

Nuclear Testing: What the French say about the French

Sleeping with shepherds in the Himalayas

Welfare Week: Meet the team who solve your problems



FELIX

The student newspaper of Imperial College

Issue 1043
December 1st 1995

Charity Losers

Rag Week in the Red

BY MARK BRIDGE

The Royal College of Science Union's Beer Festival failed to make a profit this year leaving Rag Week in the red. The Festival normally returns a healthy amount for Rag's charities, but has fallen victim to the dearth in interest that has blighted Rag's efforts this year.

The Beer Festival itself caused irritation for College and Union alike as neither College Catering, Estates, nor any of the college licensees said they were consulted about the event. Further, a senior Rag source said that Simon Cooper, the organiser, was warned that a loss was very likely this year, as the event had been running into difficulties. The RCSU have agreed to run several events to try and make up for the very significant losses, with astonishing reports that over half the beer was not touched.

The other events of Rag Week have also been hit by low attendances. The Guilds Slave Auction could barely count more

than its organisers and potential slaves as being present in the UCH last thursday. Although some of the regular events of the week, including the flannings performed by the Hit Squad, have been popular, the Mines Dirty Disco was under-patronised.

Although Rag actually played very little part in the actual organisation of either of the events beyond providing the float for the Disco, and the capital for the Beer Festival, Rag officers are angry at the Royal School of Mines Union because they will not hand over the proceeds of the Miners' Dirty Disco event.

In a letter to Rag the day after the Disco, the RSMU have said that they will donate the proceeds of their Disco directly to the charity they chose. However, after further communication with Rag, the RSMU said they might supply them a receipt from the beneficiaries of the donation to allay fears that

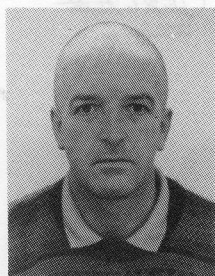
Continued on page 2



Carpet Baggers!

Before and after: a still-unnamed Royal Holloway student can be seen entering the Union on the night of Wednesday 11th of November. The security video clearly shows the students leaving Beit Quad just minutes later, bundling the ICU doormat out of the front gate while President Sarah White and Ents DJ Luke stand by.

in summary



RCSU Homeless

The RCSU has a new Vice President, Ken Pritchard who replaces Ruth Child.

Completely unconnected with this are the problems they have with their new temporary offices in Biology. **page 3**

Hawking Lecture Proves Popular

The Royal Albert Hall was packed last week when 5000 people came to hear a lecture by Professor Stephen Hawking.

In the most well-attended science lecture at the RAH since 1933, Hawking explained why

he had changed his mind about the possibility of time travel. He said that while subatomic particles may be able to travel back in time, quantum theory dictates that large objects such as human beings certainly could not.

continued from page one
the miners have just walked off with the money.

The RSMU organisers have complained bitterly that Rag did not clear the customers out of Da Vinci's before the event or provide a cloakroom; both of which had customarily been part of Rag's responsibilities. But the acrimony between Rag and the RSMU goes back further, with



PHOTO: DIANA HARRISON

The door's open, but nobody's coming in. Interest in Rag has been fading.

the RSMU executive taking an increasing dislike over the past few years to Rag's methods for raising money, believing they lacked any ethos.

Rob Park, speaking for the Royal College of Science Union, felt that more publicity would not have gone amiss. "You need publicity all the time," he said. "When I told some people about the event [after it had happened] they were interested like anything".

On a happier note, Austin Jones of the City and Guilds Union said that they raised at least £200 (the figure excludes sums collected by Rag members at the event). He added, though, that a greater sum may have been collected if the sabbaticals took part in the Slave Auction. That is not to say, however, that the Sabbaticals have not been getting involved, as proved by Sarah White, who was flanned twice during the week by the Hit Squad.

Rag officials were unable to comment on the total sum raised so far this year.

Calculator Ban in Exams

BY ALEX FEAKES

College Examiners have decreed that students will no longer be allowed to bring their own calculators in to external examinations, starting in the summer of 1996. Instead, they will be issued with a standard department-approved model incorporating the basic scientific operations.

The move to exclude students own calculators was taken earlier this month at a meeting of the College Board of Examiners, where concern over the increasing sophistication of the machines was discussed. In the past, the instructions to candidates sent to each student listed a group of forbidden calculators, considered too powerful for the exams to be fair. Other calculators with memories or programs had to have them wiped before entering the examination room.

Now, the Board of Examiners have said that it is unfeasible for invigilators to be expected to check that every calculator has been wiped, and having every student with the same calculator will 'level the field'. Departments around the college were consulted on their preference for the standard machine, and three calculators have been shortlisted for further investigation. These are the Casio fx82 super, Casio fx85s and the Sharp EL 532gh.

Vernon McClure, the Academic Registrar, stressed that there was no need for students to purchase any of these machines, as some will be available for familiarisation purposes next term. He said that the examiners decision would lead to "parity of treatment" and maintain the "integrity of the examination."

News in brief

BY MARK BRIDGE

Another Hall Burglary

Olave Hall, one of the college halls on Knightsbridge, was visited by a burglar last Monday, probably entering via a door that was left propped open. The thief broke into two rooms and stole over a hundred pounds of cash.

...and Another

Linstead - A man was seen leaving a room carrying a jar of tea. He asked for some milk and left. A small sum of cash and a watch were later reported missing by the occupant. This follows the arrest of another intruder in Weeks Hall on the 21st.

Police sources advise people who see someone suspicious should try and record their facial features and actions and call security.

...and Last Week's

The man who was arrested and charged with attempted burglary in Weeks Hall last week is still in custody. He is refusing to answer any questions.

He was apprehended when a student contacted Security after she became suspicious of his intent. He had barged into her room and claimed he was looking for a toilet.

It is believed that the man may be a part of a trio of thieves targeting IC this year.

Discipline Problems

A fourth year RSM student who kicked a hole in a plasterboard wall in the Concert Hall faced a Union Disciplinary earlier this week. The Committee accepted his story that he thought it was a solid brick wall and levied a £20 fine.

Welfare Snubbed by Prof

BY ANDY SINHARAY

A union official was told her request for information on IC disciplinary procedures 'caused a great deal of amusement' this week. Whilst researching for Welfare Week, Julia Knight, RCSU Welfare Rep, circulated a letter to Wardens for information concerning disciplinary procedure for offences in halls.

Professor Geoff New of Falmouth Keogh Hall gave the only reply. He said that he assumed her request was not meant to be taken seriously, but that if it was she was under 'a total misapprehension about discipline in IC in general.'

Professor New's response was considered by many students to be sarcastic and dismissive, though questions have been raised over whether or not Julia's approach was justified. Miss Knight said she "was very disappointed" by his reply, "considering the serious nature of my initial request." The House Chairman at Bernard Sunley

House thought that "it was an insensitive reply... they [the wardens] are there for student welfare.. I wish the warden would re-examine his views, they shouldn't be put forward in such a blunt manner."

Although Prof New was unable for comment, there was little sympathy for Julia's letter from other quarters. College tutor Dr Gareth Jones, who deals with welfare said that Miss Knight "seems quite unaware of the student disciplinary hand-

continued on next page

President: Mohummed Dullou
Vice President: Ruth Chid
Honorary Secretary: Shant Arshin
& Helen Louise Windsor



Royal College of Science Union,
Old Chemistry,
Imperial College,
South Kensington,
London, SW7
Tel: (0171) 594-0715
Island: 48715

To: Prof G New
Warden, Falmouth Keogh Hall

Dear Prof G New,

I am the welfare officer for the RCSU, and at present, I am engaged in reviewing the disciplinary procedures that occur in Imperial's halls. I would be obliged if you could furnish me with information on the way in which you impose for certain offences that can be seen as legal matters, e.g. assault, harassment, theft, drug offences and anti-social behaviour. I await your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Julia Knight
Julia Knight
RCSU Student Welfare Officer

RCSU Homeless

BY ANDY SINHARAY

The Royal College of Science Union will be homeless when they leave their current site this weekend. As reported in *Felix 1042*, the RCSU is soon to move temporarily to the Biology department, due to the imminent demolition of their current premises in the Old Chemistry Building. The Union is scheduled to move permanently to the Civil Engineering Department later next term.

The RCSU Honorary Secretary, Stuart Jenkins, told *Felix* that the current office has to be vacated by Monday, though the Union is hoping to be out by Saturday night. However, the room in Biology set aside for them is not available until Wednesday.

Further problems are expected with the 24 hr-swipe

card access that the Biology department operates. There are, Stuart added, "no possibilities for people wanting to buy regalia, tickets, etc." Rob Park, their Publicity Officer, added "We'll have to store our non-essentials in the Queen's Tower," which includes the Gestetner printer used for Broadsheet. The property of the president, vice-president and honorary secretary is likely to get moved to Biology, with the remainder going into storage.

As for the Biology Department accessibility problem, he said that this "is being investigated by the exec" with a view to increasing the access, though he did appreciate that there was a need for security. Despite the difficulties however, it is hoped that they will be able to have "a skeleton-type service running."

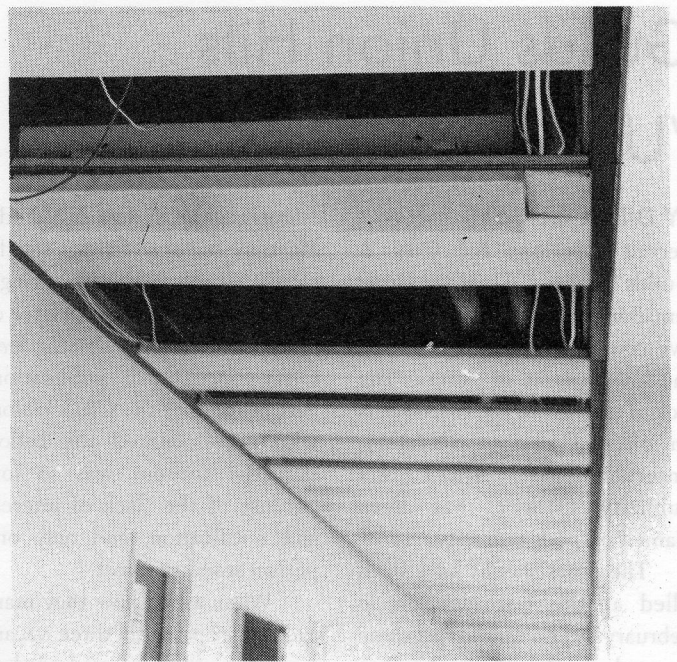


PHOTO: DIANA HARRISON

The gaping hole where part of the metal-sheet covering the roof crawlway has fallen away on the fourth floor of the Sherfield Building. Fortunately it happened early in the morning and did not injure anyone when it fell, and these ceilings are soon to be replaced as part of the refurbishment of Sherfield.

Matthew Parris Meets IQ

BY BEN WILKINS

In his column in *The Times* last week, Matthew Parris highlighted the difficulties faced by homosexuals at IC because its students, mainly studying science, were more prejudiced than at other universities.

Parris, the first MP to come out as gay in a speech to the House of Commons, recently visited the college to talk to Imperial Queers, IC's society for gay men, lesbians and bisexuals. Members of IQ complained to him that their group felt it was "quite a struggle to be open about their sexuality at this college". Their members say they suffer from a lack of respect and even arrogance from their fellow students. On several occasions in the past when they have put up posters around college, they have been torn down. IQ members envy the "openness of the ethos in colleges where not all the students are studying science".

In his column, Parris reflected on the fact that scientists on the whole seem "disproportionately timid and deferential to

conventional wisdom". Scientists, he says, are often perceived to be rational, objective and free thinking, belonging to the discipline most likely to challenge authority and religion. But he suggested that in reality, scientific thinking encourages a "narrow and focussed adherence to one line of study". He believes it fosters narrowmindedness and reinforces ideas about the inferiority of groups including women, the mentally ill and homosexuals.

His remarks were criticised by Sir Walter Bodmer, who has produced an influential report on the public understanding of science. When he visited Imperial last week, he commented, "clearly we still have a long way to go". The president of Imperial Queers, Ashley Lumsden, also disagreed with his reasons for the prejudice at IC, he said, "I think because its a science college, there are are large numbers of men socialising with other men. This situation creates a 'macho' atmosphere which does not lead to much tolerance".

continued from page 2

book, in which disciplinary procedures are spelled out." Though he did concede that the response was needlessly terse "I think you could be put off... though there is an invitation to discuss this."

At present, students receive guidance on disciplinary policy from the college published Freshers' Handbook, and from the Wardens of their respective halls of residence. There are no set punishments for certain offences, which are instead dealt with on a case-by-case basis. Sarah White, ICU president, was unsympathetic, claiming that Miss Knight misunderstood

the task for which she had volunteered. Miss White added that she had received letters of enquiry from some of the hall wardens who had been contacted by the Welfare Rep, expressing surprise at the fact that this approach was being used given that such information was freely available.

Miss White maintained that Julia should really have been examining topics like student housing rights and similar subjects under the banner of "Legal Matters", rather than bringing college disciplinary procedures under scrutiny. "I'm not amused by it... it was a waste of people's time." As for the attitude of Prof New, she said "It's just his way, he's just like that... college staff are tactless sometimes."

However, this still leaves open the issue of what many consider to be the unnecessary sarcasm and rudeness on the part of a hall warden and college professor. "I think it typifies the wardens' views of students" said Pub board Chair Piers Williams, "it isn't very responsible to say things like this."

FALMOUTH KEOGH HALL

Imperial College of Science Technology & Medicine
Falmouth Flat, Prince Consort London SW7 2BZ

Professor C.H.C. New - Warden
0171-594-9480 e-mail: g.new@ic.ac.uk
0171-594-7780 Physical
0171-823-8376 FAX

Ms Julia Knight
RCS Union
Old Chemistry Bldg

15 November 1995

Dear Ms Knight:

Thanks very much for the enclosed note which has caused a great deal of abuse
among the wardens. If by any chance it was meant to be taken seriously,
you are under a total misapprehension about discipline in IC in general and in
halls of residence in particular. If you really want to be listened to, please
contact me on 171-91 or (preferably) by e-mail.

Yours sincerely

C.H.C. New
C.H.C. New

Guilds Union Hits "Unprecedented" Low

BY DIPAK GHOSH

Recent elections for City & Guilds College Union's three remaining posts on their executive committee were marred by the low turnout of voters. The lack of interest in the three posts on offer, Honorary Secretary, Entertainments Officer and Publicity Officer, has been blamed on poor publicity.

The posts should have been filled at the last election in February but no candidates came forward at the time. Another election was required to fill the remaining seats.

The candidates for the Guilds' Executive were elected on 17th November, but only 57 engineers bothered to vote, approximately 2% of those eligible. This turnout, though officially constitutional, marks an

"unprecedented" low in Guilds' election history, falling significantly short of last spring's turnout by more than a factor of three according to *Guildsheet*, C&G's occasional publication. Austin Jones of the C&G Union, who proof-counted the ballot, said the turnout was so low because of the "lack of interest and notification, and only one person stood per post."

When asked how they managed to cope with three vacant posts, he said that everybody had helped cover the work for each post.

Some commentators noted that the elections were hardly a good result for the Constituent College Unions in general, let alone the C&GU, and should cause concern for their long-term future.

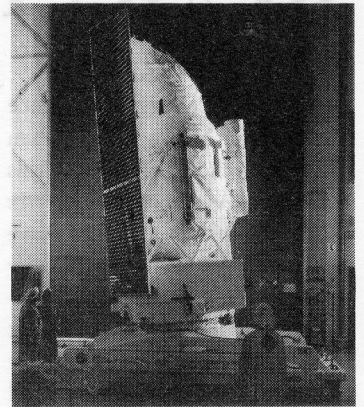
Cool Telescope Blasts Off

BEN WILKINS

A new space based telescope, the first of its kind, was launched into orbit by the European space agency last month. It will allow astronomers to see planets and star systems which are invisible from earth. Professor Rowan-Robinson of the physics department says "This is very exciting for IC because we are involved in one of the major projects."

The infrared space observatory (ISO) will be looking at IR radiation, which can penetrate the fog and dust that often surrounds the objects of interest. Earth based observatories cannot detect this radiation because it is absorbed by our atmosphere.

Rowan-Robinson and his colleagues will have about 215 hours of 'open time' with the telescope. They expect to find 10-20,000 new galaxies, "We are hoping to observe galaxies in the process of forming, this has never



Very chilly: ISO is one of the coldest places in the universe

really been seen," he explained. The results from ISO are due around February and should help astronomers understand how galaxies evolve. Unfortunately there is a snag with observing infrared radiation. The telescope must be cooled to around minus 270 degrees celsius with liquid helium, making it very chilly indeed. When all the liquid helium has evaporated, in around 18 months, the mission will end.

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Once upon a time, French nuclear testing...

"Nuclear testing."

Every time I hear these words, I remember how uncomfortable it is sometimes to be a French citizen. People are very often tempted to associate your ideas as an individual with your government's actions. Resolved to keep a low profile, I wish to shed some light on the current controversy regarding nuclear testing.

