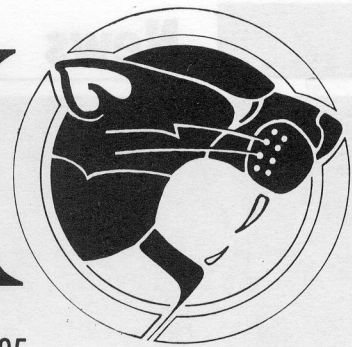


FELIX



The Student Newspaper of Imperial College

No1033 21JUN95

Albertopolis Falls at the First Hurdle

BY RACHEL WALTERS

The 'Albertopolis' proposal to rejuvenate South Kensington has been rejected by the Department of National Heritage's Millennium Fund. The ambitious application for National Lottery funding was not among the 83 selected projects announced last Thursday.

The rejection is part of an ongoing procedure to determine which projects will gain a share of the Commission's £1.6 billion budget. The Albertopolis proposal would have created a huge pedestrian precinct and underground shopping mall beneath Exhibition Road, connecting prominent local museums with Imperial College. But as Mike Elrich of the Millennium Commission explained to *FELIX*, the planners: "were unable to show us that it was the best use of the Millennium money, from both a financial and technical point of view".

The Commission based its choices on a stringent set of criteria. Successful applicants produced proposals that were environmentally sound, of exceptional architectural quality and likely to receive public backing. Providing a lasting monument to mark the millennium was another high priority. "Projects have to show us that they cut the mustard," Mr Elrich said.

He emphasised that ideal proposals were ones that would be of genuine benefit to the community. "They've got to mean something to people," he insisted. Many of the bids which



have been short-listed are based around urban re-development and recreation plans.

Further sets of proposals to earn a slice of the National Lottery winnings will be considered next September. Those whose plans have been unsuccessful are advised to go away and rethink their schemes.

Mr Elrich suggested that the huge cost of the Albertopolis proposal may have proved its downfall. The scheme required a sum of £100 million, but the Millennium Commission has only £350 million to distribute in this round of awards. "They need to scale it down a bit, and make it more people orientated," he advised.

Cash Crisis

BY ANDREW SMITH

A member of Imperial College Union (ICU) staff has departed under a cloud of suspicion, after an estimated £7,000 has been found missing from the Union coffers. The affair has only just been brought into the open, following legal worries that undue publicity might hinder the expected criminal trial.

The staff member is alleged to have started claiming small amounts of extra overtime during the previous academic year. It was only in more recent

times that the part-time worker appears to have undertaken large scale deception.

There is some confusion as to who should take responsibility for allowing the apparent subterfuge to continue for up to nine months, however. While overtime sheets for Union employees are authorised by the Union Manager, Mandy Hurford, wages are actually paid out by College's Pay Office.

The ICU employee was contracted to work twenty five hours a week, but is alleged to

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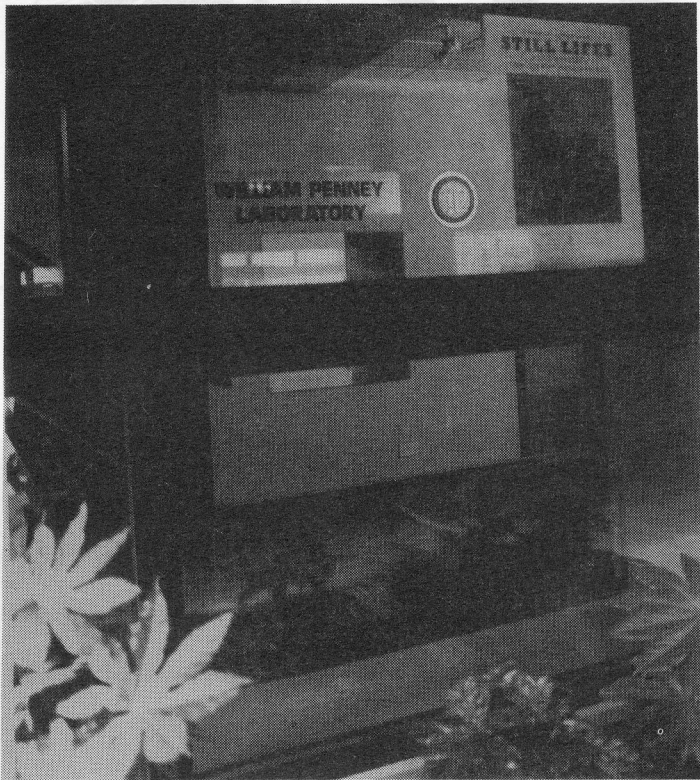


Photo: Diana Harrison

Imperial College Security have now admitted that the newly installed passive infra-red (PIR) detectors in the Department of Computing failed during a raid on the William Penney Lab two weeks ago, writes Rachel Walters. They had earlier claimed that the system functioned perfectly when two youths broke into the research area in the early hours of June 2nd (FELIX 1032). It now appears that although the break-in was unsuccessful, it was only prevented due to the vigilance of a nearby security guard. Security gave chase, and two suspects were subsequently arrested.

Keith Reynolds, Head of Security, explained: "fortuitously one of our guys happened to be on the Chem Eng walkway system and heard the glass go, so he radioed and we were there probably nearly as damn quick as if the PIR had gone anyway."

Previously, Terry Briley, Deputy Head of Security, had told FELIX that the successful handling of the incident was due to the PIR detectors. He had said that he was encouraged that the new security measures were proving to be effective.

Medical Miasma

BY ANDREW SMITH

The much vaunted new Basic Medical Science (BMS) building, planned to be completed by April 1998, faces further delays in the approval of the £40million public sector contribution to its funding. It had been hoped that full approval would have been gained by Easter, especially given two senior cabinet ministers' public support for the project.

Monday 19 June saw a high level Treasury delegation of senior civil servants travelling to Imperial College for discussions with Dr Rodney Eastwood,

College's Deputy Managing Director. His team hopes to dissuade the Treasury, who must approve all Department of Health (DoH) capital grants, from pursuing their desire to test the BMS under a 'Private Finance Initiative'. This scheme attempts to save public sector money for essential projects.

On the question of whether a public announcement can be expected in the near future, Dr Eastwood asserted that he was "very hopeful that it will be forthcoming very shortly" but he commented wryly: "it's always imminent".

(*'Cash Crisis' continues*)

have regularly forged claims for up to thirty nine hours extra overtime. With ICU paying for the wages of the employee's whole section as one bill, the excess would not have been immediately detected.

It was when the overtime sheets were checked, just before Easter, the discrepancies were uncovered. FELIX understands that the employee originally used photocopies of authentic time sheets. After college brought in enhanced security measures the employee seems to have obtained stamps from the drawer of the

Deputy President Clubs & Societies, Ian Parish.

Expressing dismay at the events, Lucy Chothia, ICU President, stressed that they could not be repeated. "We've had a full review of the Union pay structure and measures have been implemented to ensure that this will not happen again," she insisted.

The employee, almost universally liked throughout the Union, was initially suspended but subsequently resigned pending an expected prosecution on charges of false accounting.

News in Brief

Well done Mark!

Imperial College Union (ICU) staff have been full of praise for Mark Horne, this year's new Ent's Manager, after the sell-out success of last Friday's end of term carnival. ICU looks likely to make up to £1500 from the night's festivities: "Of course, it will all be ploughed right back in to provide even better student services," Mark stressed.

The transformation of the concert hall into a Whirl-y-Gig 'experience' proved a particularly big hit, and helped the Union to pack in 1250 punters, the maximum legal capacity of the building. The only sour note came as the clock approached 3am. Smoke detectors set the fire alarms off and the revellers had to

be evacuated from the building ten minutes before closing time.

Well done Bob!

Imperial biologist Robert May has been appointed as the Government's new Chief Scientific Adviser. Professor May, 59, is a Royal Society research professor who divides his time between the zoology department of Oxford and our own institute of pure and applied biology at Silwood Park.

The government position, which includes heading up the Office of Science and Technology, will see Professor May reporting directly to the Minister for Science. He will also be charged with coordinating the activities of all the other chief scientists in each of the relevant government departments.

Mr May's current interests

include theoretical immunology and biological diversity and he is keen to continue his work in those fields, as well as commuting himself to his new posting.

Well done Mary!

St Mary's Hospital Medical School is a shining example of medical research, according to the new Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals report. 'Universities and the Health of the Nation' presses for continuing investment in the staff and resources of medical schools to encourage medical care advances as a result of technical innovations.

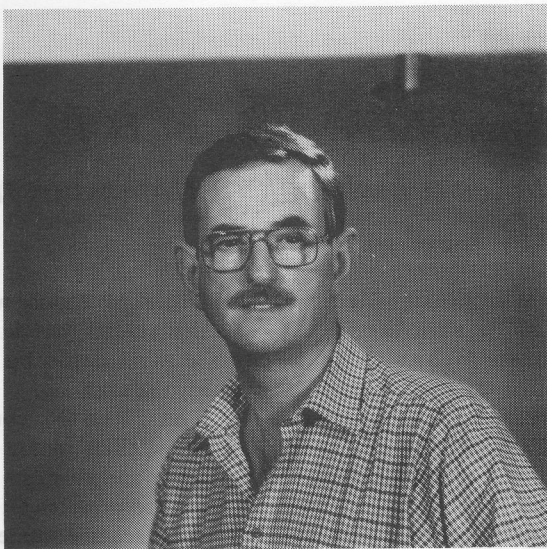
The Department of Pediatrics anti-meningitis programme and the clinical gene therapy research of Professor Bob Williamson came in for particular praise. His department produced

the first fully-reported trial for cystic fibrosis, representing a significant step in the search for a cure for the disease.

RCS enter Forbidden Land

The impending demolition of RCSII has raised a problem for Royal College of Science Union, as their hallowed office is contained within its walls. The soon to be displaced souls that are the RCS hacks will now be in the unfortunate position of spending most of their time in a City and Guilds building.

The new CCU office, and the garage of the fire engine Jez, are to be in the Department of Civil Engineering but it seems that College didn't give them much of an option. Apparently it was either take what was offered or it would be presumed that the RCS no longer required office space.



John O'Leary, the Aeronautics departmental photographer, has been awarded an MBE in recognition of his work as a policeman in the 'Specials', writes Aunindya Sinharay. John was recommended for the honour by the Area Head Office of the Special Constabulary and also by his own Peckham Divisional Station. Describing himself as "an operational officer walking the street", he told FELIX that it is almost unique for an ordinary officer to receive this type of honour especially since he has served in the force for a comparatively short time – seventeen years. Citing one of his chief tasks as 'selling the old bill', he has been heavily involved in community projects. Every summer he helps take up to 800 South London youths camping for a month in an character building initiative, as part of the Southwark Youth Project. The annual trip costs around £50,000 of which he helps to raise £10,000. He is also involved with the Christmas Care Association, working for fifteen hours every Christmas Day to provide food for over 400 elderly people. Currently holding the rank of Special Inspector, John's technician alter-ego works in the Aeronautics Department where he has been since joining in 1956 as a junior technician. Mr. Ron Adams, Aeronautics departmental superintendent, told FELIX: "He's known to me and to others for his all round willingness to help whenever he can ... it couldn't have happened to a nicer person."

Lectures Move

BY ANDREW SMITH AND
AUNINDYA SINHARAY

It has now been confirmed that, starting next term, chemists will have the majority of their lectures in the Sheffield Building. The move has been forced by preparations for the construction of the Basic Medical Science (BMS) building.

Professor Alan Swanson, Pro-Rector for Educational Quality, said the 'displaced' departments had 'all been very helpful'. The Chemistry department has been offered exclusive use of the 120-seat Pippard Lecture theatre, the larger of the Sheffield Building's two lecture theatres. Biochemists will use the Read Theatre and Huxley 140.

No extra time provision is being made for students to travel from labs and lectures to Sheffield. Professor Swanson said that the students and staff would have to become more disciplined to ensure that lectures start punctually.

Aware of the wider benefits that the BMS development will bring to Imperial College, Professor David Phillips, Head of the Chemistry Department,

seemed at ease with the required moves. He said that "it's inevitable that old buildings will have to be sacrificed." His department will be losing three lecture theatres and a large tutorial room.

Prof Phillips told FELIX that he hoped chemistry courses would not experience too much timetabling disruption. His Department has previously run the majority of lectures in the mornings, with laboratory sessions in the afternoon. Stressing the importance of laboratory work in chemistry courses, he said, "Imperial chemistry graduates are characterised by the amount of practical work they do ... it's why industry beats a path to our door."

Asked whether he was happy with next term's arrangement, he admitted: "it's the only compromise. Alan Swanson's been very accommodating." Professor Phillips believes that construction work on the BMS project will begin on schedule and that vibration-damping equipment may be required for some of the department's experimental equipment.

Liberal Agenda for IC Cash

BY ANDREW SMITH

A new draft document setting out the Liberal Democrat view of the future of further and higher education could be disastrous for Imperial College if ever implemented. Their plans centre on a more equitable sharing of the £600 million that the Higher Education Funding Council of England (HEFCE) gives to universities to spend on research.

The present system sees IC receiving relatively large amounts, since HEFCE targets 'centres of excellence'. The Liberal Democrat document says that 'centres of excellence' do not exist: a point strongly denied by Imperial College authorities. They suggest that the document addresses a problem which does

not exist, and question whether the Lib Dems have actually consulted any universities other than ex-polytechnics.

The Lib Dems propose cutting the proportion of the £600m research money that is currently given to institutions like IC. This would help spread £200 million across the whole system 'to enable all academic staff to engage in research or development work'.

