

**Sport:**

Women's Football beat Kings 14 - 1



**Equality 95:**

Marc Almond plays for Stonewall

**Digital Moves:**

Dancing with the man from Cyberspace

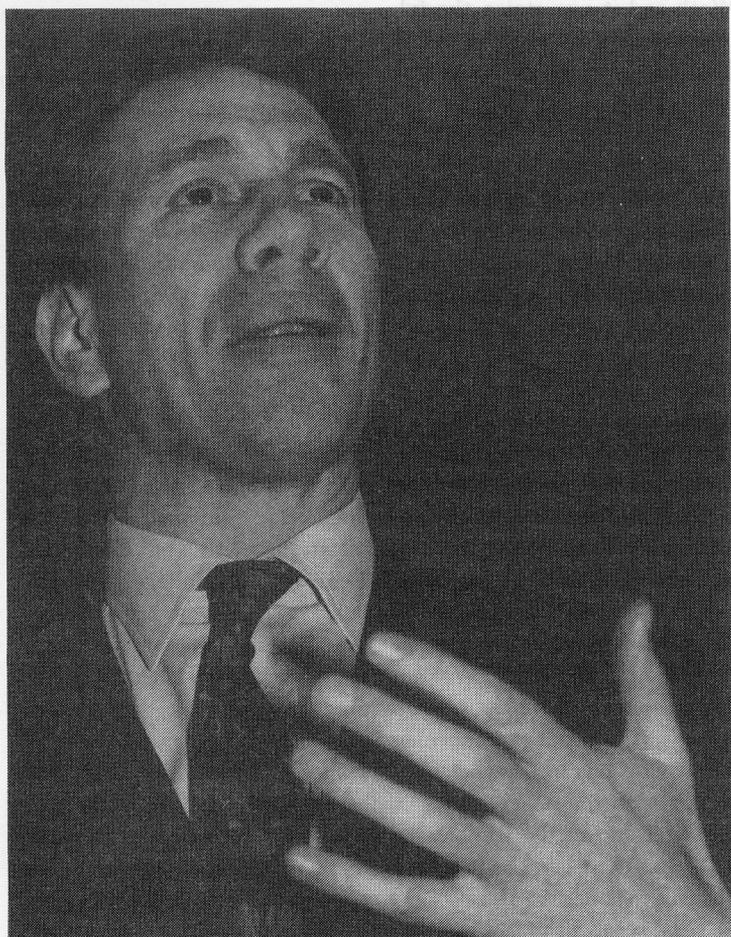


# FELIX

The student newspaper of Imperial College

Issue 1038  
October 27th 1995

## “Made In Britain” Estates Back Down on Sherfield Move



**Michael Portillo gets a waft of students** Photo: William Lorenz  
Fears that the visit of Michael Portillo on Wednesday would be interrupted by Left Wing Activists proved unfounded. His appearance was only marred by the inability of certain students to gain access to the overcrowded lecture hall.

**BY ALEX FEAKES**

College authorities announced this week that plans to move the Union to the Sherfield building were 'on hold' following fears over the rising costs for the scheme. The Rector, Sir Ronald Oxburgh, told a meeting of the Governors last Friday that the projected expenditure was spiralling out of control beyond the original budget.

The architects, Sir Norman Foster and Partners, came up with the designs for the area around the Queen's Lawn, to create a "centre of dawn to dusk activity." Ian Caldwell, Director of Estates, said "the costs appear to be higher than we feel comfortable with... especially to meet the brief [setting out the Union's minimum requirements]." Other sources say that costs are up to five times over the budget of approximately £3 million, and no new money can be found.

When asked about the decision to put the move on hold, Ian Caldwell replied that "ICU are not enthusiastic about the

move... Also, the costs are quite high, so the move has to be financially justifiable." He stressed that the College wanted to provide student facilities that would be the 'envy of many colleges', but he insisted that funding for the scheme would have to be recovered from increased accommodation revenue in Beit Quad.

ICU President Sarah White said that the decision was "wonderful news". She added that the Rector had given ICU the chance to push for the 'Beit Option', and to emphasise the advantages and savings from staying there. She was adamant that the Union had pressed the importance of keeping the range of its facilities with the architects, and their proposal reflected this, coming in way over the 'unrealistic' budget for the plan and still only just acceptable.

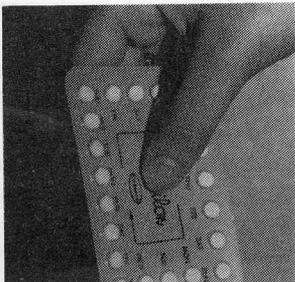
Talking about the Union's ideas for Beit, Ian Caldwell said "We are having a quick look at that as an option". However, he iterated that there would have to be changes 'to keep the disturbances down', including moving the exit to the north side of the building and some acoustic remodelling of the inside to reduce the noise. He expressed surprise at the "affinity that the people involved had for their current 'homes'" and the strength of feeling about the move.

### Contraceptive Pill Scare provokes Strong Reaction

Imperial College Health Centre has been inundated with telephone calls this week as controversial new research suggests that certain contraceptive pills are highly dangerous. The national

media coverage given to the report has provoked a reaction from worried staff and students. Dr Weinreb is attempting to allay fears and restore calm the fraught situation. **Page3**

in summary



# News in brief

## Disappearing Bikes

Imperial College has been hit by a string of bicycle thefts in the first few weeks of term, which has led to fears that IC is being targeted by professional thieves.

This series of incidents is concentrated around the Central Library bicycle racks. Dan Seaman (Physics 1) bought his bike on the Monday of Freshers' Week and it was stolen the following Friday. He said that his D-lock had jammed so instead he used a good quality cable lock to secure his bike. Sue (Physics 2), also using a cable lock, said her bike was stolen on the first Wednesday of Freshers' Week.

Both victims said they had informed the Police. Asked if he had reported the incident to College Security, Dan said, "Of course I didn't, it would be a complete waste of time."

One security officer at the Security Desk in the Sheffield building said that bike thefts are usually very high during the first week of term because so many people buy new bikes. Asked if anything was done to prevent bike thefts, she said "We are doing as much as we can to stop these sorts of things happening here, by fitting cameras and cooperating with the police. But it is ultimately up to the students to look after their bikes as it is very difficult to catch the thieves."

She went on to say that the police cannot "convict someone unless we see them in the process of stealing a bike. Thieves can break through any lock, including cable and D-locks. They break the latter by covering them with liquid Nitrogen. It is very difficult to spot bike thieves in the act as they are very quick."

The security officer gave some advice on how to protect your bikes suggesting that students, code their bikes, insure their bikes, report any thefts to security and that they buy a cheap bicycle.

## Cannabis Catch

A Student Residences Tribunal has concluded the hearing of the Tizard Hall resident who was caught with cannabis in the first week of term. Following a police presence, the Chem Eng student was cautioned, and will face suspension if he re-offends.

## CCS Users Shut Out

Computer Centre users voiced frustration at the beginning of term when Mech Eng introduced a policy of shutting its doors at 8pm. The centre, which is supposed to be open until ten, was effectively shut off to all but Mech Eng students. The move was made after the department spent considerable sums installing new lifts and refurbishing the building's general amenities (including its library) over the summer.

Mr Rogers, the building's Supervisor, said that initial consultations with the Computer Centre and College Security failed to highlight the problem but that the building will once again be open till 10 pm as a temporary measure.

However, some form of swipe card controlled entry will be implemented, due to the very significantly increased risk of thefts when the doors are left open until late at night.

## Willis Resigned To Appeal

Richard Willis resigned as Rag Chair pending the result of his appeal against his Imperial College Union Disciplinary. The appeal board will hear the case sometime next week, and will consist of randomly drawn members of the Union Executive with Sarah White as chair. Ms White said that Willis had wanted a second hearing, but that he himself had pointed out that it would be too long after the event so "he'll have to settle for an appeal".

AIDS CAN AFFECT ANYONE

LOWDI  
RACIS



## Union Adviser Departs

Minevar Kavlak is departing from her role as Imperial College Union Adviser after two years in the job. She is leaving the College to take an educational course as she 'thought that it was time to move on'. Minevar is however 'very sad to leave', adding that: 'I'm going to miss people here, they're a good bunch.' The Union Adviser does feel that she has helped students: "I think that in my own little way I've helped who I can. I know who they are and they know who I am."

While looking forward to her course - 'it's really funny being a student again' - Minevar considers her time working for the Union as well spent. "One issue that kept coming up was harassment" she says, adding that this was an area in which she had striven for an official ICU policy. Equal Opportunities and the Nursery Service were other issues which particularly concerned her. Having enjoyed her role in ICU, she emphasised that, 'challenging people, especially in college', were actions which she found most fulfilling.

Matt Crompton, Deputy President Finance and Services, pointed to her work on student accommodation as one of her most influential activities. Expressing disappointment at her departure, Matt illustrated her vital role with an example in which she had recently forced a local landlord to improve the standard of student accommodation in the hostel he runs.

A locum advisor is in place and a permanent replacement will be found in the new year.

# Pill Scare Rocks Health Centre

BY MARK BRIDGE

Dr. Irene Weinreb, Director of the Health Centre, has issued a notice to *Felix* in response to the recent publicity concerning the risks associated with some combined oral contraceptives. The centre has been inundated with calls since the disputed research findings were made public last week.

The controversial brands are Mercilon, Marvelon, Femodene, Femodene ED, Tri-Minulet, Minulet, and Triadene.

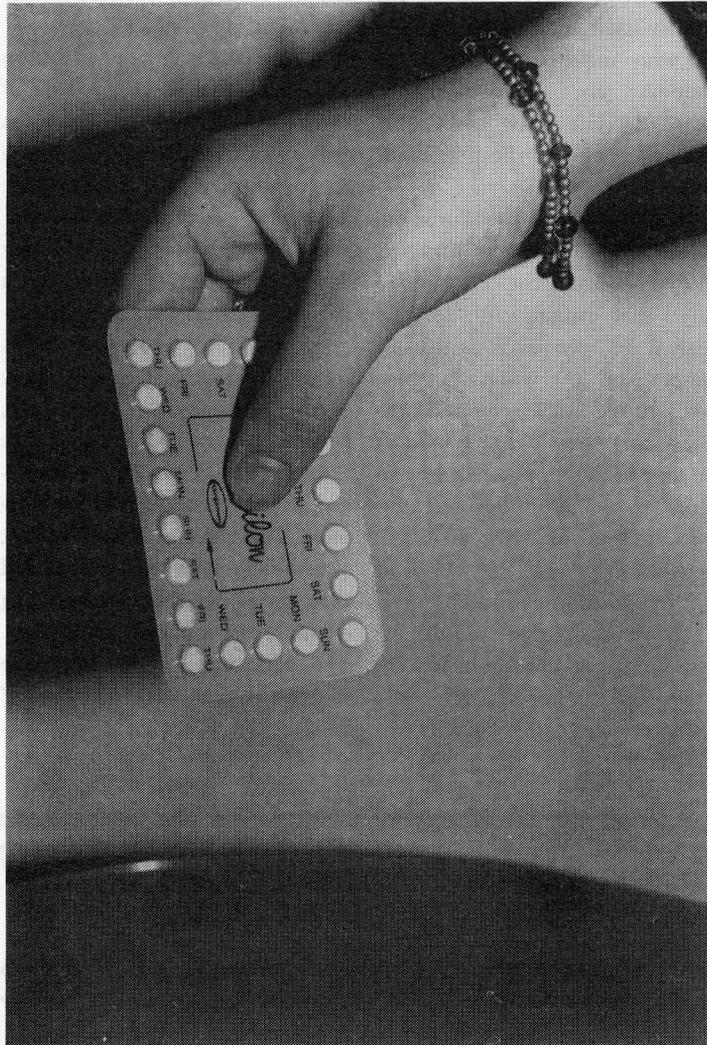
Staff at the College Health Centre say they are not convinced of the increased risks associated with the new progestones in these products (the studies have not been published and reviewed yet). Dr. Weinreb explains '...users are already screened for risk factors before prescriptions are written, minimising the effective risks'. They stress that women should not stop taking the pill and should finish their current packet, however the centre is obliged to ask people who obtain their pills from them to change to another product.

Those who get contraceptives elsewhere should discuss their situation with their GP or Family Planning Clinic.

The Health Centre also issued guidelines advising their patients to take one of the following courses of action:

- Collect a prescription for three months' supply of other brand pills, plus an additional information sheet on how to change over. Then, within two months, make an appointment to see a doctor or nurse.
- Make an appointment to see one of the doctors or practice nurses.
- Attend one of the doctors' or nurses' open clinics.

The Centre say they are happy to answer enquiries, but ask that they be made on weekdays between 12 and 12.30 or 3 and 3.15pm.



## Oestrogen Pills and Thrombosis: a Brief History

In the 1950's oestrogen was found to inhibit ovulation when taken in regular daily doses. Oestrogen normally thickens the endometrium (uterus) wall and prevents other eggs from maturing while an egg is active. Unfortunately complications such as thrombosis sometimes developed. Searches for safer alternatives led to various drugs with low or no oestrogen content. These were variably successful.

The most promising work was with progesterone. This hormone, which normally allows fertilised cells to multiply and grow in the uterus, was also found to

inhibit ovulation, though less reliably than oestrogen.

Current low dose oral contraceptives are based on mixtures and improvements of synthetic versions of these hormones. An as yet uncompleted European study seems to indicate that low dose oral contraceptives are still associated with a small risk of thrombosis generally.

However third generation synthetic progestones have been linked to higher incidence of thrombosis when they are compared to previous generation progestones such as levonorgestrol.

## Research Disputed

The research findings that have sparked off international alarm are still disputed. The as yet unpublished report from the World Health Organisation has found that third generation synthetic progestones, degestrol and gestodene, have been found to cause an increase of about 0.0001% in incidents of (venous thromboembolism) blood clots in the leg and/or lungs.

The report was circulated to various governments around the world. The U.K. Department of Health, the first government body to react to the report, sent doctors a directive to deal with the issue on Wednesday last. In a separate development the German government announced that they would be reviewing their position on the drugs this Sunday night.

The project director of the WHO research stressed that there was no need for the alarm that had been generated. The risk with these third generation progestones is greater than previous ones, but the risk of blood clot formation is in actual fact very small (0.0002%).