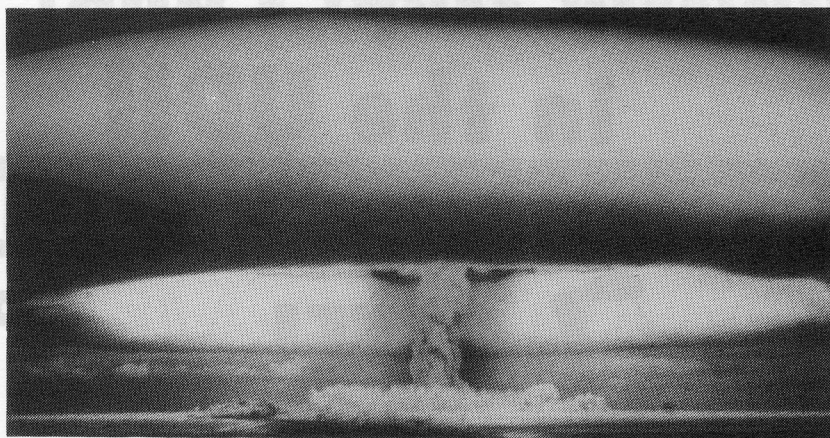
Firstly, let's consider the scientist's arguments, as they do not pretend to carry

out such experiments for the benefit of debate. It seems that for research's needs, this testing will help to refine the existing numerical model for the explosion of nuclear devices. Secondly, there is a safety concern involved. In fact, scientists argue that they need to explode nuclear devices to assess the effect that long term storage has on them. They have to make sure that weapons will still be safe

as they get older and older. Exploding twenty year old devices might reveal modifications that should be made to ensure safety. This seems to be one motivation for carrying out the tests. In parallel, the people in charge are zealous professionals performing their tasks as well as their skills allow them to. As fundamental researchers they will never accept they are limited in their approach by anything other than their own intellectual facilities. All the same, a researcher in genetics would not give up his research on human gene alteration on the grounds that it could produce a degenerate creature. It's an intrinsic part of the dynamics of research to go beyond the limits.

On the other hand, these scientists depend on their country which sponsors and controls them. That is mainly where the political interference in their work comes

from. Away from the research centre in the Pacific Ocean, the 'qualified' politicians in Paris are meant to be making the appropriate decisions. It looks like the recently elected president, Mr Jaques Chirac, excels in the art of cultivating paradoxes. Regardless of his troubles at home, his international engagements are enough to highlight these contradictions. By pretending to favour the completion of the nuclear program, he tried to revive the tradition from the era when the



tests were previously performed. At the same time, he initiated and promised to sign the international treaty of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Since Descartes, the French have been seen as rather logically minded, but for some reason, this time the transmission of the inheritance failed. In spite of the vehement protests from people with the slightest amount of common sense, a research matter has become the guarantee of *monsieur le president's* determination and independence. I am still wondering to what extent a government can impose its action against general opposition before becoming dictatorial. Remember that Chirac won the elections with a small majority and that the greater part of people in the country are opposed to his measures. This is especially apparent where the future of nuclear

armament is concerned.

So what shall we do? I am not sure whether such an incautious boycott on the Beaujolais Nouveau, (as an advert in last week's press proposed) is really a powerful persuasion tool. The problem is far beyond that. The president must first realise that his interest lies in a better international co-operation. Once his credibility is lost, any other involvement of the country in other fields will not be trustworthy. Economic

consequences particularly are far from negligible.

Concerning the field of research, it seems rather childish to aspire to a better modelling of devices that are already sufficiently powerful to kill an entire population. Is it a matter of how deep the radiation is going to penetrate their bodies? How quickly a ninety-nine kilometre long city

can be destroyed? The population is not going to survive anyway.

The future orientation of research should be towards improving safety and should forget about improving existing weapons. I doubt the latter is absolutely necessary for the security of the country, particularly at a time when the expansion of worldwide communication should bring about a better understanding between countries. And if this doesn't happen, at least a better knowledge of your opponents' motivations can be used as a basis for mediation in a crisis.

Now that things have been explained, I leave the last word to the French ambassador in Guatemala who said: "Peace is a delicate matter which ought not to be left in the hands of pacifists."

Sabine Louët

Sabine Louët is from Brittany, and is at IC to do a MSc in Science Communication. With a bit of luck her offering will be the first of a semi-regular *Foreign Objective*, looking at international issues from the perspective of IC's overseas population. We would like to hear from any Nigerians out there, or perhaps there are a few Americans who could explain Newt Gingrich to the rest of us, or Irishmen with strong views on divorce. And if there's anyone from ex-Yugoslavia, you've got a lot of explaining to do...

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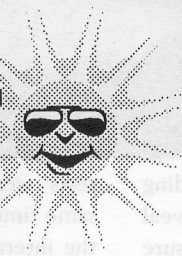
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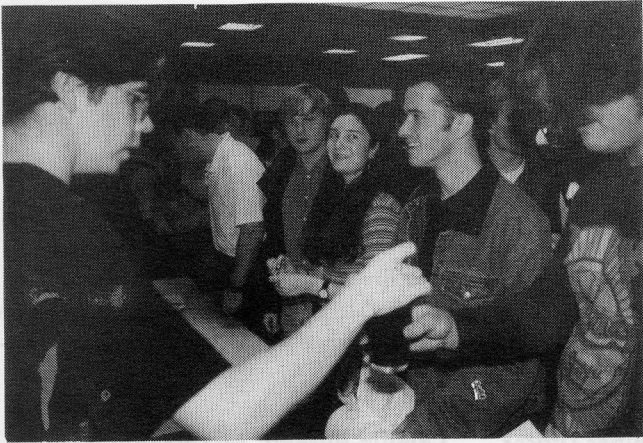
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rag week



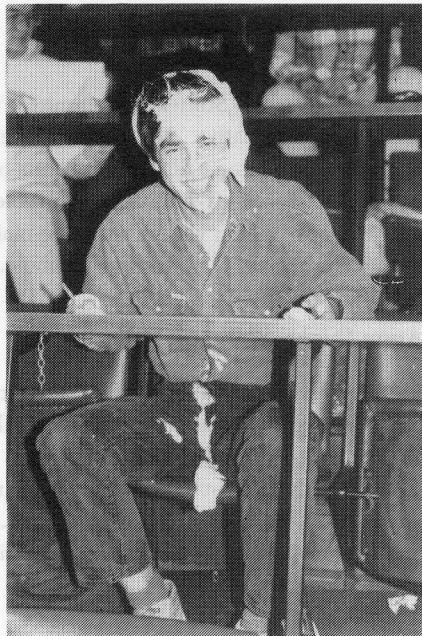
Richard Willis, ex-rag chair, holds a pint for a friend (because of course if he was actually serving anyone that would be 'irresponsible').



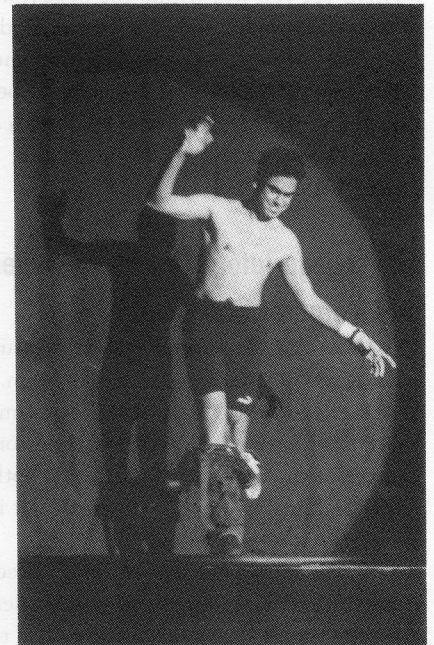
Ents DJ Luke looking stunning as usual. (Dress £59.95, M&S. Scarf £9.95 Tammy Girl)



The Mines' Dirty Disco - this is about the only printable photo, believe me. (Don't ask about Eleanor)

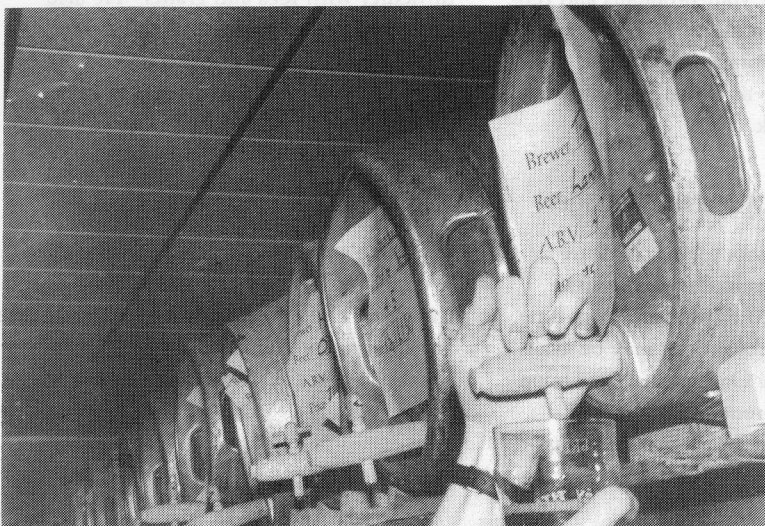


City & Guild's Hit Squad turn a bored student into a happy flanned student.



"RCSU President in spontaneous trouser falling scandal!"

Beer, beer, glorious beer... Nothing quite like it for getting the JCR floor really sticky.



Flanning Tonight! (And who said Sarah had no sense of humour?)



Photos taken by: William Lorenz, Diana Harrison. Dev. by: Ivan Chan, Willibo.

Welfare Week '95

Let's face it, everyone has problems. Fortunately there are people who can help! It doesn't take much time away from home to realise that life without parents isn't quite the easy ride you would have expected. Childhood dreams of growing up evaporate rapidly into worries about bills, the chances of your condom splitting, and the fastest possible ways of escaping from your fire-breathing landlord. These and many other issues are the prime concern of a small (but noble) team of union officers and college staff. Hence **Welfare Week '95** – a time for you to learn more about a bewilderingly large range of issues and pour out your pre-Christmas bank balance worries into the caring, sharing ears of Union welfare.

Your aims for welfare week:

- Meet the Welfare team at lunch on Monday in the Union Ents Lounge 12.30-1.30pm i.e. free food.
- Get educated – at the various stalls dotted around Sherfield and the Union.
- Remember that Friday 1st (today) is World Aids Day. Statistics show that if you don't know someone who is dying of AIDS yet you will within the next few years. Maybe it's time to get prepared.

In the meantime get yourself to the Benefit Disco tonight – all profits are going to be donated to the Mildmay Mission – with any willing donations clutched tight in your sweaty little palms.

The College Tutors, Drs Gareth Jones and Margaret Goodgame

Drs Jones and Goodgame are the two tutors who oversee the college tutoring system. This seeks to fill the gaps which can sometimes exist between departmental personal and senior tutors and their students, both under and post graduates. In particular it provides a forum outside departments where student-staff disputes can be aired. Students can raise any matter in confidence with the tutors. The college tutors also represent tutors on a number of committees and Dr Goodgame has a particular responsibility for women students. Dr Jones: Physics dept. room 525, ☎ x47805. Dr Goodgame: Chemistry dept. room 238, ☎ 45722.

Andy Sinharay, C&GCU AAO

Hi! As well as labouring under the grand title of City & Guilds Academic Affairs Officer, welfare comes into my job description too: I liaise with ICU staff and sabbs on all the usual issues (academic or otherwise). Contact: C&G Union Office, ☎ x58093, pigeon holes in Office or Aero 2, e-mail: a.sinharay@ic.ac.uk.

Ben Short, Equal Opportunities Officer

Hi, I'm the Equal Opportunities Officer for ICU. We can only promote equality within our College if we know about any discrimination or harassment that occurs. If you have any complaints, comments or suggestions, get in touch. Contact: pigeon hole in Union, e-mail: b.short@ic.ac.uk.

Sudip Dey Chowdhury, OSC Welfare Officer

I am the Overseas Student's Committee's welfare representative. My job is to take care of the welfare needs and problems of overseas students. If you have any problems I'll be happy to help you. Contact: e-mail sdc1@ce.ic.ac.uk, OSC Exec pigeonhole.

Anne Ovens, Women's Officer

Hi! I'm the Women's Officer in the Union, and I'm here to represent the views of all the ladies at Imperial College on Union Council. If you want to contact me about any matters, my e-mail is: a.ovens@ic.ac.uk, and I can also be pigeon-holed in the Union office.

Stephen Webb, Welfare Officer

Hi, I'm the ICU Welfare Officer. That means I to to solve your problems and represent you on welfare issues. But I can only do so if you communicate! Contact: Welfare Officer pigeonhole in Union, e-mail: sed.webb@ic.ac.uk.

Sue Thornett, Day Nursey Manager

Please talk to me about your childcare requirements for children aged from 6 months to 9 years, full time and part-time. Please note that subventions may be available from both the College and the Union to help student parents with fees. ☎ x45120 for further details and a fees list.

Camilla Burnett, Accomodation Officer

Living in hall? Got a problem? This is what your friendly hall accomodation rep is for. every so often (2-3x a term) the Union Accomodation Committee meets to try and sort out problems occurring in hall (such as recurring fire alarms at obscure hours!). The committee consists of a rep from each hall, Matt Crompton (ICU Dep Pres), Stephen Webb (Welfare Officer), Graham Daniels (Residences Area Manager), and myself. Contact: pigeon hole in Union and Biology.

Martin Thomas, Union Advisor

I run the Union Advice Office, situated on the first floor of the Union building. I can assist with a very broad range of problems including immigration, housing, debt, hardship, harassment etc. and also provide information on other specialist voluntary organisations. The advice service is confidential and non-judgmental and is open to all students and staff. Appointments can be made via the Union Office front desk (☎ 594 8060). Contact: ☎ 0171 594 8067 (int 48067).

Tony Cullen, College Assistant Registrar

The assistant registrar assists students having difficulty with fees and grants. He also deals with student loan and access fund applications. For an appointment ☎ x58008. Tony lives in room 335 in Sherfield.

Will Millard, RSMU Welfare Officer

My name's Will Millard and I'm the RSMU Welfare Officer. I have responsibility for the welfare of all RSM students. If you have any queries, problems or suggestions, please contact me in the RSMU office or Geology pigeon hole.

Sarah White - ICU President

One of my responsibilities as President is to deal with all welfare matters including hardship and academic problems. I sit on all the College Committees responsible for student welfare, and many others at University level. At the moment, I'm particularly interested in getting more input from mature and postgraduate students, and as ever want to hear all of your views on student funding and hardship. Funding of postgraduates, mature and overseas students seems often to be neglected in the national debate raging around us, so please, please help us to help you and future students by telling us about problems you encounter and how these might be tackled in the future. If you have any problems or suggestions on anything to do with your welfare or the welfare of those around you, please don't hesitate to contact me. ☎ x58061 during office hours.

Don Adlington, Student Counsellor

Don Adlington is the Student Counsellor. His job is to help students who run into personal difficulties of any kind. He operates independently of the other services in College, and his work is confidential. He will see students by appointment – almost always the same day – or without appoint-

ment if he happens to be free, and is available in normal office hours including lunchtime. ☎ x49430, office at 15 Princes Gardens.

The College Chaplaincy

The chaplains are happy to talk over all kinds of life problems, whatever your religion. They also provide spiritual guidance and anyone is free to visit for advice or directions to a place of worship. The chaplaincy is situated in the basement of 15 Princes Gardens and can be contacted on x49600.

The Health Centre

The Health Centre provides 24 hour care for NHS registered patients. If students and staff of Imperial College are not registered with the Health Centre, they can still use its facilities during the day, but should call their own GP for home visits and out of hours requests. The Doctors and Nurses give general medical and occupational health care. Help is available for any matter such as stress, study difficulties, pregnancy counselling and health promotion. The doctors and nurses can help with psychological problems and a consultant psychiatrist also attends weekly.

Loretto O'Callaghan, Disabilities Officer

During your studies and work at the college if you need help to overcome any problems why not come along for an informal chat. If you are unable to visit Loretto's office, she is happy to visit you at South Kensington, Paddington, Clayponds or Silwood Park. Loretto is also interested in feedback from students and staff regarding the environment in which we operate. The College is active in its efforts to improve access and facilities for our disabled community so any information and observations you can pass on will be invaluable in this work.

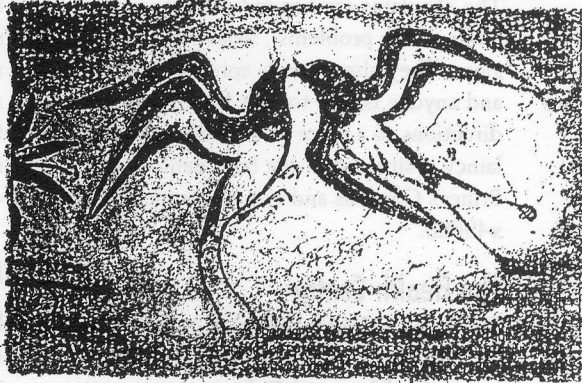
Martyn Crook - Silwood Park Welfare Officer

Problems with Immigration? Passports? Visas? Police? Boyfriend? Girlfriend? Supervisor? Finances? Silwood Bar? Homesick? Want to know your rights? Just want a chat? Come and see Martyn Crook. He can act as a first point of contact or to give you details of where to go and who to see. Additionally if you have an issue you wish to raise within the college this can be done through Martyn. ☎ x289 or 01344 294289, e-mail: m.crook@ic.ac.uk.



