of December...

Induction is largely the only tool at a Scientists disposal. (At least, that is what all Scientists are brought up with.) But Induction can only come up with Provisional Truth. (There are other problems with Induction as well, such as the uncomfortable notion that Induction as a scientific method can only be proven by Induction itself.)

While philosophers of science have gone on from Induction as a method towards, for example, Popper's Conjectures and Refutations or Lakatos' Proofs and Refutations, the "priests" of the "religion" called Science still practice tricks. This should be obvious to both priests and masses alike: Science does not produce objective truth; Science is not a religion.

Samin

Further Reading:

On the objectivity of Science: *Lewontin, Biology as Ideology: the Doctrine of DNA*. On the methods of Science: *Chalmers, What is this thing called Science?*

Crossword by Catfish

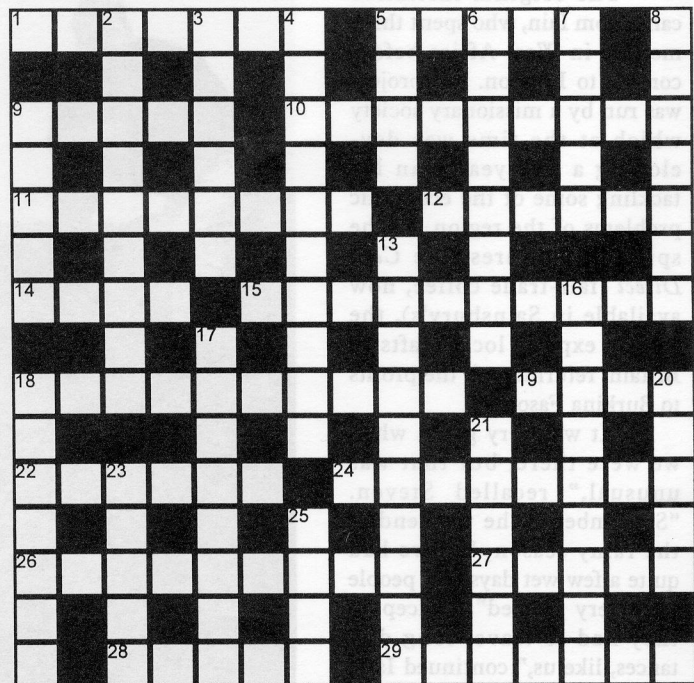
Across:

1. Parrot and Michael, heard in dispute! (7)
5. Swings over, we hear, from taunts (5)
9. Enthusiastic queen is about to mature (5)
10. Salesman points gun shakingly at worker - it's horrifying (9)
11. Sharp turn away from ship's biscuit (8)
12. Add French name back to invite (6)
14. Mostly inscribed by long practice (4)
15. Nelson in his fortress? (10)
18. Acting circle plot to copy(10)
19. Cut off stalk (4)
22. Shy and mixed-up, before being taken in by unorthodoxy (6)
24. Circle ship as if, say, I'd turned rigid (8)
26. Tom accepts club affiliates for feasting (9)
27. A stage nearly all judges pass through (5)
28. Pulls away from Americans (5)

29. South Africa gets bored with political comments (7)

Down:

2. Take note of a beating, say, in Maths (9)
3. I wake, and bring up good points (6)
4. 29A, put in the picture (10)
5. German leader will copy stare (4)
6. Resent providing to live in rugged fashion (8)
7. Gather in South, where it's sunny (5)
8. Sang in pitch, but died (7)
9. It's volatile, thereabouts (5)
13. Builds it incorporating plywood, for example (10)
16. Where French set off on a boat (9)
17. A junior butler? (8)
18. Tribal style? (7)
20. Eating absorbs many, for a prize (5)
21. Gamble on being sick in bed (6)
23. Like gin, perhaps? (5)
25. Not odd if tennis is played on lowlands (4)



The solution to last week's Crossword is somewhere within these

Adventures in Africa

*Rebecca Mileham investigates
why an Imperial College
student should work for £1.80
an hour to get to Africa*

Burkina Faso is a landlocked country of West Africa, swept by the hot harmattan winds and a spirit of uncertainty. The national language is French, a legacy of Burkina Faso's past as a French territory until independence in 1960. Six coups and two changes of constitution since then have not helped economic stability, and this, plus unrelenting drought, has made Burkina one of the poorest countries in West Africa.

The capital, Ouagadougou, is an important centre for aid distribution in West Africa, but ninety percent of the population live in villages scattered around the river Volta and up to the Saharan borders. Iain Tromans (pictured on rock), Steven Patterson (pictured in hat) and Peter Lo, all members of Imperial's Christian Union, spent a month travelling around Burkina Faso at the end of the rainy season in September 1994.

"I worked all summer in a pizza place for £1.80 an hour," said Steven, explaining how the project had been financed. "Then I blew it all on going to Africa. The boss hired me because I came from Imperial. He said he liked to take on Imperial people and torture them because he wasn't accepted here to do a PhD".

The original initiative came from Iain, who spent three months in West Africa before coming to London. His project was run by a missionary society which at the time was developing a five year plan for tackling some of the economic problems of the region. In the spirit of ventures like *Café Direct* (fair-trade coffee, now available in Sainsbury's), the society exports local crafts to Britain, returning all the profits to Burkina Faso.

"It was very green when we were there, but that was unusual," recalled Steven. "September is the very end of the rainy season, but we had quite a few wet days and people were very pleased". "Except if they had to travel long distances, like us," continued Iain. "Flash floods took the roads away, and we had to make an

80km diversion".

Speaking French was no trouble for Iain and Peter, but more of a challenge for Steven: "It was a bit frustrating, but it got better because I decided to go for it and just make mistakes". The three's main role in Burkina was to travel to different villages, set up sound equipment and play the Christian message in local languages to the people. Less confrontational than other approaches, the method seemed to go down well:

"When we went to villages with the tapes, people would sit and listen for half an hour and give us Tuareg tea and milk and things", said Steven. "In fact they said 'This is good because we don't have very many ways of finding out about God'". "People aren't encumbered by all the wealth that we have in Britain," added Peter. "They're very friendly - I liked them a lot".

Nearly half of the Burkinabe (the people of Burkina) are Muslim. Another large proportion practise animism, or ancestor

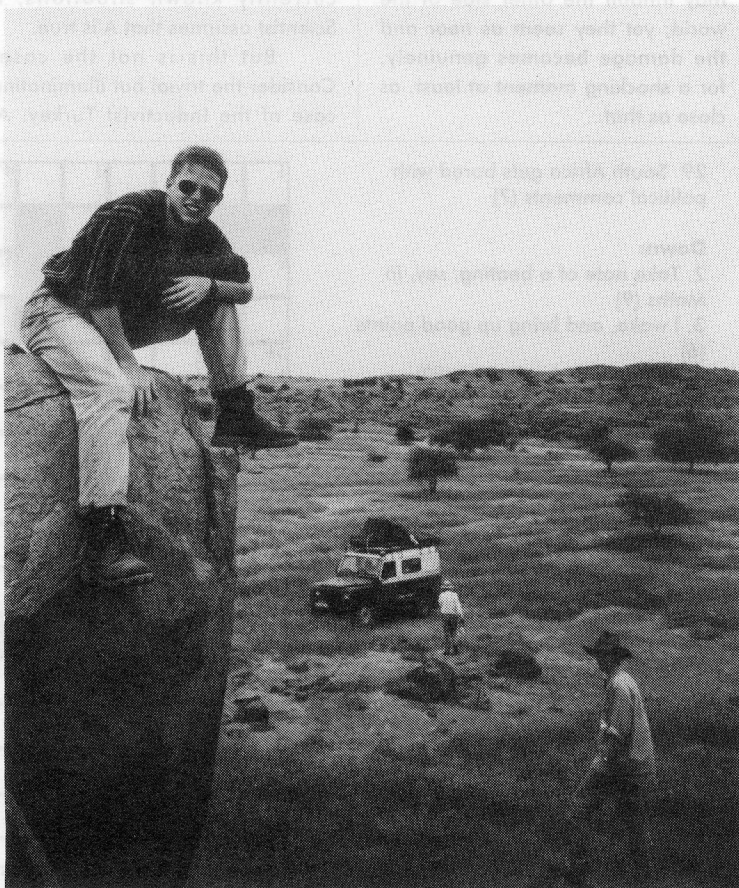
worship. This means that they often accept the Muslim god superficially: "When the animists leave their village, they feel they need a bigger god who covers more. Once they meet someone telling them about a god over everything, they're very open to it", said Iain. "It's the same at Imperial," went on Steven. "One of the Muslims gave me a sticker which said 'Play It Safe: Become A Muslim'".

Trying to convert already religious people from one set of beliefs to another may seem pointless or egotistical. The three lads believe that they had better motives. "Islam doesn't answer the basic need to humanity" said Steven, quietly. "We need a relationship with God, not just a set of rules and regulations". Said Iain: "The Muslims in Burkina put a very strong emphasis on the outward show of being a good Muslim. The Africans even tried to make themselves look as Arabic as possible by wearing long white robes."

Are the supposed converts any more than 'rice Christians' though - who accept the beliefs on offer with an eye on the material rewards? Steven countered this: "We found that the people there were so generous to us that we were more like the rice Christians. They really gave us the best of what they had".

Iain felt that the efforts of the missionary society haven't been imposed on Burkina, but are part of an ongoing project which has grown up within the country itself. While there are very few Christians, those that are there are very active. "We went to Burkina with a professional from the society, but in Ouagadougou we worked alongside a Burkinabe evangelism team," said Steven.

As if to prove that nothing you do is ever original,



two London university students were already in Burkina doing an anthropology project. "There were one or two tourists from Spain," added Peter. "We still had high novelty value," said Iain. "When we went somewhere, all the children would chase after us saying 'Nsara Nsara', which means 'white man'".

Life expectancy for the Burkinabe is 46 years for men and 49 for women. With safe drinking water available to only half the population, gastrointestinal disease and malaria are the main causes of death, while leprosy, meningitis and worms are also common. "We were really more involved in the spiritual aspects of things, but we were able to build some water storage barrels," explained Peter. "We painted them inside and out and so the village can store water in them."