The WHO constitution requires safety and choice to be paramount in fertility regulation, as for other aspects of human health. Other quarters take a different view, with the U.S. National Research Council calling on their government to relax regulations arguing "Given the potentially serious health consequences of unwanted pregnancy resulting from contraceptive failure, methods with fewer side effects are not necessarily safer if they have higher failure rates".

Doctors, who have to implement these often conflicting principles in the real world, are left to strike a balance between the various risk factors and the needs of their patients.

# Portillo Visit Passes Peacefully

## BY THE NEWS TEAM

On Wednesday Michael Portillo, Conservative Defence Minister, appeared as a guest of Consoc. Launching himself into a half hour speech with an anti-Labour anecdote, he was on fighting form.

Mr Portillo asserted that the Conservative government is the only one that has made (and will keep) Britain competitive. He gave the example of microchip factories to illustrate how the country must invest in business to stay part of the global market. Citing the Far East's positive attitude to education he stated "we have to re-establish the concept that education is a privilege".

Through education the country would achieve intellectual excellence and through this the country would become more competitive. He questioned the

"self depreciating" attitude of many British citizens towards the country itself and asked why people who make money through business are denigrated or despised. His was the party "unleashed against the politics of envy".

Talking about the European Community Mr Portillo stumbled over the Maastricht Treaty. He stated that Britain wants to be a "high wage" economy, as it can't compete on low wages, but also justified the social chapter opt-out stating that "social standards can only be acquired when we can afford them". This lies opposite the "society of law, order ... respect and care" he cited at another point in his speech.

Mr Portillo then took questions from the floor, which were surprisingly unhostile. His only sticky moment came when he was

unable to find a question from a female student - eventually one was raised by an older lady.

Mr Portillo did not speak on what supposed to be his area of expertise - defence - to the main group, however later during a short exclusive *Felix* interview he did comment on the Bosnian situation. He defended the Tory defence strategy, advocating a NATO-centred solution. Reiterating the views expressed in his recent controversial speech made at the Conservative conference, he rejected the idea of a joint European strategy. Whilst admitting that the handling of the former Yugoslavian crisis hadn't always been coherent, he insisted that the Government's handling of the situation had been right. The campaign had been 'more successful than was recognised,' he said.

Despite rumours that his appearance would be met with jeers and rotten eggs, Mr Portillo's visit, guarded by a heavy police presence, passed off peacefully.

ICU Labour Club have denied knowledge of flyers that appeared around IC calling for Portillo's speech to be picketed. The "Stop Miguel Portaloo" leaflets incorporated the Labour Club emblem, but the society insisted that the logo must have been photocopied off their own posters as a prank.

Jacob Tomkins, Honourary President of the Labour Club insisted that that they would never advocate disruptive behaviour. "The more people that go and see Michael Portillo the better, because he's a great advert for the Labour club," he said. "We want to encourage people like him to visit."

## City & Guilds College Association Career Networking Reception

*at the National Liberal Club*

*Meet past Guilds Students already working in  
Engineering, the Professions and the City*

### Thursday 2nd November

*Wine & Refreshments*

*FREE to CGCA Members*

*Student CGCA membership is only £3*

*More information from the Guilds Office, Level 3,  
Mech Eng, or Room 301, Sherfield Building*



# United Nations?



This week has seen the celebrations of half a century since the establishment of the United Nations. It has been fifty years since the Allies won the war and laid the foundation stones in San Francisco of what was called the United Nations Organisation.

Today, the UN has expanded beyond recognition – it has become a giant consisting of a plethora of agencies and their acronyms; UNDP, UNEP, WIPO, UNCTAD, IMF, IAEA, WHO, FAO, UNHCR, IFAD, WFP... and the list goes on. The UN agencies are concerned with issues such as the promotion of human rights, agriculture, health, patents, telecommunications, refugees and education to name a few. Most people have the misconception that all the UN does is peace keeping, and in some cases even go to war.

The United Nations Charter, Article 1, reads as follows:

"The Purposes of the United Nations are:

1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of the acts of aggression..."

Has the UN been able to do this? Is there international peace? It has been a couple of generations since the charter was written, but unfortunately the UN has not been able to keep peace. There have been countless wars since the charter was signed in San Francisco: the Korean war, Arab-Israeli wars, two Gulf wars, the Falklands war and so on. Was Article 1 expressing optimism or was it a sheer utopian statement? We all know that since 1945 there has not been a single day of global peace. Even today there are myriad wars being fought and from Bosnia to Somalia, Sri

Lanka to Afghanistan there are sounds of children screaming and Kalashnikovs rattling. We can unequivocally say that the UN is not doing its job properly.

Article 55 of the UN Charter states that one of the principle aims of the UN is to promote 'higher living standards, full employment and conditions of economic and social progress' as well as to find solutions for 'international economic, social, health related problems; and international cultural and educational co-operation...'. Indeed the UN and its agencies have strived to achieve the above goals, but it is far from achieving them. There is mass unemployment and civil strife, and living standards in some parts of the world leave much to be desired.

The UN is crippled, bankrupt and needs to be changed radically. The answer lies in its own charter, which states that the permanent members of the Security Council (China, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and the US) should have veto powers with regards to any decisions taken by the General Assembly or any other UN body. During the Cold War we saw that this had a detrimental effect on many proceedings because the Soviet Union vetoed any proposal that affected its interests, and the US vetoed any actions suggested by the Communist Block. This rendered the UN a dead donkey, and its General Assembly speeches consisted of rhetoric and bright ideas but no actions, especially in matters of peace keeping. Today, one of the

superpowers is gone and the UN has become synonymous with the US. All five permanent members put their national interests first, thereby eliminating the possibility of any ground breaking reforms. The United States alone owes over \$1 billion in arrears, and the tight fist Republican Congress is not willing to pay up because it is trying to reduce its government budget deficit.

The United Nations must change to accommodate for the changing times, and it needs its own powers to implement and enforce peace. In order to do so the UN charter has got to be amended and the permanent five must loosen their grip on the Security Council. The Secretary General needs to be delegated more powers because what we see today is that Boutos Ghali relegated to the sidelines by the Secretary General of NATO in the Bosnian conflict. We need a UN that is genuinely committed to achieving its mandate.

As for Article 55, the United Nations needs to cut down its layers of bureaucracy and to slim down its agencies that overlap in many areas. The UN should be used as an organ for transferring knowledge, wealth and expertise from richer to poorer countries, thereby helping them to prosper. Prosperous people will never go to war, so it is in everyone's interests to make the United Nations a success.

AITA

**How the best  
computer  
graduates  
secure the  
brightest  
futures.**

## **Networking.**

Find out how much a future with Madge Networks could offer you. Come and meet us at the Recruitment Fair in the Union Building on Wednesday 8th November between 10am and 5pm and on Thursday 9th November between 10am and 4pm.



## *Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme*

- Undergraduates assist academic staff with their research.
- Directory of 1995 –96 opportunities available from Room 313C Mechanical Engineering
- Information meeting: Wednesday, 1 november 13.45 – 14.00 Room 342 mechanical Engineering

**Help academic staff and help your career.  
Join UROP now.**

## **Hall Vacancies**

Places are now available in twin and triple rooms for new or continuing undergraduate and postgraduate students in halls of residence (Evelyn Gardens and Prince's Gardens).

Single rooms are available in Clayponds for postgraduate students.

Please contact the Student Accommodation Office, 15 Prince's Gardens (tel: 0171 594 9444).

## **Wing Chun Kung Fu**

**Street self defence  
Keeping fit with a purpose  
Group tuition  
Apparatus training  
One to one training  
Free lesson with this advert**

**By Renowned Kung Fu  
Teacher Sifu Andrew Sofos**

"The art of war is of vital importance to the state. It is a matter of life and death, a road either to safety or to ruin. Hence it is a subject of inquiry which can on no account be neglected."

Sun Tzu 500 BC

"Don't neglect this marvellous opportunity for you to learn a practical and highly treasured martial art. Surely your life is worth more than £2.50 per lesson."

Sifu A. Sofos 1995 AD

**For further information come  
to classes at the Union Gym:  
Wed 1.30-3.30pm  
Fri 5.00-7.00pm or call 0181 8J8 5232**



# THE LONDON Motor MOTOR SHOW

**The most distinguishing feature of the London Motor Show is its size. Not only is the venue huge, but the number of cars on display gets larger each year. From the smallest to the biggest, what you want is there.**



The Earls Court site was roughly divided into 'cheap' and 'expensive' exhibition areas. The many new models on display include: the Chrysler Jeep, Citroen's new Xantia Estate, Ferrari's F50, the Fiat Bravo, Ford's Fiesta, Honda's Civic, Hyundai's Lantra, the Land Rover Discovery XS, Mercedes brand new E - series, Peugeot's 806 and 406 range, Porsche's 911, the advanced Rover MGF, Vauxhall's new space-machine, the Vectra and the Volvo 850 series.

A particular coup for Saab this year was their exhibit of the revolutionary 'sonsonic' gearing system. This essentially is a manual transmission gear box which does away with the need for a clutch. A very personal decision as to whether you want to use this bizarre system.

Not only were the cars of interest, but the diverse marketing methods employed by the various manufacturers were also entertaining. If you're a fan of reworked 70's hits in the Gary Glitter style, you'd better mosey on over to the Vauxhall stand. For the freebie fans,

many of the promo stalls were giving away free information packs, posters, bags and so forth.

A few points of note:

Daewoo claims to have shifted 9,000 cars in six months and trumpets "the most successful launch ever". Further, on Wednesday, an anonymous buyer purchased a classic Jaguar D-type for £1 million. There is a good selection of "classic" cars, and as increasing number of sports cars on show. Strangely enough, Volvo has joined the ranks of the sports models with the 850. If you have a spare hundred thou' or so, don't waste it on a Mercedes 600SL (£107,000), they're overpriced and rather vulgar. The 300 series however, is elegant and well worth a look.

The Motor Show continues until Sunday, but a full tour takes several hours to get the most of the hefty £9 price tag (without concessions). Also, with the astronomical food prices, this show is really only for those who love cars (and tens of thousands of people).

By Jeremy Clarke



Top: Lotus Elise, price approx. £23,000  
Above: Daewoo Nexia, price approx. £9,000  
Above Right: Alfa Spider, price to be announced.

# Digital Dancing

In a small theatre at Sadler's Wells, you can see the perfect dancer performing. He can execute any combination of moves you ask him to, no matter how complex or difficult. He can repeat them at any speed, as many times as you like. He won't get tired or complain and he never makes even the slightest mistake. But the most extraordinary thing about this performer is that he exists only in Cyberspace. He is the 'digital dancer' and he is starting a revolution in dance and choreography.

I went along to see him at the Digital Dance Project, part of 'Dance Umbrella', Europe's leading dance festival. The project is being held at the Lillian Baylis Theatre at Sadler's Wells all of this week and aims to "move dance-making out of the rehearsal studio and into the Cyberstudio."

Walking into the Cyberstudio is a striking experience. An array of stage lights and video cameras are trained on a small black dance floor, centre stage. Towards the rear there is a huge projection screen showing video images of live dance. But around the perimeter of the stage is something you won't normally find in a theatre: Several top of the range Apple Macintosh computers, and seated at them are some of Britain's most talented choreographers, digital artists, and multimedia designers.

Henry Johnson, of Illuminations Interactive, explained what was going on.

"What we have here is five teams of artists openly collaborating with each other. They are using interactive software which combines video, live dance, animation and sound." The Cyberstudio will be linked via the internet to other Dance Umbrella sites around London and the public can access and participate in this via a web site (<http://www.illum.in.co.uk/umbrella/>). The web site will offer a showcase and a virtual workshop for the week's work, Johnson describes it as "a window for the world to look over our shoulders and a great opportunity for people to see artists as they create their work."

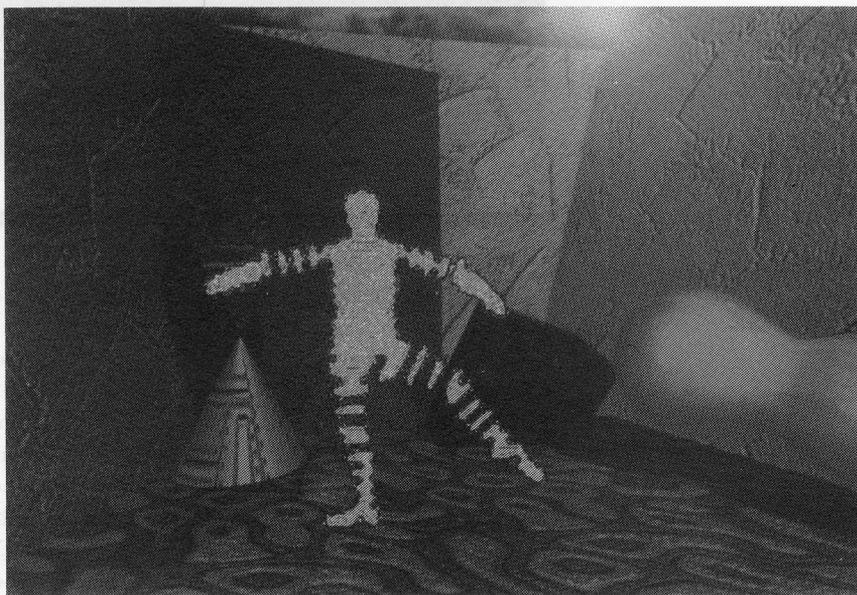
Most of the artists in the Cyberstudio are using *Lifeforms*, a piece of software containing a realistic model of the human body. When it was developed in 1989 by engineers at Simon Fraser University in California, it allowed human figures on the screen to move from one set position to another, like a series of still photographs. Now, the latest version moves with the fluidity of film and the digital dancer can be viewed in three dimensions from any angle. One of the first people to use this software for choreography was Merce Cunningham, described as the 'iconic grand master of American modern dance'. You can see his work at two performances at Sadler's Wells this month.

One of the artists I encountered in the Cyberstudio was Mark Baldwin, a leading British choreographer who uses *Lifeforms* to create his own unique style of dance. Baldwin has in effect re-invented himself as a digital choreographer. His dance company are currently performing "*Dances from Cyberspace*" a selection of works created using this new technology. I asked him how he had found the transition.