The Hellenic Society Presents

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CYPRIOT SOCIETY
THE GREEK EVENING



TODAY

Greek Food and Wine

Doors open 8:00 pm. Food served until 10:30pm
Live Music and Dance Until 2:00 am

Tickets: 10 pounds members, 12 pounds non members (including dinner)

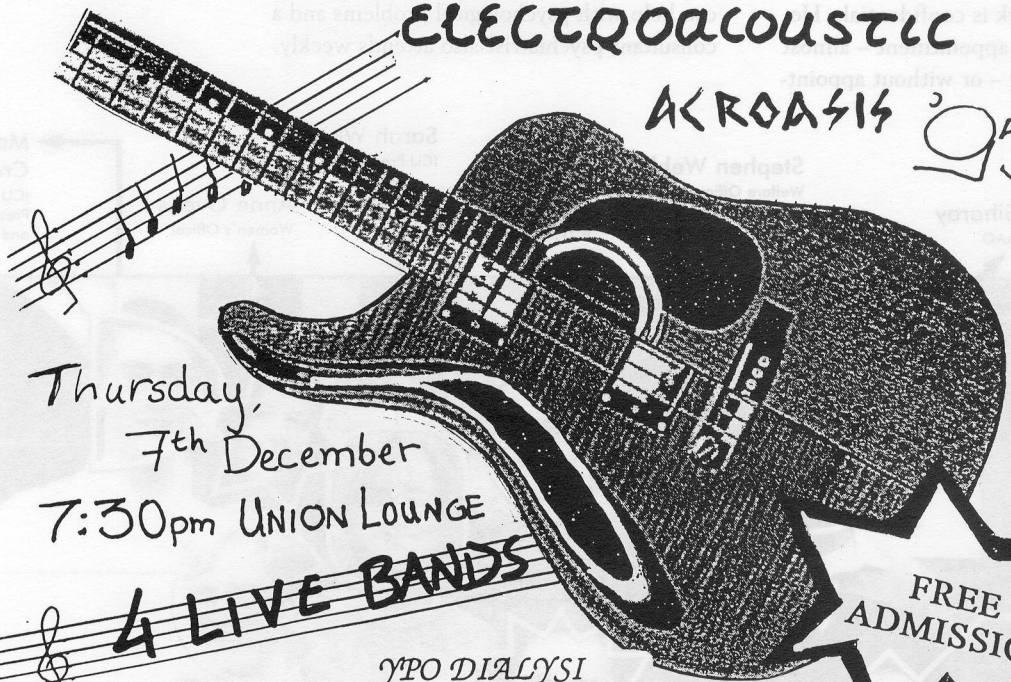
FIND US TODAY IN OUR STAND IN THE JCR

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THREE AIR TRAVEL VOUCHERS TO BE WON

The Hellenic Society thanks STA Travel and the Greek Flight Club for their kind support

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Thursday,
7th December
7:30pm UNION LOUNGE

4 LIVE BANDS

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WILD ANGELS
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The world's a breeze

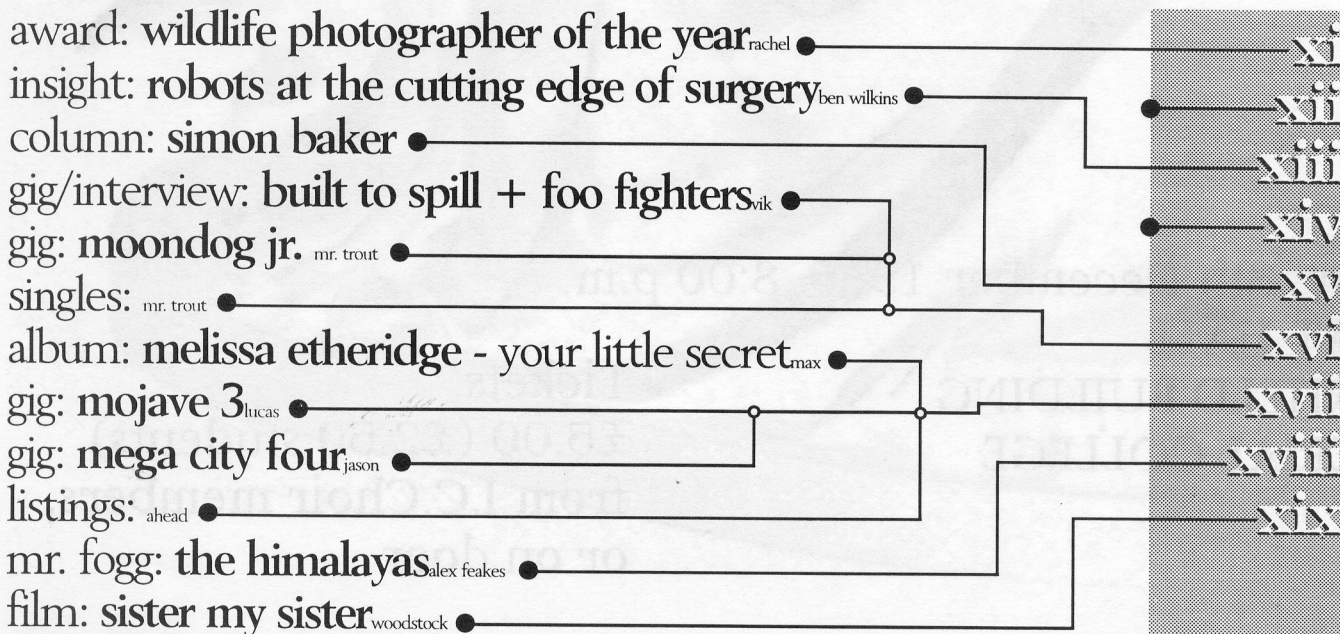
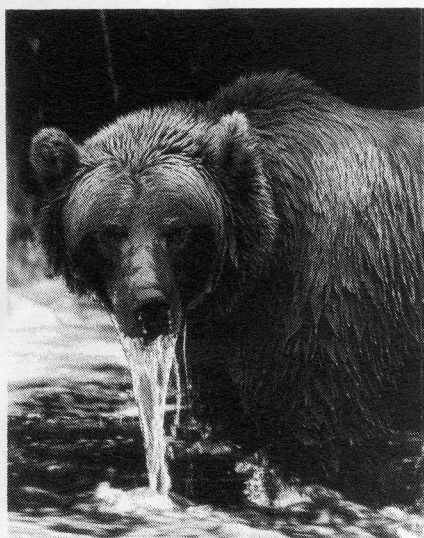
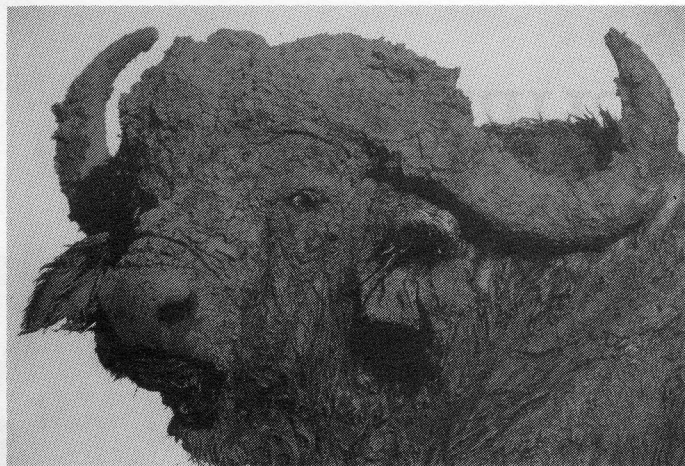
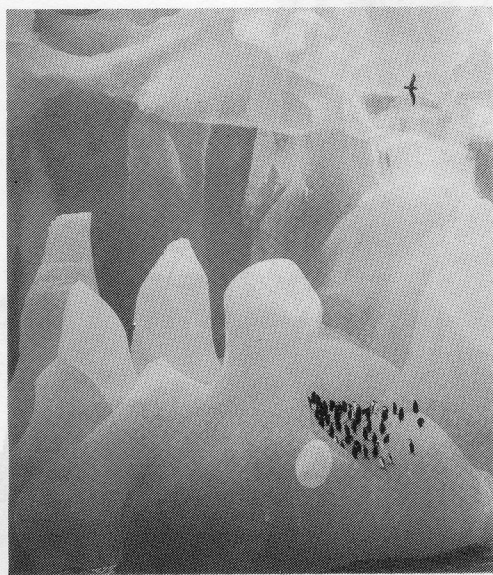
WITH OVER 100 STA TRAVEL OFFICES

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f

wildlife photographer of the year, natural history museum, not very far away really. until January 17th. cape buffalo, by frank krahmer; blue iceberg, antarctica, by cherry alexander, (overall winner); brown bear waiting for salmon, by heidi and hans-jürgen koch.

Wildlife Photographer
of the Year





IMPERIAL
COLLEGE
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Poulenc
GLORIA
Haydn
INSANÆ ET VANÆ CURÆ
Rossini
STABAT MATER

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Friday, 8th December 1995, 8:00 p.m.

GREAT HALL
SHERFIELD BUILDING
IMPERIAL COLLEGE

Tickets
£5.00 (£2.50 students)
from I.C. Choir members,
or on door

Robots at the Cutting Edge of Surgery

A Robot from Imperial has recently been allowed into the operating theatre. *Ben Wilkins* finds out what it can do

Sophisticated machines have become commonplace in hospitals. They monitor patients, perform imaging and treat cancer. But imagine if you were told the operation you were about to undergo will not be performed by a human surgeon, but by a robot.

Picture the scene. You are wheeled in under a general anaesthetic and connected to the appropriate equipment by a team of surgeons. Then a robot inserts a probe into your body and soon afterwards, visual and ultrasound images appear on a monitor. The surgeons instantly see the problem and mark on the screen the areas which need attention. Next, the robot is instructed, step by step, to make a series of incisions using its cutting tool. Thirty minutes later, the operation is complete and when you wake up you will have undergone surgery which is safer, faster, and will take you less time to recover from. No, this isn't a wild vision of the future but a reality made possible by developments in robot technology at Imperial's mechanical engineering department.

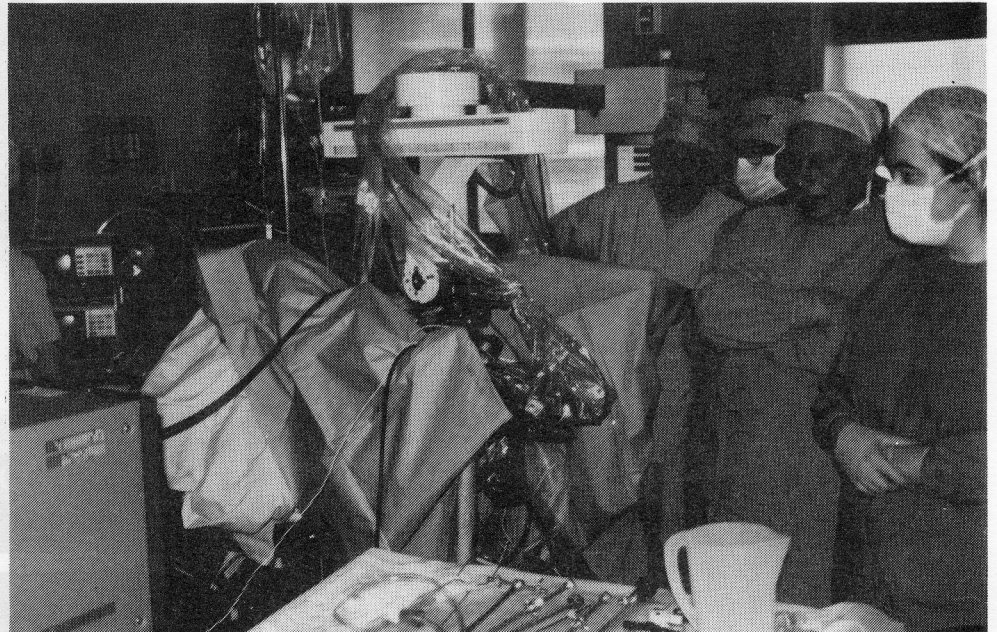
Dr Brian Davies and Dr Roger Hibbert have developed a robot which is capable of performing prostrate surgery by itself. So far several operations have been carried out at Guy's Hospital in London – this the first time a robot has been used for surgery in this way. Dr Davies, who has previously worked with robots in manufacturing and powered prosthetics such as artificial arms, got the idea for the system when he was approached by the Institute of Urology in 1988.

Prostate surgery is a difficult, messy business. It requires lengthy training and involves (cross your legs gents) surgeons inserting an endoscope and a hot wire cutting tool into the urethra. The surgeon must look down the endoscope from an uncomfortable angle and cut away a section of the prostrate gland whilst urine, blood and gore runs down his armpits. Another problem is that surgeons tend to 'get lost' within the body during the operation and need to retract the endoscope so they can get their bearings.

Dr Davies saw prostrate surgery as an ideal

Telesurgery Soap Opera

Could robot surgeons replace human surgeons in the future? One popular idea is long distance telesurgery in which the patient is operated on by a robot under the supervision of a surgeon who could be in a different country. Dr Davies' opinion is that this would be undesirable, "You need to have the skill and judgement of a surgeon involved in the procedure at all times, surgeons must take responsibility for the operation" He pointed out that if anything went wrong with a robot operation, who would be responsible? "There must be accepted levels of liability."



Look no hands! Surgeons at Guy's Hospital stand back and watch the 'Probot' do its stuff.

application for robots because they are very good at not losing their way, they are accurate and can perform many repetitive cutting motions. "It seemed like an ideal area to start with" he said. However, an initial feasibility study showed while robotic prostrate surgery was possible, it was difficult to perform safely. The cutting must be accurate, 'otherwise, you'll make make someone a wetter' as he put it.

After a struggle to gain funds for the project, Dr Davies and his colleagues were eventually able to overcome this problem and develop a system which was able to operate safely. The 'probot' (prostrate robot) is mounted on a counterbalanced gantry and uses a motor gearbox encoder to manipulate the endoscope probe. When the endoscope is first inserted into the patient's urethra, an ultrasound probe scans in 5mm sections and builds up a 3-dimensional image of the prostrate. This image is used as a basis for the cutting program.

Next the cutting tool, called the 'vapourtrode' is fitted into the endoscope. The vapourtrode is essentially a little roller with teeth on which vapourises the tissue and causes less bleeding. The robot's ingenious mounting system only allows it to safely remove small conical sections of the prostrate. But before cutting begins, the surgeon uses a light pen to mark the area on the ultrasound image which needs to be removed. He can then watch the operation

progress via a monitor linked to a camera system in the endoscope. "The surgeon is always in the loop during surgery" explained Dr Davies, "he build up an idea of what is safe to resect as he tells the robot to remove successive sections." The operation can be done faster and more accurately by the probot and is much less labour intensive for the surgeons. The research team are currently making further refinements to the imaging system.

Dr Davies has also developed a robotic system for performing total knee replacement surgery. Traditionally, the surgeon has to manually cut the knee bone surfaces to the exact shape of the new prosthesis. Accuracy and alignment are crucial. The robotic system uses "force control" which creates an artificial restriction on where the surgeon can move the cutter. For instance, if a surgeon has to cut a groove in the bone it will only let him cut within that groove. If the cutter starts to stray away from the 3-dimensional region designated by the robot program, the surgeon will feel a resistance force. This allows him to cut the bone faster and more accurately with less blood loss. It also means that means a more predictable result, so fewer revisions are necessary. Dr Davies believes this kind of surgery will also be applicable to other areas such as brain surgery, ear surgery and kidney stone removal.

Da Vinci's
— Café-bar —

£50 CASH PRIZE

**bar
trivia**

**every tuesday
8pm**

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**SEX ON
THE BEACH**



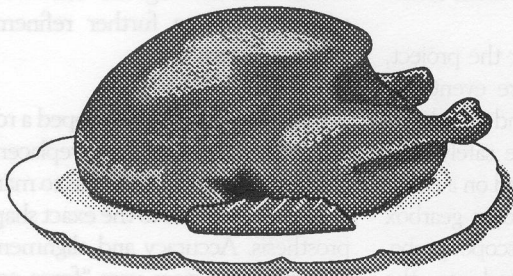
**SWING, FUNK,
SOUL, HIP HOP**

**FRI. DEC. 1ST
9 - 2AM.
ONE POUND
FREE B4 9**

iCU TO MARK WORLD AIDS DAY ALL PROCEEDS
WILL GO TO AN AIDS CHARITY.
IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION



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**ROAST TURKEY
CHRISTMAS DINNER
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WEDS. 13TH & THURS 14TH DEC

VEGETARIAN OPTION AVAILABLE

**BUST-A-GUT
comedy club**

Fri. Dec 8th

The Pub Landlord

Bastard Son of

Tommy Cooper

Julian Barratt

£2.50 /£2 (entscard)

doors 8pm

simon baker

Another week passes, which means Christmas is not that far away and, for some of us, exams are just round the corner. 'Tis the season to be worried. However, in this uncertain world, it's nice to see some things don't change. I refer, of course, to the latest episode in the Linstead saga. After a session of the Spanish Inquisition, a resident has been expelled, and the shutters of Linstead bar, which seem to rise and fall quicker than

a whore's drawers, briefly closed yet again. There must be something in the water this year, because it was never like that in my day.