This idea goes fundamentally against IC's argument that scarce research money must be concentrated. One senior college official questioned the benefit of giving money to people who are 'not any good at research and who probably never will be'.

The other main plank of the draft policy is the modularisation

of all higher education courses. Thus students could obtain qualifications – using waystage marks rather than degrees – after studying from a wide variety of subjects. Again, this is fundamentally contrary to college policy, recently outlined by the Rector. He emphasised that IC must defend the benefits of full time residential degree courses.

Whilst questioning the experience that the Liberal Democrat planners have of higher education, College authorities expressed the hope that they might invite them to college to 'show them what really happens'. In this way, they say, politicians could be convinced that funds must be focused on high quality research centres.

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Collating Last Week	Jeremy Thomson and Rachel Walters
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News Rewind

Computer thefts, campaigning, the NUS, KCLSU and the mysterious CVCP... Aunindya Sinharay, staunch newsteam member, takes a last look at the issues that excited and dismayed Imperial during the 1994/95 session.

Imperial College (IC) sauntered into another academic year with the news that Da Vinci's ceiling had sprung a leak; but despite the good humour of watching two sabbs plugging the holes with their fingers, more ominous news was awaiting the first issue of the term...

St.Mary's Medical School had sauntered into financial scandal when Cyril D'Souza, a hospital cashier and self-confessed gambler was found to have personally spent more than £600,000 of Mary's money. Mr. D'Souza was charged in February 1995 and was sentenced last month to five years imprisonment.

FRESHERS' WEEK

Any sauntering was quickly reduced to inebriated staggering as Fresher's Week went into action, though with less than amusing consequences. 'Over-enthusiastic behaviour' occurred at the New Year Carnival when about thirty of the freshers decided to share the stage with one of the Bands performing in the Union Ents lounge.

The new first years were clearly going to be more of a handful than was thought. Within days, one had provided a test of Beit Hall's Fire Alarms after smoking dope. His subsequent caution and fine only hinted at the unsalubrious activities that Beit Quad would host later in the year.

IS IT A BIRD?
IS IT A PLANE?
NO, IT'S A
SUPERLEAGUE

No sooner does IC announce its intended merger with the National Heart and Lung

Institute than it also seems to have become a member of the 'Russell Group', a clutch of elite universities whose high-ranking denizens skulked secretively in a hotel of the same name. Consisting of the likes of Oxford, Cambridge, University College London and the London School of Economics (and us, of course) the Russell Group 'broke away' to form a 'superleague' of colleges, raising fears that they were intent on claiming the best students and research contracts. But said Sir David Williams, chancellor of Cambridge University: "there is no superleague and none envisaged... we are an informal group with similar interests, set up for the protection of the research strengths of leading universities."

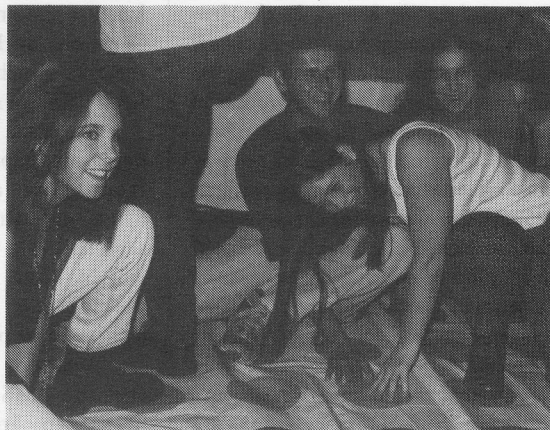
It subsequently emerged that the Russellers actually first rode out from IC itself, under the lead of Sir Eric Ash. But Imperial's current rector, Sir Ronald Oxburgh, was keen to downplay the story, saying that sensational journalism had exaggerated the whole affair. All the group aimed to do, said Sir Ronald, was to demonstrate the merits of the present system of selective funding by lobbying politicians and the like.

MERGERS, MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE

The acquisition of the National Heart & Lung Institute was only the first in host of transplants planned for the next few years. The next phase would involve St.Mary's merging with Charing

Cross & Westminster Medical School, along with the Royal Postgraduate Medical School. The results of these mergers would require the construction of a Basic Medical Sciences building, next to the Chemistry department.

The BMS project, originally costed at £72m, was then downsized to £62m. The involvement of medical students



opened the possibility of funding from the Department of Health; the medical section would be financed 100% by external sources, and HEFCE would fund 25% of the Biology section, an extra £12m coming from IC itself. In pure money terms, no hassles.

But would that be the whole story? Not only would there be an extra 1000 students on the South Kensington site, there are also the required leisure and accommodation facilities to consider as well. Part of the 'Old Chemistry' department - featuring some very old panelled lecture theatres, the RCSU office and the RCS Motor Club - is physically in the way too. The solution: Demolition. "But we will re-house them somewhere," assured the Estates Division. With HEFCE sure to refuse the construction of replacement lecture theatres, whilst other theatres in college run way under capacity, chemists being lectured in other departments seems a real

possibility. All Estates would say was that studies were in progress to see what could be done to remedy the situation.

The RCSU could be officeless, their motor club left garageless and chemists could be left lecture theatreless; to some the whole scheme seemed utterly mindless. Many were decidedly unimpressed with the project's organisation, or lack thereof. Dr. Brian Levitt of Chemistry, considering the lecture lecture problem, sarcastically muttered: "All this is a brilliant example of planning."

Still, come May, £20m was promised mysteriously from HEFCE for the BMS building: odd because they never formally declared any funding. Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for Health, announced the funding in a press release. But IC's Planning Division sought to downplay suggestions that all the money was in the pipeline, insisted it still depended on the Department of Health producing £20m. We clearly have a long way to go.

THE RUSSELL GROUP

(JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT WAS SAFE...)

And there's more (Sensationalism? Us?). The student union at LSE set up what it called the 'Aldwych Group' to protect students interests in Sir David's non-existent superleague - including union officials from IC, LSE and other (yes...) 'elite' universities. Their first meeting was held at IC on the 1st November. But, to complicate things further, a more-elite-than-elite group had emerged within the elite superleague of elites. Sir Ronald admitted that the vice-

chancellors of the Big Five do still 'occasionally' meet, and even scoffed at the idea of some sort of Ivy League being set up; just as well, as it appeared that the elite (sigh) Aldwych group were starting to voice their own concerns, asking whether such a group was "morally acceptable".

FUNDAMENTALS

Other student problems seem to fade into insignificance against a backdrop of Islamic Fundamentalism sweeping London Colleges. One group was reported to have distributed anti-homosexual and anti-semitic leaflets in and around ULU. At King's College London's Fresher's Fair another group was asked to leave when it was discovered they were religious activists of Hizb u Tahrir ('Liberation Party').

These events prompted the ULU council to pass a motion reinforcing its "stance against bigotry and prejudice from any source" and effectively prohibiting the distribution of potentially offensive literature. The national organiser of one group had told the national press that they had control of about fifty Islamic Societies nationwide and had amassed some 2000 members.

A week after the ULU ban, an incident occurred at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). The chair of the Islamic Society (and Hizb u Tahrir member) reportedly paid tribute to an Muslim suicide



bomber causing a SOAS committee to ban all speakers from the group. Another incident occurred at KCL where it appeared that members of a rather vaguely titled 'Culture Society' intended to disrupt a meeting of the Jewish Society. "The disturbing atmosphere of the meeting led to the decision to call the Police," said KCLSU.

Earlier, a member of IC's own Islamic Society had said of Hizb u Tahrir, "They are often

quoted out of context," after insisting that "they not anti-semitic or homophobic". In much the same way, perhaps, as Sir David Williams' Superleague was non-existent...

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

With IC improving its links with universities in other countries – notably Thailand – it seemed ironic that the Foreign Office could soon be turning away students from politically sensitive countries. In an attempt to halt the proliferation of dangerous military hardware overseas, especially nuclear weapons, students from ten countries could find themselves being vetted by the Government before being allowed to study in the UK.

Dr. John Hassard of Physics was critical of the scheme, believing that it was 'racist' and that the UK was effectively telling other countries that they weren't responsible enough to have nuclear weapons. But despite the scheme's appearance as an attempt to fix the stable door after the postdoc had bolted, to others the heavy-handed diplomacy seems justified. The Iraqi Nuclear Weapons Program was set up by an ex-IC researcher

in 1979, and is currently headed by a former IC student.

DOING WHAT FOR THE KIDS?

IC's infamously indecent Rag Mag provoked a storm of protest when it was published in November. Even the Rag chair Ian Robertson admitted: "Personally, I feel very offended by it."

The front cover alone was

sufficiently offensive. Depicting the Moors Murderers collecting for a children's charity, it bore the title 'Doing it for the kids' whilst the highlight inside were photographs of bizarrely mutilated genitalia. It was banned by ULU president Gemma Williams, who said that IC Rag would not be allowed to distribute it on their premises;



within a week it had been shunned by the unions of Goldsmith's, Royal Holloway and Bedford, the LSE and KCL. But the widespread cold-shouldering probably did Rag a favour. That same week the medical schools of St Guy's, St. Thomas's and St. George's were screaming out for copies.

THE STUDENT MOANS COMPANY

The beleaguered Student Loans Company (SLC), by now seasoned in the art of stumbling ineptly into the spotlight for all the wrong reasons, once again found itself in the news. A confidential DFE document was leaked to the Guardian detailing the proposed privatisation of the SLC. The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals was unrelenting in their fierce disapproval of the SLC, saying that the repayment mechanism was wrong: "If the Government had got the repayment scheme right in the first place, the banks would have taken it."

A few weeks later the SLC had a new Chief Executive. Sir Eric Ash, a former Rector of IC and a non-Executive SLC director since September 1994, was drafted in to head the troubled company. The SLC

chairman told FELIX: "His management experience will be an invaluable asset."

Soon Sir Eric, an avid proponent of e-mail at Imperial, had put the SLC on the Internet. This great bid for student equality allowed technohippies and cyberpunks to 'flame' the SLC as easily as anyone else. Just e-mail slc@cuckoo-land.incom...

THE BEIT FIGHT

A postdoc had his jacket and wallet stolen, with onlookers suspecting three males who were later confronted by a technician in

the Quad; a fight ensued in which all six union stewards attempted to subdue the protagonists, after which four of the stewards required hospital treatment. The resulting deficiency of stewards meant that staff from a private security company would be deployed in their place.

There were also allegations of an IC security officer drinking whilst on duty. Security said that two officers had been on duty that night; certain eye-witnesses claimed that only one officer was seen. Terry Briley, Deputy Head of Security, said he was shocked at the notion of security men drinking on the job.

And there was more doubt over when police had been called, and whether Security sent for them when the stewards had asked. It was also unclear why Security – though attending to the injured – had not been further involved at an earlier stage. Security felt that, as the police had been contacted as soon as the violence started, then it was the police whose actions should be scrutinised.

Police actually appeared on the scene at 3am, after the three assailants had left the fray; so if the police had been slow in their reaction, then the actions of the security guards were above criticism in this regard. Right?

But the finer details of the

brawl were getting increasingly obscured in a fog of ambiguity that had settled on the incident.

Security insisted there had been two calls made to the police, about half-an-hour apart, though Scotland Yard didn't believe that the first call reported any violence taking place; as far as they were concerned only a theft was reported and so they didn't feel an immediate response was in order.

Keith Reynolds, head of Imperial College Security, admitted that there may have been 'a bit of confusion' on 'both sides of the fence.' However, he maintained that nothing like this would occur again.

US & THE NUS

Do we, don't we, should we, shouldn't we... one of the biggest issues to be debated during the year was whether ICU should return to the National Union of Students (NUS). The NUS itself seemed willing, even eager, to welcome back London's prodigal college with open arms but many students at Imperial were less than enthusiastic.

Representatives from the NUS courted ICU to explain the benefits of re-affiliation, even offering a knockdown affiliation fee of £20,000 and an £11,000 saving on beer to coax the Kensington campus back into the fold. But that left a £9,000 shortfall - and there was also concern that the NUS would consider ICU 'a feather in their cap' and that ICU's apolitical stand would be sullied by affiliation to a National Union not renowned for its love of incumbent governments.

A motion was presented to council calling for a referendum. It was defeated, but on a technicality: it was feared that a referendum would interfere with the sabbatical elections which were also due to take place in the Spring term. Council was though, in principle, in favour of the idea

of a referendum. Which brings us around to...



THE SABBATICAL ELECTIONS

Elections, elections everywhere and lots and lots to drink - as results night would show. Within a week, gossip was spreading over who was standing for what, especially given that four members of the Elections Committee had resigned citing conflict of interests. Papers went up, and rumours began to metamorphose into fact. Down went the papers two weeks later, with only one candidate running unopposed.

A deluge of posters hit college the following week, with nine candidates chasing four posts. Candidates advertised, canvassed, campaigned, received flans at Mary's, advertised, canvassed and campaigned. Meanwhile a FELIX opinion poll showed a huge proportion of students who were 'undecided'. More advertising, canvassing and campaigning - until to spoil it all voting time arrived.

The final result seemed to have been swung by the flanning medics, provoking a storm of controversy over Mary's voting. It appeared that at the medical school, 'sample voting slips' had been found amongst the ballots, indicative, perhaps, of a certain confusion amongst the Mary's voters.

The really dramatic voting actually came a week later. At ICU council, there was a real possibility that the sabbs-elect could get a post-election kick in the ballots. It seemed clear that in view of the way things had gone at Mary's with the sample ballot papers, the constitutional

rules governing the running of elections had been broken.

A heated debate followed and a vote was taken. Fifteen members called for an electoral re-run, fourteen against. But the votes were re-counted, and one member actually changed his decision, causing a fourteen-vote all draw. Council chair John Durrell had the casting vote and manfully put everyone out of their misery.

