

FELIX



The Student Newspaper of Imperial College

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King's President U-Turns on Minibus

BY ANDREW SMITH

Ghassan Karian, the prospective University of London Union President, has this week confessed that he knowingly misled both the Imperial College Union President (ICU) and FELIX. In a dramatic admission, he acknowledged that his categorical denial that the King's College Union minibus had been involved in the violent and destructive attack on Imperial College was untrue. Ghassan has now confirmed that he himself handed over the keys of the minibus used in the raid.

The remarks concern events on Saturday February 4th when a group of 14 students from King's College entered the ICU building and caused an estimated £2000 worth of damage. When interviewed by FELIX after the

attack, Mr Karian, the President of King's College Student Union, insisted that he had been in possession of the minibus' keys during the incident. In a letter to Lucy Chothia, ICU President,

last Friday, Ghassan apologised for the "collective decision to cover the fact that our minibus was used".

Speaking to FELIX following the publication of this letter,

Ghassan confessed that he had knowingly and deliberately given false information to both ICU and FELIX concerning the incident. He conceded that he had personally handed over the keys to the group, knowing that they were planning to travel en masse to Imperial College.

After admitting that he had knowingly misled FELIX about the minibus, Ghassan denied that he had lied personally, suggesting that he was 'following a line'. Possibly with a view to the ULU election early next month, the King's President stressed that each of the four members of the King's Sabbatical team had agreed with the 'collective decision' to cover up this detail of the incident. Under pressure the budding Labour politician and current

(continues on page two)



NUS Motion Fails – No Referendum

BY ANDREW TSENG, NEWS EDITOR

Imperial students were this week denied the opportunity to vote on joining the National Union of Students (NUS).

A motion calling for a college wide referendum on affiliation to the NUS was narrowly defeated on technicalities at Monday's meeting of Imperial College Union's (ICU) Council.

Proposed by Lucy Chothia,

ICU President, and seconded by Ian Parish, ICU Deputy President (Clubs & Societies), the motion would have given ICU its first college wide ballot on affiliation to the NUS in almost twenty years. In 1977, the anti-NUS campaign won by five votes after 1584 were cast, taking ICU out of the national student body.

At Monday's Council meeting, although those present agreed with the calling of a referendum, there was concern that referendum campaigns

would clash with the sabbatical election campaigns. Members suggested that this might result in sabbaticals being elected simply on whether they were pro- or anti-NUS.

The recently passed constitution lays down strict rules on referendum procedures. Once Council or a petition of 200 ICU members has decided to hold a referendum, notice of the referendum must be given within two college days and the campus wide ballot held twenty to

twenty-five days later. With voting usually taking place on a Monday or Tuesday, the ballot would have taken place the week after the sabbatical elections or during the last week of term.

Though Ms Chothia was obviously disappointed that the motion was not passed, Council is understood to favour a college wide referendum.

The motion is expected to be re-proposed at the next meeting of Council which takes place in a month.

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Mary's Money

BY MICHAEL LUDLAM

Imperial College has settled in full with its insurers concerning the St Mary's fraud scandal. The college has been recompensed from the insurance company under its Employee Fidelity Policy.

The embezzlement of funds is alleged to have been carried out by cashier, Cyril D'Souza, who has reportedly gambled all of the money away (FELIX 1006). Criminal and civil actions are at present being undertaken though it is unlikely that the insurers will regain the money.

Despite college receiving 'one hundred per cent payment' it remains acutely embarrassed by the affair, and still refuses to disclose the sum that was taken. It was originally reported that the amount was £652,840.58 though college authorities have refused to confirm this. Michael Hansen, Director of Finance, said: "It doesn't matter, college received all the money back, and it is not important to disclose a sum." Mr Hansen added that the amount will not be published in the next audited accounts. He was only willing to admit was that it was a 'serious fraud' which occurred over the past five years.

Questions have been asked throughout college as to why the embezzlement took so long to uncover, and why college has been so secretive over the affair. An external audit is carried out every year, but it failed to uncover the fraud. St Mary's accountants, Price Waterhouse, now also audit Imperial College accounts. When asked if he thought the firm was negligent, David Thomson, Head Internal Auditor for College said, "I couldn't possibly comment on that" but added that "things may well arise from the independent review."

Touche Ross, is due to submit this review to the Audit Committee on the 24th February.



Photo: Michael Chamberlain

The Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Philip, was guest of honour at the annual City & Guilds College Association dinner, writes Andrew Tseng. Chris Enderby was presented with the Holbein Award for sporting achievement.

Entry Changes

BY KIMBERLY WENTZLAFF

Prospective students may find a radically different university admissions system as early as the 1997/98 academic year, based on A-level results rather than predicted grades.

The change is possible after an unanimous vote by the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) on 12 January to move towards a post A-level system. When asked why the CVCP has now begun investigating options, Ted Nield, CVCP spokesman, said: "There was a general feeling that the system of predicting grades was coming under strain because of expansion, and that it unnecessarily put students through the mill."

Consequently, the CVCP has formed two subgroups to look at ways to reform the system. The first which is expected to make a proposal by this summer, will look at the timetable of the new system and how it will effect the next academic year.

The second CVCP subgroup will investigate ways to use information technology to alleviate dead time in the system and speed the exam grading process. This emphasis on technology and speed, however,

has been met with opposition by the Standing Conference of Principals (SCOP). In a statement, it argues that a 'computer-driven post-results system would be impersonal, assigning applicants to institutions without interview and without regard to students' personal characteristics and aptitudes, which are still given high priority in SCOP colleges'.

Concern has also been expressed as to whether it was appropriate for the working groups to look only at a post-qualifications system. The committee was reassured, however, that the subgroups are investigating all options to improve the current system.

On the other hand, Professor Peter Richards, Dean of St Mary's, supports the move to a post-qualifications system. Prof Richards has announced the publishing, in two weeks time, of research on student selection which indicates that a post-results system would be fairer to students. He also said that a reformed system would be easier for universities too.

Peter Mee, College Registrar, did not know how this would effect Imperial, but did say that the college would be watching the proposals closely.

(King's continued from page one)

Councillor for the London Borough of Havering, chose to hide behind the previous decision to mislead Imperial. He repeatedly denied that he, as an individual, had lied.

When questioned whether the incident will have any effect on his campaign to become University of London Union (ULU) President, Ghassan forcefully replied: "Why should it? Why should it?" With his only opposition for the sabbatical post being New Election, Karian admitted that he "should get a good result".

The controversy over the taking last term of the King's mascot, a stone lion called Reggie, continues with the Royal College of Science Union still in possession of the sought after article.

Mr Karian has insisted that his Union will not regain Reggie through any form of payment, the usual result of mascotry activities. Ghassan dismissed mascotry donations saying: "It isn't going to involve us handing over 100 pints of blood, or £10,000 for charity or anything stupid like that." In what will undoubtedly prove to be a controversial statement in King's College, Mr Karian said that if the mascot could not be retrieved through discussions, then the stone lion would remain in Imperial, 'in perpetuity'.

News In Brief

BY RACHEL WALTERS,
JOHN SINNER AND
ANDREW TSENG

Pratchett Illustrator Visits IC
Josh Kirby, science fiction and fantasy illustrator, presented a number of slides on his work at the Haldane library on Wednesday.

Josh Kirby is probably best known for his illustrations of Terry Pratchett's hugely successful humorous novels. The work presented consisted mostly of his covers for the fantasy author. He said that he liked working with Terry Pratchett and that they have developed an 'exceptional' relationship through their work. He has also illustrated a number of books that have imitated Pratchett's style in the wake of the Discworld novels, but admitted that, although they were 'good fun to illustrate', some are 'appalling to read'.

Besides his more recent work, he presented a selection of his older works, including other novel illustrations. Josh Kirby has been illustrating professionally for more than 20 years.

He chronicled the striking development of the paintings as they have developed into the unmistakable, helter-skelter style that we recognise today.

Tory Blunder

Imperial College Conservatives have snubbed yet another prominent Tory MP. Teresa Gorman, a prominent euro-sceptic, was left to wander around Imperial College last Wednesday after no one turned up to greet her.

She was expecting to address a meeting of the Conservative Society, who had asked her to speak on the subject of Europe. However, in what has been seen as an act of sheer ineptitude, the Conservative Society was unaware of her visit. Speaking to FELIX shortly after Mrs Gorman left, Ian Bayley, Chairman of the Conservative Society was horrified at the blunder. "There has been a dreadful misunderstanding," he announced.

Jill Brown, Secretary to Mrs Gorman, was angered by the incompetence of the Conservative Society. She also announced that Mrs Gorman was furious and would not be returning to Imperial College. "We will be billing the Conservative Society, for Mrs Gorman's Taxi fare to Imperial", she added.

In an attempt to limit the

damage, Mr Bayley, issued a statement on behalf of the Conservative Society. He defended the society declaring that 'we would like to apologise to ICU for any embarrassment caused. The incident was caused by a breakdown in communication with Mrs Gorman's Private Office'.

On Yer Bike

The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea have launched a scheme to increase the number of local cycle routes.

They have produced a consultation leaflet suggesting a range of possible paths for cyclists throughout the borough. New routes could be enforced along Old Brompton and Fulham Roads, and up Exhibition Road from South Kensington Station to Hyde Park.

Alex Reed, Director of Highways and traffic, has said that they are anxious to get feedback from Imperial students. The leaflet is designed as part of an ongoing consultation process, but he explained that they are compiling their initial report in March, and would like responses as soon as possible. A number of options are available, but he indicated that the most favoured solution was to introduce 'advisory' cycle lanes. Mandatory bike-only routes seem to be a less likely option. Leaflets are available from the union office.

Election Watch

BY ANDREW TSENG



With only a few hours left until papers come down, a plethora of candidates have declared themselves. Only Rachel Walters, standing for the post of FELIX Editor and Print Unit Manager, is uncontested as FELIX went to press.

Last week's Presidential speculation has been proved accurate, with both Miles Ambler and Sarah White battling Kevin Ward for the post.

An uncontested battle has also turned into a three horse race in the contest for Deputy President (Clubs & Societies). Joining Maryam Yahyani is Luke Gietzen and Tim Townend.

However, there has been no change in the Deputy President (Finance & Services) contest, only Matthew Crompton and Annie Matthewman are presently standing, although Simon Govier, is still believed to be eyeing up the post.

Papers come down at 5pm today. New Election will be standing for all posts.

editorial

Artfully Ignorant

In *Incoming*, Michael quotes a phrase I've heard many times since coming to Imperial, used by scientists to prove their wider wisdom vs arts students: "I've heard of Turner and seen a Picasso - how many arts students have heard of Feynman or the second law of thermodynamics?"

I believe this to be flawed on several levels. The spurious quoting of random artists is no different to somebody claiming knowledge of science via a coffee table book on Hawking or Einstein. Just because you have heard of Dali and seen some postcards, doesn't mean that you understand his work, his motivation, his context in the history of art etc. Scientists see

these as irrelevancies. Looking for formulas and rules and finding none they assume -not that they have a lack of understanding of the artist - but that they know all there is to know about him.

As scientists, we are all aware that there is more to the science of robotics than Robocop or to black holes than 'wormholes in time'. But that is just the attitude we take towards art. We judge harshly science as portrayed in popular culture and yet we apply the same wayward thinking to fields other than our own.

Of course there is a basic aesthetic beauty to a painting that can be comprehended regardless of knowledge of art or the artist. But one should realise that this experience is ultimately no more representative of an understanding of art then, say, taking a

bus to college is to mechanical engineering.

Get Into Gear

For the last ten years I've argued with people about cars. I think that the scheme proposed in Lisa Rajan's article is the first that can counteract both the 'what about bringing a lot of shopping home?' and the 'but driving is so much fun' arguments. It *doesn't* combat the 'I wanna big bad Jag to piss all over the neighbour's Volvo' line of reasoning but people have to realise that things are changing. The law of the road is under review - why not adopt these schemes and go find a new phallic symbol to thrust about in. May I suggest an enormous banana hat?

Elections Special

Sabbatical manifestoes in full next week, together with gossip and a 1994 campaign diary!

Credits

Editor	Owain Bennallack
Printer	Andy Thompson
Business Manager	Tim Bavister
Advertising Manager	Helen Randall

Editorial Team

Art & Literature	Jon Jordan
Cinema	Wei Lee
Clubs, Societies & Union	Piers Daniell
Columns	Marcus Alexander
Features	Kate Cox
Layout and Design	Mr Paul Dias
Music	Vik Bansal
News	Andrew Tseng & Rachel Walters
Photography	Ivan Chan & Diana Harrison
Puzzles	Tim St Clare
S-Files	The Team
Eight Day Guide	Jeremy Thomson
Sport	Juliette Decock and Mark Baker
Standby	Jon Jordan
Theatre	Joseph Barr

Editorial Assistance

Collating Last Week	Andrew Tseng, Jon Jordan & Helen Randall
Typing	Steven Se
Helpfulness	Michael Chamberlain

Cat & mouse

Visiting Jerusalem was the experience of a lifetime, especially for someone who has never been given the honour of visiting his homeland before – a place every Palestinian considers as a home for pride, prosperity and identity.