It made a refreshing change to read in last week's *Felix* some calm, objective articles on Ecstasy, in very stark contrast to that scrawled in the tabloids recently. E is no stranger to Imperial, making it a important subject for debate. The articles by Mark Baker (no relation!) and 'Iain Bailie' (I did think the unthinkable for a minute) rightly put the scale of the 'problem' in perspective. This is not to condemn or to condone the use of E, but merely express an opinion on the basis of the facts as they are. Legalisation is always going to be a tricky question, but one that should be discussed rationally. The review of 'Ecstasy and the Dance Culture', which I have read myself, captured the aim of the book perfectly, to present the facts, and enable the reader to arrive at an informed opinion. One wonders if any copies have reached the Wapping area. However, I would disagree with the notion that those who are for and against E can be divided on party lines. I know of very staunch supporters of the government at Imperial who are, through personal experience, able to speak on this subject with some authority.

One thing that I've been meaning to do for a while is to attend the Bust-A-Gut Comedy Club at the Union, so far to no avail. Nevertheless, this week has not been without the odd laugh, albeit



from an unexpected quarter. On Wednesday, I found myself in east London, and decided to go to the Student Funding debate at Goldsmiths College, at which our dear friend Ghassan Karrian was a speaker, along with Ian Moss from the NUS and Lib Dem MP David Rendel. The NUS call for grants at 1979 levels by putting 6.5p on income tax raised a smile, but it was the questioning from the floor that had me in stitches. The first wasn't a question, taking on the form of a rant from

someone who made Dennis Skinner look like Mussolini. It rapidly emerged that she was a member of the SWP, who went on and on about the evils of the Tories and suggested, nay demanded, the abolition of Trident and the monarchy, along with robbing the privatised utilities in order to pay colossal grants and every conceivable benefit to students. Another, from the Campaign for Free Education (?!), suggested that students left university with debts of £15-20,000 (answers on a postcard as to how), and criticised Ian Moss for selling out. When someone describes the policy that he supports as 'broadly in agreement with Militant Students' only to be told he's not radical enough, you know you're in for a giggle. I never realised that anybody was, or could be, so left-wing and so detached from reality. The wonderful irony of enabling more working class kids to get to university by taxing their working class parents into oblivion seemed lost on them. I didn't ever think I would find myself most closely allied to Ghassan in such a debate. Still not sure about him, though.

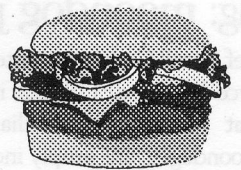
Nice to see another lively article from our men's cross-country team, but no news of the captain 'Swiss Cottage.' As for his mysterious soubriquet, the only possible inferences are in connection with a London district or an unspeakable act in a Genevan public toilet. You pays your money, you takes your choice.

'Swiss Cottage... a London District, or an unspeakable act in a Genevan toilet?'

XV



ICU BARS & CATERING REQUIRE STAFF



GOOD RATES OF PAY. VARIABLE HOURS

APPLY TO MICK (BARS) OR IAN (CATERING)

Da Vinci's
Café-bar

THE UNION BAR

gig/interview: built to spill + foo fighters^{vik}



We're sitting in some far from salubrious surroundings in Brixton Academy. Built to Spill's dressing room adds a new dimension to the phrase, 'Back to basics'. No chairs, tables or heating here. Just a floor and a cooler box with some bottles of beer and water.

Not that this seems to phase Built to Spill. You see, they are not your typical band. They're just four ordinary guys who make music and have stumbled upon a worldwide tour supporting a major band. They're not even too bothered about that. Guitarist, vocalist and band mainstay, Doug Martsch articulated his lack of enthusiasm:

"Sometimes we like being on tour but it's a bit boring because we're playing the same songs every day. I'm actually looking forward to leaving."

A major contributing factor to this seemingly blasé attitude is the fact that Doug has his girlfriend and an eighteen month old baby. He is a lot more exuberant about that part of his life.

"My son totally changed my life. My girlfriend and I chase him round the house all day! He's really into our music. For some reason, he only wants to hear our CD and gets upset if anyone changes the music. I think that my girlfriend is a bit p***ed off with the album now."

The album in question is 'There's Nothing Wrong With Love'. With its cellos, distinctly non-aggressive stance and progressive musical meandering you wouldn't think that it would be a fetish for Foo Fighters' fans (alliteration, anyone?). Predictably, this does not seem to bother them either, as cellist John Mahon explained:

"We just hope that people are willing to listen. Too many people go to shows for the wrong

reasons. If they go with a spirit of discovery then that's okay but if they just go to get angry then..."

Later that evening, Built to Spill take to the Academy stage and deliver a set that's low on incident but high on accomplished playing. Doug is obviously a seasoned veteran in handling hostile crowds (although this crowd is persistent in its polite applause) and responds to shouts for Foo Fighters with, "No, sorry. We are Built to Spill. That's Built (pause) to (pause) Spill."

The band leave with a parting shot to the crowd of, "You've been something else." Who said Americans have no sense of irony?

Thanks to the inter-band songs on the P.A., I didn't have to think too hard for a written link between Built to Spill and Foo Fighters. Gloria Gaynor's 'I Will Survive' sums up Dave Grohl's transition from Nirvana drummer to guitar-wielding frontman of the Nirvana legacy perfectly.

The eponymous debut album is packed to the brim with uplifting songs that sound like Grohl is just glad to be alive after all the emotional turmoil of the last eighteen months. Tonight they are played with a reckless punk abandon that gives the anticipation-frenzied crowd the good, clean fun that they have been salivating for.

The biggest cheers are saved for the first two singles, 'This Is A Call' and 'I'll Stick Around', but the whole set, from the dreamy 'Floaty' through to the charging 'Good Grief' (which Grohl offers to play "The Pixies way or the Def Leppard way" and unsurprisingly is coerced into choosing the former option), is an enthralling, energetic ride.

'I Will Survive' may summarise Grohl's progress to date but 'I'll Stick Around' is more than an appropriate signature tune for him and the band from now on.



gig: moondog jr.^{mr. trout}

Stef Kamil Carlens is better known as the driving force behind dEUS, but it is with Moondog Jr. that his creative brilliance shines through. Moondog Jr. are simply incredible. On first hearing, they can be best described as a bizarre mix of Nirvana, Bob Dylan, Tom Waits, Rage Against the Machine, Madness, and a hefty dollop of free form jazz. On record they are weird, but strangely engaging. Live, they are breathtaking.

In the normally reserved and super cool atmosphere of the Camden Jazz Cafe, their deliberately understated start somehow managed to enthrall everyone present. From the frightening solo blues songs to the near mosh frenzy of the funkier numbers, the person-



alities (and drug preferences) of each band member presented themselves in an intoxicatingly subtle way.

Stef, though, was the man running the show, and he managed to blend raw sulphate energy with a near vulgar display of sincere emotion, in a way not seen since Cobain. He even carried off a truly brilliant cover of "Jackie" (you know, the one where the guy wants to be for only an hour, just an hour every day, if he could be for just one little hour, cool, in a stupid-ass way), something which demonstrated the extreme diversity of the band.

Going home, I couldn't help thinking I'd discovered a whole new world. Moondog Jr. will never be on Top of the Pops, but this is no reason to ignore their obvious talent.

singles:^{mr. trout}

mega city four - superstar/
chrysanth
Superstar is fast and punchy.
Chrysanth is almost
Rembrants-ish in its cheesi-
ness. Both are unoriginal.

shoot the moon - oxygen
Look out for this band. This
infectious, '80s guitar based
whirl is a sure sign of great
things to come.

foo fighters - for all the cows
A jazz influenced riff under a
nonsensical lyric gives way to
a great, shoutalong chorus.

black grape - kelly's heroes
The funniest lyrics ever
encountered - buy the live
version for the banter that
makes this band great. "Bez,
where's your instrument?"



izit - you're losing Me
Psychedelic funk, a firm
groove, and a swirling flute
solo. What more do you
want - buy it now!

throneberry - spellbinder
This is a nice enough song, but
doesn't live up to its title.

finn - angel's heap
Starts all Simon and Garfunkel-
like with lullaby-sweet, acoustic
guitars, but it fails to sustain inter-
est. Worth buying for the Crowded
House demos.

skeleton key - human pin cushion
Room shaking raawwk. This is
not a song to listen to if you suf-
fer from headaches, but it has a
very accomplished sound.

squeeze - electric trams
This is childhood reminis-
cence at its very worse.
Perhaps after fourteen
albums, it's time for Squeeze
to call it a day.

ms.45 - wasted
Obviously written when they
were wasted, this is off-kilter
american alternative rock at its
best.

listings ahead

bush + placebo - 1 dec - la2 - £6.50
filter 1 dec - ulu - £7
ozric tentacles + ultramarine + roy harper - 1 dec - forum - £12
pj and duncan 1 dec - royal albert hall - £11 to £15
blur 2, 3, 13 dec - wembley arena - £14, £12.50
grant hart 2 dec - garage - £6
thunder 2 dec - shep bush empire - £12.50
bootleg beatles 3 dec - hammersmith apollo - £15.50, £13.50
pulp + take that + east 17 + robson and jerome + the outthere brothers + mn8 (smash hits awards party) - 3 dec - docklands arena - £17.50
wet wet wet + bitty mclean - 4, 5, 6 dec - wembley arena - £23
courtney pine 4 dec - shep bush empire - £14.50
shaggy 5 dec - subterania - £10
alison moyet 6, 7 dec - royal albert hall - £15
the animals + the troggs + the yardbirds (AIDS and Bosnia benefit gig) - 6 dec - astoria - £9.50
spain + kathy mccarty - 6 dec - upstairs at the garage - £5
human league 6, 7 dec - shep bush empire - £14.50
the amps 7 dec - la2 - £7.50
m people 8 dec - wembley arena - £15
bjorn again 8, 9 dec - la2 - £12.50
the stone roses 8, 9 dec - brixton academy
east 17 8, 9, 10 dec - royal albert hall - £14.50 - £17.50
drugstore + kathy mccarty - 10 dec - dingwalls - £7.50
joe satriani 10 dec - wembley arena - £15
galliano + eddi reader + zap mama + nitin sawhney (amnesty international concert for human rights) 11 dec - royal festival hall - £7.50 - £18
curtis stigers 11 dec - shep bush empire - £15
matt bianco 12-14 dec - jazz cafe - £12.50
therapy? + joyrider 13 dec - brixton academy - £10
fish 13 dec - clapham grand - £10

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

album: melissa etheridge - your little secret max

A few years ago, a female friend of mine insisted that she put her Melissa Etheridge album on in the car. It was a suggestion that I passionately opposed, not because I didn't like Melissa (I'd never actually heard of her before), but because I didn't like the idea that I was going to be subjected to 'Female Rock, with lyrics about how terrible men were to women. However, it was soon evident that I was wrong and I had to hide the fact that I was actually enjoying it.

Melissa Etheridge is very successful in the U.S.A., winning Grammys left, right and centre, but is not very well known here ("Who?" was the reply I received when I told friends about this album). This is despite recent appearances on MTV Unplugged and 'Later with Jools Holland' a couple of weeks ago.

gig: mojave 3 lucas

Rachel Gossard and Neil Hassard, the creative driving force behind the shoe-gazers Slowdive, have teamed up with some new members to form Mojave 3. Tonight, their debut gig is a showcase affair for the music industry and is held at the cool and intimate Ronnie Scott's.

Arriving on time, Mojave 3 slip, slide and skate across our emotions, tugging at our heart strings, and evoking an ever so delicate landscape, somewhat reminiscent of the eerie and haunting Mazzy Star. One song, 'You're Beautiful', is doubtlessly a nod to Nick Drake, while 'Pictures' sounds like The Velvet Underground at their most quiet and melodic.

gig: mega city four jason

When I entered the Camden Palace the first thing that struck me was the sheer vastness of the venue. It was not the size of venue that you associate with Mega City Four gigs in recent times, and this was apparent from the sparseness of the crowd.

The Megs entered the stage and ripped into 'Enemy Skies' with some vehemence. However, the crowd were slow to pick up on their enthusiasm. Soon, though, most of the fans were jumping up and down to the three minute, thrash/pop melodies that the Mega City Four excel in. Songs

This is a bit of a shame, as the rock music she produces is very good, and a darn sight better than bands such as Bon Jovi are churning out. Her music is what rock should be all about - emotional and evocative, mixing gravelly vocals, electric and acoustic guitars to create that late night, "I might be depressed but so what" feeling.

This, her fifth album, sweeps through a selection of ballads and out and out rock tracks, which are generally about how she is going to get her man (or how she lost him). The music and lyrics do occasionally slip dangerously close towards AOR (you can just see the black and white video with American Midwest scene, convertible etc.) and one can see why she is so popular in the States. But, this is a minor quibble and does not detract from her obvious songwriting ability.

This is a very good album which is definitely for Melissa Etheridge fans and those of us who are not afraid to become part of that select few. Lend an ear to one of the original Riot Grrrls. (7)

This is country-blues at its best. Here are tender emotions, drenched in tinkling ivories and superb slide guitar, which, funnily enough, induces images of the Mojave desert in your mind.

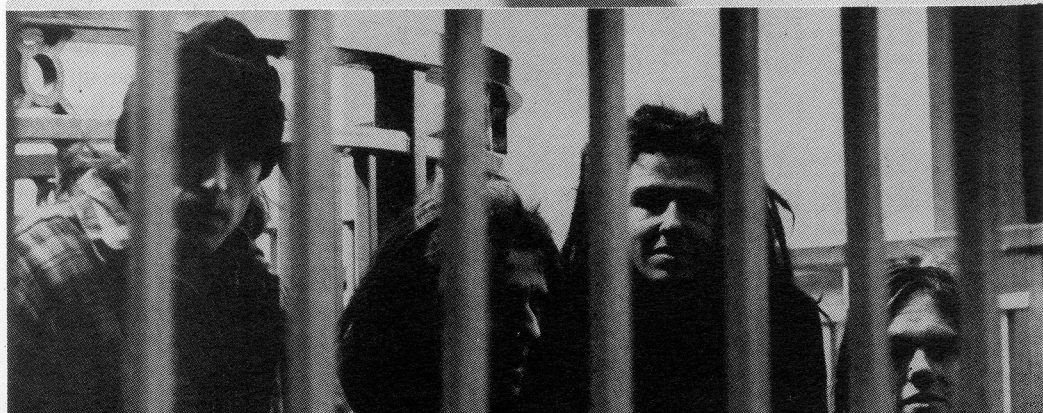
At one point Rachel starts giggling during a poignant moment, apparently because Neil has got the lyrics wrong. This throws us a bit, but the peccadillo is soon forgiven as we are lulled into contentment by the fragile waves of their music.

Live, they add nothing new to their album, ('Ask Me Tomorrow'), and as my companion pointed out, tempo-wise they don't vary much - slow, sparse, sedate and not a lot else. But this is music to listen to when you're feeling melancholy and you're crying into your beer. Mojave 3 are worth seeing for the sheer beauty and of their music. Top stuff.

like the new single 'Superstar' and 'Things Go Wrong' shone out from the batch of new material while an old gem, 'Thanx', brought the whole crowd together.

Disappointingly, there was a lack of songs from 'Magic Bullets', the Megs' recent, brilliant album. Thankfully, they played 'So', where Wiz's heartfelt vocals soared across the expanse of the hall.

After they left the stage the shouts for an encore were a little subdued. Thankfully, they did come back to finish with a brief and blistering 'Rainman' which was a fitting end to a short but sweet set.