The results were valid: Sarah White for President, Matt Crompton for Deputy President (Finance and Services), Tim Townend for Deputy President (Clubs and Societies) and Rachel Walter returned as FELIX Editor and Print Unit Manager.

Which allowed us all to get back to...

US & THE NUS (II)

With the sabbatical elections out of the way, the end of the Spring term finally saw the decision to hold a vote on NUS affiliation. Though a lot of students didn't actually support joining, it was clear that the student body felt they should be allowed to make the decision for themselves.

The Summer term saw campaigning across college once more. The anti-NUS lobby, headed by Sarah Thomas, campaigned mainly on the financial implications to ICU as well as the highly political nature of NUS activity; the pro-NUS campaign, led by Stephen Webb and James Connolly fought their corner on the benefits - financial, legal and otherwise - that the NUS could bring to the student body. From the beginning there was concern on where both sides were getting money - speculation was especially rife over how the anti-camp were being funded.

Hustings were pathetically attended and there were fears that the whole election would not be valid (quorate) through less than the required 1000 students could end up voting at all. To make matters worse, the pro-campaigners were accused of using illegal posters which carried no election dates on them, and they started inviting NUS staff to speak at hustings;

Meanwhile the anti-campaign were accused of not

actively encouraging people to vote in an attempt to render the election invalid, and so winning their campaign passively. All the same, the rule-flouting continued - overlooked as it was deemed 'silly' to invalidate an entire referendum purely because of a technicality.

More advertising, campaigning, canvassing... but the whole affair seemed in real danger of soaring to fresh heights of bumbling ineptitude. By the time voting came round, it seemed that the campaigns together with, perhaps, the issue's continual prominence in the FELIX news pages, had led to sufficient numbers turning out for the election to be quorate. Sure enough 965 voted to stay outside the NUS, 696 voted to re-enter.

Reactions were varied; "It would be a great shame if the NUS had won in the light of the campaign that was run," said Deputy President Dan Look. Sarah Thomas felt the whole election had "turned into a farce" and she was "relieved that it was all over". Oddly, 80% of the medics wanted to re-join, with one of them saying that cheaper beer prices were a good incentive.

DOC RAIDED (AND AGAIN, AND AGAIN AND...)

KCL, UCL and now ICU's Computing Department suffered numerous break-ins throughout the first half of 1995, suffering thousands of pounds worth of theft and damage. An early morning raid in February cost college £30,000, though the vigilance of postgraduate student prevented further damage. Soon another gang of professional thieves struck, apparently stealing on order. This time £8000 worth of RAM chips were taken, with electrostatic damage received by the machines threatening to massively increase the repair bill. The intruder was caught but fled before security backup could arrive.

Two further raids occurred over Easter, with one criminal being chased but escaping, and damage estimated at around £70,000 this time. The second

raid could have been equally bad were it not for another student who confronted and pursued the thieves, one of whom escaped through a ground-floor maintenance area. The other headed for the security lodge at the main door, and broke out through the double front doors and onto Queensgate.

Less than a fortnight into the summer term, the William Penney Laboratory on the Sheffield Walkway was struck, though this time the amount taken and the damage caused was small – the one computer stolen was described by Dr. Jonathan Lever as 'obsolete'.

Further problems were caused, when infra-red detectors installed to cover high-risk areas were set off by DoC's own staff. On one occasion the alarm sounded seven times in a single evening, making the Linstead Hall fire alarms seem positively tongue-tied in comparison. The Physics department was also hit in a raid which damaged eight machines. "They're making the place like Fort Knox," a security guard commented. Perhaps it's about time.

THE KING'S MEN

Chasing around London nabbing bits of metal and masonry belonging to other college's unions is taken surprisingly seriously by some. In December an RCSU mascotry team liberated 'Reggie', KCL's stone lion mascot. But though initially dismissive of the loss of the mascot, it appeared that KCLSU actually tacitly approved a revenge attack by their students on IC's Union Bar in February.

Fourteen KCL students mini-bussed their way to South Kensington, entered the Traditional Bar (where the Stone Lion had often been sighted...) and liberated several bottles of alcohol and a number of tankards. But attempting to escape, they found the exit

locked. They then attempted to kick the door down in their bid for freedom, four of them being caught in the process. The damage caused was estimated at £2000.

Ghassan Karian, KCLSU President, hastily distanced himself from the affair, calling mascotry 'toss', despite the fact he'd shown interest in it earlier in the year. He claimed that the incident was 'Imperial's fault' after the initial attack by the RCS students. He denied any involvement of KCLSU, any prior knowledge of the attack and any use of the KCLSU minibus. The possibility of pressing charges existed as the offenders had been caught on security cameras.

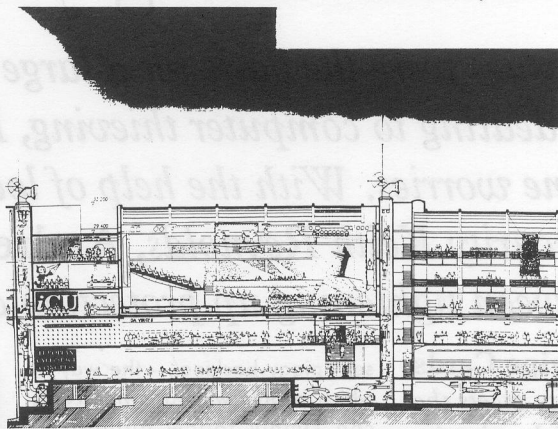
There was an added dimension – some felt that President and Labour councillor Karian was merely protecting his own interests lest his image be damaged in his campaign for the ULU presidency. But a week later he issued a full confession, saying that he'd knowingly misled ICU and FELIX. He'd known about the use of the KCLSU minibus in the attack, that the offenders had targeted IC, and he even confirmed that he'd handed over the keys himself. He apologised for the "collective decision to cover the fact that our minibus was used".

Yet he denied lying personally to FELIX about the incident, stressing the 'collective decision'. Asked whether or not the affair could affect his campaign to become ULU

president, he replied "Why should it?" Elected to the ULU Presidency in early March, he told ULU General Council that he would occasionally tell 'fibs'.

The previously media friendly Karian refused to talk to

the reporter present.



AND FINALLY...

Of course this is but an impressionistic view of the Imperial's news year – lots of broad strokes with plenty of local colour. But what lies beyond the edge of our limited canvas?

One potentially worrisome issue for ICU is the fact that come 1998 it could be relocated into the Sheffield Building. But the provisional plans provided by the Estates division were found wanting by ICU; the proposed 3rd floor Union Bar would be very small, and it seemed unlikely that the Traditional Bar could be transferred to the new premises 'panel by panel' as originally hoped. There'd also be the problem of whether ICU catering would be able to compete with that of College. According to Dan Look, a referendum on the proposed move was "not something we would rule out."


Crime proved a major problem throughout the year, starting with signs and doormats going missing from ICU in October, vending machines and car radios vanishing and arcade machines being raided in Halls. Some offenders proved less adept than others – a two-man crimewave ground to a halt after it got lost in the Electrical Engineering Department.

The Overseas Societies Committee finally managed to assemble a committee with which to begin the year, though the run-up to International Night was dogged with all manner of problems, plagued with infighting and JapanSoc boycotting the event in protest of the handling of the event by Andreas Merishin,

OSC Chair. The March event actually turned out to be a sell-out success with Merishin saying that he "didn't expect it to go so well." By the end of the term differences had been resolved.

Another fight, another venue: The Queen's Lawn played host to a brawl between staff and technicians after a dispute in the Holland Club just before Christmas. There have been several calls for more responsible consumption of alcohol this year, particularly in the wake of the Beit fights, where a security guard was attacked in January.

As if the NUS and Sabbatical elections were certainly enough, others took place around college and received varying degrees of disinterest. The C&G elections came and went with a depressingly low number of people noticing and even fewer caring. The RCS and RSM elections occurred with a slightly larger turnout, but all three led to much debate on the future of the CCUs at South Kensington.

Fourth year Aero exam papers went missing, allowing the students to put their feet up for a while as their exams got postponed. The examinations did eventually take place, but if the summer exam papers had gone missing the ensuing chaos would have been horrific. "I don't know what you'd do then, jump out of the window or something," commented the Head of Aeronautics, Professor P. W. Bearman. With the summer term free of flattened Aeronautical professors adorning the pavements, we can only surmise that things have run smoothly in exam-land. 

Thanks to everyone in college, both staff and students, 'great and small' without whose generous co-operation and time the news pages would have been barren. We are grateful.

The FELIX news team wishes all their regular readers an enjoyable summer, and their detractors an incident-packed newsworthy fate, starting next October.

Who's watching your back?

Security issues were the basis for a large number of this year's news stories: from drug dealing to computer thieving, Imperial College is increasingly home to crime worries. With the help of local PC Clive Coleman and IC Head of Security Keith Reynolds, Andrew Dorman-Smith looks at the conflict between tightening up protection and clamping down on student freedom.

Swipe Cards

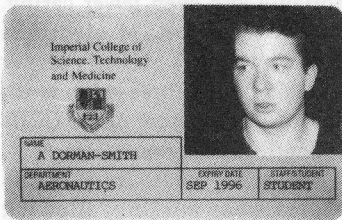
Security meets the technology of the nineties

The swipe card – or 'Access Control' – system was initiated in 1992 in an attempt to 'control the perimeter' of IC so that security staff would be released to 'supervise the interior'. Instead of the 88-strong team responsible for manning the front doors of every building, only four lodges are now permanently supervised, with the rest of the staff expected to patrol certain 'sectors'.

But security personnel admit that the system isn't infallible. They

see 'piggy-backing' – the way in which people without swipe cards can simply follow authorised students into buildings – as a major problem. With few students prepared to actually ask others for identification the whole idea of 'controlling the perimeter' is being put in doubt. Clive Coleman suggests that students and staff are perfectly entitled to ask those following them in or out for proof of identification, saying that the police will deal severely with anyone who objects to being questioned.

Keith Reynolds insists that the system is perfectly adequate: a foolproof system of floor to ceiling turnstiles would cost £1.3 million. To support his view that 'piggy-backing' isn't a problem, Mr Reynolds asserts that the vast majority of robberies which occur during the swipe card system's activation are as a result of forced entry.



Keith Reynolds IC Head of Security

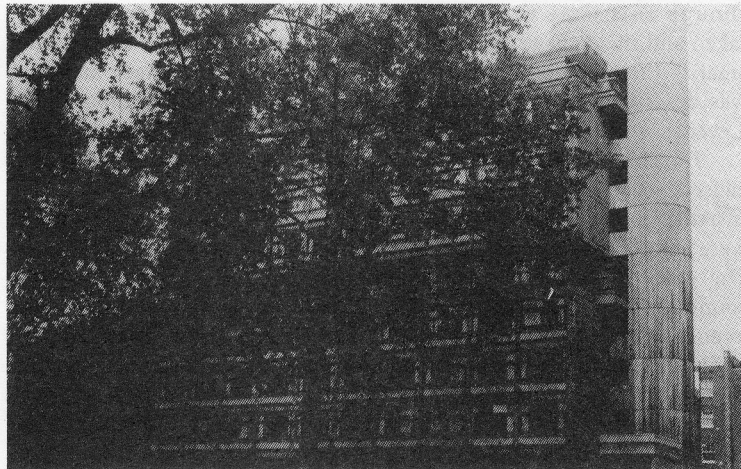
Mr Reynolds was instrumental in bringing through the 1992 reforms and he says that the security service has come on by 'leaps and bounds'.

Future security plans and equipment upgrades will be balanced against the college's budgetary constraints. The head of security said: "we can't go round blithely robbing academic departments". Putting the present crime rate in to perspective, Mr Reynolds asserts that, "compared to other London Colleges, we're laughing... we're sitting on it pretty well".

He appealed for student help in tackling crime: "please come and tell us ... we're not here to make your life difficult, we're here to help."



Photo: Diana Harrison



Safety

'Halls are a priority'

Halls of Residence are particularly susceptible to 'piggy-back' entering, but when the original reforms were introduced Mr Reynolds promised: "My priority is the students, especially those living in halls". Some security guards are known to favour twentyfour hour manned security lodges at the front door of each hall, especially the large South-side ones. Citing the attack on a female fresher in her Linstead bedroom two years ago, they insist that the protection of students would be improved with a heightened security presence.

PC Coleman agrees with this sentiment, suggesting that the cost could be limited by employing students between 6pm and midnight, for example, to check IDs.

While Mr Reynolds insists that the overall 'crime and incident rate' in halls is not that bad, he asserts that under the present staffing levels it is not possible for security guards to be posted at each door.

He is though attracted by PC Coleman's suggestion of having students on each door, saying that it as 'a good idea'. But he questioned where the money for this could be found.

Clive Coleman The Local Bobby

PC Coleman, the homebeat officer of the Belgravia sector, spends a large proportion of his time dealing with Imperial affairs. In fact, it has been reported that two thirds of crime in the area happens at Imperial. Clive runs crime prevention weeks at IC twice each year to raise awareness of the security problem, where he marks students bicycles with a security code to act as a theft deterrent.



Photo: Ivan Chan

New technology *PIRs and dope-loving smoke detectors*

Recent months have seen a massive up-grade in IC security facilities. With the introduction of new technology, staff can be freed to react to incidents rather than wait for them to happen.

But the benefits that the high-tech equipment brings are questioned by some security staff, who point out that for a camera to be of any use in crime detection, somebody has to constantly look at the television monitor. This problem will be combated with a new camera soon to be installed on the walkway, which will be coupled with an Passive Infra-Red (PIR) detector so that movement would activate it.

