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FELIX

The student newspaper of
Imperial College

Issue 1044
December 13th 1995

IC Loses £2 Million In Tory Budget Cuts

BY ALEX FEAKES AND
MICHAEL LUDLAM

Higher Education capital spending cuts of over 31% announced in last month's budget could have far reaching consequences for Imperial College. College officials were quick to condemn the slashing of Universities' budgets, which could see IC up to £2 million a year poorer, raising the spectre of top-up fees for students.

Kenneth Clarke's budget proposals were labelled a case of 'robbing Peter to pay Paul' by angry universities who are bitter that the government has cut hundreds of millions from the Higher Education Funding Council for England's budget to give £878 million more to primary and secondary education. It was pointed out as being particularly ironic that Gillian Shephard was trumpeting the sideways shift of money as an advance in education funding.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals met last Friday to discuss a response to what one vice-chancellor described as "an act of vandalism

bereft of any strategic direction". The fiery meeting refused to receive the speech from the education minister, Eric Forth, and threatened to reduce the number of student places and charge fees rather than force staff cuts and diminishing quality of education from out-of-date equipment.

Faced with massive reductions in capital spending, money which is earmarked for replacing equipment and renovating buildings, many institutions are contemplating top-up fees. These would be a levy on students entering higher education to pay for their tuition, currently paid for by the tax-payer. However, this could also lead to the situation where only the rich and those capable of attracting sponsors or a scholarship would be able to go to university.

News that Manchester University, one of the 'Russell Group' of powerful institutions which includes Imperial College, is seriously considering charging top-up fees, led the group to convene an emergency meeting last week. The cuts of £500 per student over the next 3 years will



PHOTO: WILLIAM LORENZ

Reserved for the Bus: ICU has lost its parking spaces to a fleet of mobile offices, the temporary home to the contractors demolishing RCS II to make way for the new Basic Medical Science building.

Story: pages 2 and 3

affect some places more than others. Manchester, for example, suffered a 10% cut in funding last year which they achieved with voluntary redundancies, leaving them no slack with which to absorb another 31% drop in income.

The government's proposals for Higher Education include the widening of the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) to allow educational institutions to attract pri-

vate sector funding for capital projects such as new buildings and research centres. However, almost all institutions agree that the PFI cannot be effectively applied to education. These feelings are typified by those of Cambridge University, "PFI requires a guaranteed income..., which academic buildings do not provide ...teaching and research buildings do not bring in a profit."

continued on page two

in summary



New Union Advisor

Martin Thomson has been appointed the new union advisor. Martin says he's 'really pleased' to be dealing with IC students' problems on a permanent basis **page 2**

Budget Cuts to Grants

The November budget brought gloom to student as the mandatory grant was slashed by a further 9%. However, luckily for some, the duty on beer remained the same. **page 2**

DR Snubs Medics

Replying to a statement on the medical students' concerns over the social space in the BMS, the Deputy Rector caused a storm by failing to properly consider their suggestions. **page 3**

continued from front page

Speaking to *Felix*, Richard Stacey, communications officer at Manchester University, said that 'private finance is not a viable option. The bottom line is that private companies would want to make a profit., and this would mean charging students for the privilege.' He was keen to affirm that 'Manchester would not go it alone [among the Russell Group]' but would expect that if one did, others might follow suit. He was sceptical whether or not the situation would change under a Labour government

IC sources say that College do not want to charge top-up fees, and certainly does not want

to preside over the creation of an American-style "Ivy League" of super universities where the people who go there would be based on financial standing and not academic. Sir Ronald Oxburgh, Rector of Imperial College, called the cuts 'derisory' and suspected that they would affect Imperial badly because of the heavy slant toward engineering and science. The College would not want to affect the quality of its degree, and is likely to look to overseas fees to make up the difference. Top-up fees were criticised as being a highly inefficient means of raising funds, as so much has to be 'given back' in administration and scholarships for the less well off.

Grant Cut By 9%; Banks Say No To Student Loans

The government has further cut the maintenance grant for home students by 9%, bringing it and the Student Loan to comparable levels. Elsewhere, the big four high street banks are set to unanimously reject governmental overtures to take on the Student Loan mantle, saying that there is no way that they can make money from the scheme, dashing government hopes for a quick privatisation.

The government plans for increasing the numbers of students entering higher education have stalled at just over 30% participation as spending cuts are being sought throughout the system. The highest loan available has been raised to accommodate the drop in grant, and the total

has increased in line with inflation, whereas Access Funds, the discretionary money doled out to universities for them to give to students suffering extreme financial hardship, have been frozen at £28 million for all universities.

The troubled Student Loans Company has been a target for a sell-off as part of a drive for efficiency. However, the government's preferred method of doing this, getting a commercial bank to run the Loans operation, has come unstuck as Midland Bank has announced that it had been 'unable to define a commercially acceptable framework' for the system. The other big clearing banks are still in talks with the government but are expected to react similarly.

ICU Loses Parking Spaces

In an unexpected move, College has removed all of the Union's parking spaces around the campus, as part of a 40% reduction in the total. The space is being taken up the site offices of contractors hired to demolish the old Chemistry Building south of Imperial College Road.

The offices occupy the spaces set reserved for ICU's minibuses, which are now double parked behind Linstead Hall. Places have been set aside for disabled drivers, and disabled students requiring spaces for next term should still apply to the Union office soon.

News in brief

BY THE NEWS TEAM

Free Rape Alarms

Concerns have been expressed by Matt Crompton, DP(F+S), over the fact that few people are aware of the availability of free rape alarms from the union.

The alarms are available from the union office to any that ask as part of an ICU initiative to reduce rape incidents among students, especially for those students who live far away from college.

Two sorts of alarms are available from the union office, namely gas-powered and electronic ones. The gas-powered alarms are available for free whereas the electronic device costs £3.

Take up on the offer has been slow, which has been blamed on inadequate publicity. However, student representatives would encourage students to get an alarm if they feel vulnerable, especially Matt, who would like to reclaim the space they are occupying in his office.

New Security Chief

A new Chief Security Officer has been appointed to look after the daily workings of Security Operations. Mr Kenneth Weir has served as an Military Policeman in the army and has had extensive experience in investigations.

Mr Terry Briley, the previous incumbent whose prolonged absence due to illness led to the appointment, might return after Mr Weir's six month contract expires. Mr Weir can be contacted on 48904.

Catwalk Finals

An unusual idea on how to earn some cash over the summer led first year Andrew Mayes to being a finalist in a modelling competition run by BBC's Clothes Show Magazine. The Chemistry fresher had some photos taken by a friend in the business and sent them to a local agency on the off

chance of getting a job. Luckily for him, the agency quickly put some work his way, and this encouraged him to enter the competition run by the show.

Speaking to *Felix*, Andrew seemed unfazed by the whole business, saying he was 'indifferent to seeing [himself] in print', and that it was just an idea he took up to earn some money in the summer vacation. He was reluctant to consider modelling as a full time occupation, citing the hard work, massive competition and often having to face rejection as reasons not to get too involved just yet. However, he said having the modelling as a sideline would be useful as living in London as a student was so expensive.

Although Andrew didn't walk away with the top prize, a contract with a top London modelling agency, he hasn't been put off the business, he now wants to concentrate on building up his portfolio of modelling work and completing his degree before making any career decisions.

ICU Appoints New Advisor

After an exhaustive two rounds of interviewing, ICU have finally appointed a new Union Advisor to replace Minever Kavlak, who resign earlier this term. There were a number of candidates for the post, but the position eventually went to Martin Thompson, who has been acting as locum until the job was filled. Martin will officially starting at the beginning of next term.

Student Wins Experiment Flight

Material Scientist Jason Maroothynaden has won the opportunity to carry out an experiment in zero gravity after winning a competition run by NASA.

Jason will try and fuse a ceramic and a metal during the two hour flight which will have a brief 20 seconds of zero-g.

Medics Meet Match in Deputy Rector

BY DIPAK GHOSH

Student concerns over the Basic Medical Sciences project have been rejected by the Deputy Rector, Prof John Archer, as groundless, prompting medical students to form an action group to oppose the current plans. The student bodies most closely involved are worried that their views have not been taken seriously and that the planning committee has tried to exclude them from the decision making process.

The concerns were set out in a document titled 'Student Concern Regarding the BMS Building', which was submitted to the Deputy Rector and all the potential occupants of the BMS on 21 November 1995. The student representatives of Imperial College, St Mary's Hospital Medical School and Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School all formally backed the move.

The document highlights particular problems regarding the proposed provisions of "student social and recreational facilities" (SRF); from the most recent set of plans for the BMS, the space for SRF has been reduced from 826 m² to just over 300 m². This social space will not be large enough to accommodate the new Imperial College School of Medicine (ICSM), estimated to be 1000 new students and 400 staff.

The Deputy Rector responded to this document on the 29 November in the form of a letter to Sarah White, the ICU President. It says that while the total number of students that will join us from all the institutions will 'not change dramatically', we will need to utilise all the medical colleges' sites, as well as Silwood. He also claims that the BMS will have substantial student and recreational space, but warns that 'at South Kensington we have to balance against the available space, the desire to establish first class facilities in

teaching and research, as well as social space.'