Mr fogg

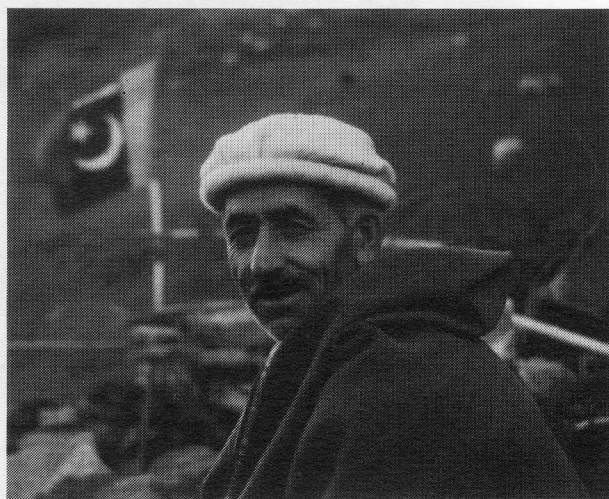
ascends the Himalayas

Here I am, sitting in a dark, stonewalled hut looking out through the holes in the walls at the bright mountain outside. My legs ache from their climb up to this place, home to shepherds who are sole summer guardians of the livestock from many villages. Now though, the sun is beginning to set, and the goats on the pasture are being herded back to their pen next door, bleating madly as though chased by some ovine nightmare. The shepherd's son comes through door grinning, his laceless Adidas trainers contrasting with his shalwar qameez and pullover. He is soon followed by the shepherd himself who has been giving the goats their last milking of the day.

His daily chores discharged, he turns his attention to his guests, putting a kettle on the fire and offering some tea. For a meal, we supplement his homemade phitti bread with tinned meats and cheeses of our own. Not quite a cultural exchange though, as cans of Heinz beans seem to have made the long journey to some of the local markets, albeit to serve the foreign trade.

Later, after some incredibly sweet tea drunk whilst reclining across their blanket covered floor, the old man talks to us, alternating Burushaski with halting Urdu. I am aware of the fire glowing redly to one side, completing the circle of our group and illuminating his face so that it stands out from the darkly receding hut. This scene seems somehow removed from everything else, as our cultures meet in a fragile hut on the side of a mountain pasture in the midst of some of the highest peaks in the world.

As an opening gambit, the shepherd declares that he is still strong enough to knock me on my head, even though he is three times my age. Thus satisfied that he has asserted himself, he goes on to relate his part in the war



The green and fertile pasture was quite an arresting sight 4000m up in the Karakoram mountains, especially after an exhausting eight hour climb through remorselessly barren scree and boulder.

The name Karakoram means 'black rock', and lends itself well to describing the land around the Hunza valley, a tiny strip of life clinging to a river, deep within northern Pakistan.

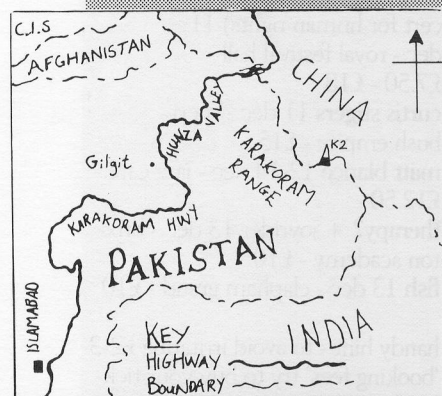
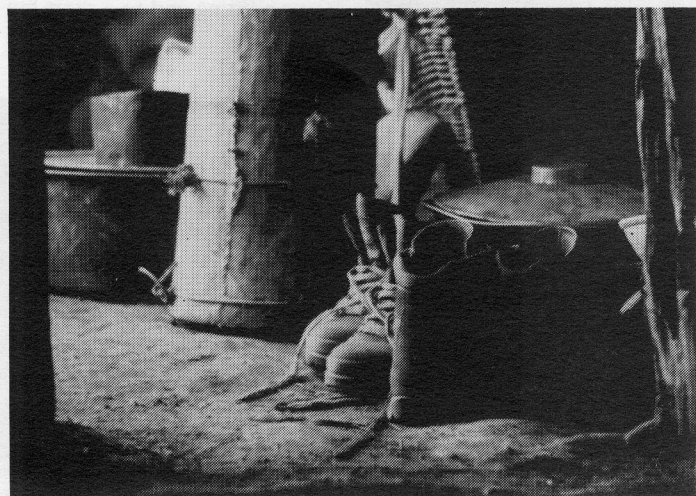
against India, becoming quite animated with the stories of his behind-the-lines action. But now this erstwhile soldier says that he likes to get away up here during the summer, as he finds it too hot in the valley, and there are too many tourists. During the winter months, however, he looks after one of the many micro hydro-electric plants that have sprung all along the valley with development aid.

This revelation was shortly followed by a request for some medicine for his head, in which he had a constant pain. Assuring him that we would send some up with his next supply of foods, the evening moved on to sleep, our own heads befuddled by the heavy

woodsmoke trapped in the low hut until it could escape through the roof. Up on the roof, I fell asleep quickly, only to reawaken a few hours later shivering and wishing that I brought more clothes up with me. Unable to sleep, I lay staring at the incredibly bright Milky Way until the dawn chased it away, conscious that it was something I had never really seen properly before.

Alex Feakes

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celluloid guide: this week

ocean kennington
0126 914666

goldeneye
12.45, 3.40, 6.35, 9.30

the basketball diaries
2.15, 4.45,
4.45, 9.45

a walk in the clouds
2.25, 4.50, 7.15, 9.40

in the bleak midwinter
4.10, 6.55, 9.40

crimson tide
2, 4.30, 7, 9.25

the santa clause
5p, £3.50 before 5pm

tube: ken high street
0171 370 2636

mym fulham road
12.55, 3.40, 6.25, 9.15

goldeneye
murder in the first
12.40, 3.20, 6.10, 9

the usual suspects
1.40, 4.10, 6.45, 9.20

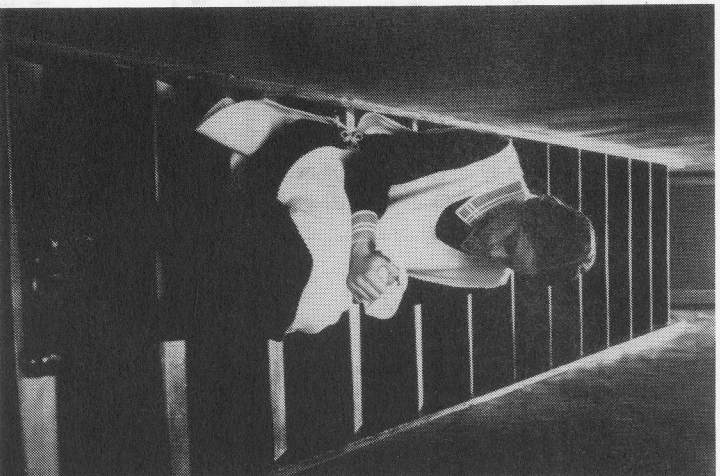
la haine
1.40, 4.10, 7.10

tube: south ken then bus
£6, £3.50 students and
before 6pm

XIX

film: **sister my sister** woodstock

Set in 1930's France, in the house of Madame Danzard (Julie Walters) and her daughter Isabelle, this film revolves around the relationship of the two maids of the house who are, as the title indicates, sisters. The eldest, Christine (Joely Richardson), has just got her younger sister Lea (Jodhi May) the placement at the



house. The two are reunited now Lea has finished her education at the local convent.

Now the sisters are together, a close and intense relationship unfurls. As it does so, Madame Danzard, a meticulous woman who insists on perfection from her maids, starts to notice a slip in the standards of their work. This relationship develops throughout the film, turning into an incestuous relationship which if disrupted, due to the intensity and apparent instability, could have dire consequences for the sisters.

The feeling of intensity is maintained by the lack of outside characters and by having most of the scenes set inside the house. Despite this, your interest is held, mainly due to the quality of the cast and not the pace of the events. The film is based on a true story and the idea works well but there isn't enough depth to the characters. You are given indications as to why the sisters' relationship was so intense and developed the way it did, but you are left with no actual explanation. Unfortunately there are just too many unanswered questions.

This is a good film though it would have benefited if it were developed further. It is engaging, but *Sister My Sister* is definitely not your typical popcorn multiplex film. It's worth checking out if you are in the mood for a thoughtful film.

MGM Haymarket 0171 839 1527 and
MGM Tot. Ci Road 0171 636 6148 from today.

DOLORES

CLAIBORNE

Sun 10th at 8pm

MORTAL KOMBAT

Weds 13th at 5pm

ASSASSINS

Weds 13th at 8pm

The GOOD, The BAD

And The UGLY

Weds 13th at 10:45pm

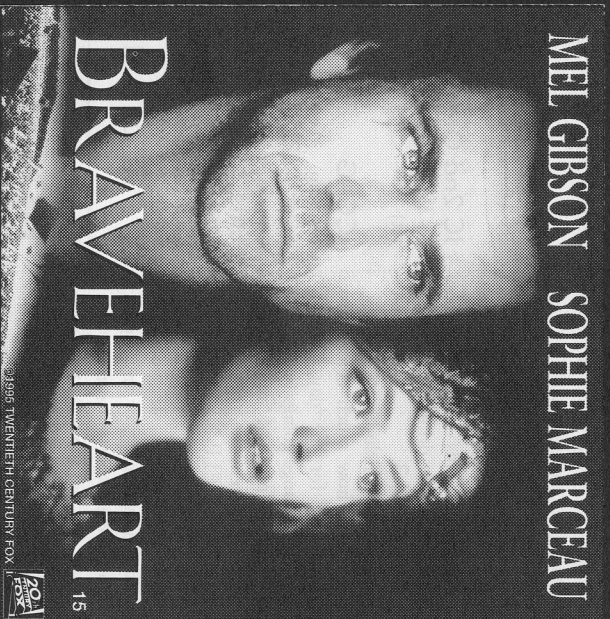
THE EXORCIST

Thurs 14th at 10:30pm

THE NET

Thurs 14th at 8pm

ICU Cinema Presents...



MEL GIBSON SOPHIE MARCEAU

BRAVEHEART

Mon 11th at 8pm
Tues 12th at 5-20pm

WHILE YOU

WERE SLEEPING

Tues 12th at 9pm

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

23

SUPPORTED BY STA TRAVEL, IMPERIAL COLLEGE TEL: 0171 861 8882

STA TRAVEL

friday
1
december

Rag Meeting
1.10pm. Ents Lounge. (R)

Pakistan Society
3 - 5pm. Basketball practice in the union gym. Bring trainers! Contact Kashif, Aero II, kahmed@ae.ic.ac.uk. (R)

Ents
Tonight: SEX ON THE BEACH - a night of swing, funk, soul & hip-hop. If you've enjoyed the OSC events then you're going to love & adore this. So, rumpshakers, it's £1 after 9 or free if you're here before 9pm, or if you've got an entscard.

friday

hellenic society

"The Greek Evening" today will take place in the Main Dining Hall. Greek food will be served from 20:30 - 22:30, live Greek music, dance and drink will be there until 2am! Members get in for £10, non-members for £12 (price includes food and some wine).

Also today you can find the Hellenic Society stall in the JCR from 9:00 - 17:00 as part of the Overseas Week. You can learn more about Greece, try some traditional foods, buy tickets for tonight and subscribe to the society.

On the 7th of December the "Electroacoustic Acroasis '95" will see four live bands (the Hellenic Society band, the "Wild Angels", "U.V.", and "Duality") performing in styles ranging from Rock to Jazz, with Greek or English lyrics. Drinks and cocktails from DaVinci's. Entrance is FREE.

the week ahead

saturday
2
december

Gliding Club
Gliding at Lasham Airfield. (R)

Islamic Society
6.30 - 7.30pm Sports Centre. Swimming session for sisters only. £1 members, £1.50 non-members.

saturday

christmas carnival

Well, you may as well get your Christmas plans sorted early. And it is only a fortnight until the end of term, so we thought we'd share what's in Santa's Grotto, ents wise. After much deliberation (and not a little sulking) we've finally confirmed everything that will be going on on Friday 15th December. The ICU CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL kicks off at 9pm & runs until 3am, with a 2am bar (subject to licence).

Weather permitting, the Quad will contain a coconut shy, bash-the-rat, fun fair darts game & gyroscope. In the Ents Lounge we've got live entertainment from an eight piece **Steel Band, & Stevie Starr - the Regurgitator** - an act definitely not for the squeamish! The first act is on stage at 10pm. After the acts we've got the return of **Pop Tarts** DJs, so if you're into indie, 70s & 80s pop, & party tack, this is the room for you.

UDH plays home to "**Sex on The Beach**", which promises 6 hours of the coolest swing, funk, hip hop, soul & jungle for all you rumpshakers. On the second floor there's the ski stimulator, and the Concert Hall will be transformed into a banging club venue with in-your-face tunes, a 3 colour laser, dance platforms & top light show. The whole venue will look nothing like you've ever seen it before, with drapes, banners & lighting giving it a whole new look. This promises to be a very different experience to any you've previously had at IC.

Tickets are on sale now, £6 or £5 if you're clever enough to have brought an Entscard, but buy soon 'cos we guarantee a sell out. All of this festive jollity is brought to you with the kind assistance of STA Travel, based on the Sheffield Walkway.

sunday
3
december

Gliding Club
Gliding at Lasham Airfield
Contact gliding@ic.ac.uk
Come to Thursday meeting first. (R)

Fitness Club
2pm. Intermediate aerobics. (R)

RCSU Barnight
7.30pm. Union Bar. Yards and boat races, with Jamie from the Ferret.

Dramsoc
'In Camera' 7.30pm. Union Concert Hall. ADMISSION IS FREE.

Ents
Sunday Lunch available 1.30 - 3pm. Standing Room Only - Live football: Wimbledon v Newcastle. 3pm ko.

sunday

stoic

12pm **The Rag Week Report**
A review of all the happenings from the 1995 Rag Week plus all the latest news.

12.30pm **The Cat Club Show**
As a preview to this year's national Cat of the year awards, a chance to see last year's event which includes an exclusive interview with Arthur, the showbiz advertising cat.

1pm **Short, Sharp Shock**
Short films and bytes of infotainment. This week: bungee jumping and beer drinking.

1.30pm **Level 3**
Anarchic show including 'Celebrity Price Tags', how much celebrities cost to hire for the day, 'Wierd Corridor', strange goings on, with a generous helping of music and comedy occurrences.

YOUR HELP NEEDED
Sports: 'Fit to Drop' is our regular sports programme. If you are interested in filming, or any aspect of producing a sports feature, come and see us as soon as you can. Elections take place for next term's committee on Wednesday 13th December. Positions for Archivist and Technical Manager are vacant. If you would like to take part come and see us at 1pm on Wednesday in our studio on Level 3 of the Union.

VIDEO DIARIES
If you want to make a short filmed item about an aspect of your life, a pastime, a sporting interest or just a subject that you feel strongly about, we want to hear from you.

monday
4
december

Student Industrial Society
12 - 2pm. Tennis room, upstairs in Union. (R)

Fitness Club
12.30pm. Beginners body toning (45 mins)
5.30pm. Beginners aerobics
6.30pm. Intermediate aerobics. (R)

Jewish Society
12.15 - 1.15pm. Bagel Lunch. SCR, Union. Info : jsoc@ic.ac.uk (R)

Ski Club
12.30 - 1.15 pm. Southside. (R)

ArtSoc
12.30 - 1.30pm. Union Dining Hall. Come and sign up for our many trips to Musicals. (R)

Concert Band
5.15pm. Great Hall, Sheffield. Any ability. (R)

Cross Country
5.00pm. Circuit training. Union gym. (R)

Dramsoc
'Creation of the World and Other Business' 7.30pm. Union Concert Hall. Admission £4/£2 concs.

Squash Club Night
8 - 10pm. Sports Centre. (R)

IC 2nd Orchestra
7 - 9pm. Great Hall. All welcome. (R)

ICCAg
8.15pm. Weeks Hall basement. Soup run for the homeless. (R)

Ents
Mon 4th: Standing Room Only - Sheffield Wednesday v Coventry

monday

finance society

Presents Abn Amro Hoare Govett: a day in the life of a stockbroker. Thursday December 7th, and J.P. Morgan: an exclusive talk on global markets and corporate finance on Tuesday December 12th. See diary and posters for details.

tuesday

5

december

Cathsoc

12.00 pm. Sir Leon Bagritt Centre.
Level 1 Mech Eng. (R)

IC Sailing Club

12.45 - 1.45pm. Southside Lounge
(R)

Audio Soc

1.00pm, Southside Lounge. Want
to buy cheap CDs? Interested in
borrowing high-end HiFis? We have
it all... (R)

Circus Skills

5 - 8pm. Come along and learn to
juggle! Union Lounge.
More info : sdh@ee.ic.ac.uk (R)

Fitness Club

5.30pm. Advanced aerobics. (R)

IC Bridge Club

6pm. Clubs Committee Room,
Union Building. (R)

Wine Tasting Society

6pm in the Union Dining Hall.
Whisky tasting with Tim Stanley
Clark. £4 members, £5 non-
members. (R)

icsf - Science Fiction

7pm in STOIC Studios: X-files #4
<http://www.ph.ic.ac.uk/moontg/>

Imperial Queers

7.30pm. Further Info:
pink-help@doc.ic.ac.uk
<http://pink.doc.ic.ac.uk/IC/> (R)

Canoe Club

7pm. Beit Quad. All levels
welcome, and free instruction. (R)

OpSoc Rehearsal

7.30pm. Sandy Wilson's *The
BoyFriend*. UCH. (R)

Dramsoc

'Creation of the World and Other
Business' 7.30pm. Union Concert
Hall. Admission £4/£2 concs.