My dream of visiting Palestine had grown up with me. I felt that, by visiting Palestine, I would not only be fulfilling the dream of my childhood, but, in doing so, I would, feel that it was my turn in life to step on the soil on which my grandfathers lived and died, seeking the smell of liberty. I always wanted to see the house where my father was brought up, the tombs of relatives who long hoped of seeing us make this visit, the

people of steadfastness, friends who I knew over the telephone, the streets called after my cousins who fell, martyrs, in the Intifada, and the camps of honour and dignity in which inhabitants live under sub-human conditions. But, most important of all, I wanted to visit my village, which I had long heard about.

My dream was overshadowed by tasting the agony of those repelling peace and those dreaming of its success. Their problems have cured the pains of others. However, their wounds can no longer be the cures for the aching peace; their message is "let us make it together... or let us bury it and kiss it goodbye!"

But the wave of their message does not seem to propagate to the ears of those linking their days with their nights building 'enclosures' or, as the world wishes to call them, settlements.

My dream was reduced to ashes when I saw the Israeli authorities still trying their best to bring the dignified Palestinians down to their knees in everyday life. I was shocked to

see the Israelis dig deep down into the Arab land, trying to extend the dreams of many, offering the best of life for Israelis while adding more bloody pages to the chapters of Palestinian misery; offering a first-class life to a 'first-class nation' at the expense of the fifth-class humans, as they wish them to be.

The extension of such 'enclosures' has done nothing but increased my doubts about the enemy of the past. An enemy coated with a 'live for peace' slogan. I become more doubtful when the enemy is keen to extend settlements on lands it should be withdrawing from.

However, the most disturbing experience of my visit was when I was looking anxiously for ruins of my grandfather's houses in my village Aqer (Al-Ramla). There were no ruins, and no Palestinians, and not even a trace of willingness by the 'imported' inhabitants of my village to welcome under the will of peace. Instead I was asked to leave the village by an 'Ethiopian' Jew, whose agony and the Jewish will

improved his knowledge of geography and encouraged him to move to Palestine. He and others could not accept my visit, which reminded them that this land is not theirs. Nevertheless, my great-great-grandchild will one day make the same journey.

Despite these bitter experiences, I was honoured to see some bright figures in Jerusalem, Gaza, the West Bank and Bir Zeit. Such figures are ready to tell the whole world that an imposed peace is a rejected one, and a peace dictated and tailored by the Israelis is not and will not be just.

This should always be remembered by the nation which suffered Hitler's Holocaust, but now shamelessly reflects (through some of its figures) horrifying acts of hypocrisy and arrogance on the helpless Palestinians.

Violence is always the result of violence and suppression. And any peace formula imposed at the expense of the Palestinians will leave the Israelis with harder questions to solve.

S. Saidam, Elec. Eng.

The opinions expressed in "Cat & Mouse" do not necessarily reflect those of FELIX or its editorial staff. If you want to make a contribution, contact FELIX on x48072 or come to the office in Beit Quad.

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Music and Politics, well almost....

Edited this week by Michael Ludlam

Fresh Air

Dear Owain,
I am also shit scared of a member of college being involved in an accident. I am shit scared of that member of college being me. However it is being scared that makes me a cautious climber.

While agreeing wholeheartedly with the main thrust of Ian Parish's article; (that anyone participating in a 'dangerous' activity should be aware of the risks involved and shout if they are concerned) ; I would like to add to his point that mountaineering has an ethos of "individual initiative and self reliance."

To some extent this is true, but when climbing as a pair or trio (as opposed to walking) individuals are transformed into a team, a single unit, each part dependant on the others. When I go climbing with someone I put my life in their hands and theirs is in mine; the object above all is that the team comes off the hill together, safely.

Part of the reason for an "unapproachable Club atmosphere" is surely an expectation from people outside of the club that a certain level of experience and knowledge is required, whereas all that is required is a keenness to learn and push the everyday realm of experience a little. A questioning attitude is therefore certainly welcomed.

Julian Rickard
Mountaineering Club President

For those who didn't read Ian's article last week about the safety of certain Clubs and Societies he advised those who were worried about activities to ask questions, make a fuss, go see him, and not stay quiet. I think it was good for the Mountaineering club to write in. Somebody obviously cares about safety. However it is a shame that we have to be told to ask questions, and to challenge judgements rather than always knowing that we must not accept what we are told or hear, and that we can change things, on our own or as a pair, a trio...

Politics

Dear FELIX,
In response to Tim St. Clair's criticism of my letter last week as "uncalled-for-one-manship", my main aim was to counteract what my members saw as biased and unfactual reporting at the clashing visits of Tony Benn and David Hunt. For his information many LabSoc members have turned up to our speaker events and I have asked my committee members to accompany me to any future LabSoc events that do not clash with ours.

The members of both societies are quite ready to listen to alternative views. Indeed, we are nowhere near as narrow-minded as people such as Tim. He clearly prefers to isolate himself from the democratic debate by supporting

the pseudo-intellectual (complete with long sentences, none of which are grammatically decipherable) anarchism of Craig Davies on the same page and dispensing Lib Dem like platitudes to both parties when, as I have explained, are completely ignorant of the good relations between us.

Ian Bayley
Conservative Society Chairman

You have a bee in your bonnet Ian. Let's get things straight shall we? If you and the rest of the populace "were ready to listen to alternative views", we wouldn't be in the sticky state that we are in.

We fight, we have wars, pitch invasions and politicians constantly mouth off about how wonderful they are and how bad the others are. By always picking on little differences we are not solving the problems that gape between us. How about a joint LabSoc, ConSoc pub crawl with politics off the agenda?

Philosophy

Dear Felix,
How can Mr Theocharis feel justified in making such rash claims in last week's Gatecrash column? He boldly states when referring to Russell and Popper, "They never cut across the path of speeding trucks; they never jumped unprotected from great heights."

Where, one wonders, does Mr Theocharis find the evidence for this? Could it not in fact be the case that Russell regularly cut in front of speeding trucks, and yet survived unharmed? Has he not read accounts of Karl Popper's infamous "Cliff Leaping" experiments? Only the other day an associate recounted his witnessing of such an event: "We watched, as Karl stood at the tenth storey window. He leapt into space, seeming to remain there for an immeasurable time, before hitting the pavement with the sound of a gunshot. Standing up, he then dusted himself down and walked off unharmed leaving only a Popper shaped dent in the paving stones."

Surely this is evidence enough of Russell's justification in abusing the theory of inductive reasoning. Russell is no more a bird brain, Mr Theocharis, than you or I.

Marcus Alexander
Mech. Eng. III

Forgive me, for I am only a mere mortal, but what are you on about? Can I suggest a fiction column, or maybe even a novel.

On another note though, as bizarre as your story is, maybe it says something about us Scientists, Engineers and Medics here. As a friend said to me; "I bet you that as Scientists we know a helluva lot more about the Arts than Arts students know about the Sciences." How many Humanities Schools have a Science programme? We all have heard of Russell and the rest but when was the last time you heard a English Lit. student talk about Feymann?

Non-Poetry

Dear Owain,
Does Rachel Walters really expect us to be indignant at the sight of Para poetry?

What does she expect:

*"Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
We love hostile civilians,
Particularly joyriders."*

Absurd! Equally absurd is the concept of labelling the individual bullets fired by a soldier in active duty, whilst defending his life and the life of his comrades: "legal, legal, legal, murder."

Then again, I have no doubt that, faced with a car speeding towards her and containing either terrorists, or joyriders whose favourite sport is attract police fire by 'clipping' (i.e. running over) British soldiers, Rachel would hold her fire...

...After all, does she not share the nationality and creed of the driver?

Manor Askenazi
DoC IV

I am sorry but your tasteless remarks are not welcome with me. Have you visited Ireland, North and South? Or are you like many of the bigots who go mouthing off about how they know best, but know nothing at all. Parody does not do you or your arguments any justice and nor does making accusations about creed (which are false incidentally). It is this kind of language that got us into the mess that we are all implicated in.

A suggestion Manor - read around the subject, think about your views, discuss with your friends, battle it out and then write back and tell us how you got on...

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

FELIX

DEADLINES

letters - monday 6pm

you must bring your id card along too

xtra curricular articles - friday 6pm

you should limit these to 300 words. If you want to write more, please come in and see us first.

MEETINGS

reviewers' meeting - mondays 1pm

for music, cinema, theatre, clubs, art

news meeting - mondays 6pm

for all potential news animals

features meeting - wednesday 1pm

if you've got ideas for features or want to be given them, this is your FELIX meeting...

Next Week: Elections Special (Including Manifestoes)

iCU

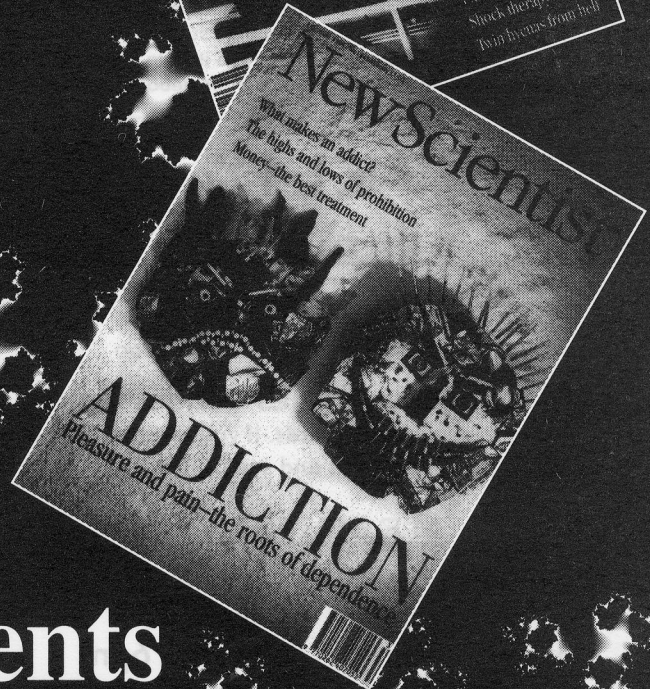
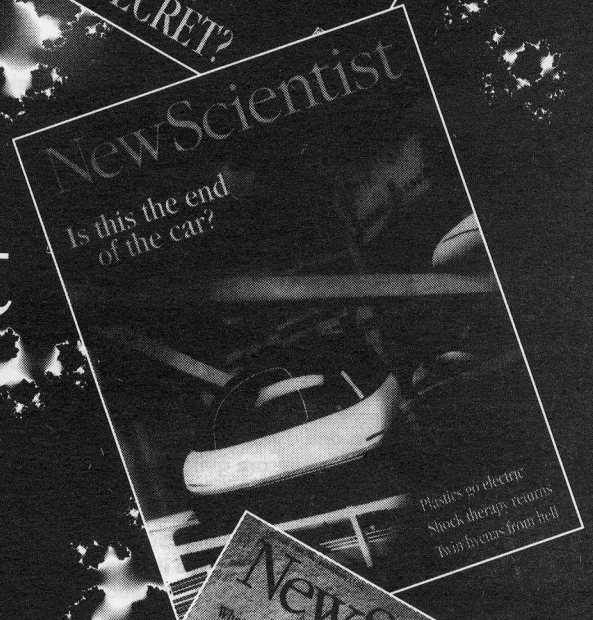
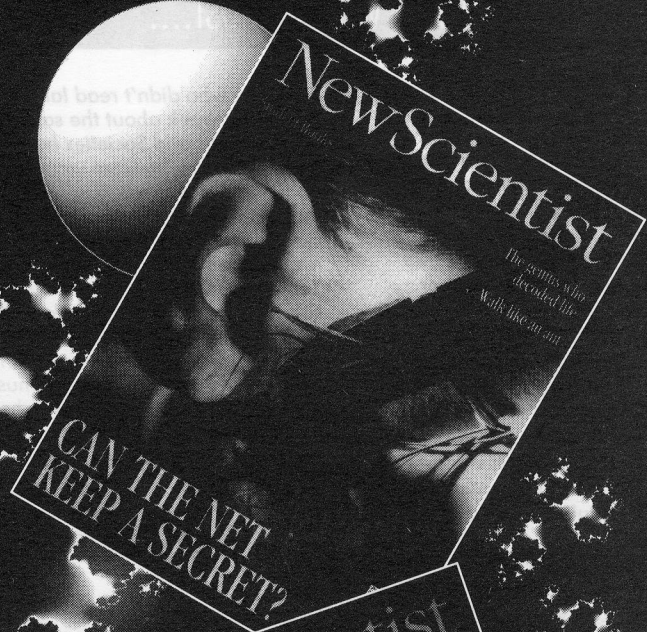
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+ Coffee secrets

WHAT ARE WE DOING WRONG?