The students' document of concern suggests specific areas which need to be addressed with regard to projected numbers of student and staff that will occupy the BMS, including the restaurant, sports, bar and common room areas. The student bodies appealed to the Deputy Rector to reconsider, and since construction does not start until mid February 1996, they reassure him that it is not too late to change the internal compartmentalisation of the building. The student unions pledge their support to making ICSM 'the best in the country' but they believe it cannot attract the 'desired calibre of students as well as academic and

research staff' if it does not have "attractive" SRF.

The document claims that they are not aware of plans for extending the present library facilities and the proposed expansion of sports facilities. They also claim that the existing bars will be 'unable to cope and would potentially represent a fire hazard' and that a bar within the BMS would serve to reduce the pressure on present facilities, especially with ICU's move to the Sherfield building in doubt. They also seek reassurance for the proposed book shop on the ground floor of the present library.

In his reply, Prof Archer details plans for expansion of sports and catering facilities for

the whole community, but warns that while the new BMS building will contain social space for student activities, 'it is not intended to serve as a major restaurant'. The Deputy Rector goes on to reassure Miss White that the student's views are represented through 'well established lines of communication', including the House and Estates Committee as well as the BMS Planning Committee. He also claims that the ICU gave their support to the strategic sign-off of the plan at the end of the summer.

Miss White agrees that there is good line of communication between ICU and the various committees, but complains that they do not listen to their views. She also said that the House Committee tend to talk more about immediate issues concerning IC but not issues relating to the BMS, because the plans have not yet been finalised. Refuting the part of Professor Archer's reply which stated that ICU had signed the agreement on the plans at the end of the summer, she said that it was not signed by her, nor was she aware of it being signed on her behalf.

Expanding on the concerns raised in the document Miss White said that "there is not even enough space for students to discuss issues arising out of a lecture." She claims that ICU gave no full backing for the plan and they have not bothered to ask what they think. Moreover "they [the medical school planning committee] seem to have arranged this sign-off meeting when none of us could attend maybe because we had objections to the plans".

However, she endorses the aim of this project and believes that this will undoubtedly be an "outstanding" medical college, but goes on to warn that if the SRF is not reviewed then medics may go to other sites in the BMS, so it will not fulfil the aim of integrating students from Imperial and the medical colleges.



PHOTO: DIANA HARRISON

Digging for the future: an army of contractors descended on the site of the RCS II building, condemned to demolition to make way for the new Basic Medical Sciences block. They are under the hire of Schal International, the company brought in by Imperial College to oversee the construction of the BMS.

Last ditch attempts to find a buyer for the antique interior of the lecture theatres, often used as settings in period dramas, have been unsuccessful. They are now likely to be cleared away with the rest of the building in time for construction to start in mid February next year.

ICU Bid For BMS Books

BY DIPAK GHOSH

Imperial College Union hope to move their bookstore to the ground floor of the library as part of the expansion of the South Kensington campus brought about by the Basic Medical Sciences building. The space vacated by the move will be used to expand the selection of stationary sold in the present site.

Plans for the library include adding two more floors on top of the present building and an enlargement of the basement for storage. Latest designs for the BMS bookstore allocate 224 m² of floor space, whilst the remaining area will be occupied by the entrance to the library and the Haldane collection.

There are, however, many technical difficulties with the bookstore are yet to be resolved, highlighted by Matt Crompton, Deputy President for Finance and Services. "The bidding to

decide who runs the bookstore is not yet open. Moreover, the College has yet to appoint a committee that can consider applications from bidders; the criteria for deciding who runs the bookstore have yet to be finalised." It is widely thought that potential bidders, apart from ICU, are likely to include Blackwells and Dillons.

Mr Crompton commented that ICU would naturally like to run this bookstore because it will be better run and more accountable to students. Asked to expand on this claim, he said "at the moment the bookstore committee runs the union bookstore, and this has student representatives and sabbaticals on it. If our bid for the BMS bookstore is accepted then this set-up will continue to be used. We will keep prices down whereas the others would be run to make profits."

RH Deny Their Ruggery

BY MARK BRIDGE

The Union's lost welcome mat "miraculously" turned up at Royal Holloway's Clubs and Societies Officer Shams Sadek's office late last week.

The mat was bundled from Beit Quad in the small hours of Thursday November 16th as union stewards were clearing the midweek sports crowd from Da Vinci's. Many IC clubs had invited their opponents over after their British Universities' Sports Association matches with Royal Holloway. Security footage clearly shows an unidentified Royal Holloway student entering the Union followed subsequently by a huddle of RH sportsmen carrying one of their drunken compatriots out, with the mat, into a waiting silver minibus.

Speaking to *Felix*, Mr Sadek was initially quite genial, however, when questioned about who had actually booked their silver

minibus on the night it was seen outside Beit, he quickly became very hostile and aggressively cut off the call with 'I haven't got time for this, [and] don't call back...' When attempts were made to contact other RH Union officials, Mr Sadek consistently intercepted the communications and further clarification of his role was not possible, suggesting acute embarrassment at Royal Holloway Union over the rug snatch.

Sarah White said that she and Clubs and Societies Sabbatical Tim Townend would be travelling to Royal Holloway to retrieve the mat within the next few days. 'I don't care where or how it was found, it's just found' she commented. The incident caused Sarah White considerable embarrassment at the time because she was at the gate as the students walked by with the mat.

Suicides Rise Blamed on Financial Stress

BY ANDY SINHARAY

A report published by Liberal Democrat MP Don Foster has shown an eightfold increase in student suicides over the last decade, a period which has seen a doubling of the student population.

Entitled "A report on the level of student stress and suicide rates" it emphasises that it represents "merely a 'dip' into a very complex field" and that it is "by no means an authoritative survey." However the report does show that "a large number of students who took their own life were, according to the information we have received, scientists", also indicating that since 1993 men appeared more likely to take their own lives than women, with mature students being "especially vulnerable".

Sarah White, ICU president, commented that "it highlights concern that the recent expansion of student numbers in many HE colleges, polys and 'new' uni-

versities, has not been matched by an equivalent expansion in student support services." She added, "the main factor is undoubtedly financial worries." ICU Welfare Officer, Stephen Webb, agreed: "I also note that the male suicide rate is considerably higher than that for females amongst students, and that in the male dominated atmosphere of IC, men are less likely to seek counselling. There is perhaps a tendency to assume that males have no specific problems."

IC's own student counsellor, Don Adlington, emphasised that there was not necessarily a distinct connection between stress, be it academic or financial, and suicide for an individual student. Although he felt that students had "a slightly less secure base than there used to be" financially and otherwise, he did feel that statistically there probably was a link "Suicide is a different phenomenon to depression," he said, "there are some students [under

stress] who would never commit suicide in a hundred years... it depends on personality."

Although suicides have occurred at Imperial in recent years, he felt that welfare provision at Imperial was adequate, and that such incidents could well have been down to a lack of

communication. "Some do slip through the net, but I encourage staff to refer students to me." He further added that the system of pastoral care and personal tutorials operating at the moment was fairly successful, and was indeed better than that offered at other establishments.

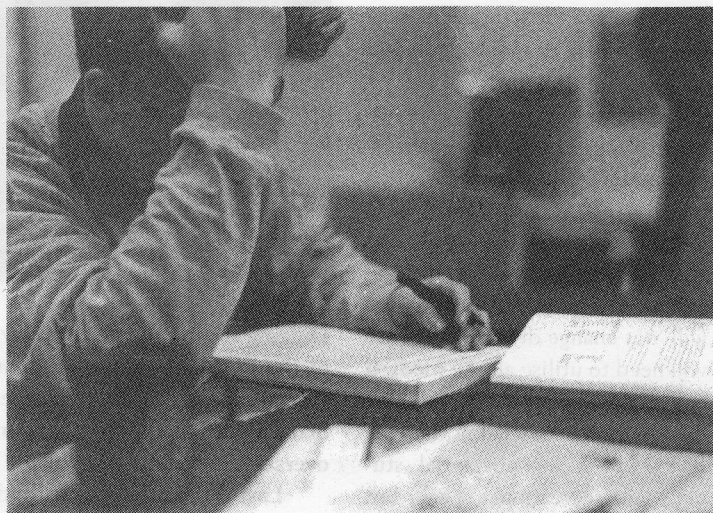


PHOTO: DIANA HARRISON

Going Down: Students are working increasingly long hours and face greater academic and financial pressures.

Royal Albert Hall Looks Back to the Future for Science and Arts

BY BEN WILKINS

The Albert Hall, traditionally a venue for opera and pop concerts, may be reverting to its original purpose- a centre for the promotion of science and the arts. This March, the RAH will be celebrating its 125th anniversary.

In the run up to the celebrations, one of the new initiatives is the setting up of an Arts and Science study group. The group will be looking at the hall's main objectives in the first quarter of the 21st century and is currently gathering ideas for how the venue could be used to promote science.

When Prince Albert leased the Kensington site in 1852, his plan was to build an institution to promote "Scientific and artistic

knowledge as applicable to productive industry". The building was completed in 1871 and for the first few decades, science lectures were very popular, drawing up 9000 visitors. In 1933 Albert Einstein and Ernest Rutherford gave a lecture to raise funds for refugees from Nazi Germany. Unfortunately, subsequent to Einstein's appearance, there were no more science events at the site until quite recently.