"Anyone who has ever played a video game can use this technology" he said, "This also means that anyone can choreograph." I was surprised that somebody who was used to crafting his work on real dancers could take so easily to a keyboard, a mouse and 120MHz of Mac power. Surely this must remove some of the creativity and emotion from his work?

"No, just the opposite. With *Lifeforms* you can change the speed or rhythm of the dancer without restriction. Its a visual thing. You try something, it may not work with real dancers as you envisaged but what you produce can suggest something else... The images and movement have this power of suggestion."

Moving on to the next work station, I came across Amos Winikoff, an artist who had trained as a software engineer but had recently started working in performance. His approach to using the software was slightly different: "I like to choreograph *things* as well as people. You can take all the idiosyncrasies of the computer program and turn them into performance. In this way, the action never occurs on the screen as you would see it in real life." He then



showed me a sample of his work involving dance and juggling balls which was too fantastic to describe in mere words. For Amos, the end product is more than just people moving around, it can be composed of several sources: "You couldn't possibly look at it all at once, so the audience has to make a choice... its not going to be just a dance."

The Digital Dance project is well worth checking out via the Dance Umbrella web site (until mid-November) or if you want to go along to see the setup for yourself, there are two seminars being held this weekend at the Lillian Baylis Theatre. The first seminar is on Friday 27 Oct at 7.30pm and is a chance to explore the Cyberstudio and raise issues of artistic vision in a live forum and debate. The second seminar is on Sunday 29 Oct 4.00pm. Chaired by Terry Braun, it will cover more practical issues concerning the support of similar projects in the future.

**Merce Cunningham's Dance Company:** Sadler's Wells 28 & 29 Oct.  
**Mark Baldwin "Dances from Cyberspace"** Riverside Studios Oct 31 & Nov1. For further details contact Clare Lovett Tel: 0171 636 7312.

By Ben Wilkins

# AMS



## Career Opportunities at AMS Management Systems



### Helping large organisations achieve their goals through information technology

*Our clients - many of them dominant players in their industries - recognise that technology is strategic to their success. And more than 4,000 consultants at AMS Management Systems are committed to achieving maximum results for each of our clients.*

AMS Management Systems has offices in:- Bern, Brussels, Düsseldorf, Frankfurt, The Hague, Lisbon, London, Madrid, München, Stockholm, and throughout North America.

### Presentation at the Imperial College

**Join us in the Ante Room, Sherfield Building  
on Wednesday, 1st November 1995  
at 6 o'clock pm.**

**This will be followed by cocktails.**

**Please sign-up at the Careers Office.**

**During your career at AMS Management Systems, you will:-**

- Develop strategies for strengthening clients' information technology capabilities
- Analyse clients' functions to redesign business processes to achieve breakthrough improvements in performance
- Evaluate alternative solutions to identify the best way to maximise benefits given cost, schedule and risk constraints
- Design technical architectures for both system and application functions
- Design and develop applications using state-of-the-art and traditional tools and techniques
- Provide systems integration across multiple platforms using client/server and mainframe solutions

**AMS Management Systems** looks for graduates from a variety of school disciplines: computer science, business and industrial management, engineering and informatics. We want graduates who are intelligent, creative problem solvers and who are committed to providing value to our clients. At AMS Management Systems, we put a premium on initiative and enthusiasm for mastering new technologies and putting them to use as mainstream business tools.

**Do You  
Thrive on  
Challenges?**



A career with Chemical Bank, one of the world's fastest growing global banks, offers top-flight graduates challenges in the most demanding of environments.

You owe it to yourself to find out more.

So come along to our careers presentation at

Chemical Bank, 125 London Wall,

London EC2,

on Wednesday 1st November

at 6.30pm.

If you can't make the presentation but would like an information pack, please call our Graduate Recruitment Hotline on 0171 580 0522.



*The Global Bank*

• **FRESH HAIR SALON** •  
**the best student offer in london!**



**Call: 0171 823 8968**

**GET READY - GET FRESH!**

**CUT & BLOW DRY**

**BY OUR TOP STYLISTS**

**£14 ..... LADIES**

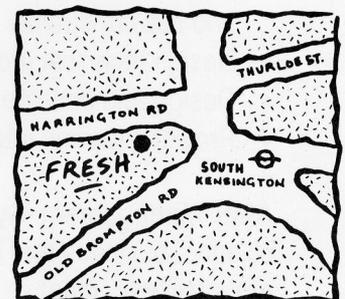
**£12 ..... MEN**

*Normal price £28!*

**where to  
find us!**

**15A HARRINGTON ROAD,  
SOUTH KENSINGTON,  
LONDON SW7 3ES**

*1 minute walk from  
South Kensington Tube Station!!*

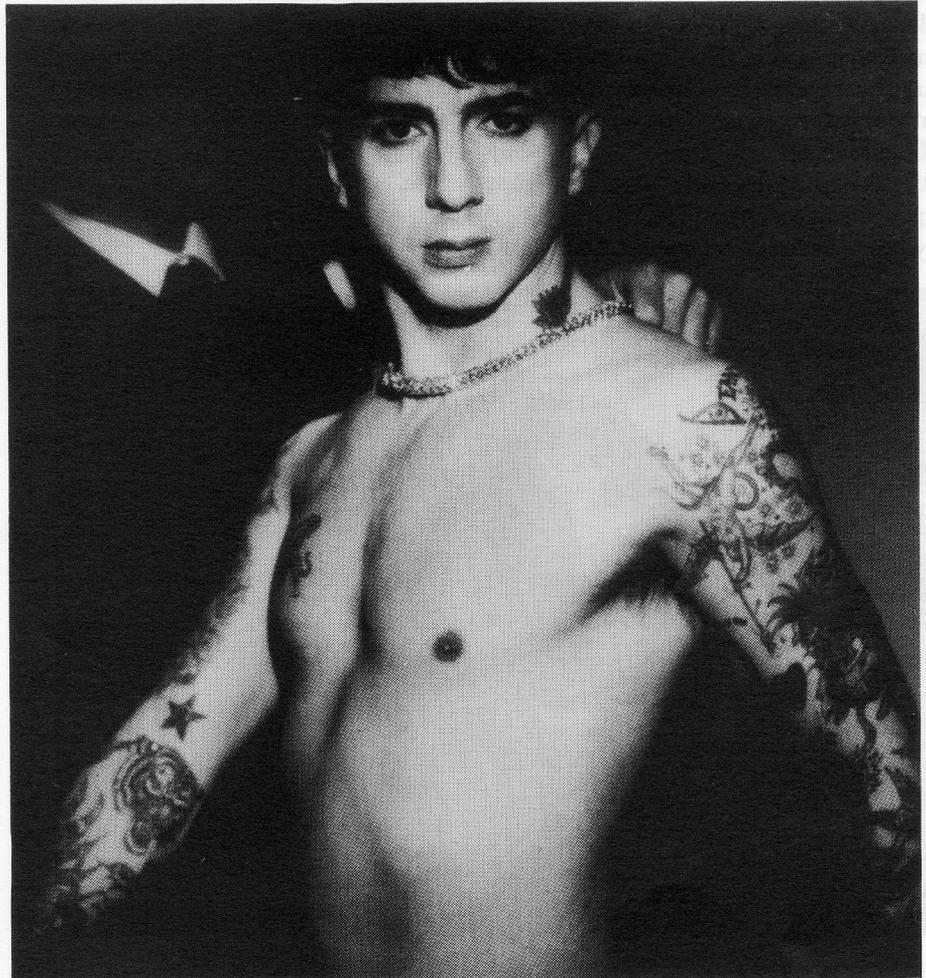


Access, Visa, Mastercard, Cash, Cheques

fii

marc almond featured with elton john, julian clary, joanna lumley and jennifer saunders in equality 95 on Sunday night, raising £100,000 for the gay pressure group Stonewall. ICU's matt crompton said "it was really excellent but I was duped into seeing east 17."

THE STONEWALL EQUALITY 95 SHOW



event:stonewall dp (f & s)

interview:buffalo tom vik

singles: lucas

album:steely dan - alive in america davros c. dick

album:sacred spirit alok jha

gig:sleeper mr happy

film:to die for magpie

video:bad lieutenant jeremy

insight:pigeons ben wilkins

theatre:venice preserved tintin

column:simon baker

xi

xii

xiii

xiiii

xv

xvi

xvii

xviii

## interview:buffalo tom vik

"We feel that that we're doing something really worthwhile and that we're giving something positive to society. And who knows, maybe what goes around will come around back to us."

These are not the words of one of the hideously self-deceived landlords in South Kensington who think that offering sardine-friendly rooms to students for aristocracy-friendly prices constitutes a philanthropical feat worthy of a Nobel Prize. And neither are they the words of a Mother Theresa-styled visionary on a genuine humanitarian crusade. No, thus spake Chris Colbourn, bassist and second vocalist with Boston guitar trio, Buffalo Tom, on the blower from their Milwaukee hotel.

Now to the uninitiated this might seem like a somewhat pretentious statement. However, if creating forty-five minutes of integrity-soaked

such as the emotive, Van Morrison-esque epic, 'Sunday night', and the punk-tinged Neil Young-acised 'Tangerine', that should be termed great by anyone's definition. The latter song, in particular, is indicative of a raw streak that pervades the album. Chris explained:

"Well, it was a reaction to the last record (1994's 'Big Red Letter Day') where we spent three months in the studio. This time we really didn't want to spend too much time recording. Also, we wanted to stay close to home. Tom's (Tom Maginnis, drummer) wife was eight months pregnant and he had to leave every couple of days for baby classes! So we recorded most of the songs live. We had a Stones' 'Some Girls' album attitude where we just went in and blasted it out."

And of course, with the album recorded live, playing live is now second nature.



music (the Tom's fifth album, 'Sleepy Eyed') and putting on superb live performances don't classify as virtues, then Saddam Hussein is a member of the 'Fair Election, Let's Give the People a Fair Vote' Society.

Not that enough people have recognised Buffalo Tom's virtue or virtuosity. Over the course of their seven year history they've been lumped in with everyone from The Lemonheads to Dinosaur Jr. In reality they possess a blue-collar, down-to-earth (lack of) attitude missing from both those bands. Do they resent being the perpetual underdogs?

"No, we don't mind. I've always known that if we sold five million records then the reviews of our records would change. Even when we started to sell 100,000 records journalists started to say that we weren't that great any more. You could say that part of our problem is that we don't have an Evan Dando frontman or a singer who's died of a heroin overdose. And it's just not in our blood to write a hit single like 'Runaway Train'."

Maybe not, but 'Sleepy Eyed' hoards songs

"We've been touring for months already and we'll be coming to Britain soon (Shepherd's Bush Empire on November 4th). We're really looking forward to it. I still have this romantic view of all these towns and villages in Britain... And then there's always the ludicrous side of the British music scene."

British music scene, ludicrous?

"Well, British music has this ridiculous side to it. I mean, Mr. Blobby and Whigfield - how seriously can you take them?"

Yes, but what about Britpop? Isn't all this arty lack of musical talent, laddish behaviour and Adidas tracksuits exactly what the public needs?

"I think that Blur and Oasis are so comic book, kind of like something that should be on Saturday morning children's TV. They're very entertaining and very theatre and that's a side of things that too many American bands forget about. I think that there is a place for that kind of ephemeral stuff. Unfortunately, that place just happens to be Britain!"

Buffalo Tom - Americans who tell it like it is. Listen to them.

## singles: lucas

mc almont & butler - you do  
Cream of the crop, this week. David McAlmont's languid and soulful voice drenched over Bernard Butler's sexy guitar. What more can I say?

blessed ethel - fat  
star/veronica

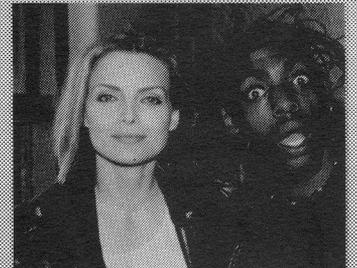
Layers of guitars for a meaty Rock 'n' Roll sound. 'Veronica' catches you unaware and plants itself in the crevices of your mind. Highly recommended.

cecil - no excuses

Jeff Buckley-like voice over thrashy guitar. Doesn't quite work somehow.

coolio - gangsta's paradise

Rap with a difference. An angelic choir with a nice enough tune. This ain't for hardcore gangsta fans. (And the lucky fella gets to have his pic taken with Michelle Pfeiffer.)



22 pisterpirkko - gimme some  
water

This is interesting. It sounds like '80s electro at times while the cover of 'Rawhide' at the end confirms that there are rednecks everywhere (including Finland)!

built to spill - car

Mainly acoustic guitar fare slightly similar to CS&N (without the harmonies). Somehow also reminiscent of Codeine. Worth looking out for.

yellow car - why did you go?

Lively and upbeat indie guitar tune. but heard it all before. Singer's whiny voice gets a tad annoying.

hard hop heathen - beat bastik

Loads a beat and some distant babbling. Too repetitive and doesn't have any highlights but that may be the point.

## listings: ahead

transglobal underground 27

oct - astoria - £7.50

cast 27 oct - astoria - £7

squeeze 27 oct - albert hall -  
£13.50

menswear 27 oct - shep

bush empire - £8

mike scott 28 oct - shep

bush empire - £11

john mcLaughlin 29 oct -

royal fest hall - £10-25

big country 2 nov - ham-

merrismith apollo - £12.50

zucchero 2 nov - shep bush

empire - £13.50

motorhead 2 nov - forum

£12.50

capercaille 3 nov - shep

bush empire - £10.50

the wildhearts 3 nov - brixton

academy - £10

buffalo tom 4 nov - shep bush

empire - £8.50

radiohead + strangelove - 4

nov - brixton academy - £9

oasis 5 nov - earsl court - £14

black sabbath 10 nov -

empire - £12.50

my life story + david

devant + terry edwards -

10 nov - la2 - £6

the shamen - 10 nov -

forum - £10

foo fighters 14 & 15 nov -

brixton academy - £9

david bowie + morrissey -

14, 15, 17 nov - wembley -

£25

faith no more - 15, 16 nov

- brixton academy - £15

chumbawumba 18 nov -

forum - £8.50

carter usm 24 nov - shep

bush empire - £9.50

ozzy osbourne - 18 nov - brixton

academy - £14

the beautiful south + lightning

seeds - 21 nov - wembley - £15

paul weller - 27, 28 nov - brixton

academy - £16.50

wet wet wet - 4, 5, 6 dec -

wembley - £23

allison moyet - 6 dec -

royal albert hall - £15

pulp 21 dec - brixton acad-

emy - £9.50

the stone roses + manic

street preachers - 29 dec -

wembley - £16.50

gary glitter + suzi quattro -

14, 15 dec - wembley - 16 dec -

london arena - £17.50

handy hint - to avoid irritating £2-3  
'booking fees' try to buy your tick-  
ets from the venue or ULU (malet  
street) in cash.

xiii

## album:sacred spirit<sup>alok</sup>

This album has become something of a phe-  
nomenon in Europe where it has sold over a mil-  
lion copies so far. I thought to myself that surely  
that many people can't be all wrong but my ini-  
tial impressions were not good.