COFFEE'S ANCIENT HERITAGE

Essence of old shoes+

+ The coffee man

PROFESSOR MICHAEL SPIRO



☿ Coffee arrived in England from the Yemeni port of Mocha in the 17th century. People polarised very quickly into those who loved

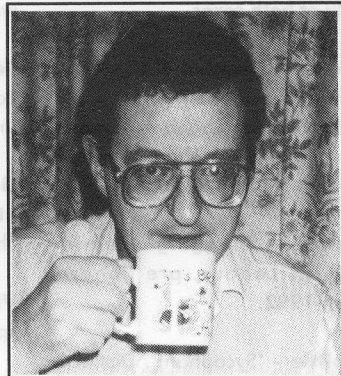
☿ coffee, who frequented the many ☿ coffee houses of London, and the traders and publicans who hated it, describing the smell of roasting ☿ coffee in terms of "syrup and soot" and "essence of old shoes".

The habit of chewing ☿ coffee beans and fermenting the red ☿ coffee fruits – which are known as ☿ coffee cherries – into wine, had begun in Ethiopia ten centuries earlier. The word ☿ coffee is thought to originate either from an Ethiopian town called Kaffa, or from an Arabic word *qahwah*, meaning wine.

Since then, ☿ coffee has done more than enter the English language. The custom of tipping a waiter comes from the practise in ☿ coffee houses of putting money into a box "To Insure Promptness" of delivery of your dish of ☿ coffee.



Coffee drinking in the 19th and 20th centuries: has anything changed?



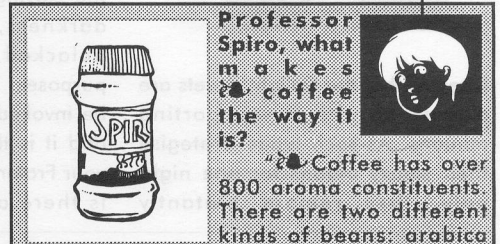
☿ Coffee is now drunk in larger quantities than any other drink, and its most important constituent, caffeine, has been linked - by its proponents - to improved motor control and increased alertness.

This week and next, the *S-files* bring you the lowdown on ☿ coffee yesterday and today. Along with ☿ coffee's aromatic heritage, we speak to Imperial's resident guru, Professor Michael Spiro of Chemistry. In part two, look out for the college-wide ☿ coffee machine review where we discover the good, the bad and the downright poisonous. Find out who's drinking what ☿ coffee, and what ☿ coffee does to you. After all, it's got to be something pretty brain-bending that makes anyone write:

"Coffee is the early morning blessing and the source of comfort, all through the day and often far into the night. No-one knows how much of our progress is due to the last ounce of mental effort generated by the thrust from coffee"

S-files

Credits • Editor: Hilary • Pic: Diana
Graphics: Vmch



Professor Spiro, what makes ☿ coffee the way it is?

"☿ Coffee has over 800 aroma constituents. There are two different kinds of beans: arabica beans, which are nicer, and robusta, which contain more caffeine. The cheaper instant ☿ coffees tend to use robusta, and people think that the ☿ coffee isn't as nice because it's instant rather than because they used different beans.

"It's also addictive – one piece of evidence comes from people who wake up after operations with a bad headache. A lot of the problem has been traced to caffeine addiction. Since they had to stop drinking coffee before the operation, they got withdrawal symptoms."

Is ☿ coffee bad for you?

"I'm not a medical man, but I'm sure that if it were really bad, millions of people would be dropping dead. When you think of all the things we eat – almost raw meat to lettuce leaves – I think the body can cope quite well."

When ☿ coffee houses arrived in Britain, a group of women produced a petition saying that ☿ coffee made men sterile. Do you believe things like this?

"You have to take a lot of reports with a grain of salt. Of course there are problems with drinking too much coffee: iron can form complexes with the substances in ☿ coffee and so you should avoid drinking ☿ coffee for at least three hours after a meal. I once knew a student who became anaemic after drinking ☿ coffee for breakfast and lunch every day."

What does your research involve?

"I'm involved in physical chemistry food research, and in particular, the proportion of caffeine which makes its way from the ground beans into the ☿ coffee. We grind up ☿ coffee beans and separate the sizes before testing them. Size of grounds makes a big difference, also the roast of the beans and the temperature of the water. Essentially we're doing pure research, but we have received requests for reprints from Neslé."

What ☿ coffee do you drink?

"I drink Nescafé at home, and my wife drinks Maxwell House. At the weekends we drink Kenyan ground ☿ coffee, made from Arabica beans."

Professor Spiro's guide to making good ☿ coffee

Use a blend of Arabica beans.
Pour on water that's just off the boil.
Make sure you don't let too many of the aroma constituents escape. Use a jug with a lid and not too much empty air space.



In next week's *S-files*:

"Look here, steward, if this is coffee, I want tea; but if this is tea, then I wish for coffee" (Punch 1902)

Exclusive *S-files* report on coffee machines in college: what are we being fed?

Frater Fiam writes



unaware of those battling to pass through those hordes and pass a quietly colour-bound journey through the metropolis. Whilst these types are blinded by their dreams of consecrating their obsessive desire in the highest and yet most base manner, your good Frater does not indulge in such frivolity; it would be unfaithful for I to do so.

Thus must I remain amidst the cloying fumes of rain dripped darkness, stalking the streets ablacked and of unknown purposes. Yea, the daemons must be invoked on this night of nights, and it is that necessity that leads your Frater to his streetwise battles. Is there any easy way through

It seems that the twilight streets are a-crowded with flower porting minions. As such types strategise their sleazy unions for one night only, they remain blatantly

these crowds? Such an answer is provided by the skills of invisibility, and a practical method for this was first proposed by the scissorwise William 'Tell' Burroughs. It was he that claimed an ability to walk the streets of Tangiers without being accosted by a single sordid hawk. His technique was the embodiment of simplicity; to see others before they see you. Such techniques are worthy of practice, resulting in unusual efficiency. Your Frater has proposed a method of 'interventionist invisibility'. In such a method, although others are unaware of one's presence, they will still clear a way for one. This provides a rapid mode of transit thro' even the most crowded of

paves. Molly, the mirror shaded samurai, was a master at this skill.

And in this manner, unseen as the night itself and yet able to rule the destinies of others for a subtle moment at least, your Frater advances his contemplation unhindered by the lives and loves of those that intrude. Such solitude provides a tranquil ability to ponder both the grand and the inconsequential with equal fervour. A simple pondrance which he encountered recently was the synchronous correspondence between a pair of otherwise unrelated words, and he would leave you with these. One question remains however; is this connection causal, or is it merely casual?

Honourable Insults

Reader, your devilish friend has gone to extraordinary lengths of machiavellism, duplicity in the extreme, to acquire a copy of the top secret "MP's guide to politically correct abuse". Oh yes! Never again will you be flummoxed by the scorn relentlessly hurled in the Westminster playpen. So here it is -

the ABC of politically expedient insults:

Anabiosis - 'Revival after apparent death'. A habitual peculiarity exhibited by President Heseltine.

Berk - An abbreviation for the cockney rhyming slang, Berkshire Hunt.

Cad - 'Personage of lowly stock harbouring lofty pretensions'.

Perhaps this might describe certain members of HM's opposition.

Emphoteric - 'To act both ways'. Akin to the Tory policy on Europe.

Fabulist - 'Euphemism for liar'. An essential prerequisite for aspiring demagogues.

Glabrous - 'A surface devoid of hair'. A barb frequently directed at follicularly challenged politicians, notably of both sexes.

Harridan - 'Haggard old woman'. A derivative of the French word haridelle meaning a worn out horse. Now which shadow health minister could that be I wonder?

Jactation - 'Bragging'. Reminiscent of Labour, pre general election 1992.

Lickspittle - 'Sycophant'. Distinctly peculiar to the Tory back-bencher.

Milksop - 'An effeminate person'. Aka a 'Eunuch', someone devoid of political genitalia.

Nescience - 'Ignorance'. Arguably, something MPs often excrete with a superlative ease.

Otiose - 'Functionless'. Often used to describe nepotistic QUANGOs.

Pudendum - 'of the genitals'. The sophisticate's label for a Berk.

Quaquaversal - 'Pointing or facing in every direction'. Synonymous with Liberal Democracy.

Rodomontade - 'Arrogant ranting'. A side effect of political passion, often seen in the party activist during conference time.

Slubberbegullion - 'A dirty wretched slob'. Need we say more?

Tergiversate - 'To desert a cause'. Equivocation is a trait seldom seen in politics. Oh no.

Ultracrepidarian - 'Presumptuousness'. Something Lucifer's chum might be accused of.

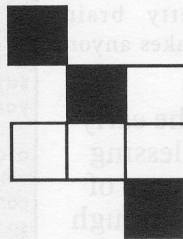
Virago - 'A woman of masculine spirit'. An iron lady no less.

Alas, the perceptive amongst you will note that these satanic verses are not quite complete. This I am afraid was due to the terribly offensive nature of said remaining insults. However, as a parting thought, I leave you with a famous quote from a failed Congressional candidate: "This is democracy. The people have spoken - the bastards."

Advocatus

PUZZLES

PLEASE!



This week Catfish has finally used the last of his nine lives and has been forced to take a catnap. The poor little piscine-pussy has burnt out after producing 15 brain-teasers, and now humbly asks for help. Could you ascend from puzzle sufferer to puzzle punisher? You don't have to produce anything regular, just send a crossword, elimination or other fiendish contrivance via internal mail to

Puzzles Editor, FELIX Office, Beit Quad

Our Puzzles stars, Catfish and Nyami Nyami will greedily, grateful to receive them. Thanks!

Solution to last week's Crossword:

Across: 2. Passengers, 7. Pate, 8. One, 9. Tomb, 11. Toy, 13. Grass, 15. Sight, 16. Lie low, 18. Notice, 20. God, 21. Koi, 22. Crater, 23. Tendon, 24. Rigid, 26. Novel, 27. Sty, 29. Toil, 32. Age, 33. Sail, 34. Alienators.
Down: 1. Spot, 2. Per, 3. Steam, 4. Get, 5. Sob, 6. Temptation, 10. Maize, 12. Yield, 14. Sorter, 16. Loggerhead, 17. Over, 18. Nation, 19. Come, 21. Kudos, 22. Cairo, 25. Overt, 28. Yale, 29. Tea, 30. Lie, 31. Ass.

Life on the Rocks

Mike Price

talks to
David Cohen

A Londoner born and bred, Mike Price has twice graduated from Imperial: first in 1981 with a BSc degree in Physics and later an MSc in Theoretical Physics. In 1986 he set up Alcor (UK) with people he met whilst studying at IC. A self-confessed "ordinary bloke", he has a humble request: he wants to live forever.

Imperial College is – or should be – known for its collection of odd-ball, obsessive alumni. So I was not entirely surprised when I drew the lot to interview Mike Price, an "ordinary bloke" who wants to live forever.

Although Mike left Imperial eight years ago, after receiving his MSc in Theoretical Physics, he has frequently returned to visit. This occasion conveniently coincided with one of the IEEE society's lectures, entitled *Neural Starships*. We met after the lecture (which turned out to be a disappointingly technical story) and headed for the SCR's comforts, away from the hubbub of College life – he prefers somewhere unobtrusive and quiet. Mike tells me he is very interested in things to do with modern technology and the future. Neural networks especially excite him as they are directly relevant to his rather irregular hobby: cryonics.

Cryonics is the science of freezing the body (or parts of it) after death, so that it can be revived in the future and regenerated into its former glorious self. Mike believes that technology will eventually be available to revive and reconstruct humans from their frozen matter and, although he hadn't heard of the eminent AI believers such as Marvin Minsky, is a firm believer in the philosophy of strong artificial intelligence. This theory says that humans are machines running very complex programs, which, theoretically speaking, could be switched on and off at will – if only we knew how...

In 1981 Mike got his BSc in Physics from Imperial and, not being able to think of anything better to do, found a job in the computing industry. He started off as a systems programmer for a French multinational, and later became a freelance software engineer, returning to Imperial in the late eighties as an MSc student to study Theoretical Physics.