"Medical things are hard to get hold of and they're very expensive," he went on. "It's quite easy to get ill out there". The missionaries themselves weren't immune. "I got very sick after two weeks," said Steven. "I think it was amoebic dysentery - I was passing blood and mucus on the hour every



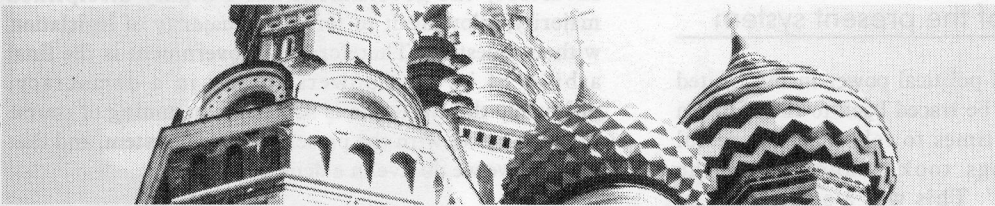
hour for about a week. In the end I lost half a stone". Steven described his luck that a doctor from another missionary organisation had given him a course of antibiotics. In Ouagadougou there is a local hospital, but as Steven explained: "You don't want to go to the hospital unless you want to get very ill. You'd certainly be wise to bring your own syringes".

Only a tenth of Burkina's land is arable, on which must be grown the food crops of sorghum (a grassy crop like sugar cane), millet, corn, rice and sweet potatoes. "One of the things that struck us was that they don't have the extraordinarily wide diet that we have. We take for granted the variety of foods that are available," said Iain, adding "It's not so much that they don't have enough to eat, it's more malnutrition".

"Most of our meals were rice and sauce," explained Steven. "They don't have much meat, but we went to a village outside Ouagadougou and the church there gave us meat almost every meal. At the end they gave us three chickens. Even though they had so little they were so generous". Culinary customs turned out to be slightly different, however: "They cooked the whole chicken, feet, head, everything. We... er... didn't eat the head," confessed Steven.

The three flew to Africa with the Russian airline Aeroflot, giving them the chance to spend three days in Moscow on their way home. "The Russian orthodox churches are very different", said Steven. "There was this haunting, beautiful music and the high priest in his hat. Everyone stands and listens and the service is done by singers. We didn't understand a word except amen. It's a big contrast to the Burkina churches, where everyone is jumping up and down, but there we could understand when they said 'amena'".

It seems that some things are the same all over the world. **F**



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Constitutional Crisis?

"Knowledge is power" says Tony Benn. **Nullius Filius** makes us powerful.

'300 years of rule from above is enough' – That was the bold proclamation made by an advert placed in a national newspaper, on the 300th anniversary of the Glorious Revolution, November 1688. Its perpetrators are a political pressure group known as Charter 88, leading players in the game of constitutional reform. On the first Saturday of every month on the steps of St. Martin-in-the-fields, Charter 88 hold Vigils for Democracy. Together with other means of protest, they aim to inform 'Joe Public' of what it sees as the corrupt and undemocratic nature of the British Constitution. It also lobbies within Westminster for a written constitution, a Bill of Rights, and various other major changes to the status quo. So what is the current British Constitution, and why do we have it? What would the reformers have in place of the current system? Is there really a need for change? To gain the answers to these and many other questions, off I toddled, Dictaphone in hand, to the dizzy heights and saucy delights of the Palace of Westminster.

Evolution of the present system

The origins of political power in the United Kingdom can be traced back to the Norman conquest. In times to follow, all powerful English Kings took council from the 'Witengamot'. This was a small body of England's noblest men, whose task was to assist the King in his decision making. It was then superseded by the Anglo-Norman 'Magnum Concilium'. From these ancient foundations, evolved the British System of rule, that we know today. The turning point which lead to a largely elected, liberal democracy, was the Great Reform Act of 1832.

The uncodified and evolutionary nature of the British constitution can be best explained by consideration of the past thousand years of English, and subsequently British history. Not once over this very long period of time have the British ever had to sit down under the pressure of military defeat from another nation, and 'thrash out' a constitution from first principles. Furthermore, the only interruption of the Crown's rule over the British people was due to the Glorious Revolution of 1688. However, the monarchy was reinstated by the Act of Settlement in 1701, and to this day its reign has remained unbroken.

The present system

It is hopelessly impossible to date the British constitution. This is due to the fact that it is a jumble of unwritten conventions and written laws, all inbred at different moments of history. The present British constitution is epitomised by 'The Mace'. The Mace in physical form is a silver staff situated in the House of

Commons. It represents the fundamental principal that the authority and power in the United Kingdom rests with the Crown in Parliament. It is for this reason that the sovereign power of the UK is often referred to as the Queen-in-Parliament.

Through this central axiom, no group or individual may challenge a decision made by the Prime Minister with Cabinet, endorsed by an Act of Parliament which receives the Queen's seal of approval. Thus we indeed have an extremely powerful Executive, who have complete control over a flexible, uncodified and arguably unwritten constitution. Some might say that this situation has led to an elected dictatorship. In stark contrast to this, the American system is such that its executive, legislative and judiciary are theoretically independent. Ideally, this provides checks so that no one institution can impose its will on another. Where as in Britain, Parliament is deemed sovereign; the judiciary has no authority to overrule Acts of Parliament. Invariably the government has a highly disciplined majority, allowing it to force the majority of legislation without question. Therefore, the government is the final arbiter of its own powers. Being in a democracy, ultimately the electorate is sovereign, assuming of course that one agrees with the present electoral system, and that you believe we do live in a democracy.

The reformers

At the cutting edge for constitutional reform is Charter 88. But there are also many more supporters for their cause. Unsurprisingly, Her Majesty's opposition in Parliament are also very strong supporters for sizeable constitutional reform. A single leading voice in the reforming pack is Mr Tony Benn MP. He had his 'Commonwealth of Britain Bill' introduced to the House of Commons on 17th May, 1991. The broad aims of which are:

1. A written constitution, which embodies a citizens 'Charter of Rights'.
2. The establishing of a 'Commissioner of Human Rights'.
3. The establishing of a High Court, independent of Legislature and Executive.
4. To have two Houses of Parliament, democratically elected.
5. Abolition of the Monarchy, and in its place an elected President.
6. The disestablishment of the Church of England, and the abolition of the blasphemy offence.
7. Voting age reduced to 16.
8. Commonwealth Parliament Acts to take precedence over EC law.
9. Enforcement of equal proportions of men and women in Parliament.
10. Accountable security services.

I was fortunate enough to be able to talk to the most honourable Mr Benn on the telephone, very early, one Monday morning. I asked him to sum up in one sentence

why we needed a Commonwealth of Britain. His reply was quite simply;

"The short answer is that we don't have a democracy. Why are we not allowed to elect both houses of Parliament democratically? Why do we have a nationalised church?"

In response to my asking him what was wrong with the House of Lords he replied;

"Well, why do we need a House of Commons?... Why don't we just leave it to the King to govern the country?... The reason that democracy matters is that if you can't overrule the people that govern, then they'll never listen to you."

I then suggested to him that the Lords have a unique wealth of experience.

"Well lots of people have a wealth of experience. You can stop the first hundred people you meet in the street, or get the national lottery to pick the house of Lords, you'd get a very broadly based range of experience"

Words spoken in jest, perhaps? But I think they highlight the rather unique position of the Lords amongst world democracies.

I asked Mr Benn whether he thought that the abolition of the Crown might erode the British national identity.

"Well it's up to you whether you take your national identity to be that way, but the powers of the Crown go towards selection of the Prime Minister, the Judiciary, the Archbishops... that's the problem, the Crown powers... it's nothing to do with the royal family, they just happen to be there"

One recurring theme throughout his bill was the promotion of an artificially maintained representation of women in the new Parliament – 50% men, 50% women. His reasons for this were:

"that there were more women than men in the country, and fewer women than men in the House of Commons... why shouldn't we have gender equality. This then gets rid of the silly idea that men are competing with women... as I think that the competition between men and woman causes a great deal of tension."

The next thing that I turned to was the issue as to whether government was to be secretive and unaccountable.

"We not only have secretive government, but a secretive Parliament. I'm just about to be thrown off the privileges committee for reporting what's going on there [he subsequently was]. For example if you take the book written by Peter Wright, 'Spycatcher', saying he'd tried to undermine the British government, and they [the government] spent millions of pounds making sure that we never read the book. ...when Oliver North said he'd disobeyed the president it all came out in a congressional hearing, and was held in the open for months and months... Knowledge is power, and nobody in power wants anyone else to know what's going on."

I asked for his thoughts on the state of independence of the three main branches of officialdom that form the constitution – the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary? His response was;

"...the British Constitution is a strange one, because the Lord Chancellor is the Chief Justice [responsible for making judicial appointments], the speaker of the House of Lords and also a member of the executive, in cabinet... so it is a totally integrated system."

Commenting on his Bill, Mr Benn said;

"[I haven't] tried to completely recast [the constitution] on the American model, because we are traditionally within this particular system. And it could be made more democratic without fundamental changes... but I think Scottish, Welsh and English Parliaments, and a federal

elected second chamber... will probably clear up most of the problems."

Is there need for constitutional reform?