The album looked pretentious beyond belief  
with all its spiritual messages and sleeve notes  
which were so long and meaningless that only  
someone with no more paint to watch drying  
could even contemplate reading them.

However, if you get past the packaging and  
actually get down to listening to it, you will - and  
I jest not here - be very surprised indeed. Bearing  
in mind that the tracks are supposed to be chants  
of Native Americans in their natural homes, the  
number of un-Native American instruments  
used is quite astounding. The synthesisers and  
guitars are useful for creating the music, but per-  
sonally I've never seen or heard the chief of a  
tribe presiding over a rain dance where there is a

band full of keyboards providing harmonies to  
the chants.

The titles of the songs also make good read-  
ing. For example, we have the  
'Counterclockwise circle dance', and the  
'Intertribal dance to stop the rain'. Future Sound  
of London, eat your heart out.

The result of all this is that this is just another  
Ecstasy of St. Theresa and FSOL-style record.  
It's nothing new but it still makes fairly good lis-  
tening if you're spaced out. If you can forget the  
spiritual messages and pretend that this is an  
album by a new band who just happen to use a  
few chants here and there, then I'm sure you'll  
like it, especially if you are into the aforemen-  
tioned FSOL.

And it does have another use. If there is ever  
a summer like the last one again, you could put  
the rain dance on and run around outside in the  
faint hope that it would work. Or then again,  
maybe not... (6)

## gig:sleeper + 60ft. dolls + the wannadies<sup>mr. happy</sup>



The Wannadies kick off this Indolent Records  
spectacular but unfortunately they turn out to  
be very dull. They consist of three guys and an  
extremely irritating girl who seems to add noth-

ing to their music. Not that their music is any-  
thing to write home about. They just sound like  
any of a host of late '80s indie bands who all  
sound the same.

The 60ft. Dolls, on the other hand, we re-  
ceive a very pleasant surprise. Their sound is a  
mix of Oasis, Green Day and Offspring  
while the variation of lead singers helps to  
keep them visually interesting. One to  
watch out for.

From the minute Sleeper hit the stage,  
everyone in the Empire knows that it's  
going to turn out to be something special.  
Lead singer, Louise is a star. Her stage  
presence has improved so much in the  
past year that it is hard to believe that it's  
the same person up there. The band  
played all the hits from their album,  
'Smart', while they even manage to play a

Pixies rip-off and make it sound great.

If you haven't seen them yet, don't miss out  
next time.

## album:steely dan - alive in america<sup>davros. c. dick</sup>

Music didn't exist before 1977, that's obvious.  
At least that's what I thought as a happily half-  
dead, pummelled pre-pubescent in the midst of  
a Buzzcocks orgy at the De Montfort Hall all  
those years ago. And whilst I still believe that  
'70s disco has only been bettered in its awfulness  
by the dross that pertains to be today's chart  
music, I guess that we all mellow with age (*if  
you're mellow now then I'm glad that I never met  
you when you were young - music ed.*) and allow  
a little melody to influence our lives.

For me it was juxtaposition of Coltrane's be-  
bop mingled with the '80s genius of Blue Nile.  
Now for those of you who know your musical  
genres you will astute enough to have observed a  
gap of some 30 years between the two. Enter

Steely Dan. Now everything fits. To attempt to  
describe their music would be crass. Suffice to  
say, anybody who is anybody has borrowed from  
Messrs. Fagan and Becker.

Adulation over, this is a live album, beauti-  
fully performed, especially the drop-dead gor-  
geous, 'Third World Man'. And whilst its not the  
best introduction to the band (noticeable  
absences include Gaucho, Deaco Blue, Pretzel  
Blue and Ricky don't lose that number), it is still  
a must for anyone whose been bitten by the  
Dan.

The album was recorded between '93 and  
'94 in America. Typical - the '70s is back, they've  
got the music while we've got the flares and the  
tank tops. And wasn't it Donald Fagan himself  
who, in 'Babylon Sisters', sang,

"Turn that jungle music down." Ahead of his  
time or what? (8)

**Da Vinci's**  
— Café-bar —

**£50 CASH PRIZE**

**bar**

**trivia**

**every tuesday**  
**8pm**

**ST/**

STA TRAVEL

SUPPORTED BY STA TRAVEL, IMPERIAL COLLEGE TEL: 0171 581 8882

**'BUST-A-GUT**  
**comedy club**

**fri. oct 27th**

**ALAN PARKER**

**URBAN WARRIOR**

**JASON FREEMAN**

**FREEBIES TO 1ST 50 IN**

**£2.50 /£2 (entscard)**

**doors 8pm**

**COCKTAIL**

**NIGHT**

**EVERY**

**THURSDAY**

**Da Vinci's**

— Café-bar —

**iCU**

**SPORTSNIGHT**  
**SPECIAL**

**EVERY**

**WEDNESDAY**

**5-8.30**

**CHILI, CURRY**  
**& THE DISH OF THE DAY**

**ALL £1**

*(while stocks last)*

**Da Vinci's**

— Café-bar —

celluloid guide:<sup>this week</sup>

odeon kensington  
0426 914666  
pocahontas  
11.45, 1.55, 4.05, 6.15  
nine months  
2.05, 4.35, 7.05, 9.35  
forget paris 2.00, 7.00  
the net 1.40, 4.20, 7, 9.40  
to die for 2, 4.35, 7.10, 9.45  
tube; high street ken. £6.50,  
£6, £3.50 before 5pm

mgm fulham road  
clueless 1.40, 4.10, 7.10, 9.40  
apollo 13  
12.20, 3.20, 6.10, 9.20  
the usual suspects  
1.40, 4.10, 7, 9.40  
0171 370 2636  
tube; south ken then bus  
£6, £3.50 students and  
before 6pm

mgm chelsea  
0171 325 5096  
nine months 1.30, 3.50, 6.40, 9.30  
pocahontas  
12.35, 2.25, 4.15, 6.05, 7.50  
to die for 1.40, 4.10, 6.40, 9.30  
the net 1, 3.40, 6.30, 9.20  
tube; sloane square then bus  
£6, £3.50 students and before 6pm

renoir 0171 837 8402  
the life and extraordinary adventures of private ivan chonkin  
1.55, 4.15, 6.30, 8.55  
land and freedom 3, 5.30, 8  
tube; russell square  
£6, £4 1st perf, £2.50 students

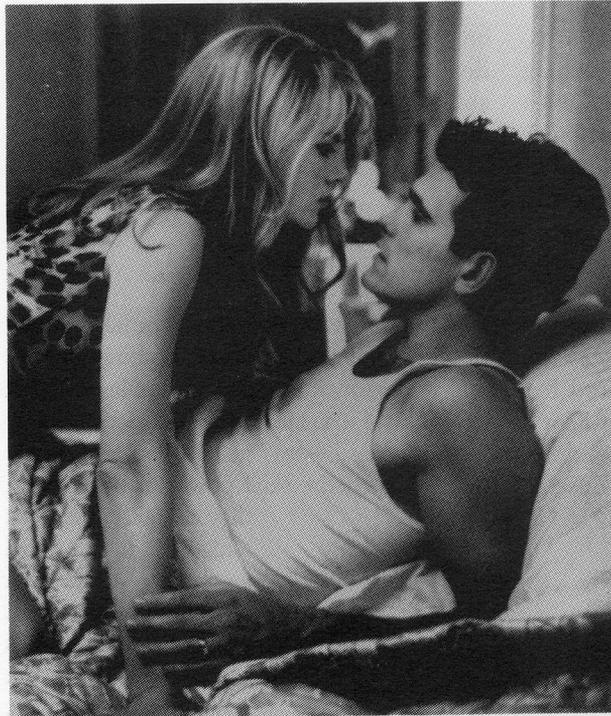
minema 0171 369 1723  
the life and extraordinary adventures of private ivan chonkin' 6.40, 8.45  
tube; you can walk it  
£6.50, £4 matinees

prince charles  
0171 437 8181  
before sunrise fri 4pm £1.50  
up! fri 9pm  
casper sat 6pm  
once were warriors'  
sat 10.30pm  
the bait sun 4.15pm  
judge dredd sat 8.20pm  
the adventures of priscilla  
sun 8.45pm  
first knight tue 1.30pm £1.50  
the englishman...  
wed 4pm £1.50  
tube; leicester square  
£2 all seats unless otherwise stated

t  
o  
d  
i  
e  
f  
o  
r  
  
b  
a  
d  
l  
i  
e  
u  
t  
e  
n  
a  
n  
t

film: to die for<sup>spooky</sup>

Suzanne Stone (Nicole Kidman) will do anything to succeed in television. Starting with a small job at the local cable station, she eventually rises to the meteoric position of weather girl. Suzanne sees this only as a springboard to greater things and sets about making a documentary about the lives of some local teenagers. This



brings her into contact with three local deadbeats - Jimmy (Joaquin Phoenix), Russell and Lydia, with whom she forms an unlikely friendship. Gradually she drags them into her fantasy world promising them success when she make it big in California.

She seduces Jimmy, and in classic film noir tradition manipulates him into killing her dotting husband (Matt Dillon), who wants her to give up her television career to start a family. The murder of her husband finally gives her the media attention she craved, but it soon cruelly degen-

erates as the accusing finger begins to point at her.

To Die For is shot in a rather non-linear manner, composing of a variety of flashbacks with camera interviews in both past and present, creating a wickedly dark and humourous black comedy. The film marks a return to form for the director, Gus Van Sant, after his disappointing efforts of late.

The star of this picture is undoubtedly Nicole Kidman, who finally gets to show she can act in an American film. Although on previous roles she seems an unlikely choice for Suzanne, she makes the part seem like it was written for her. She plays the vampish femme fatale with the right degree of brainless confidence but exuding sex appeal to appear seemingly natural. She is helped by a supporting cast who in general take a backseat to Kidman's tour de force and an excellent script which contains some biting satirical scenes, especially about the States' dependence on television.

Although the non-linear storyline helps to keep the film interesting, the story suffers from the jumping between too many strands, some of which give too much away while others don't explain enough. In addition,

Nicole Kidman's killer comes over as a bit excessively naive and brainless which stretches credulity too much in places. In the States, where stupidity seems to be revered (see the farce that was Forrest Gump) this probably worked, but over here it makes it less easy to swallow, although at least the film isn't another advert for the American dream.

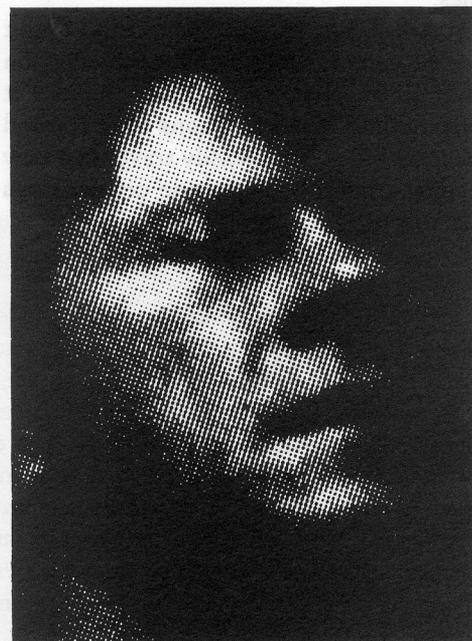
However, these are minor details and you could certainly make a worse choice of film. It's mainly for those who like their films black with a bit of bite.

video: bad lieutenant<sup>jeremy</sup>

Many films have, alphabetically, contained alcohol abuse, bad language, bribery, cocaine (snorted, smoked and dealt), corruption, gambling, guns, heroin, Jesus, masturbation, menagé à trois, murder, prostitution, rape, sex, suicide, theft and visions. But this film only has one character.

A lifestyle that would leave you physically and mentally ruined in a week is lived by this immortal figure. All America's evil's rolled into one man - and he is a policeman. A powerful statement? Nothing compared to the nihilistic and frightening power of the film. Even two days later I am left listless and frustrated.

The film's plot is the background, its style is all. Don't watch it - it's excellent but no possible pleasure could be gained from doing so. Nothing more to say.



Of all the zany goings-on around London, one in particular has attracted my attention: pigeons riding the Underground.

Standing quietly on platforms, seemingly waiting for trains, travelling nonchalantly in carriages along with amazed commuters, alighting at particular stops... This is the surprising behaviour of London's pigeon population, recently reported in New Scientist.

One reader writes that during the seventies he regularly encountered a particular pigeon who would board the tube at Paddington and disembark at the next stop. Another commuter shared her carriage with a pigeon who got on at King's Cross and stood patiently by the door, refusing titbits, until it flew out at Euston.

Indeed, the birds appear to act as if they know exactly what they are doing. One pigeon apparently made numerous attempts to board a Piccadilly line train at Hounslow Central. Even after being repeatedly shooed out by a concerned passenger, the bird, determined to board, made one final 'frantic swoop' towards the doors as they closed.



Stay awake and you might see the avian hitch-hikers in action for yourself - there have been reported sightings on most lines.

So what is going on? There is no doubt that pigeons aren't shy about travelling on the Tube, but are they doing it purposefully? Could pigeons have learned they can quickly and easily travel to a new feeding ground by going one or two stops

on the Tube? Could it have something to do with their renowned navigational ability? To answer these questions, *Insight* talked to pigeon expert, Dr Simon Tonge...

What does the Bird Man Say?