His intense fascination with cryonics and immortality, however, began way before Imperial, as a result of his childhood obsession with science fiction. The fantasy gained in momentum and took shape when he came to College in 1978 to start his degree. Here he met a number of like-minded souls through a small ad in *FELIX*. Later students and other professionals joined the group from around the country. They were to become the core founders of Alcor (UK), a subsidiary of the American organisation, established in 1986, whose sole purpose is to arrange and

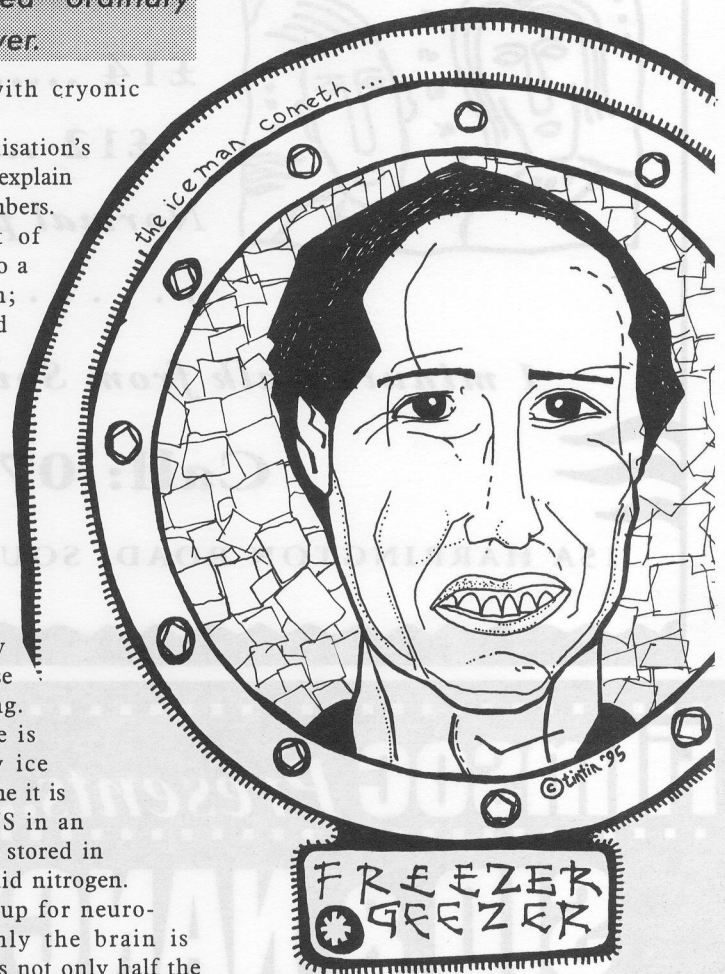
provide its members with cryonic preservation services.

As one of the organisation's directors, Mike is eager to explain what is offered to its members. For a one-off payment of £80,000 you are entitled to a full-body preservation; once you are certified clinically dead Alcor will take charge of the proceedings. The process is as follows: first anticoagulants are injected into the blood, while the heart beat and respiration are kept going. Next the body is packed in ice and the blood is replaced by cryoprotectants to decrease the damage from freezing. The body's temperature is reduced to -77°C – dry ice temperature (by which time it is solid) and sent to the US in an orange freezer box, to be stored in Arizona at -179°C in liquid nitrogen. Mike himself is signed up for neuro-preservation (where only the brain is preserved). This option is not only half the price but, according to him, is also safer, since the box is smaller and thus easier to evacuate from the stores in case of an emergency.

Being a scientist by training I wondered if research was progressing in the field? Apparently, although some Japanese research in the 1980s detected signs of life in mice which had been frozen for seven years, cryonics is currently not an active research area. However, Mike is not disheartened. He is confident that its development is inevitable.

His obsession with the future seems to be his motivation in life. He sees a Utopia where people won't have to work and social structures will be entirely changed. He isn't concerned about the difficulties of adaptation, and sees them as part of the decision to sign. I ask whether he would miss his family and friends, if and when he is revived, should they choose not to be frozen. He frowns, "sure I'll miss them, yes. But ultimately my life is of greater concern." Price is not married, nor does he have any plans to be.

When I suggest that ethical or moral issues are involved he chuckles and dismisses



the question.

"There are no such issues once you have chosen". Mike may not be religious (in case you hadn't already guessed) but he is a firm believer in an emerging faith: technology.

My final question must have been run past him a thousand times. "Why have you signed up?" I ask. He laughs. "When people come to me with inquiries I can tell that those who ask 'why are you doing it?' will not sign up."

"For me," he says, "it's axiomatic." **F**

For the cold-hearted the contact address is:

Mike Price
Alcor UK
18 Potts Marsh Industrial Estate,
Eastborne Road
Westham
East Sussex
BN24 5NH
Tel: (0181) 845 0203

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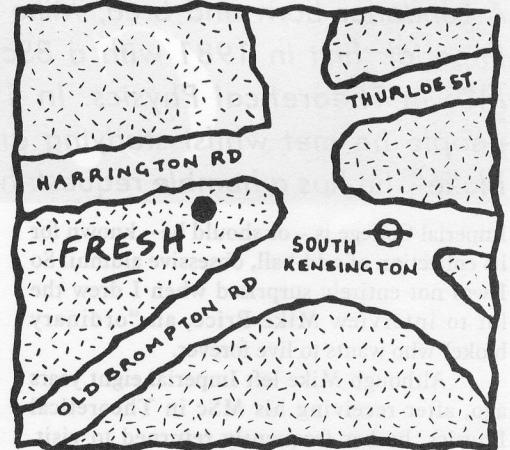


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FilmsOC Presents...

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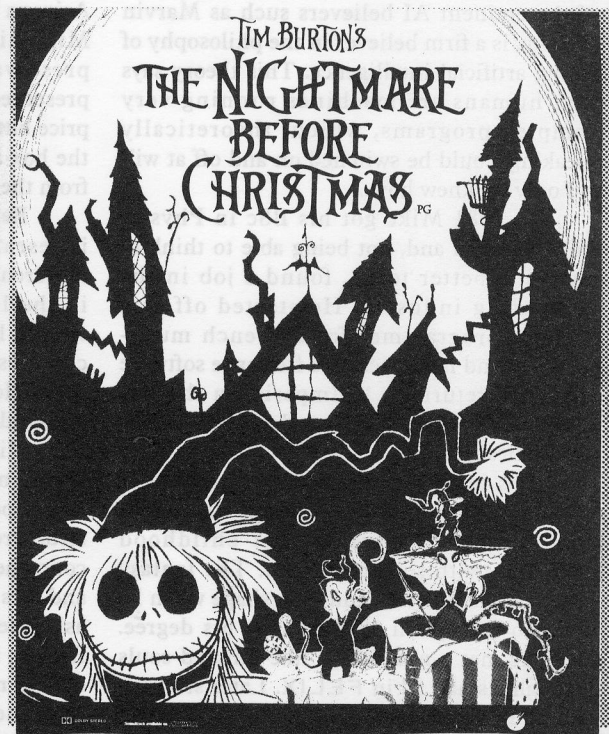
SLEEP WITH ME

Sunday 19th at 8pm

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Sunday 26th at 8pm



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Tony Grew on the recoil from Natural Born Killers...

Here's a good post-Valentines idea: why not take your loved one to see Natural Born Killers? It is, after all, the story of two people so in love they want to do everything together. Both abused as children, Mickey and Mallory Knox represent all that is pleasing about the human spirit, overcoming early trauma to form a loving and respectful relationship. The fact that they take revenge on the world that has not been good to them through a murderous spree that leaves scores dead is a side issue, but with the hype that surrounds Oliver Stone's latest effort you may be forgiven for not knowing that Mickey and Mallory have their good sides too.

When we started to put this article together there was a suggestion that we should try to sound out various people about the issues of violence and representation that NBK has once again raised. But everybody was strangely reticent. I am sure you are all aware that four months ago the normally spineless British Board of Film Classification plucked up the courage to announce that they would not be granting the film a certificate in this country; too violent, they squeaked. Unfortunately for them their almost unprecedented actions did not have the film world shaking in its boots: the London Film Festival announced that they would still show NBK, it sold out in less than half an hour, and there were even rumours that the National Film Theatre were planning to show it, with or without the BBFC's permission. As well as this, there were the usual accusations of censorship, and a cynic might suggest, intense pressure from Warner Bros - aware no doubt of the amount of free publicity their movie was getting and anxious to cash in. So the BBFC gave in. But when FELIX phoned them last week they refused to comment on the whole incident, or indeed on their policies about violence, which confusingly bleats Pulp Fiction good but Natural Born Killers bad, with little justification. Gracious in their trouncing of the censors, Warner Bros also had little to say except that they are "very happy" with the decision and hope to "make as much money as this fine movie deserves".

Personally, I have never understood what all the fuss was about. Having seen NBK both in the US and on pirate video in London, it seemed



Oliver Stone makes Tarantino look like a kid with a cheap video camera...

no more or less violent than a dozen other movies I could mention. It is shocking and at times uncomfortable, but in terms of the message and the sheer artistic merit of the film Oliver Stone makes Tarantino look like a kid with a cheap video camera. For Natural Born Killers marks the apex of an already remarkable career. All of the techniques, visionary design and photography that have made Stone one of America's most respected film makers reach their finest achievement here. It is, without doubt, the masterpiece of one of cinema's most under-rated talents. This is quite some achievement for a man who has already made movies such as JFK, The Doors, Platoon and Born On The Fourth Of July, all of them burned into the consciousness of their viewers.

What Stone does best, and what he undoubtedly does here, is to take a step back from the issues that are fundamental to the American way of life, the fibre of their society. In the past he has dealt with Vietnam, both in the field and returning home as a veteran no-one wants to cheer: America's greed and the primacy of the market: the death of a President and the cover-up. But at their heart Stone's movies are about people, real people dissatisfied with the American system, used by it or victims of it. The reality of the story he presents, of Ron Kovic coming to terms with his disabling war wounds, of Jim Morrison sliding into an early grave, or of the patriotic Jim Garrison slowly uncovering a conspiracy within

his government to assassinate President Kennedy, is often painful to watch. But it is real, and the attacks on NBK show a basic ignorance of what Oliver Stone is trying to achieve an inability to come to terms with his message. It could be argued that Natural Born Killers is not a movie about serial killers but about the media. For Stone is not attempting to satirise the murders that Mickey and Mallory commit, but rather the way

in which the American tabloid TV shows trivialise the violence they are obsessed by. The movie is not an exploration of the murderers, but rather of their media image, and once again Stone

Stone's movies are about real people dissatisfied with the American system: used by it or victims of it

perfectly mimics modern America and its contradictions.

Crime is a major issue of 'concern' in the States. Yet the public are titillated by it

and their TV responds. One only has to look at the OJ Simpson trial, televised daily and in full on CNN, to know that Stone is not exaggerating. In a period of three months in the US last year there were 45 docu-dramas, as they are called, about murders, all with very high ratings. The whole tone of Oliver Stone's movie, which we in Britain may find slightly uncomfortable, is painfully representative of the approach of American TV to the topic of serial killing.

The criticism that NBK will cause violence, that it is dangerous, is preposterous. As Stone said:

"During a performance of Schindler's List in a movie theatre in California a man got up and shot the person in front of him through the head, but I don't see anyone calling for it to be banned. If someone is capable of that sort of violence then anything could trigger him. The movies don't make people into killers."

I recommend that you see Natural Born Killers, if only to find out whether you end the movie as I did, feeling sorry for the American public. They have been told crime is evil, yet they are taught to be obsessed with it, in love with it. And they wonder, with mass-murderers the best known people in the country, why they have such a crime rate. Makes you think. **F**

13 Million Reasons Not to Buy a Car

by Lisa Rajan

Currently, about 36 in every 100 people own a car. In the US, it's roughly 70 cars for every 100 people. Over here, that figure is considered to be saturation point.

THE NUMBER OF CARS OWNED IN THIS country is increasing every year. The Department of Transport forecasts that in 30 years' time, there will be another 13 million cars on Britain's roads. This massive increase will create more problems than you might think. The first pictures that spring to mind are smog, fumes and bumper-to-bumper traffic jams. But the problems will go much deeper than that. For a start, where are we going to park all these cars? Considering that the average car spends only 5% of its time being driven, parking spaces quickly become rather important. If you were to park all 13 million of these cars end to end, they would form a queue 49,000 miles long. This is the equivalent of a new London to Edinburgh motorway 130 lanes wide. Just to park them. When you start driving them, things become really problematic.