However, it seems public interest in science is on the increase. Last month, at the Hall, Professor Stephen Hawking gave his lecture "Does God Throw Dice in Black Holes?" (see right). Over 5000 people came to see him, and outside, touts sold tickets on the pavement.

Hawking's First Words in Jeopardy?

"Can you hear me?" was his first sentence. Hawking's electronic, metallic sounding voice was made even more unearthly by the Royal Albert Hall's echoing acoustics. Hawking himself looked a very diminished figure. "He seemed like he was asleep half the time" commented one member of the audience. His talk though, was engaging and entertaining.

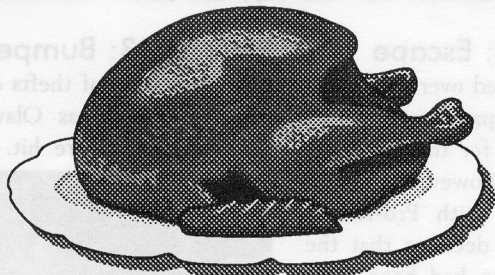
He discussed determinism, saying he had proved mathematically that it was impossible to predict the future perfectly. His idea is that there may be millions of tiny black holes in the universe no bigger than a pin prick. When

a black hole evaporates, the information about any objects which may have fallen into it will be irretrievably lost. It follows that it would be impossible to calculate the course of the future, even if we had all the information about the present.

At the end of the lecture, Hawking answered ten selected questions, including "Is time travel possible". His answer was "Not for objects as large and complex as humans", commenting that he would be unhappy if it was possible, because then someone might go back in time and kill his parents before he was born.



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News Review: Autumn 1995

BY ANDY SINHARAY

Felix 1034: Tripping

Freshers tripping merrily into South Ken were accosted with the tale of a stone lion called



'Reggie' tripping back to KCL. The RCSU, having unburdened KCL of their mascot last term, repatriated Reggie, though without the traditional charity donation. RCSU president Mo Dulloo said he wasn't entirely happy with the situation. Not unlike Sarah White, "extremely cross" with the College's minimalist approach to discussion on the Sherfield move. There was a spate of burglaries in Clayponds; a spate of vandalism in Princes Gardens (after the security barrier got, well, vandalised), and a spate of building projects everywhere else.

Felix 1035: Extreme

Freshers tripping merrily in Freshers Fair may also been accosted by the non-IC Islamic group Hizb-ut-Tahrir. The organisation, accused of extremism started exhibiting outside Beit Arch without the permission of ICU, who called the police. Extremism of a different kind was reported by *Time Out* magazine, highlighting IC as having a drink problem. This was denied (vociferously, of course) by Sabbaticals and the Pro-Rector, Alan Swanson, saying only a tiny number of students were affected. And College



finally condescended to consult ICU over the Sherfield move...

Felix 1036: Bent Over

One Fresher tripped maybe too merrily to a Rag event only to end up sprawled on the Sherfield walkway, with allegations that perhaps offering free spirits to students wasn't such a good idea. DP(F&S) Matt Crompton had approved the event, so long as Rag were aware of licensing rules. Richard Willis' actions were said to be "highly commendable" and "new students were not encouraged to over-indulge". Was he really responsible? Was Rag failing in its duty to stop students getting drunk? Was *Time Out* really that far wrong? Meanwhile, IC Boat Club was exchanging broadsides with Putney residents, who were concerned that extending the boat house would destroy the local area. Sports manager Frank Murray said that IC was "bending over backwards" to meet wishes of the locals. DP(C&S) Tim Townend was unsympathetic: "If they live on a river, what do they expect?"

Felix 1037: Battering

Visits, visits everywhere and lots and lots to drink. Princess Anne came to ElecEng to open a lab, and Bernard Jenkin MP came to visit the much maligned ConSoc. Drink: not so much booze but the controversy it was still generating (Are you listening, *Time Out*?) The once "highly commendable" Richard Willis was accused of "irresponsible actions" with speculation rife over his disciplinary hearing. One of his supporters planned a motion of no-confidence in ICU's exec, believing Richard to be experiencing needless batterings from too many people. Not unlike the entry barrier on Watt's Way, vandalised three times in as many weeks.

Felix 1038: Sheffield

With Richard appealing over the disciplinary and a spate of bike

thefts around college, it seemed that ICU may not be moving to Sherfield after all (or Sheffield as the RCSU would us believe). Aside from there being a union who were none too fond of the idea Estates Director, Ian Caldwell, said that "the costs appear to be higher than we feel comfortable with". Miguel Portallo visited ConSoc (according to the Labour Club). Portillo's visit passed off with surprisingly good behaviour from both students and speaker.



Felix 1039: Baffling

Police were unexpected invitees to the Halloween party after fire alarms set Linstead and Southside residents rioting during the night. Linstead Bar was consequently shut, baffling many as most of the student drinking supposedly took place in Southside. Fire alarms were also giving hall residents unpleasant wake-up calls amidst criticisms that they were sub-standard.

Felix 1040: Escape

Physicists fumed over a smoking ban in their department, with no space allowed for them to light up. Hope had however lit up for Linstead Bar, with Pro-Rector Prof Swanson deciding that the closure decision had been a bit rash. The RCSU got afflicted with more than the usual deficiencies with the resignation of their VP and the (threatened) loss of their office. A considerably more serious loss occurred after a Rowing Club boat broke in half during training, though its crew swam to safety: "We were lucky to escape with our lives," said one of the escapees. Maybe, but...

Felix 1041: Torpedoed

...they were to be well and truly sunk after no less an eminence as David Mellor MP torpedoed their plans for their clubhouse development, with the Borough's planning committee throwing out the scheme. Mellor said he was "delighted that the balance... between the interests of the locals is not to be destabilised." Back at ConSoc, John Gummer faced questions on topics from pollution to privatisation. Petty crime was also in evidence (elsewhere). The Clayponds Estate was hit by more burglaries, and ICU was hit by the theft of its front doormat. The Conference centre was hit by impending closure, and Richard Willis was hit by defeat, losing his appeal against disciplinary punishment and facing a £75 fine.

Felix 1042: Witch

Theft remained a problem, and freshers could now trip in another sense after it emerged that IC students could now obtain ecstasy with surprising ease. Chris Smith MP was merely doing IT at LabSoc, talking to the club about the information super-highway. Linstead's now legendary Halloween party saw the tribunal (witch-hunt?) of a re-app take place.

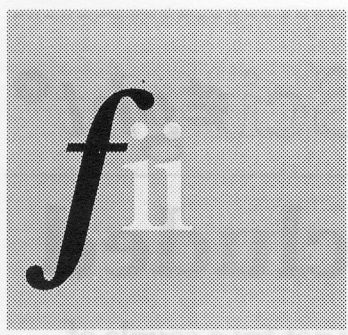
Felix 1043: Bumper

A bumper crop of thefts continued to rock IC as Olave and Linstead Halls were hit. Other



burglaries included exam candidates of their own calculators under new regulations, and charities of their earnings as as it emerged that Rag week hadn't been quite the money spinner it was planned to be. Sarah White looks less cross, though.

Either the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse...



Mary was sitting nervously in the room. By her side was the trough that was once used for animal fodder but was now serving as a makeshift cot. Joseph walked in and a chill swept through the room. He looked at Mary, sitting there expectantly and looking a bit fretful, and said, "Oh, cheer up love, it's Christmas."

Unfortunately, this is how many people feel during the so-called festive season. Whether it's due to S.A.D. (Seasonal Affective Disorder), the Santa Claus-trophobia caused by droves of people out shopping and items in shop windows crying, "Try me, buy me!", or just due to the endless re-runs of Moonraker and The Great Escape on television, we can always find something to moan about.

Of course, there are many of us who take the purely hedonistic approach (and not just at Christmas) and eat, drink, be merry and drink some more. But the sad fact is that more relationships break up over Christmas and New Year than at any other time of the year.

Intoxication can breed infidelity. It would be churlish to try to make out that Christmas is all doom and gloom but, with all the commercial hype, the artificial merriment and the very real depression that is around at this time of year, it begs the question: "Have we missed the point of Christmas?"

Undoubtedly, the answer is yes. For the most part this is a conscious decision due to people's unwillingness to associate themselves with what they see as a fairy story about a baby being born in a barn. Fact is often difficult to separate from fable but in this case it is easy to judge in favour of the former. That Jesus was born and lived is not in question because of the historical evidence, both from the Bible and other sources. In fact, historians and theologians agree that there is more independent evidence for Jesus' life than for Julius Caesar's invasion of England and wouldn't give you the time of day if you suggested otherwise. So, is that the point of Christmas? A baby boy called Jesus. So what? How did something seemingly so insignificant result in something which is celebrated in hundreds of nations across the globe? Well, contrary to popular belief, the marketing man can't take all the credit. The answer lies with who Jesus said he was.

To pull no punches, Jesus said that he was God. Moreover, he was killed by the Jews of the time for saying so. He claimed that he came to save people from their sins. Put simply, no human being, he claimed, was good enough to earn themselves a way into heaven by doing 'good deeds'. Everybody crosses their conscience. If we can't live up to our own moral standards how do we expect to be able to live up to God's? Jesus said that he would die in place of us to pay the penalty for our wrong-doings, on a par with a

judge who finds someone guilty of a crime but because he loves the criminal so much he chooses to serve the jail term himself. But, because he was God he said that he would rise from the dead and that we could then have a relationship with him where we would be free from guilt and shame and could have "life to the full".