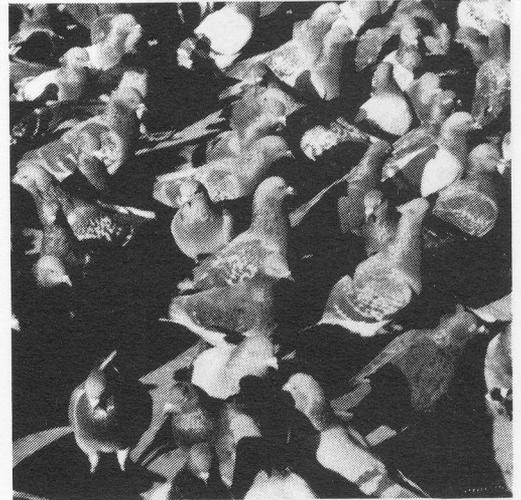
"Any such observations should be taken with a pinch of salt," says Dr Tonge, ornithologist and senior curator at London Zoo. He felt that anyone who maintained that the pigeons knew where they were going had "seriously overestimated the skull power of these birds,

they are not in the front ranks of bird intelligence. People can be terribly unobservant when it comes to this sort of thing, they think they've seen something, and read too much into it."

Dr Tonge's analysis was that any bird could catch the Tube. Pigeons are those most likely to be spotted because they are common and habituated to being around people. They'll hop into a

carriage in search of food, not notice the doors closing and therefore are unflustered whilst the train is moving. When they see the doors opening, they'll hop out. Certainly there is no chance that the pigeons are navigating their way around. Pigeons need to be up in the air to get their bearings.

"You could ask 10,000 ornithologists and get just as many different answers, but the rump of the opinion would be that there is nothing in it."



Fare dodgers?

Bird Tales



Since the days of the ancient Egyptians, pigeons have been used to carry messages. They were used as 'pigeon post' in civilian and military service by the Greeks, Romans, and throughout the Middle East. At the siege of Paris in 1870, 150,000 official messages and 1 million private messages were carried by pigeons. During the Second World War, the British and US armies made use of 200,000 and 50,000 birds respectively. Nearly 17,000 were parachuted to the Resistance in occupied Europe...parachuted?



The advent of speedy long distance transport led to the development of the sport of pigeon racing. The first race, in 1818, was over 100 miles and was held in Belgium. Today, there are about 100,000 pigeon racers in Britain alone, with an amazing 2 million pigeons in their lofts.



Researcher Shigeru Watanabe and his colleagues at Keio University in Tokyo have recently had remarkable success in training pigeons to tell the difference between paintings by Picasso and Monet. Perhaps they should be judging the Turner Prize?

C. Gull, Nat Barb

Flights of Fancy

Staggering amounts of time and money have gone into the investigation of navigational ability in birds, particularly to determine how migratory birds know when and where to 'fly south for the winter'. Research has centred around the behaviour of the homing pigeon, a domesticated descendant of the North African and Southern European Rock Dove (*Columba livia*) and a direct relation to the feral pigeon which craps on Nelson's column and rides the Underground.

Thanks to invaluable volunteer work by homing pigeons, researchers can now report that birds probably navigate instinctively using a combination of the sun, a built in magnetic compass and a memorised 'map' of scenery, sounds and familiar smells. When navigating in flight, a bird apparently first determines the compass direction of the destination by reference to the landscape beneath. Then by a form of vector navigation, it 'homes', flying on a compass bearing until it reaches a familiar area around the destination.

The  
**O.S.C.**

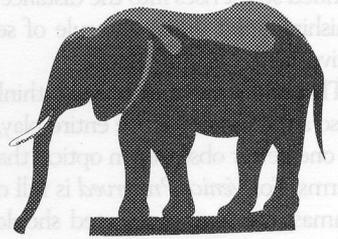
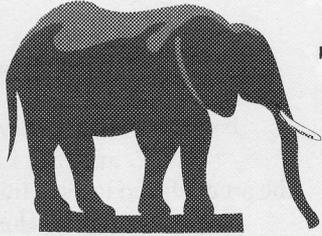
in conjunction with the Union

Presents

The **O.S.C.** Fresher's Disco

Friday 27th Oct. 9-2 a.m.

at the Union



Level 1 - House, Dance, Techno

Level 2 - Swing, Soul, Hip-Hop, Jungle

Price: £1

Free with an O.S.C. card

*Come early to avoid disappointment*

**FilmsOC Presents...**

Doors open 15 minutes before time stated.  
ICU Cinema is no smoking but drinks from  
Da Vinci's bar are welcome. E&OE; ROAR

*The Englishman Who Went Up A  
Hill But Came Down A Mountain*

Starring Hugh Grant  
and Tara Fitzgerald

Wednesday 1st at 8pm



**The Madness of King George**

Thursday 2nd at 8pm

All films are presented in  
**DOLBY STEREO  
SURROUND SOUND** ®

**COMPETITION**

Retain your ticket stub for the chance to win travel vouchers from STA. Put your name, department, year (& phone number) on the back of the ticket and place it in the prize draw box at the back of the cinema.

Winners will be drawn in the last week of term.

SUPPORTED BY STA TRAVEL, IMPERIAL COLLEGE TEL: 0171 581 8882

**STA**  
STA TRAVEL

Imperial College or ULU students & staff.  
Compulsory annual membership of 50p  
(payable on first visit)

**£2**

If there's one thing to be said about productions at the Almeida, it's that they always have excellent sets. Before *Venice Preserved* starts, the audience sit, rapped in shadows as the gentle lapping of the flooded streets provides the only sound. As the lights slowly rise, always a magical moment in theatreland, a classically columned street rises into the distance forced to a vanishing point under the rule of severe perspective.

Thankfully for your laterally thinking critic it's also a metaphor for the entire play, although sadly one better observed in optical than theatrical terms. For *Venice Preserved* is full of classical dilemmas; our hero is rejected should he seek revenge?, our hero is put to the test, should he give in?, our hero must choose between love and loyalty, life and death, cowardice and bravery, which way will he go?

It is therefore unfortunate that plotwise our hero (Jaffier) is a vacillating whiner whilst actorwise (David Bark-Jones), he is merely weak. Equally his wife Belvidera (Alice Krige) has perhaps too delicate a balance to walk, slipping as she does from love struck infatuation to

shrieking hallucination, to be the capstone on which the performance is built. Thankfully however, it is possible to place such 'heroic' burdens on one side and concentrate instead on the supporting players, for it is they who make the play.

Central, in both senses, is the figure of Pierre (Ray Fearon). A hardy soldier and coup conspirator, it is Pierre who acts as devil, tempting Jaffier into the coup, before ending the play as a sacrifice offered for Jaffier's redemption. Interspersed between these affairs of state are the scenes that work best, though add least to the plot. Alphonsia Emmanuel's Aquilina, as with all the characters, experiences the compromise of life; loving Pierre but 'playing around' with one of the senators. And it is in the latter's grasp that the play really shines for a while, albeit as a comedy.

Which leaves your critic in a dilemma of his own. *Venice Preserved* proves itself to be an unwieldy beast. The basic material is a bit rough, and the cast, through strong, don't sparkle where they should and the end scene is appallingly directed. Yet for all that there are some extremely funny moments. Shame it's a classic tragedy then.

column:simon baker

Apart from the shocking pictures of the Grim Reaper giving death a bad name by destroying the poor old Watts Way traffic barrier, the main preoccupation of the press of late is your friend and mine, Michael Howard. The embattled Home Secretary got himself in a terrible mess over the prisons, the latest in a fairly long line of gaffs. Now don't get me wrong, dear reader, I'm not against a bit of tough talking on the law and order front. Like Tony Blair, I live on the Thatcherite side of the political fence, and think that the punishment should amount to something more than a quick slap on the wrist with society blamed for the wrongdoing. But there is something about Mr Howard that bothers me. It should be the cause of very great concern that Labour now appear to be trusted on Law and Order more than the Conservatives, probably for the first time ever. This used to be natural territory for the Right, but by a series of clumsy, ill-conceived policies of late, public support has plummeted. Much as this pains me, and despite a brilliant performance in a very tricky debate in parliament, in which Jack Straw was about as effective as Mr McGoo in an archery competition, I really feel that it is time he went.

Perhaps now that Derrick Lewis is looking for a new job, he might consider taking charge of the Imperial College Union Council and Executive Committee (or Head of Security?), in the safe knowledge that even with him running things, they could not possibly get any worse. I never fail to be amazed at the sheer incompetence and time wasting of these esteemed bodies. As soon as any decision seems to be made, a

vote of no confidence or some bizarre procedural device is used to scupper it. We may be a science university, but we clearly have some bloody good constitutional lawyers in training.

These silly antics do nobody any good. They account for a lot of the apathy in college about the Union and explain the stigma of being a 'Union hack'. Most people see a small group of people playing politics for little discernible reason other than for their own enjoyment. We have a Union Constitution that took almost as long at the Maastricht Treaty to implement and seems to be as complex, resulting in every decision being queried as illegal and unconstitutional. Surely a set of clear guidelines by which to run the Union shouldn't be that difficult to draw up and implement. For God's sake, this is ICU not ICI. At the moment, we have an administration that resembles the GLC at the height of its lunacy. The other problem with the current state of affairs is that nothing ever seems to get done. I assume that, if the Council elections have to be re-run as a result of a vote of no confidence, precious little will get done before the end of November. The Union will have moved to Sherfield before the first proper meeting gets under way. A small consolation is that we are not members of the NUS. I dread to think what a mess we'd be in if we were.

And finally (as a newsreader once said), I am told that Brian May was back at the Union last Wednesday. Obviously, years on the road with one of the greatest bands ever have made him careless and he didn't have a Union card on him. Result? Our man in yellow on the gate refused him admission, of course. Surely someone could have signed him in...

details:

almeidia 0171 359 4404  
almeidia st n1 - tube; angel  
venice preserved by thomas  
otway - mon to fri 8pm sat  
matinee 4pm £6.50 to £16.50.  
concs £6.50. until 2 december.

spaces:<sup>this week</sup>

barbican 0171 588 0923  
ec2. tube; barbican.  
the art of african textiles, tradi-  
tion and lurex

national gallery 0171 839  
3321  
trafalgar square.  
tube: charing x  
next door to:

national portrait gallery  
until nov 19  
john kobal - photographic  
portrait awards 1995

tate 0171 887 8000  
millbank. tube; pimlico  
until nov 17  
life patterns

ICA 0171 930 3647  
charing cross tube; the mall  
gary hume

design museum 0171 403  
6933  
tower hill tube; butlers wharf  
until apr 10  
paul smith: true brit

royal academy 0171 439  
7438  
piccadilly. tube; piccadilly cir-  
cus  
until jan 21  
africa: the art of a continent

serpentine 0171 402 6075  
kensington gardens; walk it  
until nov 5  
six contemporary african artists

P  
l  
a  
y

s  
i  
m  
o  
n  
b  
a  
k  
e  
r

# NATIONAL

# COMEDY

# NETWORK

## Alan Parker, Urban Warrior

They had another "Who's the most left-wing person in the pub?" competition the other night.

They asked me to enter. I said that I didn't agree with the concept of competition generally, let alone IN A PUB – the very rock of equality and democracy in this country. So I won. Which was good really. I got a new megaphone and a year's supply of placards – enough for about 20 marches of 100 people each.

Being a bit of a 'one man political force', the second bit didn't seem that useful so I thought, "I know, I'll sell them to the Revolutionary Communists and raise some money for my party fund (and by that I mean a PARTY fund because it strikes me that only by GETTING PISSED that we're going to achieve some REALISTIC CHANGE in this country – "The personal revolution is the first step in any revolution" say The Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy – Cheers to them, but some of us KNEW THAT ALREADY and as the saying goes "have been in the pub since half past five").

Unfortunately the Rev Coms were down to 14 members and didn't really need that many placards either. So I tried the "Fourth Term – Fourth Reich" group. They're a small new group but they've got big ambitions. Problem is, they're really against the whole buying and selling bourgeois-capitalist thing. But I lowered the price a bit and in the end they took the whole lot.

What did I do with the money? I SPENT IT. Don't talk to me about "saving for a rainy day" – you start saving money the next thing is you'll be getting a mortgage, a pony and a servant and calling yourself "Lord of the Manor". Yeah. Non, Merci Mein Fuhrer. Any money I can't immediately piss up the wall I BURN as a gesture of defiance.

Apart from coins which bitter experience has taught me to not burn under any circumstances.

Who am I defying by burning money? (YOU ask) Well, "logic, for a start," to quote the barperson in The Halfway House. But (as I replied) as long as I

remain  
UNPREDICTABLE

I shall be an UN-  
GOVERNABLE  
FORCE.

Take that  
home

with you and burn it in your oven.

I've found another unusual oppresses minority to support – STUDENTS. People hate students. I was a student once, and I hated MYSELF – CUTTING OUT THE MIDDLE MAN. If one of the ordinary decent working-class people of this country said to me "What do you do mate?" I'd say, "I'm a bleeding student waster toss head" and then I'd punch myself in the mouth just to let them know I really meant it, and also to save them the trouble. But I don't think that it's right. I didn't mean to become a student though. I was FORCED INTO IT by the combined effect of society's pressures and my extremely high 'A' level results.

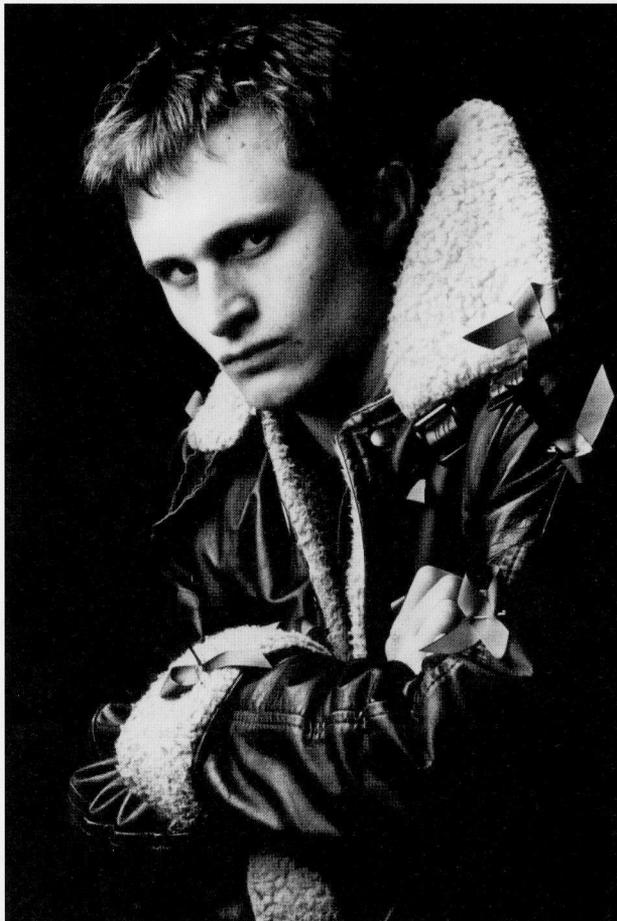
I didn't go easy, I put up a fight. When my call up papers came, drafting me into the army, I burnt them. That's right – I burnt my 'A' level certificates. You come up to me at one of my gigs and I'll show them to you (photocopies of course – the actual burnt certificates I framed and gave to my Mum. She was really moved). I didn't like it very much as a student. They were always having demos and that but I didn't really fit in with any of their 'organisations' – too radical probably. For example I was thrown out of the first meeting of the Anti Nazi League because I stood up and shouted, "come on, admit it – we are all Nazis in some ways; we all admire the uniforms." Another group

told me to piss off because I suggested taking an air rifle to lectures and shooting the lecturers if they said anything unsound. Made me despair. So I set up my own ANTI student demonstration. Only one bloke came to it. And it turned out he thought it was an anti-STUDENT demo – you know, against students. He hated them.