Since these 13 million people have bought a car, one can assume that they are going to drive them—and drive them as often as possible to get their money's worth. The initial outlay for a car nowadays is huge: there's the cost of the car itself, the tax on the cost, the road tax, insurance and maintenance. These fixed costs are very high. They comprise three-quarters of the total expense of owning a car, the rest being the petrol cost. The Royal Commission notes that 'the high ratio of fixed to running costs may be perceived as a reason to make maximum use of the car'.

Many of the journeys made are not those that would originally have been made on public transport either. The extra journeys are ones that would not have been made at all, e.g. late at night or to distant destinations.

The new cars are not being used at the expense of public transport. Many environmentalists think that the solution is to get people out of their cars and back onto public transport. But the reality is they were never on it in the first place. Owning a car makes possible all sorts of new journeys.

With more cars, we will need more roads. Following the admission by the Department of Transport that building more roads creates more

traffic, the Government has frozen all spending on road building. This was partly due to the attitudes of the general public in the form of protests and environmental concerns. So we can't have more roads to drive our 13 million cars on for the time being.

But what if that policy is reversed? More of the country will be paved for roads and parking, and more of the countryside will be quarried for the necessary building materials. And the more roads there are, the more people will use them, so the problem of congestion won't be reduced, it will simply occur elsewhere.

Currently, about 36 in every 100 people own a car. In the US, it's about 70 cars for every 100 people. Over here, that figure is considered to be saturation

point: when everyone who can drive a car, owns a car. This is fine if you are fit enough and old enough to drive, and can afford one. This leaves 20 million people without cars, who have to rely on the goodwill of those who have one, or what's left of public transport. In an increasingly car-dominated society, the amount of money invested into improving public transport is minimal, allowing its demise into a third-rate service.

Anthony Crosland, the Secretary of State for the Environment in 1976, said, 'Car ownership should increase, for personal mobility is what people want, and those who already have it should not try to pull the ladder up behind them'. In 1990, the Government says that it 'welcomes the continuing widening of car ownership as an important aspect of personal freedom and choice'. People without a car have no freedom and no choice. In the future, as more and more people own cars, the land use patterns will respond to their needs. For instance, shops and businesses often relocate to out-of-town sites which can be reached by car and have space for parking. As the number of cars grows, so does the incentive to own one.

When buying a house, car owners put a high priority on the importance of parking space.

Suburban housing estates are built with this in mind. Older inner-city buildings cannot accommodate mass car ownership, and so the more wealthy, who can afford cars, live out of town. Prosperity moves to the suburbs. This leaves those who are less well-off in inner cities. The resulting problems, such as pollution, urban decay and crime, give the wealthy no incentive to live in the city, starting another downward spiral.

The Government's statement about increased personal choice and freedom is based on the theory that increased mobility allows people to meet others with similar interests that don't live in their locality. Neighbourhoods used to consist of a disparate group of people who had nothing in common other than the fact that they shared the same street. The car allowed them to meet up with people from different areas with similar interests. With car ownership the way it is today, this has led to many people not even knowing their neighbours, let alone taking part in their local community. Street life retreats and communities are weakened. Society at a local level becomes more anonymous.

Before the situation got this bad, people knew everyone in their town, however dissimilar their lives. If a crime was committed, the local bobby knew where to start looking, as it had to be someone local. Now that anyone can drive anywhere in the country, many crimes don't have a hope of being solved, and so the problem escalates. As our world become more anonymous, the productivity of criminals increases.

The car growth rate in the UK is astounding enough. But in developing countries, the rate is four times higher. At present, they have a lot fewer cars – the whole of China has 1.4 million, which is half as many as there are in London alone. China currently has one car for every 1000 people. The total number of cars in China, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh is still less than a quarter of the number in Britain. But the car population of China is doubling every four years. China and other developing countries use us as an example, and aspire to what we now have. They see the productivity of their motor industries as a measure of economic strength.

The US now widely admits that the staggering levels of car ownership and use are causing huge environmental damage. The city of Los Angeles acknowledges that the transport system was a contributing factor in the recent riots.

The price paid by the environment is escalating. Western governments are relying on science and technology to produce cleaner, more efficient engines and catalytic converters. They are looking to pie-in-the-sky technologies of the future to cope with the environmental consequences of growing car dependence.

With the Western World unable to slow the out-of-control demand for more cars; and the aspirations of the Third World to compete economically, the global environment threat is catastrophic.

So what can be done to reverse the trend? How can we stop the potential damage? The obvious solution would be to slow down production, and stop Third World countries from taking the same path we did. But that's neither fair nor realistic. We can't suddenly stop using our cars and go back to public transport, because it would compromise our standard of living and freedom. Clearly, things cannot go on as they are; but, at the same time, any change must be economically and socially viable.

John Adams of University College, London, has suggested a scheme for cities such as London. It's called the 'Street Fleece', and would meet most of the transport needs of people with access to public transport and little parking. It's ideal for people who buy cars mainly for shopping or the odd spontaneous trip to an out of the way place.

The plan is as follows. A residential street or area would collectively use a fleet of cars hired to them by a car hire firm. The fleet would contain many different kinds of vehicle, with reserved on-street parking. Residents can use any of the vehicles (remember, most cars are parked for 95% of their time) and have a 'smart card' which charts their mileage. The fleet is maintained by some of the residents, creating local job opportunities. Since the fleet is communal, ride-sharing opportunities could be co-ordinated by managers.

People participating in the scheme would benefit from special rates on public transport and local taxi firms, encouraging their use on journeys where it is not necessary to go by car. The scheme could also involve co-ordinated home and doorstep deliveries of groceries and goods in re-usable containers (as milk bottles are already), helping the environment in a different way.

If there was a reduction in parking spaces for non-fleet cars, and more street space devoted to pedestrians and cyclists, more people would be encouraged to participate in the scheme.

It's a beautiful idea in theory, but would it work in practice? It doesn't address the strong psychological attachment that people develop towards their cars. Owning a car represents personal freedom. This representation is not very accurate, however, as in reality the roads are congested and there is nowhere to park.

In a town in Germany, a new suburban housing estate has been built. In order to buy property on this estate you must sign a contract promising that you will not own a car. The estate has its own fleet of cars and the residents qualify for reductions on public transport. A scheme exactly like the one outlined above is in place and appears to be working.

Perhaps we should be pressurising our governments to follow the German example. This scheme seems like the only realistic option at present if we are to successfully cut down the number of cars on our roads.

It would also set an inspiring example to developing countries, who wouldn't have to back-track in order to implement a scheme like this. ■

Owning a car represents personal freedom. This representation is not very accurate, however, as in reality the roads are congested and there is nowhere to park.

Xtra Curricular Stress-out

Could you be under stress?

Keys: Pillow, Aromatherapy, Exams



Chaos: Is this the mind-mess that could end your happy days?

What is stress?

It is practically impossible to live a life without any stress in a world where stress thrives. A certain amount is good for us, since without it we would not have any motivation to do anything. We would just want to lie down and enjoy being alive. Stress consists of the various pressures in our everyday existence.

In our pursuit of needs, such as food, security, comfort, love, friendship and success we encounter various stresses. Frustration of our basic needs gives us stress. The death of people close to us, moving to a new place to live, relationship difficulties, exam pressure and unemployment are high risk factors. The times when we are most in danger of stress is when we have several different stressful aspects in our life at one time. It will be a struggle to cope with everything at once, e.g. exam pressures and relationship problems at the same time.

The trouble is that often we do not realise that we are under stress and just try to carry on surviving as usual. We might find that we are doing more of the things which we feel help us to relax, such as eating chocolate, smoking, drinking alcohol or coffee. We might even find that we worry a lot and do not feel able to cope with the littlest of things.

The pressures of being a student?

There are many stresses which students face. Student life, for most people, involves being away from home for the first time which can be traumatic, especially if it involves adjusting to a new culture and system. Managing everyday responsibilities, such as living on a

low income, dealing with the landlord or landlady, boring lectures, know-it-all colleagues, travel, bad weather and making decisions can be stressful. Student life offers many opportunities for experimentation which can create anxieties. Additionally, students are expected to do a lot of work and may leave it to the last minute which can result in the crisis of having to stay up all night working to meet deadlines. All in all, it is likely that if you are a student you are under stress.

The effects of stress

Health experts have identified the effect of stress in illnesses such as cancer, heart trouble and blood pressure problems. Stress can lead to physical symptoms such as headaches and stomach pains. In many cases, it leads to feelings of sadness, fatigue and insomnia which in the extreme can amount to depression.

Stress can cause people to make mistakes and to develop addictions in the search for comfort and relaxation. Smoking, taking drugs and alcohol abuse are often related to stress.

What can you do?

Before you rush for a cigarette or drink, try the following:

1 Recognise stress symptoms e.g. feelings of not being able to cope. Acceptance of stress is important. If you admit to yourself that you are stressed, it will help as you can then look at ways of dealing with it. Remember, if you

get stuck or don't know what to do, speak to someone ('a problem shared...').

2 Relaxation may help. There are a number of ways of relaxing. Techniques, include creative visualisation, The Alexander Technique, meditation and aromatherapy. There are also herbal medicines which can help you to relax, although it is worth trying to find out about any possible side-effects first.

3 Talking to friends can help but sometimes professional counselling is required. See the list of useful organisations. There is nothing to be ashamed about having counselling.

4 If you get stressed because there are too many demands on you, learn to prioritise. If you are taking exams you may need to plan your time so that you can get all the important things done first (and this does not mean that you cannot have any time for enjoyment). Consider what needs to be done first, organise your work to meet deadlines. Speak to your department if you need help with your work.

5 Laugh at things, as laughter produces a good biochemical reaction and so does smiling. Crying is also a good way of releasing tension and stress.

6 Shout (but not in a crowded lecture room).

7 Hit your pillow.

8 Sport is good as it releases frustration and in addition is good for general well being.

9 Listen to music. Certain types of music is relaxing. Dancing can also release tensions that have built up.

10 Be assertive, tell people what you think (but be careful!). Don't let things build up. If someone or something is making you unhappy, challenge it head on.

11 A healthy diet can help.

12 Write down how you feel. Emphasise your good points and recognise your weak points. Once you have acknowledged the factor(s) which cause you stress, look at different ways of dealing with it. Different things work for different people.

J. Cummins, Assistant Adviser with the help of Minever Kavlak, Union Adviser.

Useful Organisations

Health Centre	x49375
Don Adlington (Student Counsellor) ..	x49430
Union Adviser	x48067
Nightline	0171 436 5561
The Samaritans	0171 734 2800
Gamblers Anonymous	0181 741 4181
Overeaters Anonymous	0171 498 5505
Smokers Quitline	0171 487 3000
Narcotics Anonymous	0171 498 9005
Alcohol Abuse	0171 352 3001

Rag

Other Events This Term

Keys: Elections, Sense, Rag Tour

Firstly, well done to all those who collected for the Dirty Dozen event. Overall you raised about £450, the top team being from Beit Hall and the top collector, Chae Martyn. *Scope* have apologised for any confusion concerning the party and prizes. Unfortunately our Rag did not win the free beer, but the top collectors will get prizes and all those that took part will get a T-shirt from *Scope*.

The City collection for today has been postponed until March so the competition for the Inter-rail tickets won't be held until then. However, we have decided to run the competition as a raffle, rather than give the prize to the person who collects the most. Each participant will be given a ticket for collecting plus one extra for each £5-£10 they collect.

We have now booked the minibuses for Rag Tour so it is most definitely going ahead. The details of when we are leaving, the exact route and the time we are coming back will be given out at our meeting so if you have signed up then you should come to today's meeting at 1.10pm in the Union Lounge. If this is impossible then please see one of the committee in the Rag Office as soon as possible.

Other events going on include a collection at QPR vs. Blackburn for the *Save the Children* fund tomorrow so sign up at our meeting if you want to watch some live football for free. Also on Wednesday we have some station collections for SENSE. These are always good events for increasing your Rag total, maybe gaining your mug or T-Shirt and are an alternative to sport on a Wednesday afternoon.

Have you taken part in Rag events this year? Would you like to have a say in how a society is run? If so then maybe a post on the Rag Committee is for you. We will be electing next year's executive committee (Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) before the end of term so if you would like to stand come along to our meetings and talk to this year's committee to find out what is involved. Otherwise just come along to vote.

Finally, watch this space for any revelations about goings on on Rag Tour, and also details of the many events coming up in

Muslim

Achieving an Appetite?