But the reliability of the new PIRs is in doubt after the system failed to work just weeks after it was installed. Mr Reynolds admits that the new PIRs in the William Penney Lab didn't trigger, despite an outside window being broken and various computer equipment being tampered with. Describing the incident as a 'malfunction' the head of security insists that this does not happen very often and that all the defective equipment was 'dumped'.

The new smoke alarms continue to be a cause of contention. Introduced under government regulations, their installation was plagued with problems regarding their oversensitivity. Now students are complaining that their ability to detect can-

nabis smoke over-intrudes into the private lives of hall residents. While PC Coleman insists that the public smoking of 'herbal drugs' will be prosecuted, he suggests that the police are not interested in private consumption. "Whatever you do behind closed doors is your business," he said, insisting that it was up to college, and hall wardens in particular, to deal with the discovery of small amounts.

Besides, Mr Reynolds thinks that the new fire detection equipment has had little to do with the twenty-five drug discoveries of recent weeks. He says that the network of smoke alarms have only once resulted in the seizure of illicit substances, and that most of those found have been caught out by staff.

Constant Monitoring *Big Brother is watching you...*

An influx of new technology seen in recent months has meant that security are in a position to monitor student activity more than ever before. The installation of a network of alarms and cameras has led to allegations that a so-called Big Brother system is being created.

The whole system of swipe cards was specifically introduced so that they could also operate as library cards, for cashless catering, student voting or in association with the sports centre. In Mr Reynolds words: "it was almost a smart card." But he insisted that the constant monitoring of student activity through the cards is some way off: "it won't be done, or not while I've got any say in it." Security do not keep records on students and apart from using data for major investigations, all information is dumped after seven days, he insists. Nonetheless, Terry Briley, his Deputy Head, has voiced enthusiasm for the creation of a 'rogue's gallery' of offenders to keep track of errant students.

But Keith Reynolds dismissed the idea of a 1984 type scenario insisting that he is not "a great believer in putting cameras all over the place for no real reason". He admits that he gets more requests from departments for closed circuit surveillance than he thinks are appropriate.

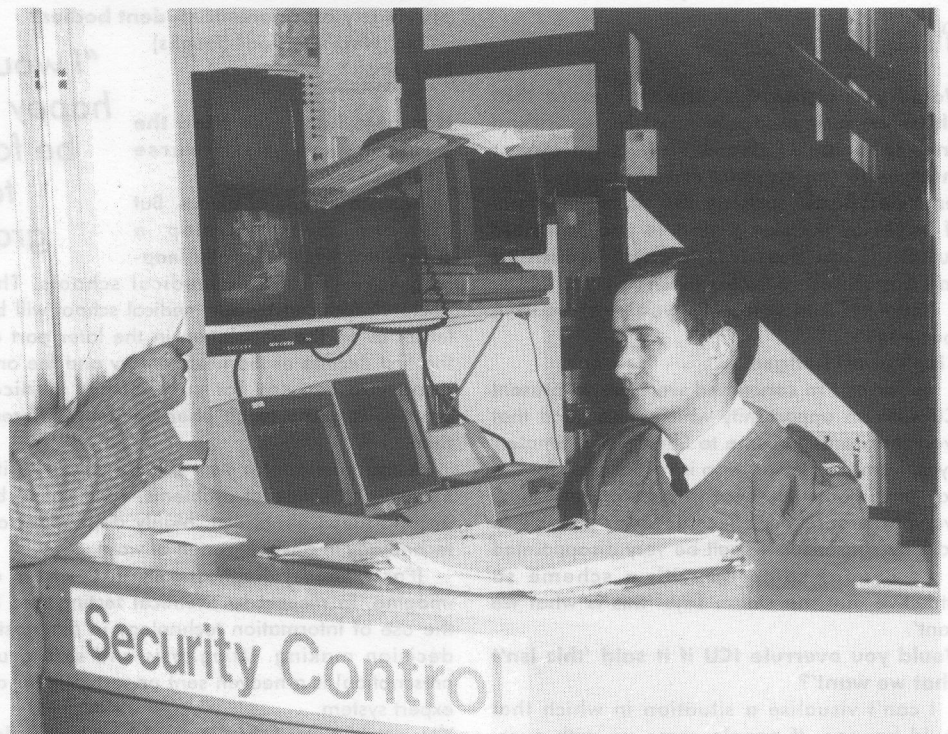


Photo: Diana Harrison

Staff *'Some are old, hard of hearing and they can't run'*

Some students have problems believing that security are physically up to the job: many of IC security staff were originally employed to deliver mail before the job of 'messenger' was changed to 'security guard' three years ago. "Some are old, hard of hearing, and they can't run," one student commented. In one case earlier this year an intruder was escorted by a postgraduate stu-

dent to a manned security lodge, at which point the criminal escaped.

Mr Reynolds admits that some of the original messengers may not have fully adapted to their present role as security officers. But he defends his staff: "they have come a long way down the new road and are quite good." He suggests that the mobile response unit, always available to react to incidents and containing the younger, fitter elements, should be able to cover any possible staff inadequacy.

Mr Reynolds also supports the current minimum staffing levels, insisting that a twelve man team can staff the four fixed points and 'put in a good patrolling system'. Justifying the staff levels, the head of security contends that a night shift of sixteen Imperial College Security guards is considerably more personnel than Belgravia police station has to cover the whole of their sector.

The overhaul of security staffing in 1992 came after proposals to contract out the system

were defeated by a concerted programme of industrial action, and Mr Reynolds still insists that the present security staff provide the best service. Although some short term financial advantage could be achieved by putting the service out to tender, the rapid turnover of personnel that would inevitably result would present a serious problem, he maintains. With staff continuity being stressed, it seems that IC Security are safe, for the foreseeable future at least, from any more attempts to close them down.

The Rector's View

Sir Ronald Oxburgh talks to Owain Bennallack about some of this year's pressing issues

I'd only met the Rector once before and I can't remember saying anything, except to acknowledge that yes, he could have another piece of my spicy beef pizza. So what was he like? He was thoroughly pleasant and attentive, incredibly alert and confident. In terms of breaking his cool veneer I was completely useless – Brian Walden, your job is secure. But in terms of approaching the head of Imperial on behalf of my humble readership: for my sins I was impressed. As much as anything else, he seems much more mindful of student interests than most other senior figures. Anyway, below is an abridged and fairly faithful version. See what you think.

The Move

Would you agree with the sentiment that whilst present students must be consulted and informed about any significant changes to the campus environment, long-term decisions, such as the possible move of Imperial College Union to the Sherfield Building, are best left to those qualified and appointed to make them?

[laughs] "And when did you start beating your wife?"

It isn't at all hedged...

As far as I'm concerned we have to present ICU with an opportunity which is so good that everyone wants to come to Sherfield. Ultimately – yes, I am the person who is responsible for the way that money is spent in college but I think everyone around here likes as far as possible to work by consensus. I shall be very disappointed if we cannot come up with a scheme so attractive that the Union says 'this is what we want'.

Would you overrule ICU if it said 'this isn't what we want'?

I can't visualise a situation in which that could happen. If people come up with overriding reasons we've overlooked, then okay, we have to think again.

Do you think that moving to Sherfield could lead to a closing of student activities just through close proximity to the heart of bureaucracy?

I wish I thought it could! No, I don't think there's the remotest chance.

So there isn't a chance of less late-night licenses being granted et cetera.

I don't think it has any bearing on it really. The fact is that although I tend to work here late – and would undoubtedly be disturbed by revelries on the Queen's Lawn – by and large this place functions at the same time that most students are in classes. It's like a morgue most evenings.

I just remember Angus Fraser switching off the bands at the Rag Fete last year

because he had an important businessman to see.

Well, we had them this year. They wrote in advance very properly and my attitude was that I can bare loud music for one afternoon!

The Medical Merger

The influx of medical students and research to the South Kensington campus may represent one of the greatest opportunities for rejuvenation and growth that Imperial has seen in living memory. But is the merger too ambitious, considering the mixture of new buildings and changes to the estate, the new course structure and previously antagonistic student bodies?

No. Next question? [laughs]

Not at all?

No.

Has anywhere else tried the 'medical scientist' course structure?

Yes... a variety of places. But our aim is to develop a curriculum which actually leapfrogs over the other medical schools. The doctors produced by our medical school will be let loose on the population in the later part of the first decade of the next century and the one thing you can say for sure is that medical practice is going to be phenomenally different then.

A modern doctor has got to face a quite bewildering range of problems. He's got to be an enormous generalist, highly dependant on technology in a whole range of ways.

[For example] diagnostically in the form of imaging, in respect to chemical testing and in the use of information technology in diagnostic decision making. [Diagnosis and safe drug prescription] is a heaven sent opportunity for an expert system.

You could argue that it would be better for doctors to be more socially aware rather than scientifically aware, because the expert system will remove some of the necessity for technical knowledge.

Now that's dangerous! Anyone who works with technology has got to know its practical limitations and that involves having some understanding of the system. They must work with an attitude that I can best describe as 'informed scepticism'.

Is the gradual phasing in of students to the Basic Medical Sciences building an attempt to prevent them becoming St. Mary's students or Charring Cross' students?

Not particularly. If we are to achieve the benefits we are looking for with having an intake of 250 students rather than the 100 we have with Mary's, then we have to have them in one place.

Fees and Finances

You have said that you do not have a problem 'in principle' with top-up fees. But would you concede that fees may lead to would-be students from less well off families avoiding Imperial and, if so, how will you overcome this?

It would be very undesirable if that were to happen and so the only way I could conceive of us introducing top-up fees would be to introduce a scheme of scholarships and bursaries in parallel.

But presumably the fees are introduced because there is a problem with money – if the money doesn't come from fees then it would have to come from somewhere else?

Basically, the top-up fees would have to be applied differentially – okay, it's not as efficient as if you charge everyone the maximum top-up fee but I think that would be both socially and academically unjustifiable.

"I would be entirely happy if a way could be found to start taxing all graduates..."

So in that case you would still be forced to look elsewhere for funds?

I'm not sure what we would do but anything which actually discouraged people from coming to Imperial on the grounds of cost would not be acceptable.

Would a graduate tax be acceptable to you?

Entirely.

Would you be happy to pay a graduate tax yourself?

I would be entirely happy if a way could be found to start taxing all graduates – certainly everyone who is in the 40% tax bracket.

Is that likely to happen?

I can't judge. I have no idea whether it would be practicable. Any tax, if it is to be effective and fair, has to be collectable and I don't know how collectable such a tax would be. Your first problem is you have to identify everyone who is a graduate. You can start with people who are going through the system but ideally I'd like to catch people of my own generation and earlier.

Presumably people would start arguing that they didn't really benefit from their time at university.

Ah, no you don't allow that. You say that if you are earning a rather low salary then you are either choosing not to benefit financially, by working in some lowly paid but important activity – for example teaching – or you are earning well and you are what you are because, whether you believe it or not, you are a university graduate and we're going to judge you as having benefited so you can jolly well pay.

Security

FELIX has run a number of stories concerning crimes such as computer theft and student drug use this year. Do you feel crime is getting out of control?

I don't think it is out of control, but I think it's a serious problem. We have such a concentration of high value equipment that we are forced to take a series of measures which will, I'm afraid, to some extent inhibit our freedom in the use of the campus and also cost us quite a lot of money.

So you do appreciate that security may become over-tight?

Absolutely. It is one of the challenges of modern society; the more prevalent individuals within that society who are not prepared to abide by the rules, the more you have to inhibit the freedom of the majority in order to stop the minority doing undue damage to the system. It is very sad.

I've heard that measures such as spot checks are being discussed.

Well I've not heard that discussed.

Ah. [laughs]

No, I'm mostly talking about keeping things locked up.

Student Life

To what extent should the defence of tradition be put before sense and practicality when dealing with the minimal student interest in the CCU's and increasing apathy towards the politics of ICU?

[laughs] Answers on two sides of paper please...

When I was wording this question I was attempting to angle it so that you would feel qualified to speak.

[long pause]

I think there is not a single answer and you really have to play each bit of it by ear. I have seen many situations where bureaucrats have come in and made trivial savings at the expense of a great deal of goodwill, simply through being insensitive to things which people – perhaps irrationally – valued very highly. Equally there are some things which, given the financial pressures we may be under – [you have to put to people] whether it is a department head or a Constituent College Union or what have you – "I know you've been doing this for fifty years but this is what it's costing us and this is what it's costing you".

On another point, should the degree always come before everything else at university.

[Thinks a moment] I think that's a decision what every student has to make for himself.

Okay. Do you think that more work always produces a better all-round graduate?

It depends what sort of work.

[After hammering out a consensus as to what question we are talking about]

The reputation that this college has – and I think it must maintain – is for producing first class graduates in their specialist fields. But it is becoming progressively less satisfactory to think that is all that matters. The justification for the sort of full-time residential degree course that we and the other older universities offer [has to

be] to provide an environment where people can get an exceptional degree of technical expertise and have the opportunity to develop the other sides of their character as well.

Should these opportunities come from within the curriculum or outside of it?

Both really. There are a lot of opportunities for people who want them: running FELIX, doing one of the jobs for ICU, organising a club or display or a meeting. This is the kind of experience that employers are interested in and it is probably better gained outside the curriculum. Self-expression and technical communication can in part be gained from outside but it is actually something that you can address within the curriculum. I have an initiative in its early stages at the moment to do just that – it happens to be something about which I feel very strongly indeed.

Do you hope to see increasing awareness of the communication of scientific ideas from scientists at Imperial?

Yes I do. Without qualification. Yes.