Anyway, we got talking, I explained to him the situation, one thing led to another, and he smacked me in the gob. I remember laying there in the gutter saying to him, "yes mate, I see your point. On your side."

But now I think different: Students, I am on your side as well.

Cheers to  
you.



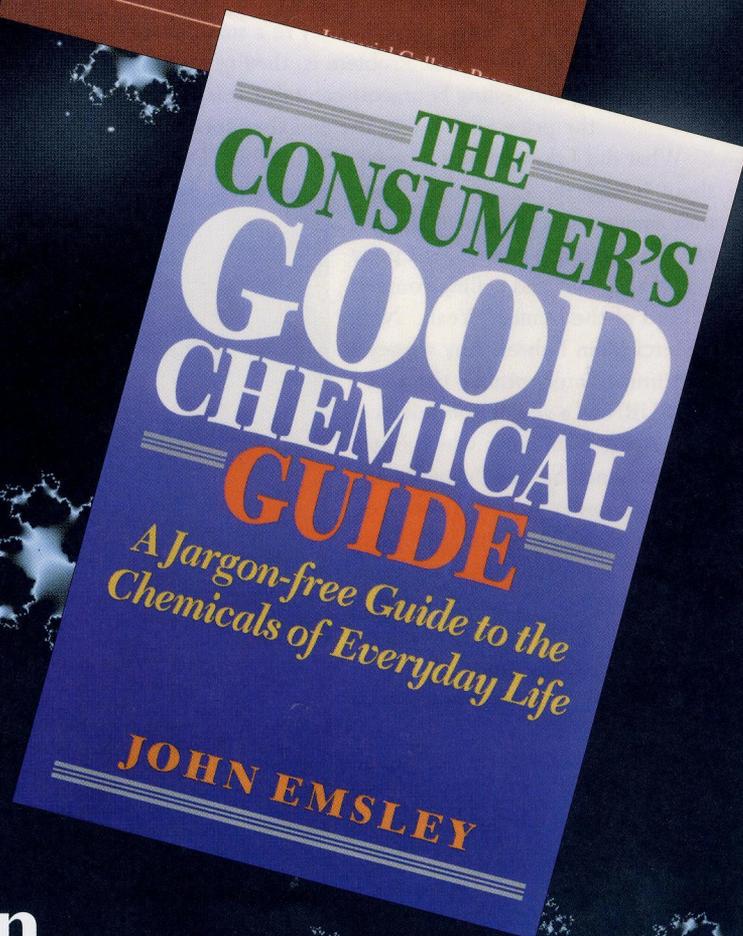
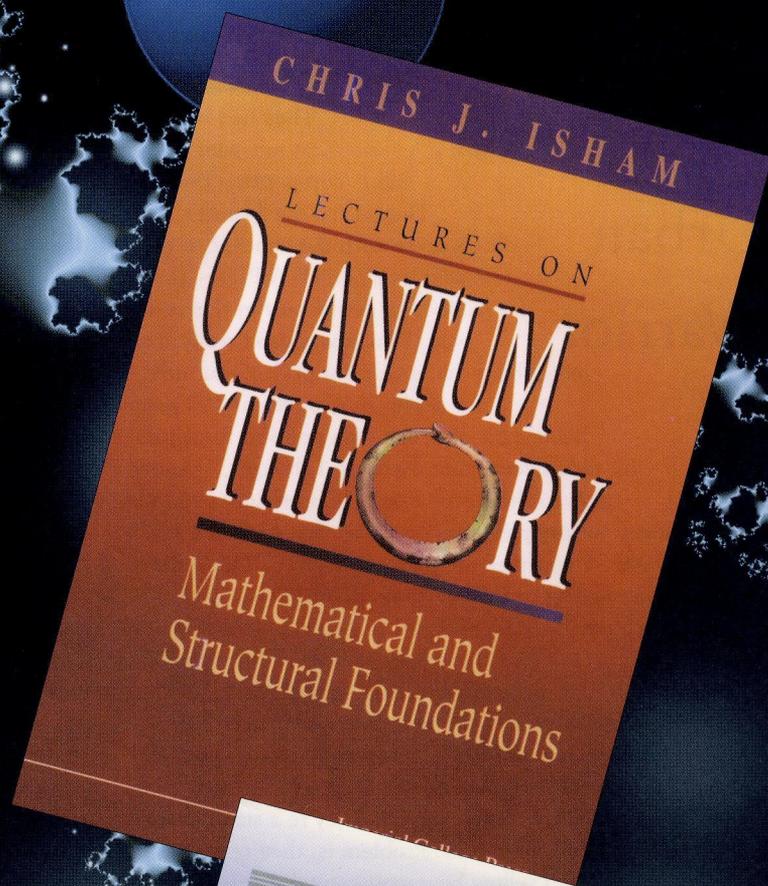
**iCU**

IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION  
BOOKSTORE

**Come  
and browse  
through our  
bestsellers**

**All your text  
books plus a  
range of  
paperback fiction**

**USE YOUR UNION BOOKSTORE!**



**friday**  
**27**  
october

#### African Caribbean Society

Get your ACS card today in the JCR between 12 - 2 pm and get free entry into the OSC party tonight.

#### Rag Meeting

1.10 pm Ents Lounge. Regular meeting.

#### Ents

Put on your drainpipe jeans and get ready to smash the system, with the voice of the kids, a Wolfie Smith for the nineties.... Alan Parker - Urban Warrior. Supporting the cause tonight is Jason Freeman, and the venue for all this anarchy in Kensington is the "Bust-a-Gut Comedy Club". Doors open at 8pm, it's £2.50 on the door, £2 in advance, and there'll be free Newcastle Brown stuff for the first 50 in.

If you just want to dance the night away, we've got top sounds in the lounge from 10:30pm with "Climax", and as a special treat, a special Hip-Hop, Funk + Soul sounds in the UDH, in association with the Overseas Committee. Where else can you get two rooms of music for £1?

**f r i d a y**

## A word from your sponsor:

A little request from the events and marketing manager: when you leave the Union late at night, please try and leave as quickly and as quietly as possible, and don't hang around the front gates as it causes a disturbance. Cheers.

**the**  
**week**  
**ahead**

**saturday**  
**28**  
october

#### Gliding Club

Gliding at Lasham Airfield.

#### Ents

Rugby League World Cup Final between England and Australia live on the big screen in Da Vinci's. Bar opens at 1 pm, coverage starts at 2 pm.

**s a t u r d a y**

## Exploration Society

IC exploration society invites YOU and friends to one of its lectures. The talk will be given by the renowned cyclist and explorer, Nick Crane. Nick will be talking about his expedition on horseback to war torn Afghanistan. This was carried out with local people with the aim of assessing war damage for Afghan Aid. They then had an epic return journey in which both men and horses perished. As many will know, Nick is a superb lecturer and his talk should prove to be highly entertaining. There will be an opportunity afterwards for an informal discussion with Nick for those contemplating a similar adventure.

Last Thursday, Phil Wickins gave an introductory lecture, encouraging even those with no experience to go exploring. The question so many people ask is, "How do you manage to get the experience to do something like this?" Phil himself entered college having done "a little" climbing and other outdoor activities. Through participation in IC Scout and Guide - the Outdoor club, Phil progressed to the stage where he was confident enough to go to remote corners of the World and "explore". Finally, "Intrepid Phil" had the confidence to tackle Tirich Mir this year. Located near to the Pakistan/Afghan border, Tirich mir, at 7708m, is the highest peak in the Hindu Kush mountain range.

Luckily for this expedition one day was enough to get the required documents upon arriving in Pakistan. Some teams have been known to be held up for up to 5 weeks. He

**sunday**  
**29**  
october

#### Gliding Club

Gliding at Lasham Airfield

Contact gliding@ic.ac.uk

Come to Thursday meeting first.

#### Food

Sunday lunch available in Da Vinci's between 1.30 and 3 pm.

**s u n d a y**

survived a fire in a hotel in Islamabad and managed to bluff the local cricket fanatics - unluckily for Phil the greatest skill one needs to conquer Pakistan isn't mountain-craft, but knowledge of which woman Imran Khan married this summer!

After staying in the servants quarters of a local palace for a while, the team managed to recruit 50 local men - with knowledge of the area - as porters. Each porter, armed with new sunglasses and a new pair of socks, was to carry 25 kilos each up to the area where Base Camp would be made. This was at a height of 4800m. To put that in perspective, that is the height of Mont Blanc. Having everything they needed for 6 weeks in the mountains - including their very own local cook, Abdullah - the team proceeded to make 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th camps at strategically placed points up Tirich Mir.

Through radio contact the team were able to keep in touch with each other when in the different camps, vital should someone get lost. Working together as a team, they managed to put 2 people on the summit quite soon. Upon attempting the summit himself, with fellow team member Gerry, Phil became very ill. They wisely decided, since he had lost coordination almost totally, that it would be safer to descend and so they returned by skis to base camp. Phil had been suffering from an onset of cerebral Oedema, something that is caused by altitude and can in extreme cases be fatal. Despite obviously being disappointed not to get to the summit himself after being so close, Phil considered the expedition a success.

I hope that Phil's exploits inspire you to go and do what you want to do. If you would like more information then please come to the next lecture. See you next Thursday in Biology W2 at 6.30 pm.

# monday 30 october

### Cross Country

Regular Monday night run. Meet at 5.30 pm at bottom of Union staircase.

### Concert Band

5.15 - 6.45 pm. Great Hall, Sheffield. Any ability.

### Student Industrial Society

Meeting 12.00 - 2.00 pm. In tennis room upstairs in Union building. Regular meeting.

### IC Symphony Orchestra

Great Hall, 7 - 9 pm. 2nd orchestra.

### Finance Soc

Touche Ross. Interview Skills by Sarah Bates. 340 Huxley building.

### French Soc

Cheese and Wine party. £4 entry (to include £2 membership). Union Lounge, 7 pm - midnight.

### ArtSoc

9.30 pm, Union Dining Hall. Come and sign up for the many trips to musicals, plays, ballet, opera, etc.

### Ents

To add to the live Premiership football on the big screen, two special features - As part of our Halloween "Week of the Living Dead", there'll be a special food + beer promotion, plus our very own "Golden Goals" competition. Pick up a ticket, and if you get the time or the player who scores the first goal, you win the prize.

monday



# ICU Cinema

Just two films this week, but what films they are! The themes: men, mountains, and madness. we start on Wednesday with *The Englishman Who Went up a Hill But Came Down a Mountain*, the man - Hugh Grant, the mountain - somewhere in Wales, and the madness... well what can I say? But despite the absurd title it is an excellent film, telling a moving true story set in wartime Wales. Grant shows all the charm and eccentricity of his earlier films. The film also stars Tara Fitzgerald (of *Sirens*) and Colin Macreay.

On Thursday we will be showing *The Madness of King George*, a mountain of a man, who had a few mental problems! Good British films are few and far between, but Nigel Hawthorne (of *Yes Minister* fame) was nominated for an Oscar in this excellent adaptation of Alan Bennett's stage play.

Both films start at 8 pm, doors open ten minutes before the show.

# tuesday 31 october

### African Caribbean Society

12.30 - 1.30pm General meeting, Union Concert Hall.

### IC Sailing Club

Come and see us in Southside Upper Lounge, 12.45 - 1.45 pm, to arrange a sail, have a gossip, etc. Everybody welcome! Regular meeting.

### Cathsoc

Sir Leon Bagritt Centre, at 12.00 pm. Level 1 Mech Eng. Regular meeting.

### IC Bridge Club

6 pm in the Clubs Committee Room, Union Building. Regular meeting.

### OpSoc Rehearsal

Sandy Wilson's *The BoyFriend*. 7.30 pm UCH. Regular meeting.

### Ents

A special Halloween Bar Trivia with the added bonus of a £50 cash prize for the winning team. And 'cos it's Halloween, there'll be a special prize for those in fancy dress. 8pm Da Vinci's, free to enter.

tuesday

# icsf

Well, we think its time for icsf to get underway this year properly, so we are starting with our freshers event! Yes, we know its now the end of the fourth week, but hey! no self respecting student should be arguing with free grub.

As well as the food, we will be showing the first 2 episodes of "The X-Files" on vid: the pilot and "Deap Throat". The fun and cynicism starts at 7 pm in STOIC on the top floor of the Union (thanks STOIC!), and membership is £4 for the year.

As well as having events on Tuesday evenings, our LIBRARY is up and running every lunch-hour (12.30 - 1.30), where you can borrow from our eclectic selection of over 3000 books, graphics and vids. The Library is under Biology West Wing.

For more information; icsf@ic.ac.uk or <http://www.ph.ic.ac.uk/moontg>.

# Stoic

- Week commencing Monday 30th October:
- 12.00 Level 3. Wacky show with thrills & spills.
  - 12.30 MovieZone. All the views and news from the Cinema.
  - 1.00 Shutdown to BBC1.
  - 1.00 BBC1 News.
  - 1.30 Neighbours.

### Coming Soon:

#### *The Guide*

Where to go in London for a good time, Incorporating the Pub/Club/Grub guides.