Keys: Fast, Ramadhan, Taqwa

By the time you read this, over a thousand million Muslims world-wide will have completed eighteen days of fasting, from dawn to

dusk each day. Every year, the lunar month of Ramadhan is observed by the Muslim communities in every corner of the globe and although others may know of it, few have any real ideas as to what it involves. The Muslims' fast entails complete abstention from food and drink. Some ideas are circulated along the lines of fasting being a yearly bout of self-denial. In fact, fasting as ordained in the Qur'an, has more outcomes than mere hunger and thirst.

"O you who believe! fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may attain Taqwa." [Translation of the Meaning of the Qur'an, 2:183]

Ramadhan is a month of training – both individual and collective. So what does it train the Muslims for? As described in the Qur'an, the first aim is to attain "Taqwa", and "Taqwa" translates as "God-consciousness." In practice, God-consciousness is responsibility and accountability in actions. Thus attaining Taqwa is vital for individual and collective development.

More precisely, an individual reaps a number of benefits of which discipline and self-control is top of the list. Being able to resist the tempting aromas of food and drink throughout the day is no mean feat! To observe the fast till sunset requires patience and perseverance. So: we get a little hungry and thirsty; our tummies rumble. Where's the gain in that? In fact, rumbling tummies serve as an excellent reminder to the fasting persons of the Ever-Present God, i.e. God-consciousness is attained. Such are the spiritual proceeds of fasting.

What of the physical proceeds? Recent research has confirmed that fasting promotes active cleansing of the body. Many potentially toxic substances that accumulate within the various organs of the body are degraded and removed from the system. As with any system, thorough cleaning of the working parts is essential for good maintenance.

Ramadhan also sees a persistent increase in the community spirit among Muslims. The bonds of Brotherhood are further strengthened and will, hopefully, last for the rest of the year. As a result of acquiring Taqwa, Muslims adopt a more caring attitude towards those around them; consideration for other members of society grows in the hearts and minds of the fasting Muslims.

The real meaning of Ramadhan does not lie in it being a "season of good will" as Christmas has come to be, but the resulting manifestations of Taqwa in daily actions are intended to last throughout the year too. Those who are not trained to do so this year, those who forget the lessons of fasting (and my, don't we all forget so easily!) and those who need to reinforce it all again, will have a chance to fulfil these requirements through fasting during Ramadhan next year.

So, Ramadhan is a month in which daily

achievable goals are set and met while, in essence, the aims in life of global Muslims remain the same. What better way to direct the energies of the people to become law-abiding, disciplined and compassionate citizens than through God-consciousness and its rigorous practice!

Iftar (meal for breaking the fast) is provided in the Islamic Society prayer room (9 Princes Gardens, Basement) free of charge during Ramadhan; Ramadhan timetables are also available. The Islamic Society welcomes anyone who wishes to discuss Islam.



Summer Courses

Keys: Ski, Exchanges, Europe

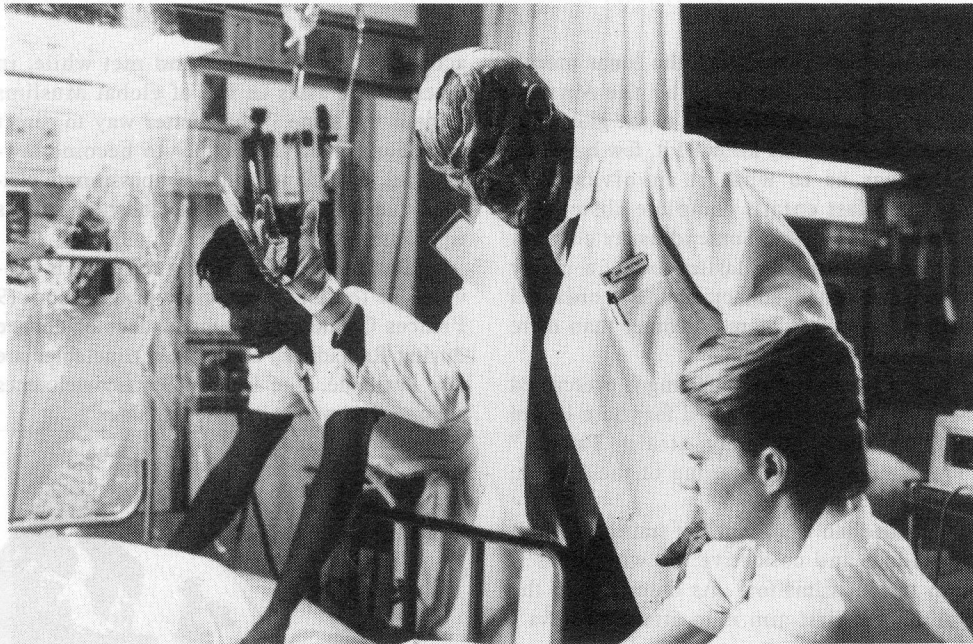
How did you hear about this? Is the most typically asked question when students discover the benefits of participating in BEST activities. These are mostly entirely free of charge for all students.

A list of the summer courses for which we have information so far is available from Bernat Albinyana Bril on ba01@ic.ac.uk. These courses are open to everybody. To apply you should get in contact with our society either by email on eybest@ic.ac.uk or by attending one of our presentations. The later is in any case compulsory if you wish to participate. Additionally you may want to browse through the BEST WWW pages on <http://www.nada.kth.se/~ovidiu/best>.

There will be presentations on the BEST summer programme and other events on Mondays, February 20th and 27th, at 1pm in Chem. Eng. LT1, and Monday 6th March at 5pm in Chem. Eng. LT1.

The Board of European Students of Technology was founded in 1989 as an answer to the rising demand for undergraduate student mobility. Its main goals are to promote Europe and provide a solid information network among its students. Today there are 30 local groups in 20 countries, however the association is growing at a rate of 15%+ a year.

Other activities include ski weeks (ca. £100) in Les Arcs and Slovakia, European Weeks in Eindhoven, Paris and Trondheim among others, cultural exchanges with any of the other member universities and basically anything you care to organise. This is an opportunity more than anything else.



Incision: Dr Freddie showing off his grey matter

Ents

Love and Little White Lies

Keys: Cupid, Regurgitate, Love

So, that's the soul-destroying week (Valentines Week) over and done with, well almost... I won't bore you with all the reasons that I didn't get any cards, I'll just swallow my pride, wipe the tears from my eyes and get on with telling you what's going on...

Friday – Bust-a-Gut Comedy

The culmination of all things lovey and dovey. A night of two halves, as it were, starting at 8pm with 'Bust-a-Gut Comedy'. This week featuring the 'Anarchic combination of quick witted banter and blazing silliness' that are Chris and George, who are more than ably supported by Julian Barrett and Phil Davey. Tickets are just £2.50, and for the first 50 through the door there's a free bottle of Newcastle Brown. Kick off is 8pm.

Then loose yourself in a dream of passion and romance with "Love" – including a special 'Love Lounge' room, and giveaways on the door. 9-2am, £1.

Monday – Live Football

Live Premiership Football. Da Vinci's, 7pm.

Tuesday – Pub Quiz

Dan the man with more questions than answers, and a £50 cash prize for the winning team. 50p per person to enter and miles better odds than the lottery! Da Vinci's, 8pm.

Wednesday – Club Spanque

Dancing and debauchery at Club Spanque. Celebrate the middle of the week, for want of a better excuse. 9-1am, free.

Thursday – Cocktail Night

Sophistication, glamour and plastic umbrellas – get together for drinks in Da Vinci's with our very special Cocktail Night. Da Vinci's,

6-11pm.

Friday – Regurgitator

Back to the Future... A night of extreme tastelessness and tacky behaviour.

To open the night, and your eyes – you will believe a man can swallow live goldfish! The triumphant return of the top act on the student cabaret circuit – Stevie Starr, The Regurgitator. Tickets are £2.50 for the show and disco, but are strictly limited. Doors open 8pm.

Then it's time to hit the boogie wonderland and dance yourself dizzy with top disco tracks of the 70's and pop classics of the 80's. So dress up in the spirit of things, raid those Oxfam shops and get funky! There'll be giveaways on the door and prizes for the funkier threads, so leave your pretensions and hang ups at home and get ready to party. 9-2am, £1.

Film Soc

Forthcoming Attractions

Keys: Nightmare, Sleep, Nancy

With Valentines day slipping past once more, here's a chance to see another side of romance, in *Sid and Nancy*. The story of Sid Vicious (Gary Oldman) and his American groupie girlfriend Nancy Spungen. Oldman is excellent in this cult film directed by Alex Cox (the guy who annoys everybody by delaying the start of Moviedrome). Black comedy and compassion mix beautifully with the well-loved soundtrack by The Pogues. 8pm this Saturday.

Following the Valentines theme we bring you *'Sleep With Me'* on Sunday at 8pm, with a title that says it all. Besides the starring roles of Eric Stoltz and Meg Tilly, Quentin Tarantino appears with a legendary yet controversial spiel about Top Gun. Turning our

attention away from Comedy we enter the ICU Cinema *Nightmare* phase. Wes Craven offers up his *New Nightmare* on Wednesday at 8pm. The series returns to the top form of the first Freddy film, the only other Elm Street that Craven directed.

The final film of the week, on Sunday 26th February, is one of the highlights of the term, Tim Burton's *'Nightmare Before Christmas'*. His black, fantastic world is introduced with his very first short film, *'Vincent'*. Dazzling animation and alternative plot lead to most enjoyable romp.

S&G Club

Trips This Term

Keys: Chimney, Flood, Ice, Mud

While "Mountaineering" clubs hide indoors during the winter, S+G the Outdoor Club has been visiting Wales and the Lake District; areas famed for their low rainfall figures.

A minibus-ful (including a few renegades from the Mountaineering Club) visited Tremadoc in South Snowdonia at the beginning of term. Some headed into the hills in search of ice climbing while others went walking. The most sensible stayed at the hut and tried to unblock the chimney. Unfortunately, chimneys do not seem to be made for people to hang on. A thud on the roof and muffled cursing told those inside the hut that a piece of chimney had fallen off (along with the Mountaineer hanging onto it). We tied it back together with string and hoped no-one would notice.

The fire, however, worked perfectly after that and helped to dry off those who had gone in search of ice. The following day gave everyone a chance to go rock climbing on the crags behind the hut. It didn't even rain much.

The Lake District weekend saw plenty of hillwalking and dramatic views across the hills and lakes. A few determined nutters tried climbing but gave up when their fingers went numb. As if in revenge for breaking the last hut, we found that this one had been recently flooded. The living room had 1/2 inch of mud on the floor but a bit of shovelling meant the place was soon habitable. Fortunately the bedroom was upstairs and the river low enough for us to be able to cross to the pub.

Coming up is another trip to the Lake District and one to Yorkshire. The Annual Dinner in Derbyshire starts off the summer term and the end of exams (for most) is celebrated by the Cornwall trip in June. (Thoughts of surfing, climbing, canoeing, cream teas and barbecues on the beach are distinctly unhelpful on a January weekend in Wales). The year culminates in the 3-week

alpine trip to Gran Paradiso in Italy.

If you enjoy walking, climbing, mountaineering or mountain biking, or want to learn, then you're welcome on these trips. The aim is for everyone on a trip to be able to do what they want whether it be easy and straightforward or utterly nutty (if you like that sort of thing).

You can find out more at our meetings in Southside upper lounge (1-2p.m. Tuesdays) or see the noticeboard on the stairs in the Union.

Challenge

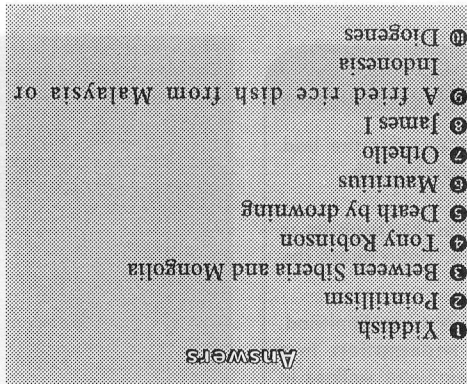
Your Starter for Ten!

Keys: Paxman, Baldrick, Iago

Fancy pitting your wits against Jeremy Paxman? Well, then the good news is that Imperial College is to field at least one team in this year's series of University Challenge. The bad news is that we are working to a tight deadline as our application(s) have to be in by 24th February. The team(s) will consist of four members plus a reserve. All members of the team must be full-time students. Because the series will not be transmitted until autumn/winter 1995, contestants should expect to remain full-time students in the next academic year (1995-6). We are looking for a balanced of team members in terms of male and female members and would prefer at least half of team members to be undergraduates. We are looking for individuals with good general knowledge, particularly of the Arts and Humanities. If you interested in taking part please come to the Link Lecture Theatre on the Fourth Floor of the Biochemistry Department at 6.00pm on Tuesday 21st February. (Please check whether you are up to it first by trying the quiz below!). If you cannot attend this meeting, but would still like to take part, please contact Mark Pallen, Room 502, Department of Biochemistry (email: m.pallen@ic.ac.uk) before the 21st February.