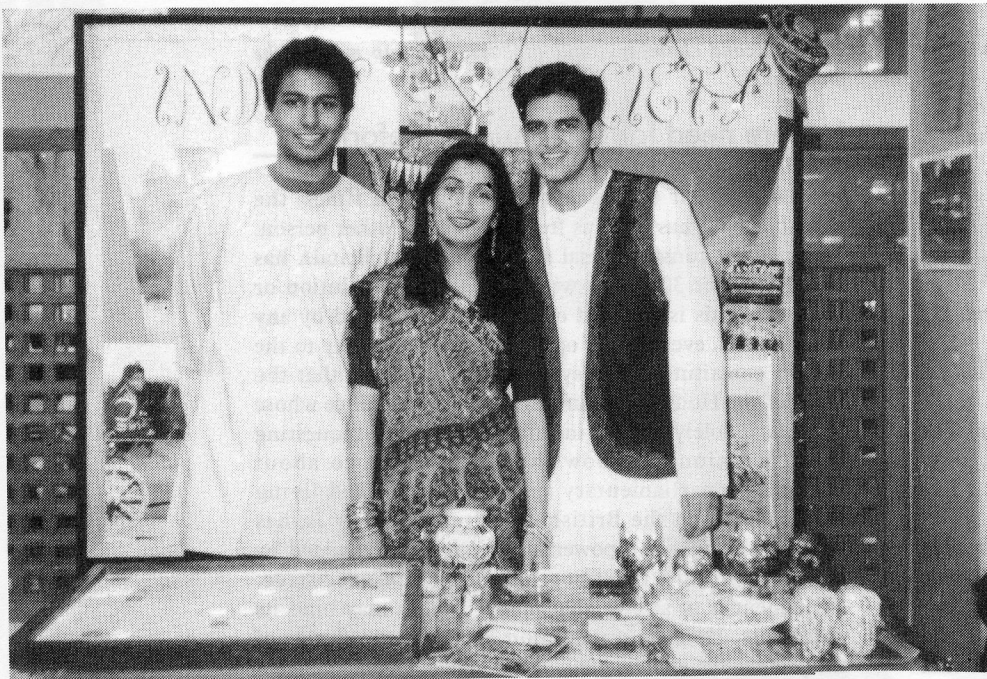
I think it is fair to say that during modern times, the British citizen has lived as free a life as any other person. The current constitutional system in Great Britain has lasted for over 300 years without a break, revolution or civil war. This is a record of stability unmatched by any other nation, ever. In my opinion it is a testimony to the British constitution and system of government that the Clerk of the House of commons has set up an office whose purpose is solely to deal in offering advice to requesting foreign nations, on how they might best go about operating a parliamentary system. The evolved living organism which the British constitution surely is, has procured flexible and powerful government, balanced by moderation and trustworthiness in the executive. Parliament is so strong, that no parliament may bind its successors. Here, in my opinion, lies the true genius of the present system.

Consider for one moment the position of women, ethnic minorities and homosexuals if we had a written constitution enshrined in some Utopian rock. A Bill of Rights would impose the 'founder generations beliefs' upon all future generations. Examples of this are the German constitution with its prohibition on the use of German troops abroad (enacted in 1949), the Irish constitution with its claim to sovereignty over Ulster (enacted in 1937), and the 2nd Article of the American constitution enshrining 'the right to bear and carry arms'. This last example most aptly demonstrates the absurd circumstance currently occurring in America where the level of gun related crime has reached boiling point, and whenever the 2nd article comes up for possible amendment, the gun lobby ensure that all political hell breaks loose.

I myself am a passionate believer in the Crown, and all it stands for. I believe it gives the nation a sense of identity in a world which is rapidly acquiring a global culture. However I would support some kind of reform of the Royal Prerogative applied to ministers of the Crown. It seems disgraceful to me that government ministers can claim political and legal sanctuary in the name of the Crown, when things go wrong. I also agree with Tony Benn's idea that the church should be disestablished, as we now live in a multi religious society. With regards to the House of Lords, I see no problem. As long as there continues to be a fresh injection of life peers, i.e. a meritocracy, then I am sure that it will continue to be a debating chamber, whose quality of debate is unsurpassed by any other.

In truth, far from the constitutional structure being on the point of collapse, I see it as being on the point of consummation, with only the last few pieces to be put in place. Do we have a constitutional crisis?

I would like to offer my sincere thanks and gratitude to Alan Duncan MP, Tony Benn MP and Tariq Dajani of Charter 88. **E**



Cosmopolitan: The happy trio show off the cultural highlights of India

Overseas

Overseas Society Week

Keys: Culture, Omen, Artifacts

Last week saw the annual Overseas Week take place. IC Students from all over the world presented their culture with stalls in the JCR. Those who wanted could sample exotic food, be blinded by the beautiful landscapes displayed on posters or be amazed by curious artifacts.

The event can be deemed as a huge success. Most of the Overseas Societies took part and all managed to provide a colourful display of their culture. Apart from a few minor communication problems, both organisers and participants were happy with the way it went.

This can be seen as a good omen for the International Night, the biggest OSC event of the year, which is due to take place on the 3rd of March, 1995, for which preparations are running...

Parachute

The Descent of Man/Woman

Keys: Shower, Hmmm, Myopic

What motivates forty certifiably sane individuals to hurl themselves (and their mortal souls for the non-secular) from the maw of a metal bird at 2,000 ft... repeatedly? A height where everything looks like ants. The following piece of investigative journalism will attempt to answer this question by delving into the psyches of the Imperial College Parachute Club – a job not recommended for the vertiginous or the dyslexic.

A preliminary survey of elected officials and fresh-faced recruits of the IPC (these groups not being mutually exclusive) revealed a myriad motivations:

Youthful sangfroid? Fatalism? Blinkered foolhardiness? Illusions of immortality? Rebellion against societal conformity and parental authority? Thrill-seeking escape from suburban monotony? Testing the power of will over atavistic fears inherited from our amoebic forebears (after all, evolution allows most organisms to differentiate up from down, and generally discourages rapid transitions between the two)? Hmmm... a more detailed profile of the IPC members was obviously called for.

One would be predisposed to presume that in attendance at a club meeting would be a large proportion of “my cup runneth over with testosterone” types in combat boots and army greens. People for whom Sylvester Stallone provided a role model for daily life. Surprise surprise. They appeared not wholly indistinguishable from typical IC students. Approximately correct proportions of freshers, overseas students, the myopic, and ... wait a minute... there are women in this club? The chairman is really a chairperson ... called Catherine? They jump in basketball boots and jeans? They’ve heard of Krystof Kyzlovski’s Three Colours Trilogy?

So how did these people end up on an airfield in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, at 8am on a slightly misty Sunday morn shouting to the heavens: “One one thousand, two one thousand, three one thousand, four one thousand, check canopy”? It appeared from their spread-eagled, backward-arched, legs-akimbo positions that either a primitive ritual of celestial worship or an arithmetic lesson for the hard-of-hearing and arthritic was in progress. Or possibly they were about to launch themselves from a height three times

that of the Eiffel Tower and trust their well-being to a single white cord, some elastic bands, a circular piece of nylon with holes in it, and several bits of apparatus not germane to this article but certainly of some gravity (excuse the pun) to these individuals.

To many of these students, it had been a simple progression from paying £95 (cheques accepted but no credit cards please) to becoming a member of the IPC and the British Parachute Association, enjoying transport in the commodious IC bus and two nights accommodation at the Peterborough Airfield Hilton (showers 50p), receiving a full day’s instruction in how to avoid powerlines, chicken farms, etc. on the way down, and of course ... the “first” jump. The static line descent from 2,000 ft was followed by subsidies for future jumps (conditional on your surviving the first) such that £11 would be the toll on your wallet thereafter. No mention was made of life insurance, or the drafting of wills to avoid the nasty state of intestacy (don’t worry – it’s not catching). Reliance on Peterborough Parachute Centre having a Guinness Book of Records entry and the best safety record in Britain (“No fatalities yet” they boast) seemed insurance enough. Hmmm.

Would it? What did a parachute jump REALLY involve? Could any fool/IC student do it? What was it like to freefall for 4 seconds? What did it take to pilot your own aircraft for 3 minutes - even if it looked like a distended jellyfish? Was it really better than sex? What’s the answer to Life, the Universe and other trifles?

For answers to these questions, either join and jump yourself (meetings in the Table Tennis Room, third floor of the Union Building, Thursdays at 1pm) or wait with baited breath for the next enthralling episode in our examination of the IC Parachute Club.

Rag

Where has Rag gone?

Keys: Interail, Dirty Dozen

Win Interail passes, T-shirts and booze! In case you thought Rag had disappeared into oblivion over Christmas then you were wrong! This term we have loads of terrific events going on, many of which there are great prizes for.

For anybody living in halls we have the Halls Dirty Dozen on the 4th February. This is a competition where teams from each of the halls collect around London or at the QPR vs. Newcastle match and the team collecting the most money will win various prizes including booze and T-shirts. There will also be a free party in the Union afterwards for everyone who took part.

We are also going to be collecting for the Royal Hospital, Putney in the near future and the prize for the top collectors will be two

three month Interail passes-don't say we never give you anything!

Finally, the main event this term is the Rag Tour, on the weekend of the 24th February. Would you like a weekend away, visiting other University Unions? We will be taking 34 people around the North of the country and going to universities such as Sheffield, Leicester, Loughborough and Nottingham to name just a few. If you would like to go then sign up at our meetings on Friday lunch times or come and see us in the Rag Office.

DoCSoc

Introducing DoCSoc

Keys: Mosaic, CeBit, Magazine

The Department of Computing Society is back on the rails again! A number of events are in the planning stage including a trip to CeBIT '95 in March. Rather than tell you now, why don't you look at "What's up DoC?", the DoCSoc magazine? "What's up DoC?" is now online (type "Mosaic/homes/lglb/DocSoc/WUD.html" from within DoC - we'll get it on the ICU server soon for you non-DoCers) and it'll hopefully be in print by the time you read this.

If you have any queries about DoCSoc, feel free to email lglb@doc.

Ents

Week's Entertainment Guide

Keys: Comedy, Disco, Bar, Quiz

I hope that those of you stuck in the midst of exams aren't too depressed - but if you feel the need to escape from your four walls and your complicated text books we may just have the thing for you:

Monday 30th

Just like being there, except there's no alcohol ban! Live on the big screen - Premiership Football. 7.00pm in Da Vinci's.

Tuesday 31st

A chance to win £50 cash or a case of beer, just by answering a few questions. Bar quiz 8pm in Da Vinci's.

Wednesday 1st Feb

Kick in the new month with a night of drinking, dancing and debauchery (quality alliterative technique!) with Club Spanque. Bar until midnight, noise until 1.00am and it's absolutely free. Union Building.

Thursday 2nd

You want sophistication, elegance and bits of pineapple on a stick? You've got it! A wide range of cocktails, weekly specials and food. Da Vinci's cocktail night 6pm-11pm.