Now, these are pretty staggering claims. Given this, it's hard to understand how anyone can claim that he was just "a good bloke". Any man who claims to be God is either a liar, a lunatic, a legend or the Lord himself. As C.S. Lewis put it: "A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said wouldn't be a great moral teacher; he would either be a lunatic on a level with a man who says he is a poached egg - or else he would be the devil of hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was and is the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse... but don't let's come up with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He hasn't left that open to us. He didn't intend to."

And so to the point of Christmas. If Jesus was God and he died for us and he rose from the dead and God loves us so much that he suffered for us, then that's definitely something worth celebrating. Obviously there were many people who believed this two thousand years ago and many more who believe that today.

Perhaps most striking is the fact that none of Jesus' friends believed that he was God and deserted him when he was about to be put to death. Soon after, those same people, who had once been so fearful for their lives, claimed that they had seen Jesus, and that he was God, and they were eventually put to death for saying so.

Vikrant Bansal

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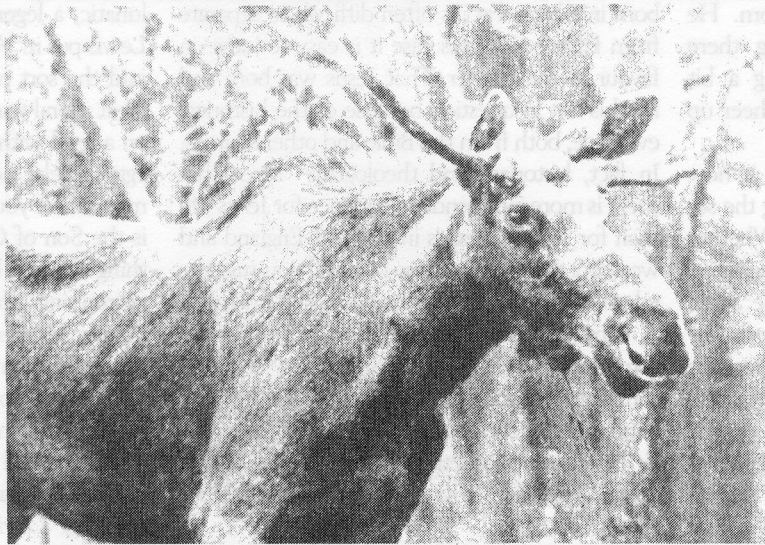


in Sci€ight^o

With only eleven shopping days left before Christmas, you may be beginning to panic. *Blue Peter* is often quite helpful when it comes to presents. Remember Tracy Island? But if you've matured past the level of cutting up cereal packets and you need something really original, perhaps we can help. Here are some of the latest ideas from the British Patent Library.

Batteries Not Included

Stuck for present ideas? In search of novelty? Why not try a couple of the latest inventions hot off the patent press.



The European Elk, better known as the Moose

Driving home after a long day's shoot, you may get a tad chilly, especially if you're caught in the tailbacks on the M25. You need to keep warm, but if you leave your engine running the exhaust fumes will pollute the environment. A novel solution comes in the form of an ingenious Spanish invention. The *electric waistcoat* works like the good old electric blanket. The fabric layers surround two electric circuits which run off a low current – AC or DC. Here's the cunning part – it plugs into the car's lighter socket. Brilliant, a real winter warmer.

Elks, often a problem at this time of year. Perhaps you'd like to shoot some of them. But this can be tricky with a festive hangover and a bad case of the shakes. We have the answer for you, the *ultimate shooting support*. It keeps you poised at firing position in comfort and style. Just lean back, sit on the stick and rest your elbow on the whatsit. Now all you have to do is wait. Before you know it, an elk is bound to wander into your sights and when it does hey presto! another elk in the bag. You just can't miss; the wonder support is a godsend for all serious elk shooters.

There's no doubt that we all pile on the pounds during the festive season. The *excer-ring* can help you burn up unwanted calories. This plastic ring resembles a hula hoop with two foam handles (In fact it is a hula hoop with two foam handles). The inventors claim it can improve your muscle tone after only a few sessions of stretching and squashing the ring. What next? The exercise brick? Just a few lifting session will do wonders for your physique.

Every year, a plethora of 'indispensable' golfing accessories appear in the shops. Here are two of this year's inventions which you can't afford to be seen without.

The *flexi-tee*. It may be more expensive than conventional tees, but in the long run it will save you time and money. Some superb minds came to the fore when they invented a tee with flexible fibres to support the golf ball. When you strike the ball, the fibres move but no substantial force is transmitted to the spike. The tee stays put so you won't be driven mad looking for lost tees.

Lost tees are one thing, lost balls are another. The new *telescopic golf ball retriever* has a cleverly designed scooping end that can help you extract your balls from the most awkward of places. And, because its telescopic, this essential tool can be easily stored in a pocket of your golf bag. Your colleagues will be green with envy.

Now it gets dark so early, I'm sure you will have noticed how difficult it is becoming to play frisbee. But don't let the dark put you off. You can now buy a *glitzy frisbee* that flickers its lights and makes different noises according to its speed and direction of spin. Were these around in Roswell in 1947?

Is science going down the toilet? Thanks to a Japanese inventor, you can now buy the *intelli-loo*. A toilet with a deodourising seat and that can take urine samples, measure your pulse, body temperature and blood pressure. Not only that, but it'll fax off the results to be analysed. After your Christmas lunch, it could be time to make a doctor's appointment.

Ever wished you had more space in your bedroom? You've thought about getting a sofa bed, but you'd still have to find a place to put the sheets whenever you fold it away. We've found the answer to your prayers - the *levitating bed*. It's fixed to the wall and uses a hydraulic lifting system to raise the bed to your desired height. It won't get in your way when its on the ceiling. And, what's more, you can keep your sheets on the bed. Other uses, not thought of by the inventors: storing huge of piles of dirty laundry out of sight in your bedroom, or stranding annoying little siblings/flatmates on the ceiling.

Fancy a cool, refreshing drink? Now you can keep your white wine cooler for longer using the *cooling wine glass*. The removable base is hollow and can be detached, filled with water and then put in the freezer. When the glass is reassembled, the base will help keep you drink at just the right temperature. Useful for cooling drinks which you wouldn't normally put ice cubes in such as milk or Guinness.

 Nat Barb and Ben Wilkins

simon baker

Well, here we are, the end of the term. Time certainly flies when you're having fun, and also when you're so snowed under with work that you don't have time to keep up with the latest alcoholic offerings in Southside. OK, it isn't quite that bad; current favourite in that temple to the beer god is Sun Stroke, a truly awesome pint. My lords and masters

tell me that this week's *Felix* is in the style of loaded and this column is no exception. So here we go. Birds, booze, fags, drugs. Feminism? Bunch of arse! Honestly, I'm not taking the piss, loaded is brilliant. Take the December issue, which was lying around chez moi. It's the first issue I have read, and I cannot recommend it highly enough. Frank Spencer, an interview with Beth, erstwhile Neighbours crumpet, and to top it all, some delightful shots of Emma Noble, the drop dead gorgeous babe from Bruce's Price is Right. Nice to see you, to see you nice.

Now I've had a cold shower, I shall return to more slightly more serious matters, with the news that Rag really cannot organise a piss up in a brewery. I find it amazing that a beer festival at a university that, we are told, is solely populated by alcoholics, can result in only half the ale being sold. Although the situation was undoubtedly not helped by the infamous 'Rag-gate' business earlier in the term, the problems that have led to the most pathetic Rag Week in living memory are more fundamental (I wonder how long it will be before they blame the National Lottery). It must be clear to all the Rag Exec that the perception of them by the rest of IC is not a particularly favourable one. People are tired of the same old silly antics trotted out each year that are beyond embarrassing, rapidly approaching pathetic. Rag Mags are produced where shock tactics are employed as a substitute for humour (admittedly slightly less so this year), displaying a mentality similar to primary school children looking up rude words in a dictionary. Don't get me wrong, I am not suggesting that their motives are in any way suspect. Some very worthy causes are supported each year and a lot of money is raised. But its methods, which even the RSMU criticised, have resulted in its near total alienation



from the rest of the College to the detriment of the charities they seek to help. We aren't a particularly mean-minded lot here, but people understandably do not have much time for events like the Slave Auction. Rag is rather like middle aged parents dancing at a disco. You clearly love them, but just wish they would sit down and stop embarrassing you.

One subject that I have been meaning to cover since the start of the term is the behaviour of ConSoc. I would never dream of laying bare my political affiliations, but the more astute among you may appreciate that I identify more closely with them than the Socialist Workers. It is for this reason that I have held back a rant about their actions of late. But no more. The childish bickering of Ian Bayley and latterly Geoff Boon is utterly disgraceful. Constant jibes about the press coverage, epitomised by Ian Davey in issue 1042, are not only in most cases unfounded but highly counter-productive, opening the party up to ridicule. A little less time spent jamming the letters page of *Felix* would allow you to promote the party successfully at a crucial time. I fear that the only way that the Press Officer can control these warring factions is to put them one by one in a room with a revolver. Even then, one fears that most of the bullets would end up lodged in their feet.