Is it worth your while? See if you are up to it by trying to answer the following questions:

- 1 In what language did the novelist Isaac Bashevis Singer write?
- 2 What style of painting is associated with the artist Georges Seurat?
- 3 Where is Tuva?
- 4 Who played Baldrick in Black Adder?
- 5 What do the following people have in common: Shelley, Brian Jones, Mary Jo Kopechne?
- 6 Where did the dodo live?
- 7 In which Shakespeare play does Iago appear?
- 8 Which British monarch wrote an anti-smoking tract?
- 9 What is Nasi Goreng?
- 10 Who was the original cynic?



Your score: 7-10 Come to the meeting - we need you! 5-6 Still worth a go! 4-5 With a lot of swotting you may be suitable. <4 Don't waste your time!

Euro Youth

Events For This Term

Keys: Hellenic, Umbrella, BEST

Hello to all of you pro- or anti-Europeans out there! EuroYouth/BEST is more active than ever this spring term, and here's a bit of information on what has been going on so far and what will follow.

First of all the organisation of a BEST Summer Course in Distributed Computing is going well and we need more people who would like to get involved in the process and give a hand to the responsible subcommittee. Please contact Emil Lupu (Computing PG, ecl1@doc) for more information.

The series of group discussions on European issues, "Speaker's Corner" started off this term two weeks ago, the first two themes being "the European Parliament" and the "European Commission". This coming Thursday we'll be discussing "the Economics of the Union". The "Speaker's Corner" is scheduled for every Thursday at 1pm, ChemEng Rm 252 (Seminar Rm 1) and everyone is welcome to attend and contribute to the discussion.

In March we will be holding two meetings to present the BEST Summer Program 1995 to the student body. One of the main projects of the Board of European Students of Technology each year. Technical summer courses are held under the BEST umbrella in almost all of the leading Universities across Europe.

On Thursday, March the 9th we are organising a mini-conference with the Hellenic Society. The theme is "Can there be a common European foreign policy in view of the Yugoslav conflict?". Dr S Economides of the International Affairs Dept of the LSE will give a lecture on the subject, followed by question and open debate time. We also plan to have a lecture on "Work Prospects within the EU Institutions" and show a film in cooperation with the Italian Society. In the pre-last week of term we will have our elections

and a dinner out, and afterwards the IC delegation to the Oxford University Seminar "Europe in 2020" will merrily hop to Oxford! So watch this space for further information on our activities nearer the time.

EuroYouth can be contacted at eybest@ic.ac.uk, and if you wish to be on our mailing list mail our General Secretary, Loizos Pallaris (CompSci/Maths UG2, lp1@doc).

Indian

It's Time to Reminisce

Keys: Party, Jungle, Mobile

Now that everyone has recovered from the weekend trip to Amsterdam, the Indian Society has been busy organising the party of the year "Reminisce". Details for this major event have now been finalised and doors open at the Gass Club (Whitcomb Street, just off Leicester Square) on Monday 27th February at 10pm, with the festivities not ending before 3am.

Everyone is welcome to a night of soul, swing and hiphop as well as jungle and bhangra for those who are feeling more energetic. Tickets are currently selling fast at over twenty different colleges and intercollegiate halls across London, so an electric atmosphere is guaranteed. There is also a special offer running from Trans Globe Communication who are offering free Motorola mobile phones to the first 25 people through the doors after 11pm.

Tickets are still only £3 and are available from any of the Indian Society Committee (generally to be found in the JCR at lunchtimes!) or by ringing either of the hotlines; 0956 837548 or 0956 558120. Don't you dare miss it!

IGSF

2001: A Space Odyssey

Keys: Apes, Humans, HAL

Yes, that favourite old perennial again! Apes evolve, humans find something on the Moon, a computer kills some astronauts and one human evolves into something else. Confusing? It helps to have read the book, which you could do if you bothered to use our great library - but very few of you do. Shame.

One question. Would an IC DoC student have made a better job of programming HAL? Who knows? Who cares! See you all there!

For more information please see <http://wouw.ph.ic.ac.uk/moonlg/> or mail icsf@ic.ac.uk.

THE MENU



In an unusually pictorial **rotation**, Jo Kentish pans the bad, cherishes the good and gives the ugly a good nose job.



The shaky bargain of Dr Faustus' and Mephistophilis is reblooded in **the deed** at the grace theatre. *Tintin* heard the incarnation.



As yet another Stephen King novelette makes it into filmhood, *Tintin* got put away with **the shawshank redemption**. In a canine version of companionship Tony Grew went walkies in **far from home: the adventures of yellow dog**. Woof, woof.



The world keeps on turning but when the sun sets *Fiona* heads under cover, club cover to be precise. This week she looks out for **alovelick** and **brown sugar**. Not sour.



After the success of their album, *tintin* caught up with the **throwing muses** live at the shepherds bush empire. Back on the decks of home, *Alok* checks out **carter's worry bomb** whilst *helen-louise* takes on the **flamingoes' plastic jewels**.



rotation: splashing

This week we welcome the pleasure of FELIX'S newest rotating dj - Jo Kentish of Bio 1. So in best 'we are the champions' style: "away you go"

moist - silver

It's powerful, grungy and all in all a good single, although I wouldn't buy it myself. But hey, that's just me!

alphabet soup - take a ride

This song is pretty dull and monotonous, but I guess I'm not a big rap fan. Some mysterious sound effects in the background are all it's got going for it.

slinky - shoot me down

The first few bars sound promising ... but then they start to sing - are they male or female?



apache indian and tim dog - make way for the indian

Although it has a good beat, it's certainly not one of their best. But buy it for track two, 'Right Time', which is catchy with a great rhythm.

pj harvey - down by the water

Three minutes of listening to this depressing song is enough for anyone. And what's that annoying fuzzy sound in the background all the way through?

go-go's -

the whole world lost its head Don't be put off by the cover (or the band's name!). This is pretty lively, has a catchy tune and a good beat.

syndicate - cinemascope

With a funky rhythm and a good tune you can't go far wrong. A great song.

voice of buddha -

can you hear the voice of ... This brilliant single has four mixes of this housey song, all quite different, all dead funky and all great to dance to. Crank it up!

joy rider - seven sisters

This single is a tad frantic and it gets annoying on the third time of listening to it. I wouldn't recommend it.



diabolism in situ

As the director of **the deed** makes clear in the programme, there is little fear for modern man in Christopher Marlowe's original 'Dr Faustus'. The Sixteenth Century's terror of Hell and everlasting damnation can't be sustained in our secular age. Instead the source of fear has shifted from the destination of our souls to the manner of our death. The demons that haunt us now are flesh and bone and wield knives. This is the rationale which has been applied to 'Dr Faustus' in order to produce 'the Deed'. Yet the tale is not so obvious as to be a straight transfer of roles from spiritual to temporal realms. It's far more interesting than that.

The play opens with an actor practising his lines in an empty theatre; he is playing the part of Dr Faustus. Such is his dedication to the part, he stays too long and so meets the caretaker who is preparing to lock up the building for the night. A common regard for Marlowe's play results in a solo performance which hangs over the edge of normality and falls into the occult. Or does it? The relationship between the two men and the roles that seem to envelope them is never formalised, which gives the play much of its ambience and chill.

In the original text, Dr Faustus, overburdened with pride in his skill as physician and theologian, turns to the dark arts of sorcery. Through these he summons up Mephistophilis, servant of Lucifer. Together they strike a bargain, sealed with blood, that Mephistophilis will be Faustus' willing servant for all his earthly life, and in return Faustus signs away his soul.

Although 'the Deed' does not follow this line exactly, the fundamental force of the bargain remains. Slipping in between reality and the words of Marlowe's play, 'the Deed' weaves together a confusing but ultimately scary storyline in a dramatic fashion.

Whilst both the actors carry the play with conviction, Jonathon Palmer (Mephistophilis) is excellent. He switches between tragic and terrifying moods with easy bursts of malice, stealing all the best tunes. It's not surprising that he won the Drama Studio London's best actor award a couple of years ago.

Part metaphysical discussion, part post-modern discourse, 'the Deed' is an intelligent and thought provoking play. Tuesdays is pay what you c... so be careful what you offer.



worthy

For all the gaping faults of the Hollywood system there's one thing it tends to do well – feelgood by number films. It's a category that fits **the shawshank redemption** like a granny knitted mitten.

The cliques are present right from the start onwards. Andy Dufresne (*Tim Robbins*) is wrongly convicted of killing his wife and her lover and sent to Shawshank prison to serve two life terms. Inside he meets Red (*Morgan Freeman*) and there the plot remains for ninety minutes of the film's two hours. We get to learn (once again) about the quirks of prison life – how fixers can get whatever you want, how screws are sadists who beat people up, how the warden is a power crazed maniac who says "there'll be no blasphemy in my prison", whilst taking oily back-handers ... It's nothing new and if the plot was the only focus of our gaze, most of Shawshank would be boring.

However it's only supposed to be a backdrop to the "unlikely friendship" that strikes up between the two inmates. It certainly is unlikely. Red is one of the few coloured men inside (surely a statistical mistake even in the 1950s) whilst Andy is a banker who likes collecting rocks. In fact the only reason the film works is because both Robbins and Freeman are good enough to carry the concept. The audience can just believe in them and let pass all the homilies about prison being some sort of benign holiday camp, despite its percentage of murderers.

The director's uncertainty in trying to depict a realistic prison environment is perhaps best seen with its depiction of the inmate's sexual activity. Under the cosh of political correctness these lines grace the screen: "I guess it wouldn't do any good to tell them I'm not homosexual" says Andy. "They're not homosexual" says Red, "you have to be human for that" – pass the sick bag or was that an Oscar?

As his sentence slowly passes, you can tell by the nominal flecks of grey in Andy's hair, the underlying thrust of the film becomes clear. Red is the pragmatist who lives day to day, whilst slowly becoming institutionalised whilst Andy, the educated and innocent liberal always retains his hope in humanity, his innocence and the



american way.

As should be clear, the *Shawshank Redemption* is a worthy film, which perhaps for that reason sits rather uncomfortably within the modern cynical world of cinema. It's not a bad film and I suppose that many will enjoy its slow grace but to paraphrase a modern philosopher, 'it's like a milky way – light and you can eat it between meals without ruining your appetite'.

In far from home: **the adventures of yellow dog**, we see a world that only exists in the minds of Twentieth Century Fox executives. It is a dreamy, Wonder Years place, where fourteen year old boys aren't interested in Nintendos, drugs and oral sex, but rather get kicks out of owning a dog and going off for slightly

dangerous boat rides with their dads. Our dad, incidentally, is that guy who plays the father in the TV show *Harry and the Hendersons*, and mom is *Mimi Rogers*, first wife of Tom Cruise and twice winner of most wooden actress in a sub-Meryl Streep role.

Set in Canada, presumably in the present (though if it wasn't for a couple of helicopters it could have been anytime after about 1950) our hero, Angus McCormick is a happy and healthy 14 year old boy, who loves his family very much. Unlike 57% of 14 year olds, he has never indulged in oral sex, though he does get to kiss a girl towards the final half of the film, but that is after his dog is missing, presumed dead. For the dog, a stray labrador he creatively names *Yellow*, is the love of young Angus' life.

At its heart, this is a survival story, and there are some acceptably engaging moments, though one can't get over the feeling that was enthusiastically pitched to the studio as 'Alive meets *Lassie*'. The kid is just as cute and American and vomitous as one would expect, but at least we are ready for that. What one cannot prepare oneself for is how long they manage to make an eighty minute film seem ... I felt like I had been stuck in the wilderness for 18 days by the end of it all. Only when he had to start eating insects and cute little bunny rabbits was my interest engaged, but alas even that became tedious. What more is there to say except that the movie was spoiled by the number of screaming incontinent kids in the audience. ☹



aces in holes

So did you find your true love on Tuesday? If you did and want to celebrate, or if you failed miserably and are still looking, the local style and beauty will be in Fulham on Saturday for **alovelick**. Another production from the capable minds of IQ, expectations of excellence are rife. Having sampled their quality before, this is one of those evenings you can turn up at secure in the fact that the dressed up crowd will be relaxed, the door policy friendly and the music among the best. Picking an unusual spot, in my opinion they've scored highly ... from the general decor to the aquarium under the bar, *Bonjour Vietnam* simply oozes style. The Venus room will be swinging with HipHop, funk and ragga licks, while the Cupid room drops passionate garage and soulful house. This is a one-off special you'd be mad to miss.