Friday 3rd

There's only one place in central London where you can get pumping music, drinking

until 1am and still be able to stagger home - and it's only £1. That place is right here, the Union - Atmosphere, 8pm-2am, and costs only £1.

Japan Soc

Animé Nights

Keys: Animations, Applesed

The Japan Society has already started its new season of Japanese Animé offerings. These are taking place every Tuesday from 7.00pm, in the Chem Eng Lecture Theatre 1.

For anyone who doesn't know, Animé are the cult Japanese Animations. They combine avant-garde drawing with the latest computer technology, to create films of stunning quality.

This weeks offerings will be Applesed, Crying Freeman Part 2 and Tenchi Muyo Parts 3 & 4. Come along and find out what it's all about. Jap-Soc members £1, non-members £1.50.

For more details, email japanese@ic.ac.uk.

IGSF

Videodrome and Tetsuo II

Keys: Corruption, Flesh, Max

Of all David Cronenberg's films, which have included 'The Fly' and 'Scanners', 'Videodrome' is probably his finest achievement. It concerns a pirate television station run by a bored Max Renn (James Woods) who gets drawn into the strange sexual world of the Videodrome, a show where the deviant skinflicks are all for real.

Cronenberg's obsessions with 'the new flesh' run rampant in his characteristic body-horror style, as an evangelist of the new flesh cult preaching life after death through video. Oh, and Debbie Harry gets her kit off in one of the weirder sex scenes.

'Tetsuo 2: Body Hammer' is a new take on the theme of bodily absorption of machinery. An unsuspecting executive is transformed into a living weapon (a body hammer) by an underground caucus of skinheaded Archaos rejects.

This follow-up to the original Tetsuo is basically a more stylish and more easily understandable remake, which adds to it the more poetic theme of the beauty to be found in destruction, whilst retaining the original's hard-core feel in the violence quotas.

Both films feature themes of bodily corruption and transfiguration and contain startling images of a new level of existence. Sex and violence do admittedly crop up fairly often, but are very unlike the usual cinematic versions. Fun for all the family!

The films are both on Tuesday, 31st January starting at 6.15pm in STOIC. Entrance is free to everyone!

Tamil Soc

It's Saptaswaraa Culture Time

Keys: Nattuvangam, Thala

On 3rd February, the Great Hall will be soaked in cultural extravaganza as the International Tamil Society (ITS) goes into maximum overdrive.

Following its tremendous success last year, the ITS has once again organised a major cultural event to enrapture students of Imperial College. There will be a rich mix of cultural performances including Bharatha Natyam (dance), the traditional Veena recital and band music, Tamil style! Refreshments, including tasty Tamil titbits, will also be available.

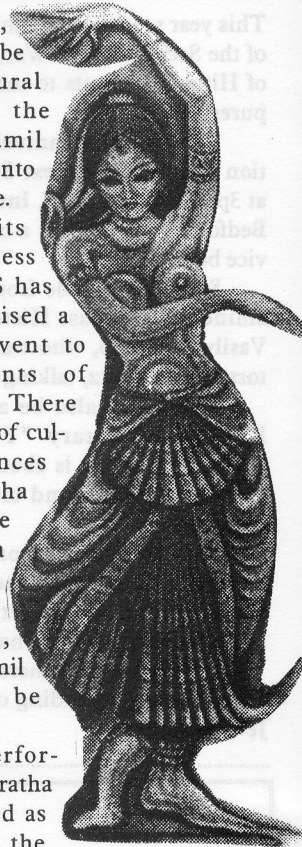
The first performance will be Bharatha Natyam (translated as "dance of India"), the purest and oldest form of Indian classical dance. The performer dances to the Nattuvangam (beats) which co-ordinate with the Salankai Natham (rhythm of the bells) which are worn on the dancer's feet. The overall beauty of the dance lies in the blending of the Bhava (expressions), Raga (music) and Thala (rhythm) in harmony in order to communicate to the audience the feelings and emotions of the dancer.

The Veena is an ancient, divine stringed instrument which has a mesmerising effect through its peaceful melodies. The London Veena Group will be present to provide a top class performance on six veenas. The veena music will be complemented by the miruthangam, moresing and ghatam.

The miruthangam is a percussion instrument made of a wooden trunk and two leather heads. The moresing consists of a flexible iron strip called the tongue affixed onto a ring. The ghatam is a clay pot used to provide rhythmic accompaniment and is an ancient time-keeping instrument.

A renowned Tamil band will take the programme to a thrilling finish with Tamil cinema songs. In this item, both eastern and western musical instruments will be used to produce modern Tamil music. We hope you join us for an evening of great entertainment!

For further information, call Maran on ext.: 46310.



Jew Soc

Liberation of Auschwitz

Keys: Fifty, Holocaust, Purim

This year sees the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, and with it the end of Hitler's attempts to make the world into a purer 'Aryan' place.

To mark the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, next Sunday January 29th at 3pm in Logan Hall, Institute of Education, Bedford Way, there is a commemoration service being held.

Speakers include Lord Alan Bullock, an eminent Holocaust Historian, and General Vasily Petrenko, who was one of the liberators of Auschwitz, talking about what he saw.

There will also be a chance to see the BBC documentary "The Blueprints of Genocide", which is about the fabrication of the gas chambers and crematoria and their designers.

This is a very important year, and it is necessary to continue the education process so that we do not forget and we do not let such a horrifying event happen again.

During the year there will be several projects running, including one by the Union of Jewish Students.

Entitled "Fifty Days for Fifty years", the attempt is to "remember the past and build the future". The project matches each Jewish Society in the country, and each registered student, with a Holocaust victim and we are all going to learn about our community in order to preserve their memory. The decision was taken that rather than just reflect backwards upon their death, we should improve ourselves and our knowledge to further dissipate the effect Hitler had upon us and move forwards for the future. This project will last for fifty days, from Wednesday 25th January, and there are books and information packs available on request to those who are not already members. During this period there will be events running concurrently at every Jewish society in the country, such as Holocaust survivors coming to talk, evenings of learning, films, theatre trips and exhibitions. It culminates in Purim, on March 17th, which was the Biblical date used by Haman, a prince of Persia, to try to eradicate the Jewish people and he too did not succeed. On this day there is much partying and rejoicing, as there will be this year too. More details nearer the time. If anyone is interested in participating in the project, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me or with the UJS office.

For more details, write to Sarah Waiman, Chem Eng 2, or at jsoc@sg1.ic.ac.uk

Union

Is Your Gas a Killer?

Keys: Carbon Monoxide, Death

Carbon monoxide poisoning from faulty gas heaters poses a real threat to us all. Approximately 35 deaths occur in this way every year and students are often the victims.

Carbon monoxide is difficult to detect as it cannot be seen and does not necessarily smell. However, there are a few danger signs to look out for, such as stains at the top of a gas heater or a yellow/orange flame. The best way of ensuring your appliance is safe is to have it checked by a qualified person (CORGI registered).

The good news is that since 31st October, 1994, landlords/ladies have a legal responsibility to ensure that gas appliances are checked every 12 months. They have to keep an inspection record which must be made available to students. A gas safety action line has been set up to provide information. They can be contacted by phoning 0800 300 363.

All in all, these changes may help students to protect themselves. If you are in any doubt, you can seek advice from the Union Adviser.

J. Cummins, Assistant Adviser.

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TODAY



It's that time of year again...

Next year you could be a ICU Sabbatical – all you have to do is get elected. To stand for a post, you need to sign up on the papers which will be posted on the notice board opposite the Union Office in the Union Building. You need one person to propose you and twenty others to second you. Papers go up on Monday 6th February and come down on Friday 17th February at which point the campaigns begin. Now you know how to stand but what does it involve? Each of the current Sabbaticals describes their job below. Whichever post you go for it will take energy enthusiasm and team work. You will have some of the best times you have ever experienced, and you will also have days when absolutely every thing goes wrong.

President

If you become Union President what do you have to look forward to? Well you are the ultimate representative of the Union, you are ultimately responsible for the finances of the Union, you sit on 19 College committees, 16 Union Committees and what ever working parties either the Union or College decide need to be formed. That is a very brief summary of the Job Description but what do you really do?

OK, this is hard. You spend a lot of time in committees some exciting some not so exciting but all important in one way or another. These committees will range from Student Welfare to College Finances and including Governing body. In order to take an active role in these committees it is important to read the papers for the committee and arrive at the committee with some idea of the issues which are to be discussed.

You are responsible for the smooth running of the Union. This means anyone may contact you at any time of the day or night with a problem. Problems will range from reciprocal agreements to being told to leave College, from exams on a Wednesday afternoon to external organisations not recognising ICU cards.

As President you represent Imperial at the University of London Union (more meetings). The Presidents of the Colleges which make up ULU meet once a month to discuss problems of mutual interest and any University of London Campaigns. You are also an IC representative at ULU General Union Council (the equivalent of our Council) and the University of London Academic Committee.

There are also large amounts of one-off jobs to do. These include organising Union training, allocating parking permits, interviewing for new Union Staff, organising the Union's annual second handbook sales, organising Welfare Week, writing the Union's Constitution, writing to students spending a year in Europe and arranging the Sabbatical elections. All the Sabbaticals help out at Carnivals and the big Union events. This will involve working behind the bar, stewarding or working on the door. There are a lot of things I haven't mentioned but you may have the idea by now being President is extremely varied. What I haven't mentioned is that you must work well with other people. Being a Sabbatical involves team work. It is an experience you will never have another chance at. Don't miss it.

Lucy Chothia

Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)

Are you going to be the lucky (?) one? If you are thinking of something challenging to do for the next 13 months then have you thought about being a sabbatical? Deputy President (Clubs & Societies) is a challenging and fulfilling role to take up in the Union. If elected, you will be responsible for the following:

Organising BUSA sports; organising the Freshers' Fair ('95); representing sports and societies to College, ULU, and other outside organisations; sorting out insurance payments; temporary membership; overseeing all the Clubs & Societies; internal room bookings; Union keys; notice boards and poster regulations; e-mail accounts; WWW pages.