The Future

Do you have an all-encompassing vision of Imperial College's place in the next millennium and for how long do you hope to be part of it?

Oh, my contract expires in 1999, so I think I won't make it into the next millennium. On the other hand, what the college does will inevitably be affected by what we do now.

"Ultimately – yes, I am the person who is responsible for the way that money is spent"

I can see a number of major scientific challenges over the next decade. One is the whole health and biochemical area – we talked of some of them – those are unbelievably difficult areas which are going to become accessible for the very very first time. I think that the opportunities are both tremendous and terrifying and I think the college will be inevitably deeply involved.

Another will be the interaction of human beings with the environment. The number of people alive today is exactly twice that when I was a student, and that is pretty terrifying. If the planet is to remain habitable and we are not to perturb it unwittingly by our own activities then we have to understand how the planet works. I can see some of the effort of almost every



department feeding into a major college effort in that area too.

These themes – which are inter-disciplinary interdepartmental themes – will achieve a much greater prominence than in the past. I imagine that we will go into the next century with broadly the same structure of undergraduate departments that we have today but probably with continually changing and more mobile inter-disciplinary graduate centres. Individual staff members may well do their teaching in an undergraduate department but actually do their research in an inter-disciplinary department some way away.

A set of umbrella centres or 'missions' on top of the current departments?

That's right. That's one way in which we will develop. And I'd like us to have a greater degree of financial stability than we have now. Imperial College is rather like a Rolls-Royce with a mini-sized gas tank. What comes in is what goes out and we have no reserves. We basically have to live on our wits.

Presumably that takes up more of your time than you'd like?

Well there are only so many hours in the day and one does have to think about that.

Would you like to see more women at Imperial and do you think it's possible?

Sure. The medical school will change the proportion to some extent. It is part of the college plan that we will continue to increase the number of women in the college. A progressively greater proportion of those who get higher grades at 'A' level are women and it may be that they filter through anyway. But we must maintain our efforts of trying to communicate some of the excitement and challenge of science to kids at school. **F**



FAMOUS LAST WORDS



BLUE PLAQUES

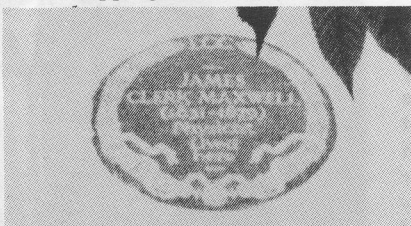
Final Say⁺

Ceramic Icons⁺



The building site two doors down from my house screams into life at 8 every morning and doesn't go back to sleep until 6. Dozens of men are engaged in stripping out

the insides of a listed building, while holding up the outsides with enormous, crane-constructed scaffolding. It's been going on for months, and is bound to be finished the day I move out. London's obsession with preserving appearances seems commendable to all except those who live within earshot. The history of the city is remarkable, not least because of the number of famous people who have been born, lived, stayed or died



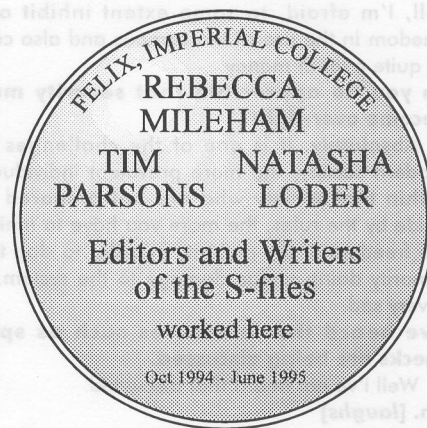
James Maxwell's plaque in Palace Gardens Terrace

within the city limits.

Blue plaques are one way of preserving the city's unique qualities. These round, ceramic icons are placed on houses where the people who added to London life over the years lived or stayed. The plaques are part of the London landscape: what is their own history?

In this week's double-page extra special last *S-files* of the year, we speak to the man behind the plaques, Francis Carnwath. Find out where the local blue plaques are and who they commemorate. And read about one potential new plaque which has special significance to Imperial's chemistry department.

S-files



How did you get the job of chairman of the blue plaques committee?

Well, I'm not a historian, I was a merchant banker and then I was deputy director of the Tate for 4 years, so I made a rather strange change. I was on the London Advisory committee of English Heritage which is the planning committee for all listed buildings and conservation areas in London and it is they who operate the blue plaques scheme for English Heritage. The scheme was originally started by the Royal Society of Arts and was taken over by English Heritage in April 1986.

Does the involvement of the Royal Society of Arts explain the predominance of actors and painters commemorated by the plaques?

It was 1901 when they ceased to be involved and they haven't had any involvement with it at all since then. We certainly do try and balance the professions, but one of our criteria is that people should have such an exceptional or outstanding personality that the well-informed passer-by immediately recognises their name. Now that does apply to quite a lot of scientists, but I think that even if they had a very interesting life yet nobody had ever heard of them, we'd have to think more carefully.

What are the other criteria for a plaque to be placed?

It has to be the actual house where the person lived or was, or did whatever it was that he or she did. Then we have to decide whether the person was sufficiently famous, or well-known, or deserving to merit a plaque.

How is the notoriety of a person measured?

We have a committee of six which includes two historians - one is Dr David Starkey - and then the officers of English Heritage. We do have some quite difficult discussions. We don't accept a recommendation either until the centenary of the person's birth or until they've been dead for at least 20 years. Over 20 years one can take a more balanced view about whether their recognition will continue.

Have there been big discussions about particular names?

I can't think of a case where we've had to have a vote or anything, but there are often different views about whether a person should be recorded or not. We consider 50 or 60 names and choose about 12 per year. There are quite a lot that don't meet the criteria.

Where do the suggestions come from?

Suggestions tend to come up from the families, or from people living in a house or some society that is supporting the person concerned. Also, since I've become chairman, I've felt that we should look at the balance

of the various specialities and see whether there were any obvious names that hadn't come up in the past but which ought to be recognised.

Do you, as a former Tate director, ever look at some of the artist blue plaques and think, well they wouldn't be remembered today?

Yes, occasionally. But inevitably the plaques are going to reflect the views of the time, and I suppose that's part of their charm.

What would you say was the role of blue plaques for people visiting London?

I think it's a recognition that London's been a cultural and international centre for a very long time, and it's reflected in this particular way, that the distinguished or well known people that lived here should be seen as you walk around.

Do you have a favourite?

I always enjoy seeing the plaques as I walk around. I do find it interesting to see the plaques recording the famous Latin American patriots, such as San Martin and Bernardo O'Higgins, the Chilean liberator, who spent time in London. The unveilings are rather fun, too, because such an interesting range of people turn up for them. For instance, we did Dennis Brain last week, and lots of interesting people came, former brass

and horn players, EMI who used to do his recordings, and his wife. Some horn players played a little tune which was rather nice. Normally there's a curtain in front of the plaque, and they pull the handle and it comes apart and we can all see the plaque.

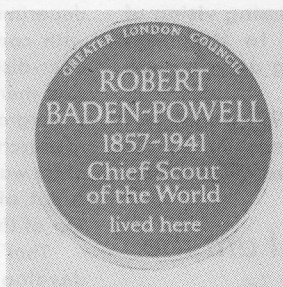
Is there any move to include equal numbers of men and women?

No, I think we're not consciously doing that, but we're aware of the need to keep a balance. Last year we had two women. Ivy Compton Burnett and Violet Bonham Carter.

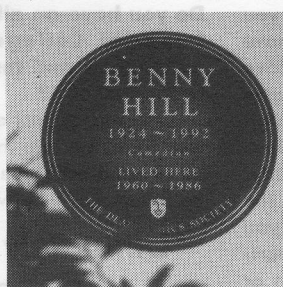
Do you feel that the other plaque schemes in London are copying you?

Well, Westminster do a scheme, but they don't have quite the same criteria. They tend to be more reactive to current interest. Also people have to find the funds for their own plaque if they suggest it. Anyone can put up a plaque, but we stick to our format. Blue plaques were made by the same man for years and years, made of porcelain. We've recently changed, simply because the old man died. They're all hand done, made of glazed earthenware, and they've been made the same way since the 30's. They're recognisable as English Heritage plaques. I think it looks very nice.

Send your blue plaque suggestions to Pam Whiffen, English Heritage London Division, 23 Savile Row, London.



Left: Baden-Powell's plaque in Hyde Park Gate. Right: An imposter plaque in Queen's Gate



+ A Colourful Character + Streets of London

CHEMIST A. W. HOFMANN



PLAQUE ADDRESSES



This year, Imperial's chemistry department celebrates its 150th birthday. Connected with the event is a move to commemorate the department's first professor, August Wilhelm Hofmann, by

small square chamber connected with the chimney flue. There were no stink closets except the covered part of a large sand-bath heated with coke".

Although the College was highly respected, it found its industrial sponsors uneasy at the prospect of a long wait for applicable results. In 1853, lacking funds, it was absorbed by the Royal School of Mines, which amalgamation later became Imperial College.

Despite his academic achievements, Hofmann's true talent was as a teacher and enthuser in chemistry. A student wrote: "Hofmann had a marvellous power of stimulating his students and of imparting to them his own enthusiasm". Exhibiting excitement for even the most routine experiments, Hofmann even managed to eulogise about batteries: "A faithful handmaid, the voltaic battery multiplies for us, in durable metal, the noblest productions of artistic genius".

As a teacher, Hofmann had reservations about the specialisation in education which remains today: "the object... is to prevent cramming in one special subject and utter ignorance in all the rest of science". His lectures were attended several times by the forward-looking Prince Albert, and he was summoned to explain to Queen Victoria about the dyes he had helped create.

August Hofmann is commemorated for Imperial College through the Hofmann Chair for Chemistry, currently held by Emeritus Professor Charles Rees. Soon Hofmann may be remembered for all of London through a blue plaque on his residence in Fitzroy Square, W1.

putting up a blue plaque on the house he lived in during 20 years in London.

Hofmann was born in the German town of Giessen, famous for its school of organic chemistry. He originally studied philosophy and law, but realised his mistake and enrolled instead to study chemistry.

Hofmann's great interest was in the components of coal tar, a byproduct of the coal gas industry which was usually dumped in rivers. In the mid 1800's, Hofmann showed that several ingredients of coal tar were related to ammonia. This seemingly esoteric feat inspired very practical advances in the dyeing industry. Compounds classified by Hofmann were later used in the production of red, mauve, blue and violet dyes.

Meanwhile in Britain, Henry de la Beche and others were pushing for a chemistry college, and Hofmann was recommended to oversee Britain's first College of Chemistry. After overcoming initial uncertainties about English life, he stayed in London for 20 years.

The College's laboratories, set up in rooms on Oxford Street, were somewhat rudimentary. A student of Hofmann's wrote later: "the first public laboratory I worked in was the Royal College of Chemistry in Oxford Street in 1853 to 1856. This was very different to our present one, the appliances being few. We had to make our H₂S in a

Hofmann's discoveries were used in producing red, mauve, blue and violet dyes.

In 1853, he became director of the Royal College of Chemistry, which later became Imperial College.

Hofmann had reservations about the narrow specialisation in education which we still see today.

Soon Hofmann may be remembered for all of London through a blue plaque on his house in Fitzroy Square.

- > **TH Huxley** 38 Marlborough Place Westminster
- > **HG Wells** 13 Hanover Terrace Westminster
- > **Lord Haldane** 28 Queen Anne's Gate Westminster
- > **Captain Scott** 56 Oakley Street Kensington
- > **Isambard Kingdom Brunel** 98 Cheyne Walk
- > **Sir William Crookes** 7 Kensington Park Gardens
- > **Sir Arthur Eddington** 4 Bennett Park Greenwich
- > **Michael Faraday** 48 Blandford Street Westminster
- > **Benjamin Franklin** 36 Craven Street Westminster
- > **Florence Nightingale** 10 South Street Westminster
- > **Sir George Cayley** 20 Hertford Street Westminster



+ All
+ This
+ Year's
+ Contributors

only
the S-files
can save us!



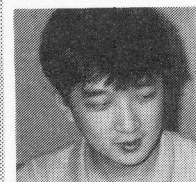
Dap Farside, aka Tim Parsons, the man whose inspiration styled *S-files* right from the start.



Rebecca Mileham, originally known as Hilary. Well, you can't write a tribute to yourself, can you?



Natasha Loder, whose view from the Natural History Museum added a new dimension to the *S-files* ethos.



Yin Chien Yeap, technology expert and high speed producer of *S-files* graphics.



Jon Jordan: turned against science by an MSc in History of Science; the only technophobe *S-file*.



Owain Bennallack, co-progenitor of the *S-files* style. Provider of copy and moral support.