Ents

Earn yourself some Christmas
spending money at Dan's BAR
TRIVIA. There will be a £75 CASH
PRIZE: it's 50p to enter and the
proceeds will go to the Mildmay
Mission aids hospice - you can't
argue with that, can you? Bring a
pen and pit your wits against the
intellectual genius that comes with
Davinci's bar staff.

tuesday

wednesday

6

december

IC Sailing Club

12.15pm. Meet outside Southside,
go sailing. (R)

Skate Society

12.15pm. Southside Lounge. (R)

Labour Club

1pm. Senior Common Room
Michael Meacher MP, Labour
Employment Spokesperson. All
welcome. (R)

Fitness Club

1.15pm Beginners aerobics
5.00pm Beginners step aerobics
6.00pm Intermediate aerobics (R)

IC Symphony Orchestra

7 - 10pm. Great Hall. (R)

Dramsoc

'Creation of the World and Other
Business' 3.00pm. Union Concert
Hall. Admission £4/£2 concs.

Ents

Get some cheap food inside you in
preparation for a solid nights
drinking:
Sportsnight Special - DaVinci's
catering offers chillis, curries, or the
dish of the day for just £1 between
5.30 - 8.30.
"FROLIK!" - a night of madness and
unnecessary partying. 8-1am. FREE.

w e d n e s d a y

afro-carib
society

You can now subscribe to our
society list and automatically get
mail on forthcoming events etc.
Send to 'listserver@ic.ac.uk' the
command:

subscribe list name your
name

List name is 'acs-members'

Your name should be in forename
surname format.

Forthcoming events are:

Monday 4 December: Trip to the
musical Fame and meal at Los Locos
afterwards.

Tuesday 12 December: Christmas
Jam at Club Koo with UCL, LSE,
King's, QMW.

Wednesday 13: December Blind
date event at City University

Please contact annal@ic.ac.uk
for more details and where to meet.

thursday

7

december

Yacht Club Meeting

12.30pm. Lecture Theatre 2,
Physics. (R)

Fitness Club

12.30pm. Die Hard circuit training
5.30pm. Beginners aerobics. (R)

ConSoc

Debate on Europe, 12.30pm,
Brown Committee Room, Union.

Gliding Club

1pm. Aero 266. (R)

Youth Hostelling Assoc.

1pm. Southside lounge. *Take a walk
on the wild side.* (R)

Finance Society

5.30pm in Huxley building. Abn
Amro Hoare Govett: a day in the
life of a stockbroker. "Come and see
if all the myths are true." See
posters for further details.

icsf

6.15pm: Going to the Ton.
This is a pub near Waterloo, where
all the sf people from the London
area meet monthly. Meet at 6.15pm
in the library.

Mountaineering Club

7pm, Social, Southside Upper
Lounge. (R)

Christian Union

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

Skate Soc

Night skate. Meet 9.30pm
Southside lounge. Last night skate
of the term! (R)

Dramsoc

'In Camera' 7.30pm. Union Concert
Hall. ADMISSION IS FREE.

ICCAG

8.15pm. Weeks Hall basement.
Soup run for the homeless. (R)

IC Radio

10 - 11pm. Mark and Dave's metal
monsters. Don't miss it!

Ents

5pm - 11pm. The penultimate
chance to indulge your fetish for
cheap plastic accessories and mock
sophistication, not to mention the
tasty drinks... ICU COCKTAIL
NIGHT.

thursday

friday

8

december

Rag Meeting

1.10pm Ents Lounge. (R)

Islamic Society

Friday Prayer
1pm. Southside Gym. (R)

Fitness Club

5.30pm. Advanced Step Aerobics
(R)

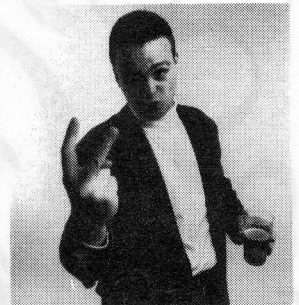
Dramsoc

'Creation of the World and Other
Business' 7.30pm. Union Concert
Hall. Admission £4/£2 concs.

Ents

The final BUST A GUT COMEDY
CLUB of the term is a triple header,
so that's 3 top acts for just £2.50 or
£2 with Entscards. For your final
pleasure we've got Julian Barratt,
The Bastard Son of Tommy Cooper,
& Super Cockney "The Pub
Landlord" (*below*) - a "wonderfully
warped and murderously funny"
comic character as featured in
Harry Hill's Pub Internationale.
Plus there'll be an Open Mic slot, so
that's about 60p an act. A top value
quality line up to finish - but watch
out for next terms listings.
And if that's not enough for you
there's a final opportunity to
"CLIMAX", this week on a top pop
tip. And it's free for comedy goers,
or if you're there before 9pm. £1
otherwise.

friday



the
week
ahead

saturday

9

december

For Regulars, see Dec 2nd.

Dramsoc

'In Camera' 3.000pm. UCH, free.
'Creation of the World and Other Business' 7.30pm. £4/£2 concs.

s a t u r d a y

sunday

10

december

For Regulars, see Dec 3rd.

Ents

Standing Room Only Live Football - Nottingham Forest v Aston Villa on screen in Davincis.

s u n d a y

monday

11

december

For Regulars, see Dec 4th.

Christmas

Only thirteen dhopping days left, you know. And there's all those lovely Oxford street lights to see.

m o n d a y

tuesday

12

december

For Regulars, see Dec 5th

icsf - Science Fiction

7pm in STOIC Studios: Simon Ings, author, talking about his work.

Ents

A special Christmas BAR TRIVIA , with extra prizes, a crate of beer, plus of course £50 CASH!

t u e s d a y

dram soc

Strange things are afoot at Dramsoc. Rumours of flying snakes and sinister sheep abound, while some of the societies more flighty members were spotted in the throws of orgasmic delirium - and this outside the confines of any of our noble bars, the more usual venues for such indulgence.

It seems the explanation for all this is Arthur Miller's "The Creation of the World and Any Other Business". His only musical is an epic and colourful re-presentation of the creation myth. Adapted for the

straight theatre Miller delights in the idea of modern man existing in a world of mythical wonder: God charmingly paternal, Lucifer a loving and analytical child, and Adam supremely ignorant and infinitely trusting.

Out of love Eve is conceived and with her doubt and desire are introduced. To discover what "other business" occurs, come and see "The Creation..." in the Union Concert Hall, from Monday 3rd December (see diary for details).

Imagine being locked in a room with no windows and no mirrors; a room where the lights are always on and no matter how tired you get,

you'll never be able to sleep. Imagine sharing this room with two other people; there is nowhere to hide, they see everything you do, hear your every sound...in time they will know you better than you know yourself.

Every dirty, guilty secret; every regret you've ever had. And this will go on for ever, not even death will allow you to escape...because you're already dead. Sound like hell? It is; the hell of Jean-Paul Sartre's "In Camera", Dramsoc's second play this term.

Admission is free (see diary for dates) so please join us for an evening of intense and thought-provoking drama.



TROPICAL GROOVE

By the Sri-Lankan Soc. of Imperial college

HIP-HOP
RAGGA
JUNGLE
SWING +
SELECTED BALLA

WHERE THE HEAT NEVER DIES...
ON **FRI 1ST DEC**

AT THE **JUNIOR COMMON ROOM**

IMPERIAL COLLEGE EXHIBITION Rd LONDON SW7

Doors Open at 8:00 p.m.

TICKETS **£4** AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR

PROCEEDINGS FROM THIS EVENT WILL BE DIRECTED TO A CHARITY

KARACHI

in

CRISIS

- Ethnic strife, violence and killings on the streets of Karachi
- Approximately 2,000 dead so far this year
- Government and MQM talks deadlocked and in disarray
- Is there a solution to all this?

What has gone wrong? Why does Pakistan, and in particular Karachi, find itself in such a situation? Is there a solution to all this? Come and find out.

Tuesday 12 December

6.00 p.m.

Mech. Eng. 220

Organised by the Pakistan Society of Imperial College. (Nearest tube : South Kensington)

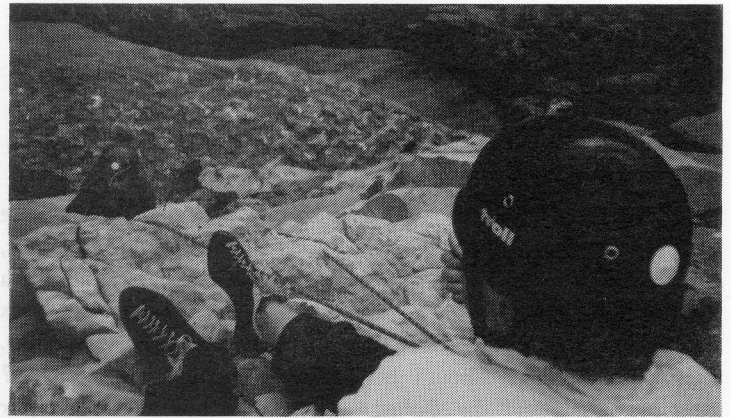
mountaineering club

The trip to Swanage: a fresher's perspective...

This was the first climbing trip of the season, leaving on Friday evening for Dorset. Amongst us there was a number of freshers, none of who were really sure what to expect, but we were rewarded in a number of ways.

We were lucky with the weather since despite it being late October it was still warm enough during the day

for people to climb wearing only T-shirts and shorts. After a breezy first night, some of us went to Portland for hard bolted climbs while the rest went to Swanage for some more adventurous traditional climbing. Although some of us were complete beginners this did not cause any problems. The club had sufficient equipment to go round and the more experienced members taught us what we needed to know so that we were able to climb safely.



During the weekend we were able to do a lot of different climbs ranging from exciting climbs through sea caves to strenuous climbs up sun drenched limestone.

Some people decided that the water was just too tempting so they indulged in a spot of cliff jumping. As proof that students are not entirely made of money the club president finished the day's climbing with an after dark abseiling epic merely to retrieve an item worth about two pints.

On the whole, the weekend was a great success for everyone and after the following trip to the Peak District, we're definitely going to be regulars from now on.

Non-members are welcome to

pop along to the climbing wall, just off the Sherfield Walkway, to have a go. Another good way of getting involved is to come to our social evening every Thursday at 7.00 p.m. in Southside upper lounge.

**next diary
deadline:
noon,
December
7th**

Imperial College
Dance Club

The London Ball

Including a demonstration by David and Lily Barker,
UK Rock and Roll and US Amateur Showdance champions

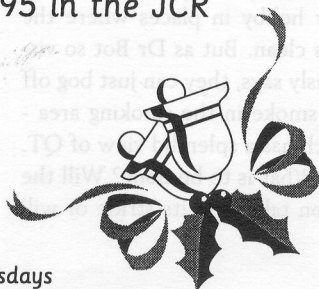
9th December 1995 in the JCR

Doors open at 7pm

Bar open late

Cost: £7. Black tie required.

Tickets available from committee
members or in the JCR from 6pm to
9pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays



Subwarden at Clayponds

A Subwarden post has become available at Clayponds. The starting date will be towards the end of 1996 with interviews being held in early January.

Clayponds is approximately 2/3 postgraduate and 1/3 continuing undergraduate (we currently take no first year undergraduates). It is situated 6.5 miles from the College in Ealing (Piccadilly line to South Ealing or BR from to Ealing Broadway + bus). The job involves pastoral care, organisation of social events and enforcement of general College and Hall rules. We are seeking to appoint a postgraduate student or Post Doctoral researcher with a minimum of 18 months left at College.

No honorarium is payable but the post offers free accommodation which may be suitable for a couple.

Applications comprising a covering letter indicating any previous experience that may lend weight to your application, and a curriculum vitae should be sent to Dr D.M. Segal, LASP, Blackett Laboratory, Imperial College. The closing date for applications is the 15th December 1995. (Late applications may be considered at the Warden's discretion).

LETTERS TO FELIX:

EDITED BY JEREMY THOMSON

In a Scrape

Dear Felix,

At the last Council meeting it was decided that £300 (a reduction from £487.03) should be paid by myself and the Sailing Club for the repair of several paintwork scratches on one of the newer minibuses. As the driver at the time of the accident, the Union insurance policy makes me liable for an excess payment of £500 on any damage done to the bus whilst I am responsible for it. (Incidentally, this includes damage by a third party).

Firstly, the Union staff have handled the matter badly in every respect. The incident occurred in June. My driver's card has been on hold ever since. It has taken 5 months (and several meetings) so far to reach this conclusion which I am greatly unhappy with.

Secondly, the amount I was initially expected to pay was not greatly different from the £500 I would be charged if I had written off the bus! The point I was trying to make at the Council was that, although I accept to pay a reasonable excess on damage, I feel that my signature on the bottom of that insurance policy was taken to mean "IOU £500". No effort at all was made to keep repair costs down on my behalf.

I hope that the Union Staff have learnt a lesson from this one and make the effort to clear up future incidents quickly and professionally.

Regarding the Union's insurance policy, it seems obvious that something should be done to protect Union drivers against the excess. I urge other concerned drivers to put pressure on the Union to make it more sympathetic to those of us that make club trips possible. Don't wait until it stings you!

*Sarah Wingrove
Mech Eng IV*

I had no idea that drivers were personally liable for accidents, especially third party. Call me a optimist, but I thought that was what insurance policies were for. £487 to repair some scratches? They could buy new panels for that. They probably did.

Musos Nabbed

Whilst relaxing in the tranquillity of Da Vinci's last Friday evening, in the midst of the usual collection of student and non-popstar types, it came to our attention that there was an intruder among us. The intruder of which we speak is not one of the usual brigade of door-mat thieves or hockey players, but instead one of the star spangled pop crowd, who for some reason had chosen to grace our hallowed halls. The one and only **Jake Shillingford**, of 'My Life Story' fame, was downing a merry bevvy of the Union's best.

At first we thought an impromptu gig was the order of the day, only to remember that the fluffy bunnies had already played their last gig of the year a week earlier at the LA2. A gig that we would like to point out was chuffing ace.

We would be very grateful if the powers that be could inform the world whether or not this is going to be the start of an amazing trend of popsters popping in for a pint on a Friday night or just Mark's mate making a merry one-off.

With love,
Jake and Mark

Could be. Not only have 'My Life Story' been seen struggling through sturdy swathes of shouting sportsmen, but the unique Henry Kelly recently reclined among the rancid reveller's refuse in the reputable Da Vinci's Bar. So I'm told.

Curry & Fags

Dear Felix,

Perhaps it is that the Blackett Smokers Lobby have relocated, or maybe mid-term stresses have become too much, but I feel that I have been roused to pop forth my two-penneth into the smoke pit. It seems that in the JCR it has become a new and funky to display ignorance and disrespect; you can practically see the two dimensional thought bubbles reading "Bog off, if I want a fag I'll 'ave one" float from one end of the room to the other. The unfortunate no smoking signs peep dejectedly from behind last week's posters, hoping beyond hope that someone might take notice of them.

The final blow occurred whilst queueing for a vegetable bargain at the curry bar. Ahead of me in the queue stood a slovenly, though not unattractive youth. He purchased his box in a manner apparently ignorant of common etiquette, the reason, I charitably suggest was the Lambert & Butler King Size gently nestled like a new born puppy (beagle, probably) into the damp corner of his mouth. The ash had reached formidable proportions and threatened to free itself from the glowing butt to parachute delicately into the serving trolley below. If it had not been for my desperate appetite I fear I may have passed out.

The point to this IS, though the JCR is designated a no smoking area there are a growing number of people who smoke regardless. An impromptu headcount revealed that all these people could quite happily fit into the area between the JCR and the Senior Dining Area. However, as it seems smokers prefer, quite rightly, to smoke their own smoke, they prefer to further their hobby in places where the air is clean. But as Dr Bot so virtuously says, they can just bog off and smoke in the smoking area - which has a splendid view of QT.

What is to be done? Will the Union take it in its stride or will

the Dr and I have to speak tersely to those reprobates involved?

Captain Spooner & Dr Bot

Well there, steady as you go chaps, not to cast any aspersions or such like about your persons, but pertaining to your anhumorous pseudonomic suggestion (suspicious alliterative?) should it not read, so to say, 'Dr Spooner', the stablemate of the esteemed Mrs Malaprop, or is this this a case of 'no relation' eh? I think we should be told, ramble, etc.

And Now...

My response to C Unwin's letter last week regarding student grants:

Our major competitors ask students to pay in full their living expenses in addition to their fees. I must emphasise again that it is the people in the street; the postman; the brick layers; the cleaners that are helping to pay for our education. Never forget that we will become the high earners of tomorrow- we have a responsibility to taxpayers, and let's not lose sight of that for one moment.

*Geoff Boon
Vice Chairman of ConSoc*

What utter twaddle. 'Major competitors' do not all expect students to pay their own way. If they did, wouldn't that ensure that university remained elitist and exclusive? Also, I do not have a responsibility to any 'tax payer', except myself and possibly my dad. It is the government that takes the taxpayers' money that is responsible for seeing it used wisely. I hardly think the taxpayer would accuse the government of wastefully squandering money on education.