ConSoc do not have the monopoly on ropey PR. The letter from Prof New, obviously a graduate of the Bernard Manning Charm School, concerning a request for information on disciplinary procedures is one that I am sure he will come to regret. While everyone would agree that the RCSU can be a tad annoying at times, this was not an example of the way a member of this College's staff should behave. Whether Julia Knight was acting outside her remit or not, the 'total misapprehension about discipline at IC' is not hers; halls do have systems of fines in lieu of legal action, as exemplified by Linstead. Minor drugs offences are often dealt with internally, rather than by the Police, where a caution would be issued. To sneer at a polite request for information is not becoming of a man in his position, and one I suspect he would not suffer gladly from one of his residents or students.

'Rag is rather like middle aged parents dancing at a disco. You dearly love them, but just wish they would sit down and stop embarrassing you.'

ix

Subwardenship in Southwell Hall

The deadline for the above position has been extended to Friday 15th December. We are hoping to appoint a postgraduate student who is planning to remain at college for at least 18 months. The position is available from early January.

Application forms are available from the accommodation office and should be returned to Ken Young, Department of Chemistry.

NB. Southwell is a lively undergraduate Hall, people requiring sleep are advised not to apply.

album: madonna - something to remember caroline

"So much controversy has swirled around my career... that very little attention ever gets paid to my music. So... I present to you this collection of ballads," states Madonna on her latest album, 'Something to Remember'. Excellent, except that even her diehard fans probably remember her more for the likes of 'Like a Virgin', 'Into the Groove', 'La Isla Bonita' and 'Like a Prayer' than for the ballads.

Nevertheless, this album shows Madonna doing what she does best - singing (not acting!). 'I Want You' as first and last song (a faux pas that you wouldn't expect from Madonna) is a poor

choice and sounds more like something from Bladerunner. Things improve with 'I'll Remember' trying to set the scene for an album of classic Madonna: strong vocals over a decidedly '80s keyboard feel, building to the ultimate... 'Live to Tell'. It's puzzling, though, that 'Spanish Eyes' is not included.

'You'll See', the new single, shows imagination, Hispanic overtones and a will to survive through the '90s. The other new tracks, however, are standard singer-in-nightclub songs which are too safe to be really interesting.

While 'Something to Remember' would be a good background tape to girly nights in or dinner parties, mostly all it does is to invoke memories of slow dances at school discos back in the '80s. (6)

gig: bruce springsteen - the ghost of tom joad ian

The title of Springsteen's eleventh album acknowledges the character created by John Steinbeck. More than half the tracks comprise just him and an acoustic guitar with the odd spine chilling harmonica thrown in.

The album opens with the title track and progresses with various tales of the down to earth lives of immigrants. The immigrants in his musical tales range from those crossing the border to find a better life; to that of an ex-convict trying to lead a straight life, and even to war veterans trying to fit back into society. Like his previous albums, this one has a very strong American flavour with passing references to 'Nam and life in a rural town.

While this may put a lot of people off, the basic theme about trying to make life worth living under difficult social conditions is something that most of us can relate to in more ways than one.

Springsteen's lyrics weave stories around human nature and rarely leave anything to the listener's interpretations. Feelings of resentment are captured in the story of two Vietnam veterans whose paths eventually cross again. His voice carries the songs beautifully, and all with a sincerity that would be laughable coming from most singers.

Accusations of hypocrisy may be justified in view of his constant portrayal of hard working, middle class lives when he lives anything but a life like that. However, his ability to provide a script is beyond comparison and will always be the essence of his music.

This is not another 'Born To Run' and most listeners will be put off by the slow moving numbers. It is an examination of the human nature and how our basic instincts might survive or change under the most suicidal of conditions. Let his voice be heard and you will be touched. An unquestionable (9).

gig/interview: dubstar mr. trout

I enquired about the Camel lighter that Dubstar's guitarist Steve was using to spark up his Marlboro Light: "Actually, me mum didn't know that I smoked until I sent off for it. I was off touring so I wasn't at home to intercept the mail. Then she read I was smoking in Select and she got really mad at me." Ho, ho, the excesses of rock and roll.

If you are to believe the popular music press, Dubstar have a lot going for them. Their debut album 'Disgraceful' hardly set the chart aflame, but it took them from nothing to magazine covers, and a fair army of fans in no time at all: "We have been absolutely amazed by the fans' reaction to the tour. We've had more at each gig than the total that came to our previous tour."



The gig itself, though, was quite disastrous. The technical problems hinted at in the interview reared their unpleasant heads at annoyingly frequent intervals, with great chunks of unintentional feedback effectively destroying any chance of creating the kind of atmosphere that this style of trip hop/rock so desperately needs.

The high point of the set was the soon to be released single, 'Not So Manic Now', which seemed to capture the imagination of the crowd and the band in its lazy brilliance. From there the gig went downhill, each song melting into the other. For a band noted for their diversity, they managed to sound very 'samey', and approached the boundary of boredom.

Let this not detract from the unarguable quality of their album, but from this evidence, Dubstar are simply not a live band.

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singles: itk

dissident prophet - unconditional love
It's not released till January, but since it's already one of the singles of '96 we're reviewing it now. With lyrics that should be on everyone's hearts and an angelic, acoustic intro building into a paint-stripping, electric finale, this has it all. If only I always got this many goose bumps when hearing music...

teenage fanclub - teenage fanclub have lost it e.p.
So mellow you could fall over listening to it. Four classy acoustic versions of songs that span their career. Buy.



guided by voices - tigerborn
A six song 7" that takes all your favourite '60s bands and moulds them all into melodic munches. Worth more than a cursory lughole-full.

kristin hersh - the holy single
Four cover versions, including Big Star's 'Jesus Christ' and 'Amazing Grace'. Steer clear unless novelty records from 'trendy' artists is your thing. Speaking of novelty...

frank bruno - eye of the tiger
Now this is taking the proverbial in a way that has hitherto only been hinted at. Why, it's so daft that old Frank isn't even on it, it's just been dedicated to him and is newly acquired World Champion status. It's not just boxing that can damage your brain you know...

sunscream - exodus
After that, almost anything could come across as having integrity. Pleasant enough, atmospheric dance sounds from a band who once graced the IC stage.

morrissey - sunny
A surprisingly dynamic lament for a departed friend. Bring back the gladioli I say. At least we can laugh then.

yet more singles: vik

dubstar - not so manic now
Paradoxes abound. A tale of
urban discomfort camouflaged
amongst happy-go-lucky pop
music. A band that sound like
the Pet Shop Boys with a female
singer and don't sound awful. A
pop song that I like...

pillbox - invasion (what really
turns you on)
"Sometimes an invasion of pri-
vacy can save your life." Not if
you sound like a poor
(wo)man's version of the Jesus
and Mary Chain it can't.

pearl jam - merkinball
Recorded with Neil Young
during the 'Mirrorball' sessions, this
contains two new Vedder composi-
tions. 'I Got I.D.' is a delicate
anthem that takes a few spins to
impact but does so in a big way.
Unfortunately, 'Long Road' speaks
for itself.



tangled feet - sea of lethargy
Monotonous beats and lo-fi
industrial warblings. What
happened to its 'Do not
touch' sticker?

laxton's superb - what you
want
Laxton aren't superb and if
they really cared about what
I want then they'd stop
sounding like Crowded
House after a talent-ectomy.

china drum - pictures
Therapy? are back with
another three minute punk/pop
nugget! That's strange - it
says 'China Drum' on the
sleeve. Hmm, well I still
enjoyed it.



menswear - sleeping in
The title reflects the story of
my life. Hopefully the fact
that the song is a half-baked
idea that goes on for
much longer than it
deserves to doesn't.

gig: bush vik

It's easy to be cynical about Bush. Firstly, there's the name. Okay, so they're from Shepherd's Bush, but you don't get bands who live near Brown Willy hill in Cornwall calling themselves... well, you get the picture.

Then there's the music. London lads who sound like Soundgarden reviving the spirit of Nirvana and then claim that the only reason for the similarity is because Kurt loved the Pixies like they do. As if.

And then there's the lyrics. We get nonsensical, pseudo-intellectual statements ("There's no sex in your violence" - 'Everything Zen') and a contender for the worst lyric of all time in 'Little Things': "I touch your mouth, my willy for food." (And I think that that's quite enough willy references, thank you.)

Yet, despite the invective above, I just can't be cynical about Bush. The fact is that they have released one of the best albums of the year ('Sixteen Stone'), that the two aforementioned songs with the dodgy lyrics are perhaps the two



best singles of the year, that they're flying the flag for British rock music across the water by selling over two million copies of their debut LP, that the LA2 is tonight packed way past its suffocation limit, and that they put on an excellent live show.

As he walks on stage, mainman Gavin Rossdale surveys the lake of already sweaty, mainly teenage faces and says, half to himself, "Welcome home." The band then proceed to play a set that veers from the good to the great, from causing crowd histrionics to crowd hysteria. The likes of 'Monkey', 'Swim', and the monstrosously anthemic 'Comedown' are played with a confidence and positive swagger that befits a band returning to a home that was once barren territory but is now bearing the fruits of adulation.