FULL RCC COLOURS

Owen Brown
Afandi Darlington
James Evans
Mark Evans
Dr. Sarah Freedman
John Harrison
Robert Lea
Rafal Lukawiecki
Nevil Pesika
Roger Serpell
Louise van der Straeten
Sarah Wingrove
Wendy Yates

Julian Rees
Rashid Al-Shally
Jim Stewart
Bobby Karamata
Tom Bradley
Alcan Fernandes
Jane Topliss
Jim Ryan
Rennie Lloyd
Steve Kleppa
Mike Sadler
Jeff Bratt
Reidar Grevskott
Pinaki Roy

**THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF MINES
UNION: COLOURS 1995**

FULL SOCIAL COLOURS

Lennard Kolff van Oosterwijk
Sarah White
Will Steel
Rhidian Jones
Gary Waller
Sanchia Gill
Jon Say
Prof. Shaw

FULL SPORTING COLOURS

Matt Firth
Anjit Cloudaiy
Gideon Wentun
Alex Hawkins
Alcan Fernandes
Dom Cook
Pinaki Roy
Tomoko Takama
Rachel Evans
Jim Ryan
Corne Timmermans
Jason Clarke

HALF SOCIAL COLOURS

Mr.T.
Victoria Green-Colwill
Ard Wormeester
Corne Timmermans
Steve Martin
Matt Crompton
Jeff Wilson
Faye Matthewman
Simon Hiscocks
Myles Barrat
Dan Hagan
Jim Harsen
James Duff
Paul Weber
Adam Robinson
Elisa Young
Carla Mackle

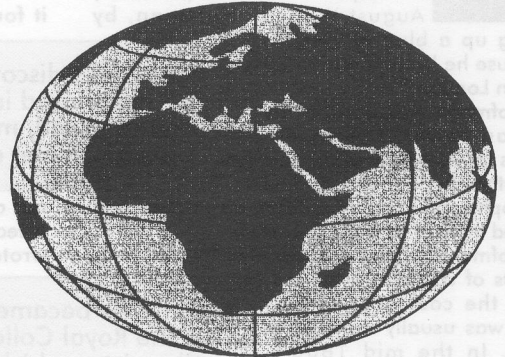
HALF SPORTING COLOURS

Leon Bengelodyk
Sonar Shah
Nigel Frost
Daniel Halls
John Wright
Maruf Alum
Mike Collins
Sam Caley
Sanchia Gill
Faye Matthewman
Barbara Groenendygh
James Duff
Mike Sadler
Rennie Lloyd
Jeff Bratt

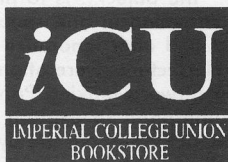
Summer storage

will be available in the union

for details enquire at
the Union Office reception.



The Union can not except liability for any possessions left.



BOOK BUYING

DAY

THURS 22nd

11.30 - 1.30

JCR

SECOND HAND TEXT BOOKS
BOUGHT FOR
CASH

FRI. 23RD. 9 - 2. 1AM BAR

TANK
GIRL

ALL THE MUSIC YOU LOVE
AND "TANK GIRL" GIVEAWAYS
FROM ICU ENTS

&
beatwax



Answering back! The final words of the year...

Freedom?

Dear Felix,

I feel that I have to write in response to Farida Begum's letter last week, about freedom of speech.

This is however a very difficult issue to tackle. The policy run by ICU and by most student unions is not anti-freedom of speech, it's an anti-racist issue.

I can't comment on the ICU IslamSoc meetings which have been cancelled, I only know that they are not cancelled at whim, but only with good reason after much consideration by the Union Office and security. After the events of the beginning of the year, so accurately reported in FELIX in the autumn term, where King's College Jewish Society students had to be police escorted off their campus, after a meeting of King's College "Current affairs" Society was cancelled, I would very much hope that similar does not occur here.

In my position as Jewish Society Chair there are many safeguards I need to adhere to to protect the members, and there are many events which we do not hold because of the fear of racist groups. Before we have a meeting we are supposed to check the room, and all our publicity is not meant to mention room places or times, we are meant to just tell the people we know are coming. The Muslims at IC are in the "minority" of 2,000. Although I am not branding anyone a fundamentalist or a racist, these people are active, and IC is on the NUS list of top ten "fundamentalist hotbeds" in the country. Whilst I have very very fortunately not had to incur the ordeal of taunts, daubings and actual attacks incurred by many of my colleagues, I have had posters torn down pretty regularly. I would not like to see this escalate further.

These people who cite "freedom of speech" generally, in their "free speech" incite hatred against women, Hindus, Serbs, homosexuals and Jews, to name just a few. Whilst I am not saying that every member of IslamSoc is associated with Hizb-ut-tahrir, I would like to remind my friend that everyone's point of view needs to be accounted for, and everyone's feelings taken into account.

Although everyone does deserve the right of freedom of speech, even more so everyone deserves their freedom of movement, education, and religious or social belief. That is what ICU policy was designed to achieve.

Sarah Waiman
Chem Eng 2
ICJS Chair 94-95

Cypriots are Cypriots!

Dear Editor,

From my having read "Felix" several times, I have formed the impression that the students' weekly magazine does not cover any kind of British or International political issues. Therefore, people writing in it do not need to be thoroughly informed on such matters.

Though intended to be a humorous, holiday article, Frank Poole's "postcard from Cyprus" brings politics into one's mind. Does he really believe that "Cyprus is...the disputed territory of Greece and Turkey"? Saying something as stupid as that, shows lack of knowledge of history and geography to an unacceptable degree. Someone should better inform Mr. Poole that Cyprus "is meant to belong" to the Cypriots themselves. It's typically a free country and does not belong as a whole or as a part neither to Greece, nor to Turkey. It seems like Mr. Poole is not aware of the 1974 Turkish invasion to the undisputedly Cypriot until then, island of Cyprus. Turkey had been condemned by the UN and countless other international organisations for its actions in Cyprus. Two thousand Cypriots were lost, and are still after 20 years considered to be missing, although they have most probably died in Turkish prisons. Obviously, their relatives do "understand what is going on". I wonder sometimes, how many of the tourists spending their holidays in any of the northern coastal cities of Cyprus are aware of the fact that the Cypriots were violently forced to abandon their properties there, in July 1974.

Politics as you probably know, may involve some very sensitive issues. This careless, ignorant article on Cyprus is a heavy insult, not only to our Cypriot fellow students of the College, but to any democratic mind. If Mr. Poole wants to distinguish the country into two parts, then he must somehow understand that the northern one is under Turkish occupation and the southern is still free. At least for the sake of Felix's neutral approach to any kind of politics, the truth must be restored to the eyes of your readers. Some politics in your magazine would not hurt as much as ignorance and indifference do.

Sincerely yours,

Spyros Michas

Equality...

Dear Felix,

It is with great interest that I read the articles on the social position of men and women (Felix 1032). Despite the differing perspectives on who is the true victim of subjugation and prejudice, one point seems to form the common denominator in the arguments of all correspondents. That is, whether one likes it or not, the overwhelming trend in almost every society at whatever stage of development is currently towards further emancipation of women and their increased participation in society.

However, few people seem to have considered other social transformations that have traditionally accompanied this process of liberalisation, namely changes in sexual practices and their impact on family and personal relationships. I am not aware of any society which has trodden the road to modernisation and social reform without a simultaneous proliferation of promiscuity and deterioration of the moral and ethical norms that constitute the very foundation of stable families. Whether this is a pure historical coincidence or is in fact the product of a causal relationship is the crucial question that has not yet been fully addressed.

Today's western civilisation was preceded by that of the East. One of the fundamental differences between the two is in their treatment of women; the former preaches freedom and equality of women, whereas the latter was based on a system of values which subordinated women to men, and denied them many of the privileges that men widely enjoyed. Yet, perhaps ironically, this civilisation gave birth to a culture that elevated the status of women and attributed to them an almost divine and heavenly sanctity.

Here indeed lies my dilemma. Freedom and equality of both men and women is, in my opinion, a moral imperative as well as a social inevitability. Yet I cannot help noting that the western model of equality had been effected only at a very high price, exterminating some of the finest elements of the human spirit and destroying the fabric of stable and compassionate families. Many of the traditional societies are only just beginning to go down this road. Therefore: If [the western model] of equality of sexes is to culminate in such tragic ending, shouldn't we think again about it?

Yours sincerely,

Yasser Hatami (EE3)

...Maybe

What everyone seems to forget when ranting on about the male/female issue is that, underneath it all, there are very few differences between us. OK, there are some obvious physical differences but as far as I am concerned the rest are cultural. The issue of woman in science has interested me. Girls are doing as good as, if not better than, boys in science in general, especially if you look at last year's GCSE maths results. Yet the proportion of women studying the 'hard' sciences is still very low. Why is this? Well Fiona Duerden can rest assured that the fault does not lie with the admissions tutors, as a woman applying for these subjects is more likely to be accepted than a man (UCCA statistics 1994). The fact is that girls aren't as interested in a career in science as the boys.

Why have we got into the whole masculine/feminine stereotype anyway? Traditional roles are ingrained into society but it wasn't always this way. Throughout the ages, women have fought beside their men and even led them into battle.

On the issue of positive discrimination, I certainly wouldn't want to think that I had only got a job because my employers needed to fill their quota of women.

OK, I do have a gripe that finds in favour of feminism on one thing covered by last weeks Felix and that is the portrayal of women by the media. Personally, it is not offensive just banal. One day they will make well scripted big budget films in which the women don't continually have hysterics in the name of dramatic impact: we're not completely incapable, even if we are supposed to be the weaker sex.

What I have been trying to say is that if a crime has been committed against women then we were there casting stones of our own. Are women really the guilt-free and helpless victims in all of this? Think about it and maybe you might begin to see why I call myself an equalitarian and not a feminist.

Anna Juvanén-Lettington
Biology II

One letter writer asked that his letter not be cut; unfortunately this was not possible. However, in interests of equality all letters were cut to an equal length. Such is life.

Letters may be commented on by a guest editor, whose opinions are not necessarily those of the editor, and cut due to space restrictions.

THE LAST MENU



It started with a clash of cymbals and the hoot of the sax. *tintin* tapped his feet and bent his ears to the sound of dramasoc's production of **a midsummer night's dream** – the rock and roll version.



Once it had credibility but as we all know the quickest way to lose that is to sell your script, play or cartoon character to Hollywood and listen to the marketing meeting saying 'whatdamean she hasn't got a name, why don't you call her Rebecca?' *Magpie* weeps an elegy for **tank girl**.



Stylus hits the road, back and won't come back no more, no more, no more. Errr so that's that then – the last of our **london** columns.



When **pavement** took Brixton Academy by storm, *tintin* was there. Later on he went home and caught up on the new albums from **therapy?** and the **beastie boys**. *Vik* chimed in with **soul asylum** and **paradise lost**.



rotation regular *helen-louise* (first year chem) links up with the curiously named *spudnik* (first year elect eng but for how much longer?), and together they give those discs a spin.



past top of the bottoms

Quite what Shakespeare would think of some of his current incarnations is open to question. Personally I like to think that what would worry him far more is the ridiculous reverence that we still seem to universally afford him. Maybe the case for 'unadulterated bard-dom' can be sustained for such serious plays as *Macbeth* and *Hamlet*, but his comedies were surely designed to be funny, not bound up in conservatism.

It's a fact that, thankfully, hasn't escaped the notice of dramsoc. After their production of *Hamlet* earlier in the year, last week saw their latest Shakespearean offering, a customised and original rock and roll version of **a midsummer night's dream**.

Instead of the usual thespian pronouncements concerning the mixed up emotions of the mortals; how *Helena* loves *Demetrius* loves *Hermia* loves *Lysander* loves *Hermia* but can't marry her etc, we get the usual thespian pronouncements shot through with the odd burst of *Roy Orbison's 'only the lonely'* or *Patsy Cline's 'crazy'*. It makes for quite an interesting combination which in most cases adds to the underlying humour. Watching *Titania*, queen of the fairies, singing 'you must have been a beautiful baby' to *Bottom*, who by this stage has acquired a donkey's

head, certainly adds to the atmosphere.

Of course using music in this way does create some difficulties too. On occasions the stage was rather crowded as 'the Fairies' retreated to their instruments but generally the stage direction was handled quite well. Perhaps of more importance was the relative weakness of the male vocal leads, particularly during the rather calamitous version of 'good vibrations'. This was quickly forgotten however, as the play-within-a-play brought 'a midsummer night's dream' to a heady conclusion.

The antics of the mechanicals and their romantic yet tragic 'production' contained the pick of play's comic acting. *Matt Williams* played a hyperactive *Bottom* with aplomb, *John Savery's Snug* was remarkably straight-faced and *Joe McFadden's legs* and feminine charms were worth the ticket price alone. In particular their manic version of "'right" said fred' was a fitting endpiece to a well acted shambles.

Equally the overall finale, an aptly weary 'a hard day's night', rounded off a pleasing performance with an impressive demonstration of the thought that had obviously gone into its direction and orchestration. Ⓢ



losing tracks, firing blanks



There are two views about **tank girl**. There are those die hard comic fans who'll leave the film early with a sour grimace and those who have just picked up a more general note of interest and fascination for the character. And for those people, the ones who hadn't heard of *Tank Girl* before *May*, this film is entertaining, despite its similarity to a futuristic female *Rambo*.

Tank Girl is set in the future when planet earth has become a desert. Water has become the most valuable resource. There lives *Tank Girl*, referred throughout the film as *Rebecca Buck*. She's a bad smart ass and of course the heroine. Due to the deaths of several of her friends in a latter day commune, she is out to get *Kesslee*, the head of *Water and Power Company*, played by regular English bad guy *Malcom McDowell*. Which is about as structured as the plot gets. In a similar way *McDowell's* character is extremely boring; this type of megalomaniac is as old and tiresome as Hollywood's attempts to film graphic novel heroes.

And it's easy to see why comic book fans have found *Tank Girl* unacceptable. Changes have been made to make the film accessible to the general public; *Tank Girl's* name for starters. Apparently this was thought up at the last minute by co-creator *Jamie Hewlett* to satisfy the script writers inability to grasp the concept that *Tank Girl* is just 'tank girl'. And then there is *Lori Petty's* extremely annoying high pitched American drool which just makes people suicidal.

Still the original comic book heroine is a 40th century *Barbarella* and *Tank Girl* is very much on similar lines. Visually the whole film appears faithful to the artists and the excellent animated sequences breaks the film up, creating a little of the outrageous *Tank Girl* atmosphere. And finally there are the mutant kangaroos; surely the best thing in the film.