You will also have to attend: Disciplinary meetings, Exec, Council, Sub-Committee meetings, ULU sports meetings, Refectory Services and Bookstore meetings, Union Finance Committee, College Athletics Committee, South Kensington Users Group, BUSA meetings, College Disciplinary meetings, ULU GUC, BUSA conferences, ULU training and ICU training.

On top of that you will be part of a team who look after the day to day management of the Union. Teamwork is very important in this job if your year in the Union is going to be successful. You will find yourself mucking in around the office, helping out with carnivals, reception and helping in a multitude of other incidents.

So now you know what goes into the job, why don't you run in the elections and have an interesting and stressful year.

Ian Parish

Deputy President (Finance & Services)

So, you're thinking of becoming a Sabb? – come on, I know you are. See! caught you red-handed reading the job descriptions! But what will you do if you are elected?

Union Finances:

The Deputy President (Finance & Services) is responsible to the President for every aspect of the Union's £2M turnover. Any item of expenditure or budget over £500 must come to you for authorisation. A lot of your time will be spent helping Clubs and Societies with any financial problems they might have. You will also be responsible for organising and chairing the Union Finance Committee. This is the body within the Union that makes all of the top level financial decisions.

Trading Activities:

As Deputy President (Finance & Services) you are responsible for overseeing the running of the Traditional Bar, Da Vinci's, Bookstore and Newsagent. Policy decisions regarding the outlets are made at Refectory Services Committee and Bookstore Committee respectively. Again, you will be responsible for organising and chairing of these meetings.

Other Duties:

You will also be responsible for overseeing all of the other Union services. e.g. Minibus fleet, games machines, food machines etc. You will also be the Union representative for accommodation which involves taking part in Subwarden and Warden interviews. As a Sabbatical you also represent the Union in meetings at the highest level within College and ULU. But probably the most important aspect of your job is that you must work with the President and other Deputy President as a very close knit team at the head of the Union.

Well that is very briefly what my job entails, if you are interested please feel free to pop into the Union Office for a chat.

Dan Look

Felix Editor & Print Unit Manager

Why would anyone want this job? The thought trundled again and again through my mind. It was the second week of October and I was into my second hundred hour week. Everything I knew would be bad had been worse and a load of things I'd never known enough to consider were putting the icing on the cake. I was stressed, news stories were bringing in complaints; but my team was coming together (which seemed stressful enough – continual meet&greet) and people were reading FELIX across college (yet you can't help thinking no readers would '= ' an easier life...)

It's now late January, I'm on a sensible fifty hour week and half my issues are under the bridge. Things are quite relaxing: the strange thing is it is those mad weeks at the start that I miss most! Don't get me wrong – I'm not some masochistic stress-lover nor am I an insomniac. It's just that, suddenly at the start of that October, something I was doing suddenly seemed important. I know FELIX isn't the last word in vital world organs but try thinking that when you see it being read by 4500 people, or when the Managing Director is on the phone for 'a word' or when the Union who you work for is breathing down your neck.

It's Ying and Yang. For every petulant complaint from someone slighted or grief stricken hour of panicky feeling that you're not doing your job properly (being vicious enough!), there's the beautiful feeling when someone comes in during the middle of their exams to take vital photos, or you study a double spread and realise it's up to professional standards. The moment you calculate your advertising has topped ten thousand pounds, the time you collate the welfare handbook (study the 'print unit' bit in the title above!) on Sunday night for ten hours but everyone is smiling. The time you go out with your staff to the Mongolian BBQ and realise that more than a paper you are managing people.

As FELIX Editor and Print Unit Manager you will be responsible for a weekly magazine and the Union's in house printing facilities. But I thought you should know the real story.

Owain Bennallack

THE MENU



In the return of the occasional series, *tintin* muses on his favourite piece of the great metropolis.



On the look out for modern romance *Magpie* meets the international fair ground shoe selling jet set in *only you*. Going back in time *Jenny Ho* doesn't mind catching a glimpse of some arty-farty french action in *la reine margot*.



Photographic experimenter, *man ray* transcended his surrealist roots to produce the pure aesthetic. *Marcus Alexander* wows and shutters down to the Serpentine gallery.



Once more to the breach dear friends and once more we turn to *rotation*. This week the capable *Vince* takes the helm.



bettie serveert maybe an acquired taste but *tintin* says yum, yum, before catching up with *Tanya's belly*, live at the garage. Then *James T.* scoots around with *rosa mota's* lp before finding a couple of flat tyres.



A change of sex is in order this week as *Fiona* casts her measured eye over the the current gentlemen's wardrobe.



Jeff Buckley is going to do things the like of which we can not believe. *Stylus* saw the light and was healed.

hope

I know that I've been living here too long when I start to get nostalgic cycling along Rotten Row. On one side is the Horseguards' Barracks, on the other is the sandy mud of Hyde Park. Neither are worth a second look really but after five years you get to know them so well that it becomes an effort not to like them. But I'm not so ruined as to accept the inevitable yet. For the present I still have a favourite bit of London which has an aesthetic rather than sentimental rationale.

Walking from Harrods towards the Victoria and Albert museum is the stretch of the capital that I enjoy the most. There's no exact point of discrete pleasure. I can't hurry to one spot and then stand there, looking around in rapture. I have to walk from Harrods, past the gangs of clientele and the tedious rows of parasitic shops that hang of its shirt-tails. By the time that I'm past them and have started to take the gentle curve of Cromwell Road things look good. The overbearing presence of Brompton Oratory sails past on the other side of the road and then the V&A appears.

An expanse of white stone nestling behind slender trees set in a pavement continental in its width. On a really choice moment the road clears of cars and sun's setting rays caress the towers. Anything could happen in that sort of capital. ☺



two tales of lovers

In *only you*, when Faith (*Marisa Tomei*) asks a Ouija board who her soulmate will be the name Damon Bradley is spelt out. A while later, this time at a carnival, an old gypsy tells her the same name. Being 11 years old and receiving such a distinct name from the otherside, Faith becomes obsessed with meeting this person.

Years later Faith is in her mid twenties and is just about to get married to a podiatrist (foot doctor). Suddenly out of nowhere Damon Bradley telephones saying he is unable to attend the wedding since he flying off to Venice. Faith, determined to get one glimpse of the man with the right name, impulsively flies to Italy. There she ends up meeting Peter Wright (*Robert Downey Jr*) and he falls madly in love with her. Still desperate, Faith travels around Italy following Bradley's tracks, with Peter in tow like a love sick dog. Undaunted by Faith's own agenda, Peter follows Faith using all his energy to express his love for her.

Throughout the film there are scenes that make you cringe, and want to hide behind a big sign of sensibility. They are excruciatingly silly but definitely romantic. With re-enactments of 'Casablanca' and

'Roman Holiday' the film has an old fashion love theme. It has touches of a fairy tale with Peter and Faith meeting up when she happens to loose a shoe. So from a podiatrist to a shoe salesman, Faith lives the Cinderella story, while travelling around Italy, in search for her destined love.

Marisa Tomei and *Robert Downey Jr* have both received academy awards for their acting skills. *Tomei* received hers for 'My Cousin Vinny' and while *Downey Jr* received a British academy award for the film 'Chaplin'. At first they seem an odd pair to mix but as the film progresses you start to appreciate their characters as star crossed lovers. 'Only you' may not be a film that has a loved one bursting into sentimental tears but there are plenty of starlit Italian nights for all romanticists.

The story of *la reine margot* centres on Catholics and the Protestants in sixteenth century France. Yes, it's another one of those arty farty films that people rarely bother going to see at the cinema. This is a shame as 'La Reine Margot' is very entertaining.

The plot revolves around the royal family; an intriguingly odd set of characters which includes a ruthless queen, *Catherine de Medici* and her three sons who, as is ambiguously suggested in the film, have a dodgy incestuous relationship with their sister *Margot*.

'La Reine Margot' is a violent film; *Catherine de Medici* wants to reconcile the French, and in an attempt to do so, she orders all Protestants to be killed. This results in much blood spilling during what became known as the Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre. However, *Catherine's* attempt to kill *Margot's* husband with a poisoned hunting book ("the pages are stuck together; one needs to lick one's fingers to turn them") fails; the book ends up in the hands of her eldest son, *Charles IX*. The effects of the poison are slow and agonising, resulting in some rather gruesome scenes where *Charles IX* is seen sweating blood.

But, 'La Reine Margot' is also a love story; *Margot* falls in love with a young man who, because he is a Protestant must be killed.

Admittedly, this will perhaps be enjoyed more by the arty farty type of cinema goer but even so, if you fancy a change to the usual mainstream stuff, 'La Reine Margot' comes highly recommended. ☺

only you





flash

man ray was one of the few people to bring photography above the realm of mere image and into true art. He is famed for a few classic images, such as the female whose back becomes transformed into a violin. However, his work extended far beyond that, and the full extent of it can be seen at the nearby *Serpentine gallery*. The work on show presents something of the enigma that the artist became. Born of the early Parisian

surrealists, Man Ray's work is indebted to the surreal ethos, and yet seems far beyond it. His photographs have a pure and timeless quality that gives them an air of being almost beyond art. Perhaps something higher, or perhaps something more base, such as a billboard ad. The images on show cross the whole span of his work, from his metamorphosed figures to portraits, paintings, sculptures and more. Although this range is broad, all of the works are tied together by the strange, indefinable quality that character-

ised Man Ray's work. Really, the only true way to describe him is as an experimenter. Always trying out ideas, he became the inventor of various photographic techniques. His rayographs are shadowy recreations made without a camera, and his solarising technique lends a detached, almost holocaustic air to his nudes. However I feel that the true nature of Man Ray's character can only be understood by looking at his portraits. They are the most straightforward of his photographs, but also the most human and

creative of his works. Those on display at the Serpentine are the real highlight of the show; not only are they superb but they represent a veritable artistic hall of fame. All of the surrealists are there along with other painters, poets and writers. Marcel Duchamp gazes out alongside Picasso and Matisse, whilst a stern Miro stands by a string of pearls. Marcel Proust lies on his death bed and at the end is Man Ray himself, bleached by the solarizing glare of his own penetrating lens. **S**



rotation



This week we take to the stars guided by our very own Dan Dare. So prepare to go whooshhhhhhhhh with Vince.