They finish with a rocked up cover of REM's 'The One I Love' and manage to get away with it. But then they could have gotten away with just about anything tonight. 'Little Things' - don't make me laugh. It's probably only great things that lie in this band's path. Just sort those lyrics out, lads.

album: aztec camera - frestonia max

Oh dear. For some years now, Roddy Frame of Aztec Camera has been hailed as one of the best songwriters of his generation. He reigned supreme in the Eighties with his jangly, guitar-ridden pop. He's been out of the frame recently (I know, it's a poor joke, but it is the end of term) and on the basis of this album, I'm not surprised.

'Frestonia' sounds like Aztec Camera, which may well be the problem. It seems that whilst we've all got older and moved on, Roddy is stuck in the same place as he was ten years ago. Easy listening it is, good contemporary pop it is not.

album: mcAlmont & butler - the sound of...nick

So, we finally get to hear the combination of the awe inspiring axe-wielding genius that is Bernard Butler, formerly of Suede, and some bloke who used to be in a lousy band called the Thieves and can sing a bit.

'The Sound of...' gives the boys a little more scope for development than the two excellent singles, and yes, part of that sentence was pretentious nonsense. This development is basically the whole of the last two EPs with a few extra tracks thrown in and it takes a few listens, I can tell you. After that it really gets its claws in and holds on.

There are a couple of tracks that pull themselves from the mire, namely the opener 'Sun' (and its acoustic version 'Sunset') and 'Method of Love' with its late Beatles-type sound. Unfortunately, the rest of the tracks are a collection of dreary MOR ballads that glide along inoffensively until, before you know it, the album is over and you're left thinking, "Is that it?"

It's possibly time to tell Aztec Camera (and countless others) that they have to stop churning out music based on the same old ideas, and should look forward. This does not appeal to those of us who appreciate a bit of innovation in our music. I would advise you to avoid this album unless you have run out of ideas for a Christmas present for your Auntie. (4)

'The Right Thing' starts as if it was plagiarised from Suede's 'Dogman Star' and 'Don't Call It Soul' shows that Bernard can play acoustic as well. 'Disappointment' is an infectious romp, but 'The Debtor' doesn't quite make the grade.

I get the impression that sometimes Mr. McAlmont and Mr. Butler are playing two different tracks, what with the singing not quite fitting in with the sublime guitar playing. But, when the two do get it right, (witness 'You do', 'Yes' and 'Tonight'), the plot is most definitely found and given redemption at the same time.

So, wasted talent or siamese subliminity?? The sound of McAlmont (6). The sound of Butler (10). The weighted sound of McAlmont and Butler (7).

album: u2 and brian eno - passengers: original soundtracks

Brian Eno's work has influenced many bands and is hugely responsible for the shift in U2's musical direction from a typical guitar based sound to something with a greater musical depth and variety. This soundtrack is a compilation of music and songs from a wide variety of movies that most of us are unlikely to see. A word of warning: the music here will make little impact without the notes on the respective movies in the CD sleeve.

The opening track, 'United Colours', is the setting for a Japanese movie about a man who falls asleep and dreams while travelling on a bullet train. The dream descends into a nightmare and the whole shift of emotions from calmness to uneasiness and finally chaos is captured musically.

Bono's voice starts the second track and he still manages to convey the faint image of a man reminiscing about a certain event. Pavarotti's voice rings out on the poignant 'Miss Sarajevo' from the documentary of the same name about a beauty contest run under mortar fire.

Although the theme of the song itself may sound clichéd, lines like "...is there a time to be a beauty queen?" show the dark humour behind the difficult conditions. It also moves the focus

below: U2 in wintry days of yore



away from the complexity of the problems involved (hopefully solved) to that of actually living a life under those depressing conditions.

Howie B and Bono provide some raw energy on 'Elvis Ate America' which is one the highlights of the album. The simple music mix complements the vocals beautifully, giving both singers ample room to roam about.

U2 appear individually on the credits because this is not a U2 album. It is Brian Eno's genius that is on display here. This is an album to delve into once a while when things become too simplistic for your liking. The music often stays on a different plane but it does invite you in for a visit. (8)

gig: grant hart

Armed with only a guitar, Grant Hart comes on with laconic candour, oblivious to the almost obsessive adulation of some of the crowd here tonight. Playing a long set of stark, naked songs he really gets the audience going. In between songs he tugs audaciously on his bottle of whisky and tries to break the world record for the number of puffs taken from a cigarette. No wonder his slightly gravelly and intensely emotional voice is so good - he has obviously lived life.

There are some moments of poignant sensitivity. 'Brown Eyes', for example, is captivatingly beautiful. Also acknowledging requests, he plays '2541' (no doubt about his ex-band mate Bob

Mould) and 'Admiral of the Sea' to joyous fervour. From where I'm standing he has an uncanny resemblance to Lou Reed (especially with that beret) and my mate reckons that his lyrical concerns on one of his songs is similar too.

Though his current album is a live one, there is a rawness lingering in the air tonight that can never be captured on compact disc. It's a shame. Interestingly, the CD ('Ecce Homo') only came about because after an intra-band disagreement, rather than cancelling an advertised Nova Mob gig, Grant Hart decided to do an acoustic show.

It's a good job he did. He's definitely worth going to see live.

album: sidi bou said - entertain



I feel kind of lucky. Five hundred copies of this live mini-LP are available by mail order only and *Felix* has been sent one. Okay, so you've never heard of them (unless you remember their appearance a couple of years ago at that most hallowed of musical venues, the Ents Lounge), but it's a rarity, nonetheless. Who knows, one day it could be worth something...

So, is it any good? Well, considering the limited quantities and the fact that it's supposed to be a thank you to the people who have seen them live this year, (i.e. only the most zealous Said-sters people are going to buy this) that's almost a redundant question.

Still, for what it's worth, this is an authentic ride through their live show, as they crash through melodic, punky numbers ('Buzz'), distinctly lewd anthems ('Slitty Gap'), and punningly titled, rhythmic affairs ('Big Yellow Taxidermist'). Sidi Bou Said may be over-strict adherents to the soft-loud-soft school of limited musical creativity but there's an endearing quality to their B52s meets Babes in Toyland attitude.

Maybe the Ents Lounge should get them back... (6)

listings

matt bianco 13-14 dec - jazz cafe - £12.50

therapy? + honeycrack + joyrider - 13 dec - brixton academy - £10

fish + dissident prophet 13 dec - clapham grand - £10

earthling 13 dec - subterrania - £7

freakwater + lambchop 13 dec - borderline - £5

marc almond 13-14 dec - shep bush empire - £10

blue oyster cult + stone - 13 dec - forum - £13.50

eusebe + asian dub foundation - 13 dec - mean fiddler - £6

dread zone + asian dub foundation - 14 dec - brixton fridge - £8

gary glitter + suzi quattro - 14-15 dec - wembley arena - £17.50, 16 dec - docklands arena - £17.50

shane macgowan and the popes - 15 dec - shep bush empire - £12.50

the stranglers - 15 dec - clapham grand - £12.50, 16 dec - forum - £12.50

black grape - 16 dec - brixton academy - £12

bjorn again - 16, 17 dec - shep bush empire - £12.50

dream - 17 dec - hanover grand - £12

simply red - 18-20 dec - £25

p.j. harvey - 19 dec - brixton academy - £10

jools holland - 20, 21 dec - shep bush empire - £12.50

prodigy + chemical brothers - brixton academy - 22 dec - £16

the pogues - 22 dec - shep bush empire - £11

madness - 22, 23 dec - wembley arena - £20

coolio - 4 jan - clapham grand - £13.50

henry rollins - 5 jan - forum - £9.50

competiton:

You want to win 5 pairs of tickets to the Ministry of Sound and 5 CDs don't you?

Well, just name two of the Ministry's resident DJs, drop your answers into *Felix* and you've got a chance. If you

want more info, about the MOS in general then contact Christian on 0171 823 8457.

the reviewers' choices

Andy's Adorables

1. Pulp - 'Different Class'
2. Natalie Merchant - 'Tigerlily'
3. Various - 'Help'
4. Steve Earle - 'Train A Comin'
5. Teenage Fanclub - 'Grand Prix'

BeA's Brighteners

1. Tricky - 'Maxinquaye'
2. Coldcut - 'Journeys by DJ'
3. Flower - 'Self-Evident Truth'
4. DJ Rap - 'Journeys Through The Land of The Drum'
5. Justin Robertson - free tape on May's Select

Ian's Eats

1. Radiohead - 'The Bends'
2. Smashing Pumpkins - 'Melon Collie and Infinite Sadness'
3. Garbage - 'Garbage'
4. Oasis - 'What's The Story (Morning Glory)'
5. Bruce Springsteen - 'The Ghost Of Tom Joad'

Jason's Jingles

1. The Charlatans - 'The Charlatans'
2. The Warmadies - 'Be A Girl'
3. Radiohead - 'The Bends'
4. The Cardigans - 'Life'
5. Supergrass - 'I Should Coco'

Jim's Jumpstarters

1. Goldie - 'Timeless'
2. Tricky - 'Maxinquaye'
3. DJ Food - 'Recipe For Disaster'
4. Leftfield - 'Leftism'
5. Speedy J - 'G Spot'

Lucas' Loves

1. Supergrass - 'I Should Coco'
2. Radiohead - 'The Bends'
3. Saint Etienne - 'Too Young To Die'
4. Spain - 'The Blue Moods Of Spain'
5. Mojave 3 - 'Ask Me Tomorrow'