So, *Tank Girl* is enjoyable and fun to watch but only if you don't expect the real comic to pop out of the film. The artistic license will disagree with some people and it's important to remember that the interpretation of a theme is different for everyone. For those of us who know it well though, this is *Tank Girl* without her tank. Ⓢ

⊖ exits

My favourite places in London are the places I go to leave her from. Paddington station, with its caterpillared grey-grimed-glass vaulted roof and its ghostly Victorian trains that still pull in and smoke the air with breathless steam; Westway carpeting magically out over houses and lives, past the arks of the corporations to the promising refuge of the barren M4 corridor; the Grand Union Canal, the industrial artery which I'll chug out of here on one day; Heathrow, its ridiculous passenger handling facilities in my mind sellotaped onto the side of the enormous concept of leaving here in a moment (like the passenger carrying compartments perched on top of the dinosaurs in 'the Flintstones'); even Victoria Coach Station and its Napoleon complex.

These are the places I love most in London and the places I return to again and again. Not because I long to leave but because I long to arrive. I covet the excitement, and I enjoy seeing new, often temporary, Londoner's disembark. With their heavy proportion of non-metropolitans, these modern day Border Marches provide a far more immediate and accessible interface to the relationship between London and the lands she rules over than the slow watering down of a trip to the edge of the endless suburbs.

If I were rich I'd like to leave London in a private helicopter. Air traffic control would be the special sound of my favourite place, together with the noise and taste of the wind rushing past the roughly sealed window with the force of a speeding brick. The city would spread out beneath me like like the computer graphics that are periodically used before 'London Tonightsque' television programmes and the whole city would be allowed to qualify as my favourite place.

It's Friday 7.00am on June 16th and I've been up all night editing news reviews and writing fanciful columns to my short-lived wandering past. I would like right now to feel a little queasy in one of my places, because it's so early and because I don't drink coffee and so am forced to have an early morning coke. I'd like to be watching the night-people and day-dwellers mix and I'd like to be going and returning.

Like most of Earth's people, my roots migrated to the city, and its gates are precious to me. ⊖



ascending the spiral stairs

Last time **pavement** came to play, it was a wash out. Slackers by nature, they seemed ill at ease onstage and proceeded to muffle their way through one of the worse gigs I've seen. Last week at Brixton Academy it was a different tune; all hail the conquering heroes as Pavement returned upmarket and blew away all our expectations.

Songs from current album, 'wowiee zowiee', were spliced with more than the odd one or two from 'crooked rain crooked rain' – Stephen J. Malkmus choosing to open with the anthemic 'silence kit'. "Your sister cursed, your father's only damned now," he sang and it summed up both the band's inherent meaning, or was that absurdity? 'Fight this generation' was another case in question. Happy to singalong, we weren't sure whether we were indicting ourselves and we sure didn't care either.

Perhaps they played too few of the new ones and relied too much on singles like 'cut your hair' and 'heaven is a truck' (excluding the line about the Smashing Pumpkins but with added AC/DC instead!) but these were so good, such criticism smacks of churlishness. They finished, far too soon, with the ancient 'summer babe' before coming back as the wacky Pavement of old.

Drummer Steve West swapped places with Stephen J, second drummer-come-madman Bob put a random face mask on and the recombined band staggered into action with such misplaced enthusiasm you had to smile. For a couple of songs they even looked like they were enjoying it as much as the audience.

It must be weird being **soul asylum**. One minute you're nobodies, barely breaking even after twelve years then you're releasing your seventh lp. It's more polished, yet still full of great songs and it contains one about runaways; the best song Tom Petty could never write. Next minute you're on mtv so much you're tired of seeing your own face, the lp's selling in millions and the world is preparing itself for the follow-up...

So, does it deliver? Pretty much. Believe it or not, *let your dim light shine* is even more commercial than 'grave dancers union' and it's quite clear that Dave Pirner is far lot more comfortable pretending to be Tom Petty than he ever was playing Bob Mould. 'Misery' is a great opener, picking up where

they left off with a gentle refrain and a soaring chorus. Elsewhere the likes of 'shut down' and their sole moment of punk asylum, 'caged rat', remind us that they can still rock, while 'to my own devices' remind us that they can chill too.

Personally, I would like to have seen more of the former and less of the latter but I guess the majority of the hungry hordes wouldn't. Pirner leaves us with a parting shot of 'I did my best'. Hopefully, that's still to come. (7)

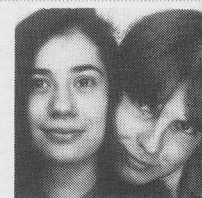
If you're in need of cheering up and want to listen to a feel-good record then don't choose **paradise lost's** *draconian times*. If you can begin to contemplate what Metallica would sound like if the Sisters of Mercy wrote their songs then you're some way to knowing what this record sounds like. In the main they've weaved dark tapestries built on huge guitar riffs and enveloped in a dark, creeping atmosphere. Recent single, 'the last time', and 'shadowkings' are more traditional chug-a-long metal affairs but that menacing, almost claustrophobic ambience still pervades. An impressive, if depressive, achievement. (7)

Therapy?'s latest album, *infernal love*, sees them in a playfully ironic mode; at least on the album cover. Sporting monstrously fake chin-pieces the band, who have made their name mainly as angst ridden indie thrashers, appear to lighten up slightly. And it's a situation which is reflected to some degree on the album too as current single and title track, 'stories', appeared surprisingly weak to my delicate ears. As for their orchestral version of Hüsker Dü's 'diane', the only creditable response can be that they have to be having a good laugh. (7)

The **beastie boys** – who'd believe it, eh. Not too long ago they were the scourge of VW owners everywhere and now they're respectable, even reputable, purveyors of trump-pump-city-slang to-a-rhyming-twang kinda music (we think). Latest release on their very own Grand Royale label, *root down* ep is a mixed bag of ten tracks. Three are remixes of title track, which is a good bassy dive but not really that good or bassy. Most of the reminder are live versions of tracks from last year's 'ill communication' album. It all adds up to being a bit of a time filler though. (5) ⊕



rotation



buffalo tom – summer

b: sounds like Radiohead. Good but nothing new or special.
hl: kinda lazy

high llamas –

checking out, checking in

b: this screams out 'Dodgy!'.
hl: that's cos you've never heard of the eagles – it's a blatant rip-off of 'tequila sunrise'. But I like it, especially the mad cellist.

main – corona parts 1 & 2

hl: I always get worried when I see parts 1 & 2 on a record – it screams out 'ambient bollocks'.
b: that's because it is.

kike harvey – la isla bonita

hl: you are joking! A south american/calypso version of the Madonna song, sung in spanish/italian/something else?!
b: pure tack, nuff said.

natacha atlas – leysch nat 'arak

b: it's the 'kabaddi' theme music (you know that sport on channel 4). Surprisingly good.
hl: I can feel it stirring my asian blood! I love it but now the world really will think I'm mad...

kinky machine –

london crawling

hl: sounds like mega city four but camper.
b: blur sounded like this on 'leisure'. A band to watch.

amy grant – big yellow taxi

b: mariah carey meets the carnberries. You have heard this music 15000 times before.
hl: joni mitchell should sue.

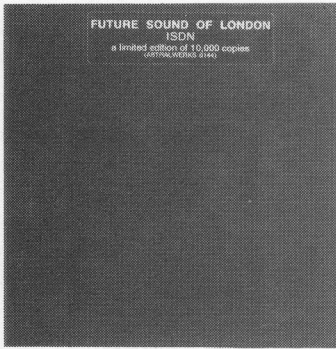
headswim – years on me

b: track 1 sounds like counting crows and track 2 is the jesus lizard? What?
hl: I like this, but usually their stuff is a lot more metal.


reef – naked

hl: naked men, where? Do they have long hair?
b: yes, they also sound like the chilli peppers which is not a bad thing at all.
hl: single of the week then.

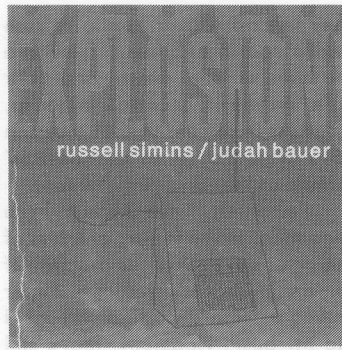
checking out the decks, spinning those discs




future sound of london
i s o n
FELIX 1032

 A seamless soundscape of cybernetic cool with samples from 'aliens' and 'repoman' serving as the vocabulary; meaning disappears over the event horizon and you're left simply to sink into sensation. This is music in its truest, purest sense.


Joe



jon spencer blues explosion
o r a n g e
FELIX 1008

 This is a young album, which is as full of swaggering rock as instrumental wit as nervous energy. The first time you let it go, Whammm!


tintin

 Thom's dangerously quiet falsetto is swathed in six string barbs. There are few rhyming couplets; these songs are twisted stories from a suffering soul, a continuation of the angst of their millstone 'creep' - finally being laid to rest.

D.C.Crippledick

radiohead
t h e b e n d s
FELIX 1025




 Their trick is that although songs like 'best friends arm' and 'brinx job' veer close together, they remain distinct. Partly it's because Pavement ignore the traditional niceties of verse-chorus-verse and so they can crash out, kick in overdrive guitars or even the odd harmonica to redirect the melody wherever they change their mind. Partly it's the simple fact that Pavement are one of the best bands playing around today.

tintin

pavement
w o w e e z o w e e
FELIX 1029

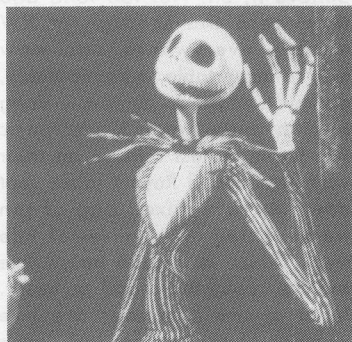


e d w o o d
FELIX 1029


 To a degree this is a film designed to cater for b-movie cultists and techno-phreaks. The rest of us will find it interesting, funny in parts and technically superb but then we'll go back and cry over Edward Scissorhands.

tintin


tim burton's nightmare before christmas
FELIX 1014




frankenstein
FELIX 1010

 "It lives" is the glorious cry which marks the fulfilment of Frankenstein's alchemical search. And amidst the boiling flasks and copper tubing Branagh's portrayal of Victor Frankenstein carries us on in the breathless imperative of results without responsibility.

tintin

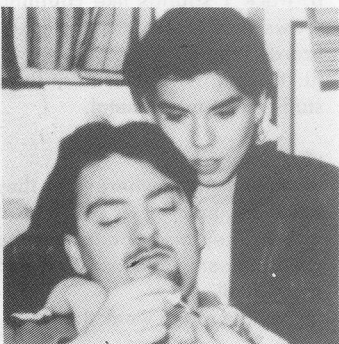
 Opening with one of the most innovative and original opening sequences for a long time, the film is shot in black and white which allows Tim Burton to recreate his typical gothic, brooding visual style. With an often very amusing script, it moves along at a fairly sedate pace and although it runs slightly longer than needed, nevertheless it never ceases to be engaging.

Adrian

 Clerks is a major achievement for debut director Kevin Smith. Shot in a slackeresque grainy 16mm black and white, it's fast paced, well rehearsed and has hard hitting dialogue. And all for an overall budget of under \$30,000.

Magpie

c l e r k s
FELIX 1027



the silver screen, those stars in shining glory



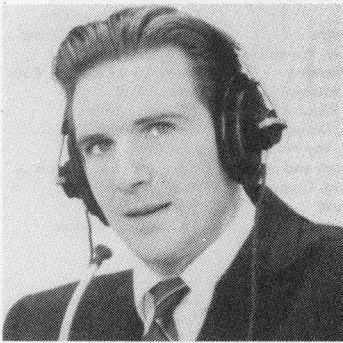
Perhaps Oliver Stone should take time out, hold his breath, count to fifty and then sit down to watch **quiz show**. He might learn a thing or two. The point is that you don't need to overblow the media to send it up; they do it for you and have done so ever since the first black and white pictures flickered across the bakelite box.

'Cos the heart of Quiz Show's message is that America lost its innocence long before Jack Kennedy lost the back of his head.

tintin

quiz show

FELIX 1023



Amateur is every bit as funny as Hal Hartley's previous work, while the action scenes are also well-handled. But the real attraction is the compellingly realised relationships between the main characters.

Joe

a m a t e u r

FELIX 1016



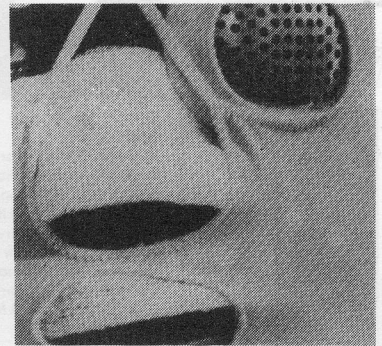
bullets over broadway

FELIX 1028



The exuberance of all the characters lifts this film from being 'another Woody Allen film' to a hilariously funny film. In particular Dianne Wiest has one of the most memorable roles. It's undeniable, Woody Allen is back on track.