shampoo - delicious

And it's more of the same as far as they're concerned; more catchy tunes and awful lyrics shouted out.

pavement - range life

This is their country and western song and would sound most appropriate in any Tarantino film. Good single from a great band.

soundgarden -

fell on black days

Yet another single taken from 'superunknown'. If you've heard the album don't bother. Otherwise get the album instead as it is packed with songs as good as this.

senseless things -

something to miss

They've been writing good indie guitar songs for ages. Although this one is slightly grungier, it still makes the grade. They deserve to be massive.

thurman - talk to myself

The Wonderstuff might have split up but that is no excuse for ripping them off so blatantly.

cop shoot cop - any day now

These are unlike any other band, mixing grunge and punk in a unique way to create beautiful songs. Another strongly recommended band.

belly - now they'll sleep

First single from the new album and this is bit disappointing from Tanya and co for the simple fact that they don't seem to have evolved since the last record.

carter usm -

young offenders mum

Carter still haven't changed; catchy lyrics, good tune and a sense of humour you either get or you don't.

sleepers - inbetweeners

Yet another adorable single from Sleepers, a band who seem to make a habit of writing beautiful pop songs.

bettie serveert



in a sea of their own

The best description I've read of **bettie serveert** is that they sound like a life slowly coming together or slowly falling apart. Sometimes it's so hard to tell the difference. Certainly a cursory listen to their new album, *lamprey* could result in some disturbing thoughts. The first track, 'Keepsake' digs in deep with a haunting intro which transmutes moodily with the words, "pondering endlessly our mistakes just for keepsake". Even the sweet rising melodies of the following 'Ray Ray Rain' conceal more that their share of wistfulness; "time and time it seems, we're always somewhere inbetween". But that's not to label Bettie Serveert as the dutch chapter of the Smiths' deprecation society. Melancholia isn't necessarily sad. More often 'Lamprey's' twisting passage brings us back to some eventual uplifting hope.

Perhaps this is best displayed in the triptych made up of 'Cybor*D', 'Tell Me Sad', and the current single, 'Crutches'. The doubt contained within the latter's "I'm never sure what goes on inside" is overbalanced by a delicious Come inspired riff. 'Tell me sad' eases in on the back of "rockinghorse people out on a limb" but despite all the obvious hook ins, lead singer Carol van Dijk's voice never approaches despair.

To sum them up? Well 'Cybor*D's' call, "if we only had the courtesy to see it through" is peculiar edge for a love song to take but it's all the more satisfying for that. While Bettie Serveert sail the same emotional storms as the rest of us but they do it in a boat of their own unique construction. (7)

"Welcome to our showcase", said Tanya before breaking into the first new song of the **belly** set. Chugga, chugga, it sounded like the first ten seconds of Status Quo. Another new one seemed to revolve around the line "I guess I can't fake it, I want to see you naked". What about all those acerbically poised lyrics from their last album, 'Star'? Behind the growing ranks of mindless paid-to-moshers, one reviewer was coming to an early conclusion that this was not going to be one of his better experiences.

First blame was firmly placed on Gail the bassist. I mean she's done most of her plucking in no hope hardcore bands. Tonight she was in ripped vest mode, complete with an arm cast the size of nebraska which had 'kook' scrawled on it. Gail also has lips

that snarl like Steve Tyler.

Under attack from songs they actually knew the zebedee crew down the front could hardly contain themselves. But it was true, even the old numbers like 'Feed The Tree', 'White Belly' and 'Dusted' had a definitely heavier feel to them. Tanya wasn't so much slipping through our wires as venously twanging the strings of her strat and scraping the top of her range. So why did it all turn out right in the end?

Because three songs crashed in together. Maybe by this point Belly weren't straining, maybe they just liked playing these more, maybe they're better songs, I don't know. But 'Now They'll Sleep', 'John D'Ark' and 'Red' subtracted more that what had gone before. I take it back, Belly are as poised as they ever where. Sure the ethereal edge that ran through 'Star' has been replaced by a more complex and confident muse but the same breaking tsunami of emotion runs throughout. The two song encore was completed by a blistering 'Slow Dog'. "The kind of skin you can see through, she shot again" - through the heart, yeah.

rosa mota are one of the multitude of bands that have been recommended as a good listen so it was with anticipation I that put on their new album *wishful sinking*.

It took about five minutes to figure out that this was a concept album. Not perhaps in the sense of 'Dark Side Of The Moon', but as an album it was definitely not just a collection of unconnected single material.

There's a classic climatic introduction, cunningly called 'Thintro', which leads into three more not dissimilar songs, all sharing common themes, rhythm and guitar styles. Most of the songs have no real structure, and while there is a continuation of themes, they really aren't good enough to sustain this kind of power chord bashing.

As an album this is a real flop, with no memorable songs, no sensitivity and no change in expression or direction. (4) ☹

TRICKY GIVEAWAY

TO WIN OUR TRICKY BAG OF GOODIES - CONTAINING AN EXCLUSIVE TAPE, CD AND 7" SINGLE - ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS ANSWER THIS QUESTION; WHERE DOES TRICKY COME FROM? FIRST ANSWER TO FELIX WINS THE LOT.



mixed menswear

Luxury...a category of the spirit, the perpetual pursuit of individuality...a delving into the infinite options which the realm of fashion now offers every man. And so let's learn to enjoy the luxury ...(MONDO UOMO Jan '95).

Men's fashion is set to take the market by storm. At long last, with the shattering of the plethora of male costume taboos, colour, shape, cut and form are back in style for men. And above all else, materials have become deeper, richer and altogether more self indulgent than ever before. After decades of being boxed into a standard shape and style, the first off the mark to individuality will be the winner. Faux-fur is among the strongest influences - outside on hats and bomber jackets, or inside lining fur-collared cashmere overcoats. As ever, Gianni Versace exhibited the ultimate expression of grandeur - throwing mink stoles carelessly over the shoulder in opulent replacement of the scarf or cable knit sweater.

Paul Smith is back at the top, having produced the most eye catching style in the Barcelona shows. From cigarette pant suits with narrow high necked (absolutely wicked) jackets to a rainbow of colours in chenille or ribbed cotton pullovers, his collections took the forefront of style back from the stilisti of Italy to our inner-city streets.

As ever my favourites, Dolce and Gabbana, couple striking originality with polished style - introducing trousers so ample they almost resemble a skirt, worn with close fitting v-neck ribbed jumpers and distinguished by the usual D&G touch of class. Alternatively, choose gauze or georgette fabric for the shirt (particularly nice), with loose trousers gathered at the waist - think back to what your girl-friends were wearing last year - and with the arrival of the male navel remember as well the number of sit-ups and the amount of breathing in they had to do each day. Come on guys, we'll be looking out for those building blocks in your stomach! ☺



And there were giants on the earth in those days, and after that

Standing in a room facing **Jeff Buckley**. The extremities of my body shake with music and emotion. He stares me in the eye as I mouth the lyrics of 'So Real'. "I love you," he sings with a raised eyebrow, "but I'm afraid to love you" I return. What ordinarily would be embarrassing is now a sublime communion. I give myself to the moment, I fall into the role of fan, I gasp before my idol. Jeff Buckley, twenty blue light beams shooting from his body to the ceiling above, drips with sweat; his face contorts, he hatches out the words from the microphone and for me he summons the devil.

He had begun our reverie only at the end of a chain of confusions. Firstly, a half an hour wait twixt Bettie Serveert and the roadies leaving the stage. The audience was noisy and pushed me ever closer to the front. Before me three fifteen year old girls clutched their hands to their chests. Behind me two fifty year old men noisily prepared to bootleg the gig. Frustration welled up: had I forgotten my cares, stresses and readied myself for this? To have my face beached in cigarette smoke and my legs contorted like a ballerina to avoid the wrong signals being sent by the right parts of my body that touched those of another? I'm a bad indie-kid; I get self-conscious and I never dance.

After two false alarms three pale, attractive men filed onto the stage. Everyone clapped and at the back they obviously thought Buckley had arrived. (Later a universal truth). I was very close but still confused – mistakenly thinking Jeff the sole guitarist in the line up (with a bass and drummer) I tried to snatch a look at the faces for a moment longer. They all had the same hair as Jeff, all the same height but none seemed right. (And yes, I have seen his face before but my admiration is not one of brain-burning lust – not really and certainly not then – and at that moment I lacked the confidence to be certain of his features). But at last, after twenty seconds of this confusion, enters the king.

He wore a checked and long sleeved shirt over a white v-cut T-shirt, rooted in blue jeans. His hair was cut to the short male-model mode worn by the rest of the band. He seemed more like an embarrassed goofy friend as he moved toward the microphone – quick steps as he pulled his guitar over his head, a giggle and an indecipherable mutter as he

snagged on something, then a big smile to the audience. Immediately noticeable was the spot that picked him out from the others. They stood around in motionless darkness, illuminating Buckley as an almost messianic figure flanked by his disciples. Although later he introduced them by name, and fine players they were all, they were largely unimportant except as props. Jeff held the stage.

He opened and too soon the first song was underway. And began a night long battle of equals, with the microphone and himself, taunting and testing his own prowess and quickly gaining full mastery of his five octaves, raising his voice at will from the soft pander of lullaby to full-throated battle cry. His guitar added music in sympathy and seemed almost as free as his lyrics – although no guitar hero in the sense of wild solos or rampant feedback, his mastery of tempo, timing and improvisation is something I've never seen before. He brings to the live performance the fluency of a jamming session where traditionally the best ideas are lost. The songs are familiar, most taken from the debut album, and yet it is that same music possessed and wilful, strutting and soaring on its own vivacity.