Max's Munchies

1. Pulp - 'Different Class'
2. Black Grape - 'It's Great When You're Straight... Yeah!'
3. Paul Weller - 'Stanley Road'
4. Radiohead - 'The Bends'
5. Alanis Morissette - 'Jagged Little Pill'

Nick's Necessities

1. Teenage Fanclub - 'Grand Prix'
2. Radiohead - 'The Bends'
3. Oasis - 'What's The Story (Morning Glory)'
4. Echobelly - 'On'
5. Pulp - 'Different Class'

Pixel's Pick 'N' Mix

1. Chemical Bros. - 'Exit Planet Dust'
2. EMF - 'Cha Cha Cha'
3. Nine Inch Nails - 'Further Down The Spiral'
4. Dr. Didg - 'Out Of The Woods'
5. Autchue - 'Tri Replete'

Paul Shore's Sureties

1. Chemical Bros. - 'Exit Planet Dust'
2. Therapy? - 'Infernal Love'
3. Paul Weller - 'Stanley Road'
4. Nine Inch Nails - 'Further Down the Spiral'
5. Goldie - 'Timeless'

Mr. Trout's Treats

1. Radiohead - 'The Bends'
2. Supergrass - 'I Should Coco'
3. Black Grape - 'It's Great When You're Straight... Yeah!'
4. Various - 'Help'
5. Elastica - 'Elastica'

Vik's Voices

1. Senseless Things - 'Taking Care of Business'
2. Bush - 'Sixteen Stone'
3. Michael Sweet - 'Real'
4. Skyscraper - 'Superstate'
5. Anthrax - 'Stomp 442'

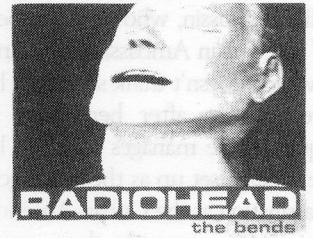
The Albums that made 1995

After much head-scratching, the votes from the Felix music team are in. So sit back and relax. You are entering a Blur and Oasis-free zone.

1. Radiohead - 'The Bends'

They turned up in half of the top 5 lists and earned themselves the prestigious *Felix* album of the year award by many a mile. Some might say that they now have nothing left to achieve. Then again...

"Radiohead's strength lies in their ability to lead you unsuspectingly down a sleepy path and then lob in a grenade..." (*Felix* 1025)



2. Pulp - 'Different Class'

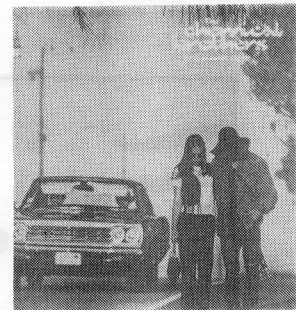
After twelve years of snail-like progress, Jarvis and the crew finally made it big. 'Common People', 'Misshapes', 'Disco 2000' - you bought them, you know them, you love them.

"Jarvis uses his lyrics to drag the listener into every song... This album kicks all of the recent Britpop™ albums into touch." (*Felix* 1040)



3. = Chemical Bros. - 'Exit Planet Dust'

They were the Dust Brothers, then they became the Chemical Brothers. Thankfully their music didn't change and the duo who have remixed just about every band under the sun finally allowed us to sample some of their sampling on their own record. "The Brothers gonna work it out..." ('Leave Home') They sure did.



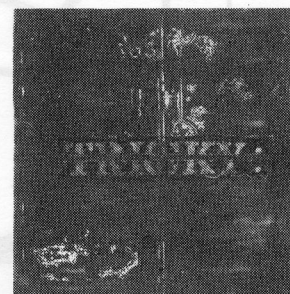
3. = Supergrass - 'I Should Coco'

They may look like extras from Planet Of The Apes but you saw more in them than just evolutionary significance. Yes, the Oxford whippersnappers won your hearts over with such catchy ditties as 'Caught By The Fuzz', 'Mansize Rooster', 'Lenny', and the monster hit, 'Alright'. A debut album bulging at the seams with singles, in other words.



5. Tricky - 'Maxinquaye'

The most talented Bristol artist of them all. This is an angry record that, instead of ranting like a spoilt brat, articulates its message with a breadth of musical emotions. 'Hell Waits Round the Corner' sounds just like that while 'Black Steel' is a bold and brilliant version of the Public Enemy classic. And anyone who can cover Public Enemy and come away with dignity intact has got to be good.



film: the shooter spooky

In an attempt to break out of his tough-guy-with-no-brains image Dolph Lundgren stars in this lame political European thriller. He plays a US Federal Marshal sent to Prague to extradite Simone Rosset (Maruschka Detmers), an ex-political assassin, who the CIA believe bumped off the Cuban Ambassador to America. Dolph, however, doesn't think she did it but reluctantly agrees to go after her. After several chase sequences he manages to catch her and learns she is being set up as the scape-goat for another assassination at the Cuban-American summit in Prague. Consequently they must dodge both sides in an attempt to stop the assassination.

Unfortunately the film far too quickly becomes formulaic with the final twist being obvious from the first few scenes. There was a chance to make a taut European political thriller but instead the film opts for indistinctive action sequences. There was the chance for some interesting development of the personality crisis as the Marshal returns to his childhood town, but all possibility of this was lost by casting Dolph Lundgren - the man who makes stone seem charismatic.

The film would have benefited from a more European style instead of the banal Hollywood one. Ultimately *The Shooter* fires blanks and amounts to nothing out of the ordinary (the American ordinary).

film: dr jekyll and ms hyde maggie

The ultimate battle of the sexes, or excuse to see a man in womans' clothing? No, just another predictable film jazzed up using special effects. Dr Richard Jacks just happens to be the great-grandson of the infamous Dr Jekyll, and when he inherits his Victorian ancestors notebooks he winds up dabbling in the human genome. In an attempt to alter the aggression gene for Dr Jacks metamorphoses instead into a woman.

Rapidly inflating breast, disappearing penis, longer hair and finger nails are the least of Dr Jacks problems when his alter ego Helen Hyde decides to take over his life and job. However Dr Jacks life is not what you would call ideal, his work at a perfume company, creating stunning smells, is stagnant and he is so consumed by his home experiments that his fiancée Sarah (Lysette Anthony) needs little persuasion to leave him. Helen, on the other hand, uses her sexuality and other natural assets to climb up through the ranks of the perfume company.

This film is predictable, as it is obvious Dr Jacks is going to change into a woman in a public place at the wrong time and Helen into a man when she is just about to seduce someone. There are some funny moments in the film but that goes for all bad comedies. Everyone knows the original Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde and this spoof only goes down with a pinch of salt, or a pinch of salt, lime and several tequilas.

yuletide greetings

it is that time of year when I say thanks to all my reviewers for the hard work sitting in a cinema for free, watching actors and actresses strutting their stuff on the big screen, and getting free food if you're really lucky.

the old guard: KATIE HOPKINS, JENNY HO and ADRIAN BERRY - thanks for attempting to reach the 350 word limit, don't worry it is going down for next term, and don't forget about thursday evening otherwise you may miss a round of drinks.

the new recruits: (if i can ever get your names right) - JENNY LITTEN, SARAH TURNER, ADRIAN MARTINS AND MARCOS MARTIN SCRIVEN. keep up the good work and keep the creative juices flowing.

the felix crew: JEREMY - thanks for the london film festival work. CATTISH - thanks for seeing just that one dreadful film. and for browny points i musn't forget to mention RACHEL our stunning editor who almost went to see a film too. wei lee

xiv

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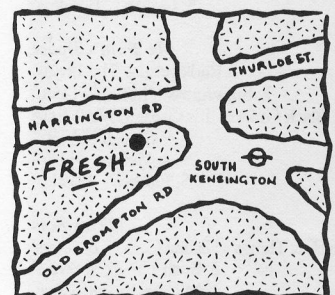
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celluloid guide: this week

odeon kensington
0426 914666
goldeneye 12.45, 3.40, 6.35, 9.30
to die for 4.35, 9.50
crimson tide 1.25, 4.10, 6.55, 9.40
the american president 1.40, 4.20, 7, 9.40
in the bleak midwinter 2.25, 4.50, 7.15, 9.40
tube; ken high street. £6.50, £6, £3.50 before 5pm

mgm fulham road
0171 370 2636
goldeneye 12.55, 3.40, 6.25, 9.15
the american president 1.10, 3.50, 6.40, 9.20
il postino 1.40, 4.10, 6.45
murder in the first 12.40, 3.20, 6.10, 9.10
angels and insects 12.50, 4.10, 7.10, 9.30
tube; south ken then bus
£6, £3.50 students and before 6pm

mgm chelsea
0171 325 5096
goldeneye 12.50, 3.35, 6.30, 9.30
the santa clausie 12.45, 2.55, 5.05, 7.20
tube; sloane square then bus
£6, £3.50 students and before 6

renoir 0171 837 8402
my darling clementine 2.25, 4.35, 6.45, 9
land and freedom 1.45, 4.05, 6.25, 8.50
tube; russell square
£6, £4 1st perf, £2.50
students

minima 0171 369 1723
farinelli 3, 6.30, 8.45
you can walk it!
£6.50, £4 matinees

prince charles
0171 437 8181
wednesday
the englishman who... 1.30pm £1.50
cold fever 4pm £1.50
pulp fiction 6pm
the shawshank redemption 9pm

tube; leicester square
£2 all seats

seven

the swan princess

film: seven magpie

Seven whats? Dwarves? Definitely not, *Seven* is about the seven deadly sins - gluttony, greed, sloth, envy, wrath, pride and lust - and a serial killer who makes his mark by murdering culprits of these sins. Is he cleansing a society full of sins or is he just another madman and a master of murder? *Seven* is frightening and disturbing and very hard to forget.