Magpie



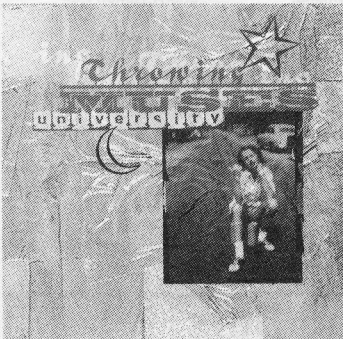
s u t u r e

FELIX 1019



In the land populated by beautiful plastic surgeons, symbolically driven dreams and slowly narrating Japanese shrinks, Suture may slow down but it retains its sure progression to a nicely twisted end.

tintin



throwing muses
u n i v e r s i t y

FELIX 1017

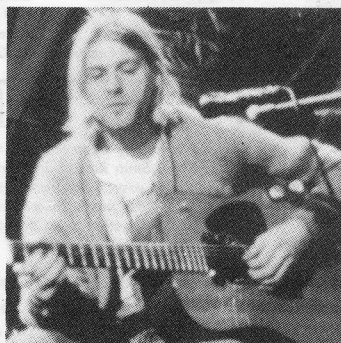


The consistency of this album is underpinned by the presence of a band, not just an individual.

The downwards rhythm progression of 'hazing' is perhaps the singular example but you get the impression that the slow swagger of 'teller' and force of 'no way in hell' will give an equally good return with persistent listening as the more accessible tracks.

Perhaps the overall moral to accept is don't live in the past. The Throwing Muses are dead. Long live the Throwing Muses.

tintin



n i r v a n a
u n p l u g g e d

FELIX 1012



I didn't want to eulogise. But, after listening to this, I'm afraid that it's impossible not to. This is Nirvana as we had never heard them before (and sadly will never hear them again).

Vik



Vocals are relegated to the status of 'just another instrument'; although for Mercury Rev that's the highest state of grace. Lyrical sense is not their talisman. Moods are important, feelings never die; this is music to inspire.

tintin

mercury rev
see you on the other side

FELIX 1026



Ira's voice still drones, Georgia occasionally takes vocal control with shy confidence, but the group's driving force remains their love of some good guitar reverberation and semi-inane odd-ball attitude.

tintin

y o l a t e n g o
e l e c t r - o - p u r a

FELIX 1031



S U M M E R

A LOOK AT ALL THAT IS INTERESTING THIS SUMMER, BOTH IN LONDON AND ELSEWHERE

OR THE SUN SETS ON THE NIGHT-DAY GUIDE

EVENTS

The City of London Festival
20 June- 7 July. Over 80 events throughout the square mile including concerts, operas, recitals, lectures, films, literary events, jazz, open air & childrens' performances, walks and an arts fair. Call 0171 377 0540 for a brochure.
Paddington Performance Festival
July 2. Paddington Rec Ground, W9. Free. With all manner of jugglers, unicyclists, circus acts, clowns etc.

Soho Festival
9 July. St. Anne's Gardens, Wardour Street, Soho. 12-6pm. A combination of live music, good food and a huge village fete in drag. An enjoyable day with a huge variety of things to do, eat, drink, listen to and try on. Organised by IC's Alex Howard and featuring several IC bands - only £1.
Spitalfields Community Festival
23 July. Old Spitalfields Market, Brushfield St, E1. Multicultural celebration with music, dance, poetry and plays performed by a

range of local groups.
Strallerthon 95
16 July. Cadbury's sponsored fun London walk with live entertainment, drinks and inevitably, chocolate. In aid of Save the Children and One Small Step charities. Call 0171 353 6060 for an entry pack.



Small Ads

Free Firsts
See the world's first gear wheel, double helix, computer and compared cash machine at the excellent Science Museum. Entry is free to IC students and staff.
Technical Help Needed
London's libraries provide many cassette machines for use by blind. Help is required to maintain and install these and give some guidance on their use. Experience in electronics is needed and

help would entail one or two evenings per month. Call David Finlay-Maxwell on 01484 450982.
"Place to live" Wanted
Four bedrooms, at least one other room, within 2 miles of college, as scruffy as you like and less than £250 pw. Yeah, and monkeys might..... Call 01223 836639 or 01482 213017
Disk boxes for sale
983 slightly used 3.5" disk boxes for sale at 15p each. Contains protective scrap paper. Call Larry on 0171 017 07 0

MUSIC

INDIE, POP & ROCK

Bon Jovi + Van Halen + Ugly Kid Joe + Thunder.
23-25 June. Wembley. £22.50.
Glastonbury
23-25 June. Sold out - you'll have to go over the fence. With **Glen Rose**, Black Crowes, Oasis, Soul Asylum, Elastica, The Cure, Jeff Buckley, Tricky, The Saw Doctors, Supergrass and plenty more.
Jerry Lee Lewis
24 June. Forum. £15
Sharon Shannon
2 July. Mean Fiddler. £7.
Soul Asylum
26 June. Shep Bush

Empire. £9.
Southside Johnny + Bobby Bandiera
28 June. Mean Fiddler.
Robert Cray Band
28-30 June. Shep Bush Empire. £15.
Bracknell Festival
30 June - 2 July. Jah Wobble, Invaders of the Heart, Ultramarine, John Martyn, Annie Whitehead and more. South Hill Park, Bracknell. Weekend £26, day £10, concs free.
Mercury Rev
1 July. Astoria. £8.50
SAS Band
1 July. Shepherd's Bush Empire. £9.

Menswear
1 July. Marquee. £7.
Jesus & Mary Chain
2 July. Shep Bush Empire. £10.
Wilson Pickett
2 July. Grand. £13.50
Elastica + Gene + S*M*A*S*H. 6 July. Forum. £10
The Verve
7 July. Astoria. £7
Rolling Stones
11, 15, 16 July. Wembley, £25.
Marianne Faithfull
12 July. Shepherd's Bush Empire. £13.50
Aimee Mann
13 July. Mean Fiddler.

Phoenix 95
13-16 July. A fantastic number of acts including Bob Dylan, Faith No More, Paul Weller, JTQ, Suede, Public Enemy, Brand New Heavies, Tricky, EMF, Justin Sullivan, Lang Marston Airfield, Stratford upon Avon. £58.
George Clinton & the Parliament Funk
15 July. £15.
WOMAD
21-23 July. Ali Farka Toure, Papa Wemba, Master Musicians of Jajouka, Muzikas, Marta Sebestyen and more.

Reading. £40, £34 concs.
Bootleg Beatles
22 July. Shep Bush Empire. £8.
Vic Chestnut
25 July. Purcell Room. £9.50.
Plant & Page
25 & 26 July. Wembley.
The Cranberries
31 July. Wembley. £15
CROPEDY Richard Thompson, Danny Thompson, Roy Wood, Procol Harum and more. 11 & 12 Aug. Cropedy. £29 weekend.
Procol Harum
12 Aug. Shep Bush Empire. £16.

Reading Neil Young, Bjork, Hole, Soundgarden, Gene, The Boo Radleys, Tricky, Throwing Muses, Pavement, Smashing Pumpkins, Green Day, Teenage Fanclub, Carter USM, Drugstore and more. 25-27 August. £60.
Jeffrey Tull
29 Sept. Apollo Hammersmith. £15
Levellers
5 & 6 October. Brixton Academy. £10.
Therapy?
13 October. Brixton Academy.

MUSIC

JAZZ, CLASSIC & FOLK

Bandicoot
21 June, 8.30pm. Arena, 167 Drury Lane. £3. IC's top jazz funk band goes professional!
Meltdown 95
23 June-1 July. Royal Festival Hall. 0171 928 8800. Elvis Costello headlines with his own choice set: Jazz Passengers, Deborah Harry, Jimmy Scott, June Tabour, London Philharmonic Orchestra and loads more. See also **Celluloid Meltdown** in ARTS.

Open Air Opera Season
Victoria Embankment Gardens, Villars St, WC2. June-July. Call 0171 375 0441 for details. Free. Presenting a wide range of opera companies with performances in the early evenings each week.
Digby's Half-Dozen Journey Through Jazz
2 July. Purcell Room, South Bank. Fairweather appears with five of UK's finest young soloists.
Kensington Symphony Orchestra

Queen Elizabeth Hall, Royal Fest Hall, South Bank. Weir, Stravinsky and Mahler. £5-12.
National Festival of Music for Youth
3-8 July. Over 6500 young musicians, singers and dancers in all styles. £4, £2.50 concs per day. 0181 870 9624.
The Brecker Brothers
7 July. Barbican Centre. Masters of electric Jazz. £10+.
Yehudi Menuhin
10 July. The Menuhin School Orchestra plays

Purcell, Britten, Vivaldi, Mendelssohn, Elgar and Grieg. Queen Elizabeth Hall. £7.50-10.
Gary Crosby's Nu Troop
11 July. Purcell Room, South Bank. Virtuoso jazz bassist plays John Coltrane, Miles Davis and Charlie Parker. £10.
George Benson
11 July. Royal Festival Hall. £15-30.
BB King
15 July. Royal Festival Hall. £10-25
Carmen Jones
21-23 July. Royal Festival

Hall. Oscar Hammerstein's sensual wind musical repeated by popular demand.
London Symphony Orchestra
23 July. Barbican Centre. Michael Tilson Thomas celebrates the music of Leonard Bernstein at his final concert as LSO conductor.
Cambridge Folk Festival
28-30 July. Elvis Costello (yet again), Paul Brady, Kate and Anna McGarrigle, Balfa

Toujours, Capercaille, Sharon Shannon, Lindisfarne and more. Cherry Hinton Hall Grounds, Cambridge. £36 weekend.
JTQ + Jamiroqui + Maceo Parker + Little Axe. 29 July. Highbury Fields. £20.
Piano Masterclass
With Artur Pizarro. 30 July. Purcell Room, South Bank. The culmination of the summer school classes. Four sessions, £3.50 each or £6.50 for all four.

THEATRE

The Open Air Theatre
Regent's Park. 0171 486 2431. **Richard III.** 22-27 June, 7, 8, 14-17 July, 10-14, 29, 30 August. **A Midsummer Night's Dream.** 21, 28-30 June, 1-6, 10-13, 19-22 July, 4-9, 23-28 August. **The Music Man.** 25 July-3 August. **Dracula** 4, 5, 18, 19 August. **Watch Out For Mr Stork** 11, 12, 14 August. **Falstaff** 26 August. All £7.50 - £17.50, concs. Standbys

£6. Evenings 8pm, matinees 2.30pm.
Royal Shakespeare Company at the Barbican Centre. 0171 638 8891.
Measure for Measure 1, 2, 3, 14, 15, 21, 24 & 26 July, **A Midsummer Night's Dream** (everyone's doing it) 5, 6, 12, 13, 16 & 17 July, **Twelfth Night** 7, 8, 10, 11, 19, 20, 26, 27 July.
Five Guys Named Moe
Albery Theatre. 0171 369 1730. A lively celebration

of Louis Jordan's unique and enjoyable jazz.
My Night with Reg
Criterion Theatre, Piccadilly Circus. 0171 344 4444. £5-17. Kevin Elyot's moving, quiet, thoughtful and coldly comic play portrays the meetings of old College friends under the fearful shadow of AIDS.

0171 580 5533. Projects by architect **Weston Williamson** until 1 July and **Arata Isozaki** until 12 August. A highly atmospheric space where you can hang around reading art & design magazines. Free entry.
South Bank Photo Show
Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1. 0171 921 8800. Carefully vetted work from over 1000 photographers - the theme being hometruths. Until 23 July.

Behind Bars

If you have ever been tempted to whip out your 0.5mm Rotring in Sainsbury's and change your '53 Margot into a bottle of plonk-de-plonk, then read on...

The barcode system seen on all products was first introduced in 1977 and is now used not only for all consumer products but also for private systems such as library books. Each has twenty-six bars and spaces surrounded and bisected by three further pairs. The numbers they represent are printed below the bars, with one notable omission. Here's how they work:

1. The first two numbers give the country of origin - in England's case it's 50.
2. The following five figures identify the manufacturer.
3. The following five are an arbitrary code allocated by the manufacturer to identify the commodity, including its size.
4. This is the cunning bit. The remaining number is a check digit and is there to stop you subverting the system with your trusty magic marker. It is derived from all the other digits like this: first delete the second digit of

the code. Next write the oddly placed digits in a list and the evenly placed ones in a second one. Add up both lists, multiply the odd list by three and add it to the even list. To get the check digit, subtract this result from the next highest multiple of ten.

Each number of the code is represented by two bars and two spaces, each of which can be one to four units thick, but the complete number is always eight units wide. The bars need to be readable from both directions, so the last six numbers have their bars inverted, allowing the scanner to tell which side of the code it is reading.

The scanner needs some way of detecting where to start and stop and where the centre of the code is. This is provided by the guard bars - the three pairs of lines I mentioned earlier. They are present on all bar codes, and extend further down than the other bars. They are two medium bars with two medium spaces and their corresponding digit is not printed. There is a good reason for this. It is because they correspond the number 6. Sinister eh?



ARTS

Dialogue in the Dark
Royal Festival Hall, Piccadilly, WC1. 0171 921 8800. A conceptual exhibit - ie. you think it's brilliant or nonsense. You are introduced to your own white stick and lead through dark rooms, your senses taken over by the dialogue supplied.
227 the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition
Piccadilly. 0171 494 5615 until 13 August. £4.80, £3.50 concs. A lively and exuberant show with the best of contemporary artists alongside little known but excellent pieces. All have passed a rigorous selection procedure and most are for

sale, but are probably very expensive.
Katherine Dowson
The Mayor, 22A Cork St, W1. 0171 629 5161. Until 7 July. A strange and disturbing show, does not seem to have a particular style, but is themed on human body alteration and reproduction. Concrete fetuses and breast implants abound, make up your own mind on this one.
Art Market
23 July, 13 Aug & 10 Sept. Old Spitalfields Market, Brushfield St, E1. Exhibits 25 artists for one day only.
RIBA
66 Portland Place, W1.

0171 580 5533. Projects by architect **Weston Williamson** until 1 July and **Arata Isozaki** until 12 August. A highly atmospheric space where you can hang around reading art & design magazines. Free entry.
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