# wednesday 1 november

### IC Symphony Orchestra

Great Hall, 7-10 pm.

### IC Sailing Club

Meet 12.15 pm outside Southside to go sailing. Regular meeting.

### Ents

Enjoy a Halloween frolic. Get your broomsticks out and fly down to the Union for a spellbinding evening of top tunes and general debauchery.

wednesday

## Underwater Club

At the end of the summer term, twenty lucky members of the underwater club embarked on the annual summer tour. The usual procession of vehicles comprising a overloaded hire van and a new and comfortable ICU minibus (now there's a novelty), towing the RIB (a rigid hulled inflatable boat), set off for Oban in Scotland.

After a day and a half of travelling via a youth hostel in Wales and some very precarious mountain "short cuts", we arrived in Tralee Bay Caravan Site, our home for the next eight days. Weather conditions couldn't have been better, with temperatures reaching 30 degrees midweek, and glassy flat waters.

The first day was used to finish training some of the experienced novices, and give the new novices their first taste (literally) of open water diving. Any remaining training could now be mixed in with the recreational diving of the rest of the week.

The mainstay of the wrecks dived on the

trip was the S.S. Breda, a WWII cargo ship which sank in the shallow water of the bay. This 420 ft long wreck has something to suit every diver, whether novice or advanced, with lots to be found for those who like to rummage in the cargo holds.

In addition to the wrecks in the Sound of Mull, the afternoons were often used for relaxing scenic dives amongst the underwater "kelp forests", or seal watching dives just off Greag Island. Naturally curious, the resident seals would follow the surface marker buoys and occasionally buzz the divers below. Needless to say there were some very happy

and wide-eyed divers who returned to surface that day.

When not diving the RIB was put to good use for water-skiing and the warm evenings were spent on the beach having barbecues and generally drinking too much.

The regular Albatross award, a broken propellor on a neck chain, was passed to John Moore for his boat handling escapades, which also prompted the suggestion of renaming the RIB "Rock magnet". Richard Goodwin and Nicky Wheeler also received an award for their efforts to deplete the local scallop population.



## thursday 2 november

### Yacht Club Meeting

1.00 pm, Lecture Theatre 2, Physics.  
Regular meeting.

### Gliding Club

1 pm. Aero 266. Regular meeting.

### Christian Union

6.30 - 7.45 pm. SCR in the Union.  
(Right above the bar). Regular meeting.

### ICCAg

8.15 pm, Weeks Hall basement. Soup run for the homeless. Please come along if you can - all welcome! Regular meeting.

### Consoc

Meeting at 1 pm, Southside Upper lounge.  
Regular meeting.

### Ents

The "Week of the Living Dead" continues with a special creepy cocktail night - all your favourite poisons and potions, plus Da Vinci's own special Bloody Marys - be afraid. And, due to popular demand, the return of live Jazz in the Ents Lounge - see posters for details.

t h u r s d a y

## friday 3 november

### Rag Meeting

1.10 pm Ents Lounge. Regular meeting.

### Ents

Leave your musical taste at home as the Pop Tart DJs return for the best and worst excesses of the last 25 years, yes it's all glitter balls and stack heels where we're taking you. A total taste-free zone with all the records you all love to hate, but you know all the words to, from ABBA to Take That, the Beatles to Wham. Forget it all for one night with 'Shaft' - a sequined dream in a world of grey. £1 to get in - or free if you've got an Entscard, or if you dress the part (70's, 80's gear or school uniforms accepted)!

f r i d a y

next diary  
deadline:  
noon,  
October  
30th

the  
week  
ahead

## Yacht Club

This month is proving to be the warmest October since 1975 and while some breathe the suffocating atmosphere of London, others are spending their weekends sailing in the sun and the fresh air of the Solent.

Once again, the Yacht Club has an exciting program to look forward to. We've been able to expand our activities tremendously thanks to some devoted members of staff: Prof. Pat Holmes from Civ. Eng, now Commodore of the Yacht Club, and Jim Gibb from Physics, Senior Treasurer and also enthusiastic social event co-organiser.

The main activities of the Club are concentrated over two areas: training and racing. We try to put a large emphasis on the training since most of our members are complete beginners. We encourage everybody to take theory and practical RYA exams so that they obtain a worldwide qualification enabling to rent boats out. In the last 3 years between 10 and 15 people each year have walked through the RYA Yachtmaster theory course. This year, it looks like a member of

staff will be able to teach the course at College, making it more flexible and probably cheaper. Not only the Club does its best to organise these courses but the tuition fees are also heavily subsidised.

Our main objective for this year is to improve on our 10th position obtained at the British Yachting Nationals last year and beat the South coast Universities at their own game. Also the prospects are good of going racing in France over Easter in one of the many massive Student Regattas.

Our program for this year consists of competing in the Hamble Winter Series and some of the Sunsail Regattas during the Winter Term. Then a provisional crew of 10 to 12 will be selected to train for the Nationals held at the end of March, before we pack our oilskins and head to France to compete with the best of the Europeans.

If any of these activities tempt you, come along to one of our meetings held every Thursday from 1 - 2pm, Physics LT2 to share some of our members experience, or get in touch with Carlo on 0171-935 3685 or via e-mail: c.contaldi@ic.ac.uk.



Full ahead Captain Bligh!

## Finance Society

### Asset Management Group

The asset management group was started at the beginning of last year by a small number of members of the finance society who wanted to increase their knowledge of the financial world and achieve a greater understanding of the financial investments available. We have all heard of investments like bonds and derivatives, but do you know what they are used for, and more importantly what effects their price?

This year's plans include fantasy share

trading, talks and visits. There is no better way to learn how investing works than to have a go yourself, so we are going to run a fantasy share trading game over e-mail. Once you start, you realise that it is pretty easy to lose your money. Fortunately the finance society has an enormous amount of fantasy pounds for us to spend. Last year the players formed groups and acted as teams under the watchful eye of their elected portfolio manager.

The AMG also hopes to organise a couple of talks this year - at the start they will be pretty basic, but will be designed to give everyone a sound basic knowledge of

investment and financial terminology. Once foundations have been laid, some more high-powered talks by people making their living in the financial world should turn us into experts overnight.

The only requirement you need to join us is a sound interest in finance. Whether you are a total novice, have a few shares in the privatised utilities, fancy a career in the city (remember CV's and first interviews...) or plan to be the Nick Leeson of IC, you are as welcome as the next member.

The first meeting will take place on Monday November 6th in room 342 of Huxley.

## ConSoc

For those of you who don't think this week's speaker, Michael Portillo, was important enough, Conservative Students have organised a National Parliamentary Rally in the Grand Committee Room of the Houses of Parliament for this Wednesday.

Ordinary students like you will be able to put their questions and views to the people who run the country: people like the Foreign Secretary, Deputy Prime Minister, Party Chairman and at least three other Cabinet Ministers. And for the first time, we will be allowed to socialise with them, as well as other students, in the wine break in the middle of the proceedings. We will meet at South Kensington tube station at 2.00 pm and the entrance fee is £4. The visit will also

include a walking tour of Westminster Hall, the scene of the trial of King Charles I and the oldest part of our Parliament.

Interested in having real influence over the future of Higher Education? Why not come to the Commons again on Thursday at 7.00 pm and put your suggestions directly to the Secretary of State for Education herself, Gillian Shepherd? We will be gathering beforehand for our usual weekly meeting in Southside Upper Lounge at 1.00pm to discuss the issues we should raise.

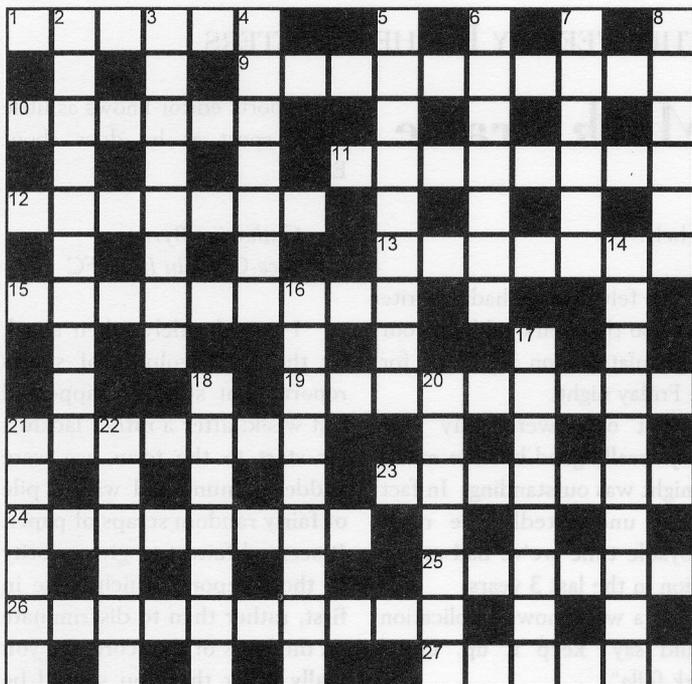
Just to prove that we are a social club as well, we have planned a few social outings for the coming days. On Friday, we will be visiting the splendid Orthodox Westminster Cathedral for a performance of Bruckner's 9th Symphony. The following Saturday we will celebrate the defeat of the most infamous

attack on our Parliamentary traditions, the Gunpowder Plot, in the usual manner with a fireworks display at Battersea Park. We have also offered to help out Knightsbridge Conservatives with a musical evening on the 15th. We're also planning museum visits for the future.

See our Web pages at <http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/clubs/societies/scc/consoc/home.wtml> or <http://www.ibmpgup.co.uk/~execute/home.html> - for an account of our Michael Portillo meeting.

Don't forget that you can attend the speaker events at college free of charge even if you are not a member. We will be visited by Nigel Evans, John Gummer and Tom King this year, and Sir Marcus Fox and Jonathan Aitken next year. For further details e-mail [consoc@ic.ac.uk](mailto:consoc@ic.ac.uk).

**Crossword by Catfish**



**Across:**

- 1. High flier at top college has a gas in America (6)
- 9. Injured oneself while returning things to display (3,4,3)
- 10. Epidemic in that place caused fevers (6)
- 11. Hopeful, while a number display anger (8)
- 12. Steal back uniform and spanners? (7)
- 13. Dines at different places, alternatively (7)
- 15. Abrasive made from primitive fish family (9)
- 19. Hot water for ministry responsible for knee-jerk reaction! (9)
- 21. Sits comfortably in the home of the French (7)
- 23. Complain if boat is left here, perhaps? (7)
- 24. A grid map perhaps shows the way to follow (8)
- 25. Finds water, you might say, and puts out fire (6)
- 26. Manager of prime redevelopment in the south of a Brazilian city (10)
- 27. Sea is sheltered, they say, for swimming race (6)

**Down:**

- 2. Film about instrument played in pub by girl is pointless (10)
- 3. Soldiers use pistol to recall gunners, who return south (8)
- 4. Kind agents outside Europe (7)
- 5. Pit in first class condition in old country (10)
- 6. Obscure 100 replaced 50 in a rough circle
- 7. Search for a long time (6)
- 8. Tasted something peculiar, and said so (6)
- 14. Worker I bring to a standstill with alcohol, for example (10)
- 16. Friendly greeting from a lightweight party crasher! (9)
- 17. Put together in the yard (8)
- 18. Born for climbing on inflatable (7)
- 20. Ad storm causes great fame (7)
- 21. Material texture is like tablecloth (6)
- 22. Good man is ready for promotion? (6)

**Room Wanted**

French Student requires accommodation. Wants to share with English family or students in order to improve her English.

Phone or write to de Bournet c/o Union Office.

**Careers Information**

There are two Careers Talks this coming week at 1 - 1.50pm.

Tuesday 31st October:  
 "The Aerospace Industry" by Ian South, Group Leader at British Aerospace, in Aero LT 254.

Tuesday 2nd November:  
 "The Oil Industry: Exploration and Production" by Tim Luker, International Technical Recruiter EP at Shell International, in the Clore Lecture Theatre (Huxley Lecture Theatre 213)

All students are welcome to attend. No need to book - just turn up.

"How to write the perfect CV" is an Interactive Workshop run on Wednesday 1st November from 2 - 4 pm in Huxley Room 344.

Sign up in the Careers Office. For information and advice come to the Careers Office, Room 310 Sherfield, which is open from 10am to 5:15pm Monday to Friday.

**NME/Coca-Cola**

**Pop Quiz**

Coca-Cola and NME have teamed up to bring you a pop quiz that will be touring Great Britain throughout November to find out which music mega brains know their REM from their EMF and their U2 from US3.

Regional heats are held at Imperial College on 17th November: call the Coca-Cola hotline on 0171 432 3230. Fifteen regional champion teams will qualify for the Pop Quiz grand final in London in March 1996.

The winning student team will walk away with a top prize of 5 Eurotrain tickets.

**IC Health Service**

The health centre's external phone number is

0171 584 6301

The number printed in the Union Handbook is wrong.

**Answers to last week's Elimination:**

r. Window dressing	i. Beans, Alaska	a. Penny pinch
s. Loose change	l. Crystal ball	b. Days, potato
t. Journey, destination	k. Film stars	c. Play house
	l. Ham, prate	d. Eye, jet
	m. Back issue	e. Caught out
	n. Civic, solos	f. Note, observe
	o. Moral fibre	g. Cottage industry
	p. Bow, bough	h. Summer pud-
	q. Spot check	ding

.. and the word left over was Hot Get

# LETTERS TO FELIX: REPLIED TO THIS WEEK BY RACHEL WALTERS

## Willis or Won't?

Dear Editor,

I am writing to question strongly the verdict reached by the Union Disciplinary against the Rag Chair, Mr Richard Willis.

The fresher involved in the incident, according to the report published in Felix, was seen purchasing a pint of strong cider in Da Vinci's Bar, after leaving the rag meeting. May I point out that before this stage, Mr Willis had already noted the condition of the student, and had advised him/her to not have any more.

If this is the case, I must call into question the actions of the bar staff, who are required, under both Union regulations, and the terms and conditions of the bar's licence) to refuse to serve alcoholic drinks to any person who obviously under the influence of alcohol. Breach of licence regulations can lead to withdrawal of the licence if a complaint is made, and I am sure there is cause for a complaint here. Surely the Union should take action to ensure that future breaches of the rules do not lead to external action being taken against them.

Perhaps we should ask whether College Security, who feel that Mr Willis took all necessary action in this incident, would similarly absolve the Union Bar staff of any blame for their part in the incident.