A new night has come to bring relief to funk-

lovers around the capital. If, like me, you're fed up of the flyers saying 'Funk' that when you get there translates into 'Swingandhiphop' get yourself to **Brown Sugar** as fast as possible and rejoice in the smoothest groove to move you into Mondays that has ever been. This is set to become my local, and the hours in between will seem hard. The jazzy notes are amplified and added to by the resident saxophonist, while the talent on the bongos sets the tempo for the dancing. Food is available 'til 10pm (£5 for a main) and shortly afterwards the vibe moves up and the party begins. The first night attracted some of the cream of the area's stylish crowd – and you can be certain that they'll all be going back. On the whole it looks like the quality is moving West....

alovelick @ *Bonjour Vietnam*, 593-595 Fulham Road, will be doing it from 10 until 6 for £7.

brown sugar is at the *Canal Brasserie*, 222 Kensal Road, W10. For just £2, buy unrefined enjoyment from 7 'til 12. ☹

the hurl of inspiration

They enter to a backing tape of the track 'University' – a child's voice warbling around the ether, perhaps in wonder, perhaps just because he's alive. "All done, all done" he ends, then his mother becomes visible on the stage and as the tape stops the **throwing muses** start.

It's an explosion of sound. David Narcizo's drums crash out so hard that Berend Georges' bass and Kristin Hersh's guitar are almost left looking for the space to play in. 'Teller' and 'Bright Yellow Gun' are quickly dealt with and it becomes obvious that this is not going to be a night for delicate things. But it's not so much the noise or volume that is surprising, rather it's both these linked to the speed of delivery. Kristin skewers through the lyrics, compacting them together and spitting them out. Live, the Muses are a glittering sharp edge.

Then strangely for a band whose current album is easily their bestseller, they head into back canon country. The crowd get a bit confused; you can tell because they start clapping during the pause in 'Counting Backwards'. When the band finally get to finish it, applause in the right place, Kristin just says "thank you very much" before muttering something about 'playing some current ones'. And so they go on to devastate 'Start', 'Hazing' and 'Shimmer' before falling back in time to albums past.

And you just realise how far they've come as a band. Greatness isn't just now, it's then and taking your audience with you to now, which is exactly what the Throwing Muses have done. Every song they played belonged to them and you just instinctively knew it. They didn't play any songs from Kristin's solo album either.

By the time we get to 'Hook in her Head' Kristin has worked everyone into a state where the quieter tracks from 'University', for all their beauty, are not going to be played. "Making babies in the field" she screams and it's something primeval and intense. Just as the lyrics are screed down jagged paths so the drums and bass become mantric in aspect. They play one new song, unnamed, but it turns like serpent swallowing the still breathing form of rock 'n' roll and regurgitating something new. It heralds the start of the Muses' escape into psychobilly territory. During the time of their 'Hunkpapa' album and before, people thought the Muses were an art house, shoutabout band but

tonight it all makes sense. As Kristin growls like an banshee from on high so the crowd only want more. We've not heard most of this before but we're true believers now.

They brings us down slowly. 'Two steps' – the gorgeous end of the 'Real Ramona' album shivers whatever remains of our fears before Kristin says "that's all, good night, god bless" and walks off. It's only ten thirty and we're broken for all the right reasons.

I'm no **carter usm** fan, in fact I haven't ever really got into them, so I approached their latest album *worry bomb* with slight hesitation and didn't really expect much.

I started listening and was pleasantly surprised at the first song, 'Cheap'n'Cheesy'. It's one of those sad, depressive type songs that everyone seems to enjoy, with nothing but a piano ringing out a note or two while the lyrics go on about being lost.

There are a lot of different styles here. Typically distorted guitar sounds of alternative pop interlink with some brilliant lyrics, especially in 'The Life and Soul Of The Party' – "...the funeral director geezer comes not to bury Caesar..." This is one of the best songs of the album, along with the calm melodies of 'Ceasefire' and 'Going Straight' and the almost grungy 'Senile Delinquent'.

Overall this album is recommended for anyone who has even a slight interest in Carter. And even if you don't, get it anyway – you may just become interested. (7)

This is one cd which can be judged by its cover. The **flamingoes'** new album, *plastic jewels*, has a daft photo of a kid in a superman suit on the outside, three pictures of short-haired 'moody' blokes on the inside. "I bet this sounds like Blur", I said, and I was right. The twelve songs which comprise 'plastic jewels' are all melodic pop jaunts in the far too trendy style of Blur, Supergrass and Radiohead. Some of the lyrics are fairly depressing but it's the sort of album you can put on as background music without anyone objecting.

To be honest, the songs aren't anything special because there are just so many bands around who sound like this, but if you can't wait for the next Blur album, this would probably keep you sane. The Flamingoes have a lot of potential – let's see if they can develop their own style for the next album (6). ③



STOIC Schedule week ending 17/2/95

What's the big idea then? Keith finally admits his true feelings to Darleen, but is it too late to save bouncer?

At the Flicks All the latest film news and reviews

STOIC Shorts Weird. Very weird.

Elections '95 Continual coverage of the run-up to the 1995 iCU sabbatical elections

THIS WEEK ON STOIC:

THE STOIC DAY

12.00 WTBIT
12.30 At the Flicks
12.50 Elections '95

THE STOIC NIGHT

18.00 Hamet (Part I)
(Part II Next Week)

At other times of the day, STOIC will show the One O'clock News, Neighbours, Star Trek: TNG Mtv etc... and will show 'The Muppet Show' to the JCR at lunchtimes if paid well enough.

All times subject to alteration without notice. Do not boil wash. Consult physician if symptoms persist. Contents are sold by weight not volume. This does not affect your statutory rights.

Any ideas? 3rd floor of the Union Building and left, or you can contact us at any time, on (0171 59)4 8104 or email stoic@ic.ac.uk or via

<http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/Pubboard/stoic/stoic.html>

Coming Soon On STOIC:

Stalker
(A short film by James Casey)

STOIC is The Student Television Of Imperial College

ICU ENTS....

THIS WEEK

MON.

Live **BIG** screen soccer
DaVinci's. 7pm

TUES.

BAR TRIVIA, £50 to be won.
DaVinci's. 8pm

WEDS.

Club Spanque
9pm - 1am. **FREE**

THURS.

COCKTAIL NIGHT.

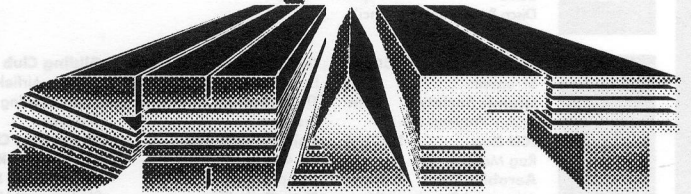
DAVINCI'S. 8pm.

FRI.

Stevie Starr. 8pm £2.50

SHAFT - 70's & 80's night.

9 - 1am. £1.



70'S DISCO AND 80'S POP

FRI. FEB. 24TH

9-2AM. 1AM BAR

DRESS TO LOOK THE PART

£1

*He Swallows Everyday Objects...
and Brings Them Back!!*

The Regurgitator

Stevie Starr

Fri 24th Feb
£2.50/£1.50 8pm

and **SHAFT** 70's & 80's night
ONLY £1. 9 - 2am.



**Bar 'til
1am**

Rugby

IC Virgins vs UCL

After a disappointing match against Oxford Brookes, the Virgins fired themselves up properly to well and truly show off some great form. The match had a lot of promising forward play, except for the idiot of the match who decided that a hand off was an excuse for a punch. The backs had a great game too. The first try was scored within two minutes of the start, by **Cathy**. The second came just before the end of the first half and this time **Beryl** was the one coveted in Glory. In the Second half, UCL pulled up their socks a bit (and with some "help" from the referee) and scored their one and only try, which was quickly followed by **Cathy's** second try. The final score was thus 15 - 5, with back of the match being little **Cath**, and forward of the match, **Jane Topliss**. Very well played all, let's keep this going!!

PS. **Katie**, the object of the game is not necessarily to tackle the referee!!

Squash

Mike Holloway Memorial Trophy

Imperial College hosted the Mike Holloway Memorial Trophy last Saturday 11th February. This knockout competition is for teams of 3 people, playing the best of 3 games with a plate competition being run for all first round losers. We entered 2 teams into the tournament; the first team successfully won the event and returned the trophy for a second consecutive year, whilst the second team finished runners up in the plate competition.

Although not as well supported as in previous years, the level of competition was high with all the finalists suffering 3 matches over 5 hours.

We would like to thank the tournament organisers and the sport centre for arranging and holding the event and look forward to defending our title next year.



Thanks go to the Judo club for providing the background pictures this week!

Football

IC Vth vs UMDS III

IC Vth bounced back from 3 close defeats with a well earned win at UMDS on Saturday.


All the pressure was applied by IC in the first half and many opportunities were squandered. But in the second half IC finally broke through and **Steve Lamb** scored a superb header off a corner by **Morgan Hill**. Ten minutes later **Steve Lamb** scored again with a blistering volley from another **Morgan Hill** corner. **Mark Ferguson** sealed the match with a powerful individual goal, 10 minutes from time.

Overall a sterling performance by IC Vth, on the road back to promotion.

Hockey

IC Ladies 2nd vs UCH 

A hard fought match. We held off strong opposition until the dying moments. An unfortunate own goal by **Miss Pick 'n' Mix** boosted their moral and they managed to score again. Our defence, hit by injuries performed well. The forward line were unlucky not to get any goal shots in.

IC Men vs UEA 

A slamming no-nonsense team talk before the match set the heroes up for a monumental win with the immense support offered by the club.

With the team fired up from the start, we stood a chance of a win. Surely enough the goal came by **P.D. File** at about the ten minute mark. We kept the pressure with **Curtains** and **Butlins** all running in all the right places, doing the stuff. Storming play by **Blinky**, **Virgin**, and everyone in fact, kept us in the game and ending in an emotionally relieving final whistle. The 3rd round of B.U.S.A. is coming up, the furthest any IC hockey team has got, cheers from **George Michael**.

Sport	IC Team	Score	Opposition
Hockey	Ladies 1 st	5 - 0	Goldsmiths
Hockey	Men	1 - 0	UEA
Football	Men 5 th	3 - 0	UMDS 3 rd
Rugby	Ladies	15 - 5	UCL
Hockey	Ladies 2 nd	0 - 2	UCH

Judo

Students from Imperial College representing London University competed last weekend in the B.U.S.A. universities Judo championships held in St. Helens.

Students from throughout London make up the judo squad but this year there were an exceptionally high number of IC students taking part.

In the men's under 78kg event **James Cameron** (Aeronautics UG) and **Mrvoje (Harry) Jasak** (Mech Eng PhD) had to fight for a place in the final, **James Cameron** winning in a close fought contest. **Mrvoje Jasak** went on to win a bronze medal and **James Cameron** losing in the final to take silver.

Other IC students competing in the individual competition were **Mark Grundy** (men's under 60kg), **Christophe Carrere** and **Peter Evans** (men's under 65kg), **Barnaby Taylor** (men's under 71kg) and **Steffen Fredersdorf** (men's under 78kg)

Students from UCL, RHBNC, Birckbeck and institute of education were also represented in the London squad.

On the Sunday the team event

contests were fought. The London five man team consisted solely of IC students (**Christophe Carrere**, **Steffen Fredersdorf**, **Mrvoje Jasak**, **James Cameron** and **Barnaby Taylor**). After a narrow defeat to Sheffield, the eventual gold medalists, the London team fought back beating Cambridge University for the bronze medal.

The London Women's team unfortunately lost despite some spirited fighting.

In the 10 man area event the London combined forces with Cambridge to form the London and South east team which won the silver medal losing to Scotland in the final. IC students in the ten man team were **Mrvoje Jasak**, **Steffen Fredersdorf** and **Peter Evans**.

The result from this weekend was the best London has experienced for a few years and the most IC dominated for a long time, maintaining a long tradition of martial arts at the college.

On the basis of the results in the under 78kg event **James Cameron** and **Mrvoje Jasak** are now possible reserves for the British team in the world student games to be held in Japan later this year.

A poem from the Hockey Ladies...

IC Ladies 1st vs Goldsmiths 1st

*There's a Ladies hockey team from I.C.
who after 10 mins were winning by three,
When the game stopped,
five had they got,
no thanks to the referee.*

*There was a goalkeeper called Su
Who always knew what to do,
When Cheryl came into the D,
Su said, "She's for me!",
My God that Cheryl she flew!*