He quickly arrives at 'Last Goodbye' and this personal favourite becomes a searing lament, with Buckley apparently calling up the memory of every love he's ever waved away in an unbearably romantic and visible rendition. So my soul is already with him as we reach 'Eternal Life'. This Robert Plantian howl, with Buckley alternately swooping from philosopher to contemptuous yet humanistic atheist is tonight made to seem like the best heavy metal song yet written. It begins this time with him crying a long monotonic cut-and-paste of the lyrics, unaccompanied by any other noise. Then the guitars slam in, the jaunty rhythm of the album version replaced by a new juddering, evil war-anthem. But as Buckley negotiates "racist everyman, what have you done?" the guitar fails him – he throws it on the floor in a fury. It's a revealing edit:

"Damn, damn, damn, a Japanese model! And it was going so well too!". The audience are sympathetic yet Buckley mimics his recent press, saying: "I just want it to be good for you to" and "Me, the spoiled brat, me me me!" But of course he is spoiled, in that his talents are so prodigious that after what he himself describes as a premature-ejaculation he can start the deranged rendition again and once more carry us away.

After this mind-blowing performance he can take us anywhere and does. On 'Mojo Pin' he inserts random stream-of-thought interludes. "It's not a needle, it's not a bottle, it's not you and not her" he harries down the mic. He covers some favourite which I should know but don't, only know that Buckley's performance of it, a bluesy orchestration which has him control the drummer with his left hand, occasionally playing a chord with his right and sounding like the lost daughter of Billie Holiday, has instantly propelled it

to genius. Finally he says "goodnight" only to change his mind and play his encore. "So I'm your jukebox?" he asks the crowd, not just in jest, but he gives them 'Hallelujah' anyway and you could hear a pin drop. I have stupid urges; to hold a lighter in the air or to fall out and back into love just to better relate to the man on the stage. The words ring true.

He leaves and most can't believe he will return – some that he can't even attempt to follow that classic. But for once I clap my little morse code with the rest: "C-O-M-E B-A-C-K-J-E-F-F" After some long and suspended minutes, to a mind that seems almost post-coital, he does. I wonder behind my lop-sided grin what he will do – another cover or a cigarette, a new number or a shower? But he takes that guitar and leads a chiming guitar swirl, the first three minutes of which is a subtly changing loop of melody, repeated over and over until you want to stamp your feet and shout "yes, yes, YES!" Then the words say their thing, then the guitar chorus is back and I don't know what he's saying, just revel in my place in the storm.

After a period of time it is over and I leave, walking dazed down the street like a drug-fucked runaway.

Earn £4-£5 an hour!

Students wanted to conduct interviews on final year students, at the end of February.

Please contact: Annie Mathewman
(am16@doc.ic.ac.uk)
or phone 081 459 8767)

Or come to the SCR (Union Building) at 4pm on Wednesday 1st February

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FRIDAY

SATURDAY

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

Guide

Islamic Society 1pm
Friday Prayers, SG (R)
ICU Rag 1.10pm
Rag Meeting EL (R)
Aerobics Classes 5.30pm
Advanced Step level IV, SG (R)
Labour Club 12.30pm
Clause IV Debate and Conference Vote at SL
Free minibus service
home from union building, 11.30 to 2am

Gliding Club 8.15am
Lasham Airfield. Come to Thursday meeting if it is your first time. (R)
IC Roller Blade Soc 10.45am
Ramp skating at Brixton. Skate Park, meet at SL (R)
IC Roller Blade Soc 2pm
Skating and Hockey in Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns. Meet at SL (R)
Malaysian Society 7pm
Malaysian Night. One thousand million smiles, to be held in the Great Hall great food, entertainment and a lucky draw. Tickets at counter daily near senior common Room or at the door.

Gliding Club 8.15am
Lasham Airfield. Come to Thursday meeting if it is your first time. (R)
Aerobics Class 12.30pm
Intermediate level III, SG (R)
IC Wargames Club 1pm
Table Tennis Rm (R)
Roller Blade Soc 2pm
Skating and Hockey in Hyde Park/Kensington Gdns. Meet at SL (R)
Opsoic 2pm
Rehearsal for 'Cabaret' in CH. (R)
50th Anniversary of Liberation of Auschwitz 3pm
Logan Hall, Institute of Education, Bedford Way, Lord Bullock, Rabbi Hugo Gryn, General Petrenko.

Aerobics Class 12.30pm
Body Toning level I, SG (R)
Artsoc 12.30pm
Meeting, UDH (R)
Exploration Society 1pm
Meeting at Southside Upper Lounge (R)
Ski Club 1-2pm
Meeting, SL (Upper) (R)
Aerobics Class 5.30pm
Beginners level I, SG (R)
IC Dance Club 6pm
Rock and Roll, UDH (R)
Premier League 7pm
Big screen football. Da Vinci's (R)
Opsoic 7.30pm
Rehearsal for Cabaret in UDH (R)

Cathsoc 12pm
Informal mass and lunch, Bagrit centre, Mech Eng (R)
S+G Outdoor Club 12pm
Meeting. Welcome, SL (R)
Yogasoc 12.15pm
Beginners' classes, SG, (R)
IC Sailing Club 12.30pm
Sign up to sail! SL (R)
Quasar Club 12.30pm
Meeting, SL (Upper) (R)
Photo Society 1-2pm
All welcome, SL (R)
Bunac Society 1-2pm
Work abroad Talk
UCO 1pm
Bible study, Mat B342 (R)
Circus Skills Soc 5-8pm
Table Tennis Rm UB (R)
Aerobics Class 5.30pm
Advanced level IV, SG (R)
IC Dance Club 6pm
beginners, JCR (R)
Wine Tasting Soc 6pm
£5, £4 UDH (R)
DramSoc 6.30pm
Meeting, UB (R)
Leonardo Society 6.30-8.30pm
Art class Civ Eng Rm 101 (R)
Japan Soc 7pm
Anime Nights Chem Eng LT 1. members £1, non-mem £1.50 (R)
Canoe Club 7.30pm
Sports Centre pool, any level of ability, (R)
Chess Club 7.30pm
1st team match, SCR (R)
Bar quiz 8.30 pm
Win £50. Da Vinci's (R)
Caving Club 9pm
Meeting SL (Upper) (R)

Japan Soc 12-2pm
meeting, Ante Room (R)
IC Roller Blade Soc 12.15pm
Meet at SL for hockey (R)
College Communion 12.30pm
Holy Trinity, Prince Consort Road (R)
Motorcycle club 12.45pm
weekly meeting, SL, (R)
Quasar Club 12.45pm
Quasar Trip, UL (R)
IC Wargames Club 1pm
Table Tennis Rm (R)
OSC 1pm
Hon. Treasurer's meeting, CCR (R)
Conservative Society 1pm
David Hunt MP speaks Mec Eng rm 342
Aerobics Class 1.15pm
Beg./Inter level I I, SG (R)
STOIC 1.30pm
Production meeting, Stoic Studios (R)
Ten Pin Bowling 2.15pm
meet outside Aero (R)
Jazz Dance 3.30-5pm
Beginners class, SG (R)
Aerobics Classes 5pm
Step level III, SG (R)
IC Chess Club 6.30pm
Club night, SCR (R).
IC Choir 7-10pm
Rehearsal in Great Hall
Club Spanque 9pm-1am
Free. UB. (R)
IEEE Student Branch 1pm
We Build Starships, Huxley 308

GO Club 12-2pm
Ante Room, Sheffield (R)
Aerobics Class 12.30pm
Legs,Turns & Bums,SG (R)
Y.H.A. 12.30pm
Weekly meeting, SL (R).
Yacht Club 1pm
Physics LT2 (R)
Parachute Club 1pm
Table Tennis Room, UB (R)
Conservative Club 1pm
Meeting, SL (Upper) (R)
Conservative Club 1pm
Meeting, SL (Upper) (R)
Gliding Club 1pm
Meeting, Aero 266 (R)
Get Fit with Louisa 1pm
Aerobics, UG (R)
Jazz Dance 4-5.30pm
Advanced classes, SG (R)
Aerobics Class 5.30pm
Intermed. level 3, SG (R)
Cocktail Night 6-11pm
Cocktails from £1.70. Da Vinci's. (R)
IC Choir 6.15-8pm
Rehearsal Rm 342 MEng (R)
Christian Union 6.30pm
Huxley 308 (R)
Leonardo Society 6.30-8.30pm
Art classes Civ Eng Rm 101 (R)
IC Dance Club 6pm
Beginners, JCR (R)
Jazz Big Band 7-10pm
Table Tennis Rm (R)
Motorcycle club 7.30pm
SL, bike run round L'dn,(R)
Ladies' Football 8.30pm
Training, contact Union office pigeon hole, UG (R)

Times (R) Regular Meeting

Places (SG) Southside Gym (SL) Southside Lounge (UB) Union Building (UDH) Union Dining Hall (UG) Union Gym (UL) Union Lounge (EL) Ents Lounge (JCR) Junior Common Room (SMHMS) St. Mary's

SMALL ADS

Careers Office
Rm 310, 10am-5.15pm, Mon to Fri. Careers Info. **Milkround Closing Date** Five is Monday 30th Jan. Apply before 4pm. Details of interview date outside Careers Office.
Summer Vacation Training
Apply at Careers Office for UROP opportunities
Practice - Preparing for psychometric tests
Short course on Wed 1st Feb in Huxley 343 2-4pm. Sign up in Careers Office
Postgraduates Maths Advice Centre Helpline
Ext 48533, Dr. Geoff Stephenson, Maths Dept. **For Sale 486 DX33 PC SVGA 8MB/350MB HD.** Sblaster 16, 2xCD. £800 James Thompson. Tel 081-878-2697
Wallet Lost.
Black leather Esprit wallet with ID essential to Tatiana Vieira Lopes. Hand to Biology UG Office.

ELSEWHERE

Psychic Encounters
Steven Daedalus, student of the African Shamans will demonstrate his own psychic techniques of Tue 31st January. The House on Rosslyn Hill, a restaurant with international cuisine. Performance starts 9pm reservations 0171 435 8037.

THE LBG WEEK PARTEEE!

Saturday 28th January in the



UCL Union, 25 Gordon Street WC1H
Admission by ticket
(available free from Mary Basterfield, External Affairs and Welfare Officer, UCL Union 0171 387 3611)

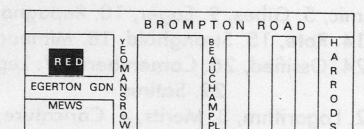
Local Special!