I must also ask why the first-year student involved was apparently not considered by the Union disciplinary to be guilty of "failing to act responsibly", or "bringing the Union into disrepute". Presumably the student is old enough to be considered an adult, and therefore to be responsible for his/her own actions.

Why should Mr Willis, who in my view may be guilty only of

a lack of foresight, take the blame entirely for the actions of others, possibly in breach of Union regulations, and – more importantly – the law?

*Jonathan Hall  
Computing II*

## Antagonism at IC

Dear Felix,

At the first ICU Council Meeting of the 1995/1996 academic year, our Deputy President Clubs & Societies Tim Townend said something like this -

"... any way we are a different type of College (University) for we have many foreign students and none of them give a shit about what happens to the Union; they are just here to get their degrees".

Being a foreigner I felt indignified. I am Departmental Representative & Treasurer of the Ski Club. So how can he make such accusations? I work hard and do my best for all the students I represent and know. So how can someone in his position, holding so much information and power, say something of this kind? For his benefit I will point out the Physics Department has two representatives which are foreigners and were the only ones to stand for the post.

So I guess we give a "shit" to what happens to the Union. We also attend all council meetings. I myself also attend the ACC meetings. Therefore I hope he will formally apologize to all the foreign students in College that care about what happens to the Union?

*Daniel Figueros-Niets  
Physics Student, Departmental Representative, and Ski Club Treasurer*

## Mark Praise

Rachel,

We felt that we had to write to you so that you could pass our congratulations on to Mark for last Friday night.

Not only were "My Life Story" really good but the music all night was outstanding. In fact it was undoubtedly the most enjoyable time we've had at the Union in the last 3 years.

As a well known publication would say "keep it up. Good work fella"

*Love,  
Chris Ince et al*

## Unhappy Virgins

Dear Editor,

For a publication starved of news other than that regarding fire alarms and computer thefts the Imperial College Ladies' Rugby Football Club takes exception to the belittling of their feats to obscurity behind "Features" meriting Colin the Glassblower, Anne the Archivist, countless Ents plugs and hamfisted pages with writers maze-like lines replacing column inches. It seems remarkable that a journal produced by students for students has the gall to ignore worthy effort by a group of such funded by the same source as the publication whilst devoting space to the employees of College, the administration of which is frequently expoused in the same editions.

I am most interested to hear of the editorial decision taken to publish not even an edited version of the match report following IC Virgins 60-0 victory over UCL yet substantial space was devoted to other teams' mediocre results. Could it be that

your sports editor knows as little about sport as he does about Ents?

*Catharine Byrne  
Vice-Captain ICLRFC*

I was decidedly taken aback by the sheer volume of sports reports that suddenly appeared last week: after a rather lackluster start to the term, we were suddenly inundated with a pile of fairly random scraps of paper. It seemed fairest to give priority to those reports which came in first, rather than to discriminate on the basis of the score. Do you really think that you should be preferred over clubs that produce 'mediocre' results just because you do rather well?

Your article arrived after everyone else's, and there was already ample material for a full page. But in the interests of harmony I sought out one of your teammates in the bar that evening to apologise for its omission: she told me that it didn't matter at all. Apparently the rest of the team didn't know what you had written and weren't sure they would be happy with it.

I was expecting to give your article priority treatment this week, but none was forthcoming. Is this because *Felix* doesn't merit your endeavours, or is it because you lost?

I'm very sorry about the deadline confusion, it clearly wasn't helpful. It's difficult to set a precise time after which it's too late to submit, because obviously it depends on the volume we've already had, but as a guideline for the future, 8pm Wednesday would be helpful.

I would happily set aside more space each week for sport if I had any guarantee that it could be filled... I hope this week's offering is more accurate: I think everyone has been fitted in.

I'm still looking for a permanent sports editor: would you be interested?

# THE FELIX

the indispensable guide for Felix contributors and helpers

monday, high noon

clubs & societies articles deadline

monday 1.20pm

reviewers' meeting

monday 6pm

letters deadline

monday 6pm

news meeting

wednesday 1pm

features meeting

thursday night

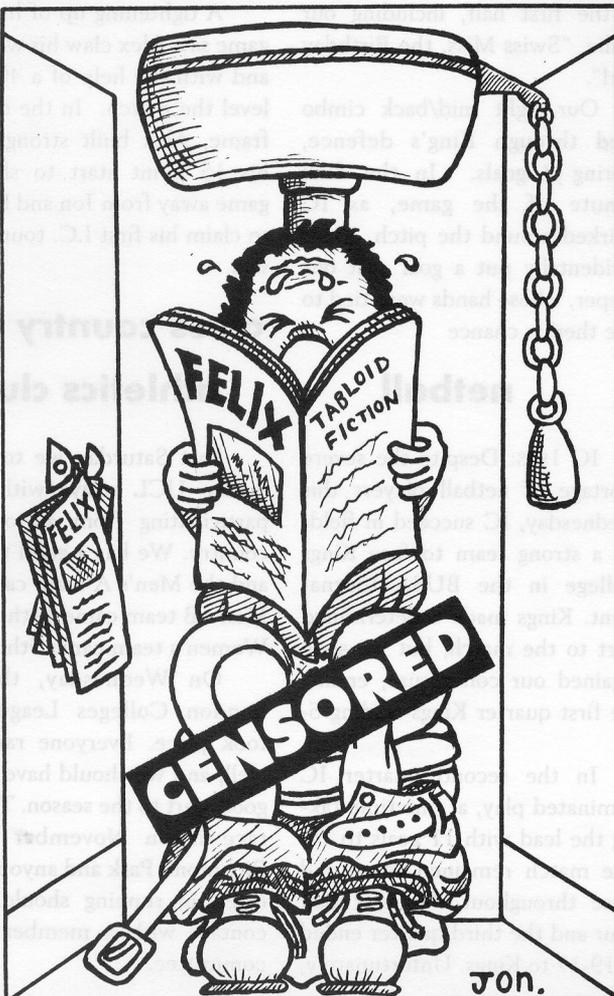
collating

friday morning

another Felix hits the street...

# W E E K

Felix 95/96: even softer, even stronger, even longer.



# FELIX

FOUNDED 1949

PRODUCED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION PUBLICATIONS BOARD

PRINTED BY THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION PRINT UNIT  
BEIT QUAD PRINCE CONSORT ROAD LONDON SW7 2BB

TELEPHONE/FAX 0171 594 8072

EDITOR: RACHEL WALTERS

PRINTERS: ANDY THOMPSON AND JEREMY

BUSINESS MANAGER: JULIETTE DECOCK

ADVERTISING MANAGER: WEI LEE

COPYRIGHT FELIX 1995. ISSN 1040-0711

## Sub-Editorial

As Rachel has been busy graduating I have been given the dubious honour of penning the editorial and generally organising the *Felix* office on Thursday. Thus any mistakes can be attributed to me this week!

## Life, the Universe and Graduating

The best thing about Commemoration day is, to my mind, having two afternoons off in a row. But to all those boys and girls who've arrived back at IC today with Mummy and Daddy in tow (and even Great-Aunt Ethel in one case) it is far more significant than that. Apart from those going into even higher (Himalayan perhaps) education it means the start of 'real work' and the end of the 'best days of your life'. Surely this needn't be the case. I will think my life very dull indeed if the best days of it are spent at Imperial College. Not that life at IC is boring, but I hope that life beyond university will hold more challenges to overcome. (Read to the tune of "Climb every mountain.")

It also strikes me as rather strange that when you receive your coveted degree, in the presence of your peers, that you have worked for at least three years to

obtain, you have to wear a – frankly – silly dress! I speculate that perhaps this is one final intelligence test, after witnessing two graduates-to-be attempting to don their robes. Still, spending three and a half hours in them seems somewhat extreme.

## Portillo Picture Competition

In the last few days *Felix* has been inundated by hundreds of Michael Portillo pictures. Being the humourous chaps we are some of these pictures were altered in an amusing fashion. This proved to be so much fun that we've decided to let everyone else join in! Yes, the "Deface Micheal Portillo's Photo Competition" is open to all - just bring in your picture of MP, suitably altered (or is that seasonally adjusted?). The best entry recieved by Friday next week will win – a free copy of *Felix*!! (If it's really good you might get a free pint.) Lawyers please note – this is a joke and is not intended to be detrimental to the great man in any way. Really.

## And finally...

A big thank-you to everyone who helped out this week, especially on Thursday, and a big kiss to 'Inky' Andy for putting up with everything this week.

## EDITORIAL TEAM:

NEWS: ALEX FEAKES      FEATURES & SUB-EDITORIAL: MARK BAKER  
fii: JEREMY X      MUSIC: VIK BANSAL      FILM: WEI LEE  
PHOTOGRAPHY: DIANA HARRISON      SPORT: ALEX FEAKES  
SCIENCE: BEN WILKINS      CLUBS AND SOCIETIES: PAUL MACKAY

## COLLATING LAST WEEK:

BEN WILKINS, MARIO, AND TIM ST. CLAIR

Sport

**RESULTS**

**FOOTBALL VS UCL:**

MEN'S 1ST	7 - 4
MEN'S 2ND	6 - 5
MEN'S 3RD	1 - 1
MEN'S 4TH	0 - 8

**FOOTBALL VS KINGS:**

WOMEN'S 1ST	14 - 1
WOMEN'S 1ST (SUNDAY 22ND)	8 - 5

**NETBALL VS KINGS:**

WOMEN'S 1ST	21 - 27
-------------	---------

**BADMINTON VS KINGS:**

WEDS 18TH (MIXED VS 'PENGUINS')	1 - 8
WEDS 25TH (LADIES)	4 - 5
MEN'S 1ST	8 - 1
MEN'S 2ND	8 - 1

**CROSS-COUNTRY AND ATHLETICS CLUB**

MEN'S A	4TH
MEN'S B	14TH
WOMEN'S A	5TH

**HOCKEY VS KINGS**

MEN'S 1ST	2 - 1
MEN'S 2ND	2 - 0
WOMEN'S 1ST	1 - 0
WOMEN'S 2ND	1 - 1

**badminton**

IC MIXED: In the first match of the season, Twinkletoes, Trussell and Mighty Mo set the early pace but overall IC's international mixed line up didn't quite show the familiar killer instinct that has made them favourites ....um.... to go down! However, following Cantona and Ginola, another French superstar was born. Dani Steer - a closed season acquisition (undisclosed fee) - made her debut and showed great touch playing with her partner (no comment). When asked to reflect on the match afterwards, Stevie T's reply, "Where's the beer?" epitomised the dedication and spirit of the team!

IC LADIES: After obliterating UCL last week 9-0, we narrowly missed out this week against King's. The result of 4-5 was dis-

appointing because we should have "whopped 'em" (- Margret) Whoops-a-daisy!

**football**

IC HOMMES 1ER: Un adversoire que nous connoissons, un bon terrain: tout pour faire une bonne performme. D'ailleurs, tout commencait bien. Un premier but pour Mark avant que n'ait la chance de toucher la ballon, puis un deuxieme, 2-0 au bout de 5 minutes. Dans l'euphorie, on peche par imprudence et on se fait rerrouter puis déposer en un quart d'heure: 3-2 pour l'UCL. Match jou, jou, jou! On revient avant la mi-temps, greece a IC: 4-3 pour nous. En deuxieme mi-temps, toujours des buts mois nous conservons (plus ou moins) l'emprise sur la match. Score final: 7-4. A noter que par hesord, l'envoye special a marque un but.

IC WOMEN'S 1STS: Despite having 9 able players, we were still able to show King's ICWFC's new look. Our 'Norwegian Demon' did her part towards the victory with 6 goals. Our other points came from 'Miss Racing Reading' and the 'Greek Crusader'. Our only problem lay in the goal where the 'Canadian Captain' bravely stood by and watched as the opposition gracefully kicked the ball by.

Having won our first game, we were not rewarded by showers and beer, as we had to play LSE instead of the seconds, who were mostly still in bed nursing hangovers. Though completely exhausted from our first game, we lost gracefully 3-2.

IC WOMEN'S 1STS: We arrived on the pitch to find our opposition quivering, no doubt as a consequence of Sunday's pounding. In fact, to give them a break, IC Ladies agreed to play the entire game blindfolded. But even with this handicap, Kings were unable to stop every single member of ICWFC from scoring in the first half, including our goalie, "Swiss Miss, the Birthday Girl".

Our right mid/back cimbo sped through King's defence, scoring 3 goals. In the final minute of the game, as IC smirked around the pitch, Kings accidentally put a goal past our keeper, whose hands were tied to give them a chance

Kings shooting continued to be fluent, particularly in the last quarter where the match closed at 27-21 to Kings.

Man of the Match: Maria Glew.

**snooker**

Sunday Oct 15th saw this year's Snooker Club Introductory Open Tournament. The early rounds witnessed established team-players and well regarded newcomers falling by the wayside; both due to and despite the recently introduced handicapping system. The Freshers' champion from the previous week, Ronald Yip, was particularly unlucky in going out after several well-fought black-ball finishes going against him in his second-round match.

Making it to the final, Jon soared into a rapid lead with an astonishing display of break-building skills, peaking with an unbeaten 51 break, and followed this frame with a tension packed final-black win in the next to lead 2-0 with three to play.

A tightening up of his safety game saw Alex claw his way back, and with the help of a 40 break, level the match. In the deciding frame, Alex built strongly from his 15 point start to slide the game away from Jon and hold out to claim his first I.C. tournament win.

**cross country and**

**netball**

**athletics club**

IC 1STS: Despite the severe shortage of netball players this Wednesday, IC succeed in fielding a strong team to face Kings College in the BUSA tournament. Kings made a determined start to the match, but we soon regained our composure, ending the first quarter Kings leading 6-3.

In the second quarter IC dominated play, at one time taking the lead with 11 goals to 10. The match remained tense and close throughout the next half hour and the third quarter ended at 19-17 to Kings. Unfortunately,

Last Saturday we took part in the UCL relays with teams participating from all over the country. We has a good turn-out and the Men's A team came 4th, Men's B team came 14th and the Women's team came 5th.

On Wednesday, the first London Colleges League race took place. Everyone ran really well, and we should have made a good start to the season. The next race is on November 8th at Richmond Park and anyone interested in running should get in contact with a member of the committee.