Grants are not gifts but investments. If the government wants to see able people excel, then they must allow them the means to do so. The alternative is the age old idiocy of educating the affluent and having a country run by sheltered out-of-touch rich fools. Ring any bells?

Dear Rachel,

I must complain in the strongest possible terms over your misrepresentation of me in last week's *Felix*. I did not say that ConSoc 'disclaimed' the views of its chairman, only that his views were not necessarily those of ConSoc and more importantly the views of the Conservative Party (look in your glossary of journalistic terms, this is not the definition of a disclaimer, which of course has wider legal implications). In effect he was expressing his personal views and not acting in his capacity of ConSoc chairman, as which I believe he still has the strong support of ConSoc members, including myself, to continue. He should not, I believe have therefore signed himself as the ConSoc chairman on the letter in the same way that MPs and ministers when writing to national newspapers do not include their titles on letters or articles. As press officer for ConSoc my primary concern is to see that party policy and the interests of ConSoc as a whole are well and fairly represented both on the pages of *Felix* and elsewhere and to advise the current membership on how this can best be done. In so doing I would prefer to work with *Felix* rather than against it in achieving a broad range of political opinion on its pages...

Yours,
Mark Summers

What utter twaddle. Although editorial columns are traditionally a little glib, last week's 'erratum' fell squarely on the accurate side of opinion. The 'Collins Concise Dictionary' defines 'disclaim' as "1. to deny or renounce any claim or connection etc 2. to deny the valid-

Letters may be edited for length. The guest editor's opinions are not necessarily those of the editor.

Deadline for letters in *Felix* 1044: 6pm Thursday

Please bring your union card for identification.

ity or authority of". Not the correct word to use in this case at all. Oh no.

Right to Reply? (hope not)

Dear Felix,

Congratulations, you've done it again. Offended so many members of ConSoc, they all have to write in and complain. Maybe they're complaining because you wrote what Mr Gummer said, not what the vast majorities of right wingers present thought he said. Still, I hypothesise, maybe ConSoc were right and you presented a massively biased account of the proceedings. Shame they weren't organised enough to send in one complaint, you got two, so they both had to be edited. What efficiency.

It also seems that you have detected a note of discord in ConSoc. Maybe they are trying to emulate their party by splitting into so many factions it becomes impossible to credit each with the same beliefs. On the other hand, maybe the 'Press Officer' wishes to replace Mr Bayley. Just think, your very own John Redwood.

One final very worrying thought - IC ConSoc might be our future leaders. Oh shit!! Maybe I should think about emigrating. What about America, the only thing politicians argue about over there is where they sit on aeroplanes.

Julian Harrison

Civ Eng

How about malodious, Adullamite, inconcinnity, tramontate or even abhorrence?

I read with interest Rachel Walters' editorial last week, with its call for more left-leaning contribution.

It strikes me that the Labour party does not need any promotion in college - Messrs Bayley and Boon of ConSoc are doing a perfectly good job of it with their non-stop whinging and petty bickering. Good work fellas!

J Teale Chem II

FELIX

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nice people

I honestly cannot believe Geoff New's response to the RCS letter enquiring about disciplinary procedure. Now I know the RCS have been known to be a little tiresome in their day, but I am incredulous that someone appointed to their position so that they could be responsible for the pastoral and social welfare of students should respond to a letter of enquiry with 'Yeah, I got together with my mates and we had a jolly good laugh at your expense.'

I have a certain degree of sympathy with the question anyway: during those heady days of summer last term when people seemed to get caught smoking dope on site every few minutes, I endeavoured to find out what the college policy on the subject was. Asking the college registrar, the senior tutors, security, the Union, a random selection of wardens and subwardens and Belgravia police station what they would do with a student given half a dozen different replies. But there was broad

agreement that it was 'a difficult issue' and that we were in need of a standardised policy on the subject. They all said then that they were working on a coherent statement on the subject over the summer and would publicise it in *Felix* early in the new academic year. You heard it here first.

photocopier salesmen

More aggressive than the Conservatives and better at losing your money than Rag, I am beginning to get quite frightened. Karl Strugnell, if you're reading, I don't want to spend £728 a month on a Ricoh Priport duplicator. Ever.

Now you know.

crimbo spesh'

Remember no *Felix* next week: bumper Christmas issue on December 13th.

Clubs and societies articles and letters by next thursday would be mightily appreciated.

EDITORIAL TEAM:

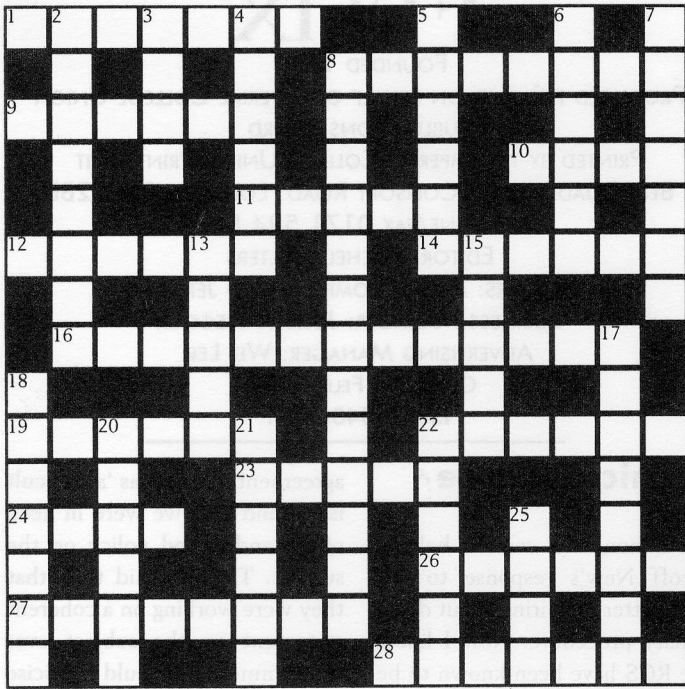
NEWS: ALEX FEAKES FEATURES: MARK BAKER
fii: JEREMY MUSIC: VIK BANSAL CINEMA: WEI LEE
PHOTOGRAPHY: IVAN CHAN, DIANA HARRISON
& WILLIAM LORENZ

SPORT: JONATHAN TROUT PUZZLES: CATFISH
SCIENCE: BEN WILKINS CLUBS AND SOCIETIES: SANDALS

COLLATING LAST WEEK:

MARK, TIM, JEREMY, ALEX, BEN, AND DAVE & RUSSELL (A BIT)
DELIVERIES: MARK

Crossword by Clansman



Across:

- 1. In situ, a terrible country (7)
- 8. Boosts upgrades? (8)
- 9. The food around Northern Ireland is degrading! (6)
- 10. Insect in trifle and cream (4)
- 11. Planet goddess (5)
- 12. Heavenly dress gives brief flashes! (6)
- 14. Stun Nelson in subway! (6)
- 16. Brett just came over for something to talk about (7,6)
- 19. Nothing before mum is badly hit by element (6)
- 22. Hard skin is insensitive, we hear (6)
- 23. English queen in awkward position about money-generating computer! (5)
- 24. Greek character in patriot army (4)
- 26. Admire final hearing device (6)
- 27. Magical stunt is successful three times? (3,5)
- 28. Martyr is burnt for being hidden (7)

Down:

- 2. Discovers a French painting with hieroglyphic signs first! (8)
- 3. Flower in the eye? (4)
- 4. No evil can turn into a good feeling (2,4)
- 5. Reserved format has lost final! (6)
- 6. Dictator is in after salt goes off! (6)
- 7. Lashes donkey which becomes ill (7)
- 8. Cramp above the shoulders is annoying (4,2,3,4)
- 13. Primary British institute just ordered ugly French jewel (5)
- 15. Painting London Underground upwards is superior! (5)
- 17. Indigestible food has an approximate lifetime (8)
- 18. Tally around near this evening? (7)
- 20. Deform Greek character gallery! (6)
- 21. Bird is magical? (6)
- 22. Bond adhesive (6)
- 25. Dies, unfortunately, on the 15th of March (4)

Solution to issue 1042's Crossword:

Across: 1. Barbecued, 6. Rodeo, 9. Burdock, 10. Outcome, 11. Lobbying, 12. Scolds, 14. Butt, 15. Antoinette, 17. Nonplussed, 19. Tamp, 22. Intact, 23. Ghoulish, 26. Tableau, 27. Doglegs, 28. Reefs, 29. Towheaded
 Down: 1. Babel, 2. Rarebit, 3. Eponym, 4. Unkindness, 5. Dhow, 6. Reticent, 7. Droplet, 8. Oversleep, 13. Foreshadow, 14. Bannister, 16. Slackens, 18. Notable, 20. Aniseed, 21. Bungle, 24. Hosed, 25. Punt

Union Parking Permits

Due to extensive construction work on the main campus the Union will be losing over half of the student parking spaces previously allocated.

All students wishing to apply for a non-residents permit for Spring term '96 must complete an application form. This includes students who have previously applied whether successful or not.

Forms are available from the Union Office and must be returned there by 2pm on Friday 8th December with full documentation.

Careers Information

There are three careers talks over the next ten days at 1.00 - 1.50 pm in college.

Tuesday 5 December: "IT in the City" by Ziyad Georgis, Director, IT at Lehman Brothers in the Clore LT.

Thursday 7 December: "Careers in the UK Steel Industry" by Dr Chris Elliot, Sales manager at Piling international (British Steel), in Materials G20.

Tuesday 12 December: "Second Interviews and Assessments" by Sally Chalk, formerly Graduate Recruitment Manager at Andersen Consulting in the Clore LT.

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

"Improve your Applications and Interview Skills" is an Interactive Workshop run on Wednesday 6th December from 2 - 4 pm in Huxley Room 344. Sign up in the Careers Office.

Milkround Closing Date One is on Friday 15 December. Hand in your applications on the day by 4pm. Details of interviews are put up on the notice board out

side the Careers Office a few days before the interview date.

Summer Vacation Training opportunities are now available on the database in the Careers Office. Apply to UROP for research opportunities.

For more information and careers advice come to the Careers Office, Room 310 Sherfield Building, which is open between 10am and 5.15pm Monday to Friday.

To Rent

Room in shared home in Fulham, £237p.c.m. (0171) 7367824 / 5948223

Earls Court: single room in shared flat available immediately (0171) 584 8932

Cheerful Friendly flat-mate wanted! Available 31/12/95, a small single room in a modern Chelsea flat. All mod cons. Non smoker student/professional preferred. References required. Near to public transport, shops, amenities, river, etc. £400pcm neg + bills/council tax. Please call Jane on 0171 594 5723/0171 376 4328

IC Ladies Rugby, affectionately known as the "IC Virgins", is proud to be part of the fastest growing sport in the country.

Over the past few years we have blossomed into a very successful team. Last year's excellent season ended in a victorious tour of Ireland, which was enjoyed by everyone (particularly Mr Arthur Guinness).

Ladies Rugby isn't purely about mud, beer and men, it's a great opportunity to keep fit and have some fun, and to meet other women; something of a rarity at IC. Yes, we do get muddy, and occasionally bruised but mainly we just have lots of fun both on and off the pitch.

If any women out there are interested in playing rugby, don't be shy! Come along to any of our training sessions. See the club notice board for details. If you'd like to meet us socially, then come along to our video night in Southside Disco Lounge on Tuesday 5th December, 7.30pm. For more info contact us via sian.evans@ic.ac.uk or in her Geology PG pigeon hole.

Virginal Hopes Dashed



PHOTO: WILLIAM LORENZ

IC Virgins' hopes to build on promising performances were brought heavily down to earth in losing to the Royal Vets by 40-0, and this was largely self-inflicted. With Catharine taking over the captaincy, things went downhill after conceding two soft tries on the wing due to an absence of three-quarter tackling.

This aspect of the game is most disappointing given the efforts of the forwards, particu-

larly in the lineout which was once again exemplary. The backs ran poor lines and apart from a late charge by fly-half Sarah Corneille at no time looked like scoring. This complete lack of imagination and commitment is simply not good enough and our obvious regression in terms of skill is embarrassing.

Virgins need to recover their hunger and killer instinct if they are to play the standard of rugby they are well capable of.

FURTHER SUCCESS FOR IC KARATE TEAMS

The BUSA Grade Regional Championships were held in High Wycombe on Sunday.

The ULU team consisting of Richard George and Richard Webster of UCL, and Imperial's Chris Leach and Richard Tompkins were in the under-65 kg category. Unfortunately, due to there being few others from the Southern region, an amalgamation with a lower weight category ensued. Everyone qualified (excepting George, due to illness) to go on to the BUSA finals in March, and the London boys took three of the top four placings.

STOP PRESS

Ladies' Hockey II 2 UMDS 1
(Hannah & Basil scoring)

KCL II 4 IC Squash V 0

The result could have been so different; it seemed that each player started well but managed to choke fairly drastically. Perhaps the newly appointed psychologist will renew their desire to win.

10
/
10

Nothing less than a great deal more

We are the world's largest business and technology consultancy. To build on our success we must continue to set the standards that others must follow – in the quality of our thinking, the quality of our service and the quality of our people. That is why, when we recruit graduates, we recruit only those who can deliver a great deal more than most in terms of performance and potential.

In return, individuals who match our high standards can expect nothing less than the very best: exceptional training; outstanding rewards and benefits; exciting prospects for career development to Partner level within a demanding and meritocratic organisation.

We would like to remind you that applications should be submitted to the Careers Service by Friday 15 December 1995 in order to be considered for an interview when we visit Imperial on Tuesday 16 January 1996.

**ANDERSEN
CONSULTING**

FELIX SPORT

Random Soccer Matches

Last Saturday RSM, despite a 'donkey' keeper, managed an easy win over Goldsmiths III on Saturday, crushing them 6-1 away from home. It was the previous week's result, though, that grabbed the eye more.

For all true sports fans out there, it was the upset of the season. The Premier League leaders QMW were coming to face Third Division team RSM.

The scoring was opened, surprisingly, by the RSM captain, with his first for the club. However two soft goals in quick succession gave QMW the lead, but IC fought back, and were

rewarded by an equaliser in the shape of Si's delicate chip over the keeper. The second half saw QMW resurgent, yet IC coped well with their continual pressure, until the 70th minute when a quick break presented Hamish with a simple finish. The last 20 minutes saw QMW camped in IC's half. With only seconds remaining, a cross came into the box to be met by the QMW captain who headed home only to discover the ref had blown for full time.3-2!

Their most recent match this Wednesday saw their sixth consecutive win, with the previ-

ously underrated Simon scoring his fourth goal in three games. After having all the play in the first half, and most of it in the second, the "Donkey" came good and preserved his first clean sheet of the season to safeguard a 1-0 win.

Also playing this Wednesday were the RSM second team, who spent their afternoon scoring lots of goals and being denied many more.

To say that the Royal Vet's goalkeeper was the man of the match after conceding seven goals gives you some idea of the utter walkover RSM II enjoyed.

Specky Twat Twats Beer Monster

Like lambs to the slaughter we got 'em and we got 'em good. Their attack, defence and mid-field fell apart. Unlucky!!!!

However, our skills were silky and the hockey of a Möt character. All goals were, of course, Ferdinand-esque and the Oxford reject scored a stunna (reverse stick flick from the top of the D, for those who are interested). In their desperation they resorted to violence: Beermonster was whacked by the Specky Twat and was thus transformed into "Rhino Woman". IC 7(Seven)-1 UMDS

Rugby Teams Sort It Out

Imperial College Rugby finally got itself sorted out when they recorded a seven-nil victory against Wye College in the first round of the Gutteridge Cup.

A superb first half display resulted in an opportunist try for captain Ian Oldham, which Kate (or is it Claudia) Mayes duly converted. IC pressure after half time saw Tom Salter stopped just short of the line after some slick back play.

The referee then seemed unduly keen to redress the balance, awarding several dubious penalties against Imperial, with Eric Cantona eventually taking offence. Imperial though, held firm, and solid form from John Esser, Captain Oz and Chopper Crossman helped to record an outstanding victory, where Imperial shone as a team and fully deserved their win.

Another men's rugby team was also in action this week, the Royal College of Science, (RCS) who beat SOAS by 15-8. RCS were absolutely bombarded in the first ten minutes by powerful

SOAS running, but after regrouping, Imperial's players showed their superiority, with dominant forward play, swift hands in the backs and a few 'howitzers' from stand-off Welsh Git.

A 'well rehearsed' back move then resulted in their new fullback Giles 'Ladies Man' Gale crashing over under the posts. Unfortunately he was not quite so outstanding in the bar afterwards.

With the score 10-3 at the break, SOAS began to come back into the game in the second half, but a well worked forward effort from Captain Courageous himself allowed RCS to keep in front.

The last ten minutes were tense, with a series of 'outlandish' penalties forcing RCS back; SOAS, however, managed to knock-on as they were crossing the line to the relief by the scientists' entire team.

This win was the best way to get avenge their loss of four weeks ago.

INDOOR ROWING?