Special Express Lunch Menu served between 12:00 to 2:00pm and 6:00 to 7:00pm

at RED of Knightsbridge 0171-584 7007
The best Chinese without artificial colouring and flavours.

- A. Crispy lamb with wok fried rice and seasonal vegetables 5.00
- B. Sun Sing Chicken with wok fried rice and seasonal vegetables 5.00
- C. spare ribs with wok fried rice and seasonal vegetables 5.00
- D. Aromatic Crispy duck with pancakes 5.00
- E. Buddha pot rice (vegetarian) 5.00
- F. Beef in black beans with wok fried rice and seasonal vegetables 5.00
- G. Special fried rice (prawn, pork etc.) 5.00
- I. Singapore noodles (prawn, pork spicy) 5.00
- J. Hot and Sour fish with wok fried rice and seasonal vegetables 5.00

Take away to your offices is also available



RED 8 Egerton Garden Mews Knightsbridge SW3

IMPERIAL

All submissions for the Seven Day Guide must be given in by 6pm on the Friday before the week of publication. (Not including those which have (R) at the end of the entries - the submissions will automatically entered for you).

CINEMA

Interview with the Vampire
MGM Fulham Road 0171 370 2636
S. Ken tube and then bus 1.10, 3.55, 6.40, 9.30 tickets; £6, Mon-Fri before 6pm and students £3.50

Shallow Grave
MGM Fulham Road 0171 370 2636
S. Ken tube and then bus 2.10, 4.40, 7.20, 9.40, tickets; £6, Mon-Fri before 6pm and students £3.50

Only You
Odeon Kensington 0426 914666
tube; Kensington High St 1.55, 4.30, 7.05, 9.40 tickets; £6, £6.50, before 5pm £3.50

La Reine Margot
Odeon Kensington 0426 914666
tube; Kensington High St 2.30, 6.00, 9.15 tickets; £6, £6.50, before 5pm £3.50

Suture
ICA Cinema, The Mall 0171 930 3647
tube; Charing Cross 4.30, 6.45, 9.00 tickets; £6.50, Mon, 1st perf Tue-Fri & concs £5,

MUSIC

Lightning Seeds
LA2
tube; Tottenham Court Rd 0171 434 0403
doors; 7.30pm tickets; £7

Moist + Blameless
Garage
tube; Highbury & Islington 0171 284 2200
doors; 7.30pm tickets; £6

Black Crowes + Dillon Fence
Royal Albert Hall
tube; South Kensington 0171 589 8212
tickets; £12/£14

Take a well-earned break!

Paul Kelly
Garage
tube; Highbury & Islington 0171 284 2200
doors; 7.30pm tickets; £7

ARTS

Jeanne Masoero - red and green dots on white back grounds
Economist, 25 St James's Street 0171 830 7000
tube; Green Park times; all day every day

Wolfgang Laib, Beverly Semmes: beeswax and skirts
Camden Arts, Arkwright Rd 0171 435 5224
tube; Finchley times; Tue-Thu 12-8pm, Fri-Sun 12-6pm entry; Free

Man Ray: Cubism, Dadaism and Surrealism
Serpentine, Kensington Gdns 0171 402 0343
bus; 9, 10, 12, 52 times; Daily 10am-6pm entry; Free

Mona Hatoum
White Cube, 44 Duke Street, St James's 0171 930 5373
tube; Green Park time; Fri & Sat 12-6pm

It's A Pleasure: Nine contemporary artists
Royal Festival Hall Galleries, Southbank 0171 921 0600
tube; Waterloo time; Daily 10am-10pm entry; Free

Barcelona
Odeon Haymarket 0426 915353
tube; Piccadilly 1.45, 4.00, 6.15, 8.45 tickets; £3-£8, cheaper before 5pm Mon-Fri

Amateur
Renoir, Brunswick Sq 0171 837 8402
tube; Russell Square 1.45, 4.05, 6.25, 8.45 tickets; £6, 1st perf £4 with concs £2.50

Mavis Staples
Jazz Cafe
tube; Camden Town 0171 916 6000
doors; 7.30pm tickets; £12.50

Live
Garage
tube; Highbury & Islington 0171 284 2200
tickets; £6.50

Treasures of Byzantine art and culture
British Museum, Great Russell Street 0171 580 1788
tube; Holborn time; Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30pm-6pm entry; £3.50, concs £2

Jason Sandeberg - photos of mannequins
Jibby Beane, Flat 6, 143-145 Gloucester Terrace 0171 723 5531
tube; Paddington time; Wed & Thu 12-6pm

Orienteering

IC vs Everyone Else

Last Sunday's event was at Walthamstow, so we had a lie in and got the tube. Walthamstow on a cold, wet and windy morning Sunday morning was not everyone's idea of fun, but we all staggered round a course.

On the Brown course, **William** was only beaten by 3 minutes by the women's world silver medallist. On the Blue, **Andy** managed to avoid being beaten by **Carol**, with **Shao Wei** close behind. **David** and **Mark** both posted fast times on Red and **Kristin** did well on Green.

Highlights of the day – running through knee-high water in the underpass and lunch at McDonalds!

If you want to try Orienteering, we meet at 6pm Wednesdays at the Union Gym for training or 8pm at Southside Upper Lounge for tall stories.

Rugby

IC Ladies vs Royal Vets

The awful country air had adverse affects on match play with quick tries being conceded early on. Some cracking tackles by all and there was also a great display of unending determination considering the appalling weather, and nasty injuries. Our only try was by **Sarah Handley**.

The forward of the match was **Lynsey Hewitt**, and the back of the match was **Julia Donovan**. All performed very well, and most importantly kept the spirit up. Next match we'll snort them properly!

Hockey

FANTASY HOCKEY HAIKU LEAGUE
IC 1st vs No-one else (QMW)

THIS IS THE NEWS. Last Wednesday's event, at Mile End Stadium Nachos Grande (extra cheese) was an inspiration to no-one at all. We got the trolley and had a well deserved lie down. We shan't mention the weather. On the green astroturf we lost badly, but on the Fantasy Brown (capital colours) pitch we posted some letters but were denied by the postie. **Carol** didn't play, but did very well.

If you want to join us on the fantasy Hockey pitch, meet us at the corner of the underpass and 43rd street. Bring your trunks.

IC Ladies 2nd vs Barts 2nd

Yet another stunning victory for IC Ladies. Total domination of the game throughout. A hat-trick for **Miss One Hand Wonder**, two goals for **Prim & Proper** and one for **Space Cadet** – perhaps made easier by a goalkeeper who forgot she was wearing 'kickers' and tried to stop the ball with her stick. Storming play all round, even for **Slave** (goalie) who touched the ball only once. Many thanks to all our supporters. Post match comment: "We're the best!"

Ed's Bit (ooer)

In a week of constant rain, no-one mentions the weather – still, that's the English for you. Thanks to everyone who submitted reports, especially the more legible ones. It's nice to have some sports reports on the back page again!

Mark Baker

Sport	IC Team	Score	Opposition
Hockey	Ladies 2 nd	6 - 0	Barts 2 nd
Hockey	Ladies 1 st	0 - 2	Barts 1 st
Hockey	Mens 1 st	2 - 3	QMW
Hockey	Mens 2 nd	7 - 3	UCL 3 rd
Rugby	Ladies	5 - 26	Royal Vets

Cross Country

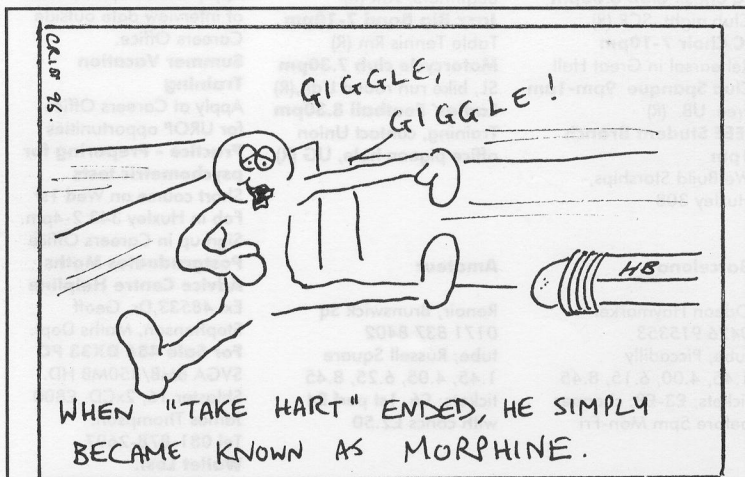
4th London League

A very muddy Trent Park was the scene for the first cross country of the term. The IC Ladies got off to a tremendous start, winning the team event for the fourth successive time in the league this year. Despite being one man short of a full team, the men managed a solid performance, finishing fourth overall. Individual results;

Women	Men
1. Jennie Rogers	12. Andy Overend
2. Emily Collins	20. Mark Hussey
5. Christina Demetriou	28. Gerald Johnson
	33. Gary Hoare

IC Mens 2nd vs UCL 3rd

After an inspiring psyche by **Bill T.C.** the team was 4-0 up in ten minutes with goals from **Son of Rent Boy**, **Alexi Lalas**, **Bigot & Bouffant Man**. Then things got out of control and the score was 4-3, but we regained things to finish them off in the second half, when **T1000** gave an amazing pass for **Lalas** to score in the top corner. The other two were scored by the amazing captain **Bill T.C. & Rimmer**. P.S. Our great umpire sent three of UCL off.



RADIO FOR THE DEAF



Catfish Xtra

Solution to last week's Crossword:

Across: 1. Polemic, 5. Gibes, 9. Eager, 10. Repugnant, 11. Hardtack, 12. Summon, 14. Rote, 15. Stronghold, 18. Mimeograph, 19. Stem, 22. Heresy, 24. Ossified, 26. Camembert, 27. Legal, 28. Yanks, 29. Satires

Down: 2. Logarithm, 3. Merits, 4. Caricature, 5. Gape, 6. Begrudge, 7. Swarm, 8. Intoned, 9. Ether, 13. Composites, 16. Outrigger, 17. Houseman, 18. Mohican, 20. Medal, 21. Billet, 23. Rummy, 25. Fens