On Sunday the 26th of November, members of IC Boat Club participated in the British Indoor Rowing Championships, held this year in Reading. IC's main strength was in the under-23 section, traditionally a student event.

In the heats, IC finished with six rowers in the the top ten. The fastest time for the 2500 metre race was set by our own Louis Attrill, finishing in an outstanding 5 mins 57 secs.

The U23 final included many GB internationals and top athletes from this year's Cambridge University Boat Race Squad. In the final, Louis Attrill finished first in 6.01, four seconds ahead of Sebastien Dawson-Bowling, CUBC's 6'9" monster.

In the open final, the German Ergo World Champion Matthias Siejovski beat Greg Searle of GB by four seconds, in a time of 5.46. That result put Louis third overall in the whole competition, beating many top Senior Rowers!

HELL AT IMPERIAL

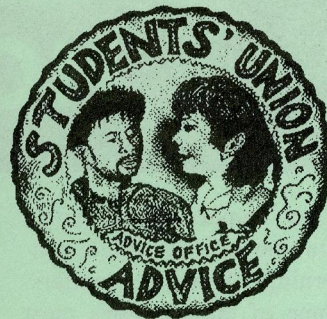
Sixteen of ICs finest took up the challenge to become the College's Doom 2(the classic PC shoot 'em up) champion. The quarter finals went with seeding, leaving only 6 competitors. The semi-finals were a complete shock with the 2 highest seeds being knocked out, though David Ruescas had admittedly set his configuration wrong. The final between P.Blakerman and C.Marston was one sided with Marston winning by a resounding 26 kills (or frags) to 13.

Sport? Hmm.

TENNIS ELBOWED

IC Tennis II headed up to Sherburn, Yorkshire confident that their sublime talent would carry them to success. In the event, things did not quite go to plan, with IC beaten 71-37, but it was at least a good effort. In summary: "We were miles better, and they had all the luck." Hmm.

ADVICE OFFICE NEWSLETTER



December 95

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the second newsletter from the Union advice office.

Welfare Week begins on Thursday 30th November and will feature stalls and activities designed to raise awareness and provide information on a range of important issues. It coincides with **World AIDS day** on Friday December 1st which will also be supported around College. More information on Welfare Week can be found in Felix.

This issue includes articles on budgeting, housing and consumer matters as well as other items. On the back are a range of useful names and addresses who can provide specialist support on a wide range of matters.

The Union Adviser is now available by appointment between 12.00-1.00pm every day as well as most mornings and afternoons. If you would like to discuss any matter of concern in confidence then please make an appointment by calling 594 8060. I can be reached directly on 594 8067 (int.48067).

Finally, students and staff are reminded that personal alarms are available free from the Union Office (to both males and females.)

Martin Thomson
Union Adviser.

UNION LEGAL ADVICE SCHEME

The Union now has a legal advice scheme operating on Wednesday evenings between 5 and 6pm. The visiting solicitors are specialists in either housing or immigration. The service is available to students and staff. Those who are eligible for legal aid (on grounds of low income) will be asked to sign a legal aid green form. If you are not eligible for legal aid you will still be given free advice.

Any subsequent legal work required will not be provided free unless you qualify for legal aid.

The session operates on a 'first-come, first served' basis. You are recommended to check in before 5pm as only a limited number of people can be seen. If you want to find out who is attending in a specific week or require further details, please contact the Union Adviser.

Recent tragedies concerning ecstasy, the "love drug" have proved it to be potentially as lethal as any other. Many known problems stem from impurities (and even poisons) being mixed with the pure drug in order to save money for the supplier. Added to this are risks of overheating

COUNCIL TAX

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & COUNCIL TAX

International students are reminded that if they are currently paying 75% council tax because their non-British spouse has joined them, they may be eligible for full exemption following a change in the regulations recently. If a non-EEA spouse is either prohibited from working or forbidden to claim public funds, then the exemption may apply. Contact the Union Adviser for further details.

STUDENTS & COUNCIL TAX

Students who share accommodation with non-students may find themselves jointly and severally liable for council tax. For example, 3 students living with 1 non-student would each be responsible for

making sure that someone pays 75% of the full bill. They would get a 25%

discount as only one non-exempted person lives there. Also, students living in particular types of housing may also have to pay council tax via their rent (as the landlord will be charged directly). Anyone moving into different accommodation should find out what their council tax situation is before they do so.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS & CHILD BENEFIT

International students with children are reminded that they can and should claim child benefit and help with NHS charges. Child benefit is not regarded as 'recourse to public funds'.

ECSTASY...?

caused by dehydration and other adverse reactions to taking the drug, the causes of which are not yet fully understood. Taken over the longer term, it is thought that it may lead to psychological dependence and possible physical and neurological damage.

Ecstasy is a class A drug so manufacture, possession and supply is illegal. It is also illegal to drive under its influence. Anyone needing advice or counselling on any drug-related matter should contact **Release on 0171 603 8654.**

This Advice newsletter was bought to you by ICU & is just one of the services provided by your Student Union

HOUSING MATTERS

Many enquiries have come into the advice office concerning housing matters. Some of the questions most commonly asked are set out below. The Union produced "Housing Rights Guide" should be available again from reception very soon.

Q. My landlord keeps calling round and letting himself in to make sure I haven't destroyed his flat. He lives across the road and this is annoying me. What can I do?

A. Your landlord is harrasing you and this is a criminal offence. An implied clause in any tenancy agreement is that one is entitled to "quiet enjoyment" of the property. Try talking to your landlord and if that fails, your local tenancy relations officer should be able to intervene. Failing that

you could take legal advice.

Q. I signed a tenancy agreement for a year but I'd like to move in with some friends. My landlord says she will bill me for the whole of the period. Is this allowed?

A. A fixed term contract is supposed to give both parties a degree of security. Your landlady could sue for rent she loses but would have to show that she has tried to mitigate her losses by re-letting your accomodation first. Always try and be sure you want to live somewhere before you sign an agreement.

Q. My landlord says I have to pay him extra if I have any friends staying over in my flat. I have an assured short-hold tenancy and this isn't in my agreement. Is it fair?

A. Your landlord may be concerned that you are going to 'sub-let' to other people (i.e. charge someone for sleeping on your sofa etc). However, he cannot charge you for having friends stay over unless it was part of your initial agreement. Even if he was certain that you were sub-letting would have to take legal steps to end the tenancy.

Q. There is a leaking pipe in my kitchen which has led to mould and slugs appearing. My landlord does not seem keen to fix it. What can I do?

A. Contact your local environmental health office and ask them to inspect the property. They can serve a notice forcing the landlord to carry out repairs.

All enquiries are dealt with in

strict confidence. The above scenarios may be familiar to some but their inclusion does not refer to specific cases.

LEAFLETS

A WIDE RANGE
OF FREE
LEAFLETS
ARE
AVAILABLE
FROM THE
UNION
RECEPTION.

THE MONEY PROBLEM

Graduating without amassing large amounts of debt is virtually impossible, particularly for London Students.

Given that rent alone is likely to eat up your entire student grant (if you get one), it is important to budget your expenditure over the year. Setting aside part of your termly income to cover the essentials (boring things like rent, food, travel, gas etc.) will give you a better idea of what you can and can't afford to buy.

If you have to take out a student loan (and are eligible), take it in termly installments. While the College would not wish to encourage

students to borrow from anywhere, realistically, student loans are (apart from free overdrafts) the most sensible way to borrow. The interest rates are low and should you fail to be employed at the end of your course, you can defer repayment.

Also, it is crucial to keep your bank informed if you are having financial difficulty. Banks tend to get upset when students take it for granted that spend beyond their limits without permission. This can lead to painful bank charges and withdrawal of some services (such as switch cards). It is basically a question of good manners and you should not feel like you are "beg-

ging" your bank for mercy. They are there to help you (and to subsequently make money of course).

Credit cards are to be avoided at all costs and if you are currently propping up a credit card debt or any other loan you should consult the Union adviser on how to go about reducing the repayments if you find yourself in dire hardship. With a little reasonable negotiation it is sometimes possible to suspend interest payments as well (although you *will* have to pay the debt off at some point).

Post-graduate and overseas students face equally hard times and often receive little

or no help with their funding.

There is some financial help available from the college in the shape of the access and hardship funds and externally there are trusts and grant making bodies who distribute monies to specific target groups. Any students experiencing financial difficulties should contact the Union Adviser for further information. Managing what you have might still not see you through to the end of your course without extra help but it will certainly make a big difference.

KNOW YOUR CONSUMER RIGHTS

1. You buy a CD player and it breaks down after 2 weeks. The retailer repairs it but it breaks down again. You ask for your money back but are told you can't have it because you accepted a repair and so can only have it repaired again. Is this right?

- a) Yes
- b) No

2. You buy a used car off a private advertiser in the newspaper. It was described as "Red, Ford, R-Reg. as seen £150". It's OK on a brief test drive but it breaks down on the way home. The seller says it's "too bad". Can you get your money back?

- a) Yes
- b) No

3. Your new washing machine

develops a fault and you want it repaired. The seller tells you that you will have to contact the manufacturer whose factory is several hundred miles away because "he just sells them and doesn't know how to fix them." Do you have to approach the manufacturer for a repair?

- a) Yes
- b) No

4. You receive a large surprise parcel. It contains a complete set of dictionaries. Naturally you are delighted. However, two weeks later you receive a bill for £2,000. You'd like to send them back but can't afford the postage. If you keep them do you have to pay?

- a) Yes
- b) No

Answers:

1) No. Under the Supply and Sale of Goods Act 1994, accepting a repair does not mean acceptance of the goods.

2) No. As long as the car is as described and is "roadworthy" (i.e. not dangerous) then you have no recourse. You would have more rights had the seller been a trader.

3) No. Your contract is with the seller. He should arrange for repair.

4) No. As unsolicited goods you have two options. Either write to the supplier explaining when and how he can collect the goods or alternatively do nothing. If they are uncollected after 30 days or 6 months (respectively) then they are your property.

BEWARE BOGUS AUCTIONS AND MAIL ORDER OFFERS

Sadly, there are people who make a living by deceiving others into parting with their money, and students unfamiliar with their methods are likely to be vulnerable. Two examples of these are high street "auction houses" which appear to be selling top quality goods at silly prices and mail order sales offers suggesting the recipient has virtually won a major prize, and requesting some sort of response (usually financial). Both these schemes do operate within the law but are both to be avoided. Generally speaking, if something appears to be too good to be true it probably is. **Buyer beware!**

WORLD AIDS DAY

Friday December 1st is World Aids Day. The idea is not just to promote preventative practices such as safe sex but to demonstrate support and concern for people infected with HIV and AIDS and to educate people in order to fight prejudice.

The red ribbon is the international symbol of aids awareness, and was first worn in Britain in November 1991 by 70,000 fans at the Freddie Mercury Memorial concert at Wembley Stadium. It was conceived in 1991 by a small charity called visual AIDS, based in New York. Wearing a ribbon will show your support but is only the first step in the fight against AIDS, much more needs to be done.

For example;

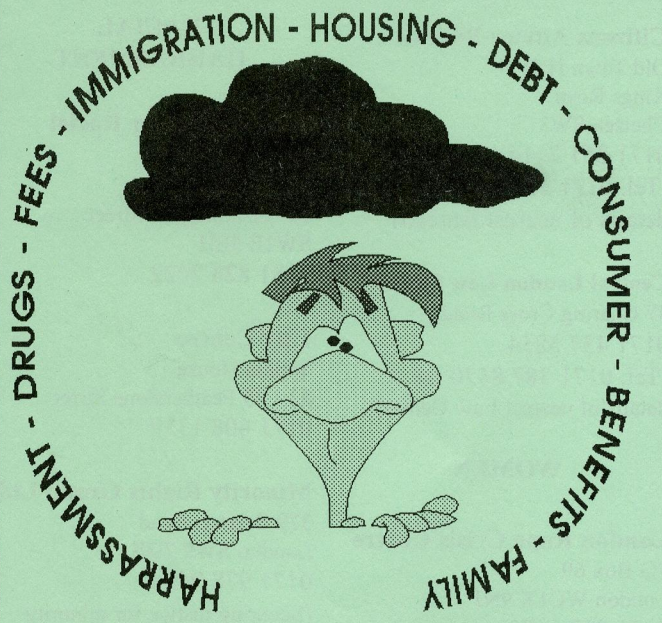
- * Services need to be maintained and developed for people with HIV and AIDS.

- * Prejudice and discriminatory practices against those either infected or affected must be fought.

- * More must be learnt about the experiences of other countries.

- * HIV prevention must be given a higher national priority.

Information on AIDS, HIV and related issues such as safe sex and drug abuse will be available during Welfare Week. Further information is available from the IC Union or by contacting the organisations on the back page.



ICU ADVICE CENTRE

DO YOU NEED FREE & CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE ?

FOR ADVICE ON ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE CONTACT THE ADVICE CENTRE.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT BY PHONING
0171 594 8060

LIST OF USEFUL CONTACTS

GENERAL

Martin Thomson, Union Adviser.

(DEALS WITH ALL TYPES OF ENQUIRIES)

ICU Advice Office
Beit Quad
0171 594 8060 (int. 48060) to make appointments.
0171 594 8067 (int. 48067) direct - answerphone when interviewing.

Union Sabbatical Officers

ICU, Beit Quad.
0171 594 8060 (int. 48060) or in person at Union Office.

Health Centre

Princes Garden int. 49375

Disabilities Officer

Loretto O'Callaghan
Room 324, Sherfield int.48935

Nightline (6pm - 8am)

0171 436 5561

ULU Advice Office

0171 580 9551 ext. 225

Citizens Advice Bureau

Old Town Hall
Kings Road
Chelsea SW3
0171 351 2114 / 351 0487
(Tel. 0171 251 2000 for details of nearest Bureau)

Central London Law Centre

47 Charing Cross Road
0171 437 5854
(Tel. 0171 387 8570 for details of nearest Law Centre)

WOMEN

London Rape Crisis Centre

PO Box 69
London WC1X 9NJ
0171 837 1600
(Support & counselling for women who have been raped)

Survivors (7 - 9pm)

0171 833 3737
(Support for women who have been raped)

Legal Action for Women

Kings Cross Women's Centre
71 Tonbridge Street
WC1H 9DZ
0171 837 7509

(Specific legal advice for women on issues including domestic violence, rape, racism etc.)

Rights of Women

52 - 54 Featherstone Street
EC1Y 8RT
0171 251 6577
(Free legal advice)

Women Against Sexual Harrasment

312 The Chandlery
50 Westminster Bridge Road
SE1 7QY
0171 721 7593
(Free legal advice & support group)

Women's Advice & Counselling

0181 692 6268

Women's Therapy Centre

0171 263 6200

London Women's Centre

0171 831 1492
(Advice, info., activities)

RACIAL HARRASMENT

Commission for Racial Equality

Elliot House
10 -12 Allington Street
SW1E 5EH
0181 828 7022

City Centre

Sophia House
32 - 35 Featherstone Strret
0171 608 1339

Minority Rights Group Ltd

379 Brixton Road
London SW9 7DE
0171 978 9498
(Securing justice for minority groups)

Law Centre

(Check directory for nearest centre)

LESBIAN AND GAY HARASSMENT

Lesbian & Gay Employment Rights

21 Old Ford Street
E2 9LP
0171 704 6066

Lesbian & Gay Switchboard

0171 837 7314
(Info., counselling, & referral service)

Gay & Lesbian Legal Advice

57 - 59 Cowcross Street
EC1N 6BP
0171 253 2043
(Advice, assistance on legal problems)

PACE

0171 263 6200
(Counselling for gay & lesbian people)

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

SKILL : National Bureau for Students with Disabilities.

336 Brixton Road
SW9 7AA
0171 274 0565

Disability Law Service

16 Princeton Street
WC1R 4BB
0171 831 8031
(Legal Advice & info.)

RADAR

(Royal Association for Disability & Rehabilitation)
0171 250 3222

PEOPLE WITH HIV / AIDS

London Lighthouse

111 - 117 Lancaster Road
W11 1QT
0171 792 1200
(Counselling, support, drop-in Centre)

Aidslink

0483 300150

National Aids Helpline

0800 567 123

Terrence Higgins Trust
Helpline 0171 242 1010
Legal Line 0171 405 2381
Admin. 0171 831 0330

Positively Women

5 Sebastian Street
EC13 0HE
0171 490 5515
(Assists women with HIV/AIDS)

Blackliners

0171 738 5274
(Assists black people with HIV/AIDS)

DRUGS

The Hungerford Project

32A Wardour Street
W1V 3HJ
0171 437 3523
(Information & Drop - in Centre)

Release - National Drugs Helpline

0171 603 8654

Drugs Helpline

0800 776600

SCODA

(Standing Conference on Drug Abuse)
0171 636 7866

Drinkline

0171 332 0202

VIOLENCE/SEXUAL ASSAULT

London Women's Aid

0171 251 6537

Everyman Centre

0171 793 0155
(Help for violent men)

Victim Support

0171 735 9166

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This newsletter was bought to you by ICU Advice Centre.
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With Thanks to Andy T.