When the first body, a man who had been force fed until his stomach popped, is found, Lt. William Somerset (Morgan Freeman) and Detective David Mills (Brad Pitt) are teamed up and placed on the investigation. Somerset is an ageing cop on the verge of retiring, and embarks on his last assignment to break-in his replacement, Mills, and to solve these murders. Somerset just wants to retire: he has faced the fact that one man can't make a difference, but his old instincts tell him that this murder is just the start of something larger. This attitude conflicts with Mills style of investigation, as Mills is prepared to forsake anything to track down this deranged killer. Somerset is a thinking man who tries to outwit his opponent.

Seven goes out of its way to shock the audience; the murders are gruesome and deeply disturbing, to the extent that the film will linger in my mind for a few days. Seven was filmed in a way that expressed a feeling of depression and decay in this metropolis, the dark world that John Doe, the killer, apparently wants to cleanse.

The use of the NYPD Blues shaky cam adds to the chase scenes when the officers seem close to John Doe., and the build up to the discovery of another body. However, as the film murders on, Somerset and Mills discover that great planning has gone into these killings and that John Doe is pure evil.

The story line is thoroughly absorbing and the finale maintains the dark, foreboding feel of

just for the ladies!



the film. Both performances from Freeman and Pitt are excellent. Freeman again plays a veteran character with his old ways and wiseman aura, while Pitt just shows maturity.

Seven will stir emotions, and in parts your stomach too. Well worth checking out. *Seven is on general release from 5th January 1996.*

film: the swan princess jenny ho

The Swan Princess is an animated film from Rich Animal Studios which is based on the German fairy tale Swan Lake.

The story begins with King William and Queen Uberta arranging meetings every



summer between the king's daughter Princess Odette and the queen's son Prince Derek (not a great name for a prince it has to be said) in the hope that they will fall in love and marry.

When the prince and princess grow up, they do fall in love. Odette wants Derek to marry her because he loves her for who she is not just

because she's beautiful. Being a typical man, Derek cannot express such sentiments to her even though he does love her. Disappointed, Odette leaves.

On the way home from the prince's palace, she is captured by Rothbart (voice supplied by Jack Palance), an evil sorcerer who wants to take over King William's kingdom. He keeps Odette prisoner deep in the forests and turns her into a swan. The spell is broken temporarily when moonlight falls on her wings but the only way she can break the spell forever is if she agrees to marry Rothbart or if Derek makes a vow of true love.

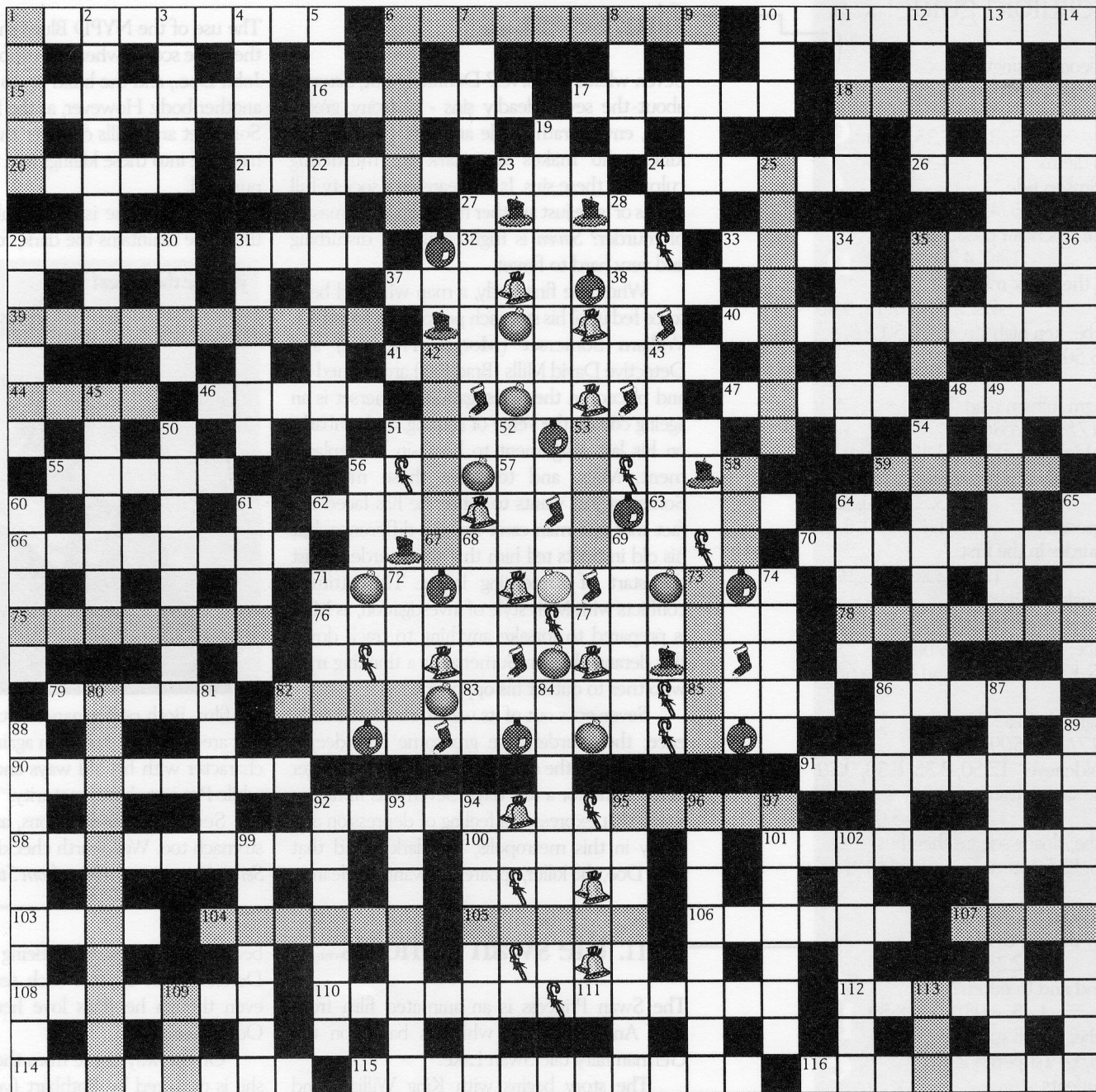
In the forest, Odette meets and makes friends with a trio of well-voiced and endearing characters: Jean-Bob (John Cleese), a frog with a French accent; Speed the turtle and Puffin the er... puffin.

The Swan Princess is a competent imitation of the Disney formula. It is peppered with energetic tunes although these are a bit too similar to stick in the mind for long. The animation is smooth and well drawn even if it is not nearly as impressive as the Disney greats.

The story has many ingredients to impress the under nines: an evil sorcerer; a handsome prince and a beautiful princess. Not only will *The Swan Princess* succeed in keeping children's attention but also, it will entertain the grown-ups accompanying them over the holiday period.

The Felix Giant Christmas Crossword

by Catfish & Clansman



- Across:**
- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. To marry might be the end, say, in midweek (9) | 33. Note on South African plain (4) | 63. Pond goes round in circles (4) | 100. Approximate sketch (5) |
| 6. * | 35. Hellish poet? (5) | 66. Rude person makes statement about bodies (8) | 101. Follows algebra class results (9) |
| 10. Fruit has sharp taste from island to the east (9) | 37. Tax on a barrel, perhaps (3) | 67. Cult television empire? (7) | 103. Cane used badly in these spots (4) |
| 15. I am very good - or very bad! (7) | 38. Highest point of the dump (3) | 70. Set up in cycle, on a stand (7) | 104. * |
| 16. Fish is put here, they say! (6) | 39. * | 75. * | 105. * |
| 17. Soft attempt to catch led to fall (6) | 40. Coat of arms (9) | 76. It predicts that small boat might lose a bit (6) | 106. Birdsong is heard from hat (6) |
| 18. * | 41. There's value in lightness - it can fly (8) | 77. Boil in jam (6) | 107. * |
| 20. Strange sneer at sea-eagles (5) | 44. * | 78. * | 108. Allow to give knighthood? (7) |
| 21. Put down a prototype note (6) | 46. Wall painting | 79. Many are after sweet fabric (5) | 110. Support, and the blues are good! (6) |
| 23. The black stuff will sink, mostly (4) | 47. Tribe uses old money to live by (5) | 82. * | 111. Reproductive organ is shameful (6) |
| 24. River mouths are badly salted (6) | 48. Region (4) | 83. Appear to take place (5) | 112. Sam and Tina have combined to endure it (7) |
| 26. Best boy returns from the master (5) | 51. Lost a quarter out of Thermos when shell exploded (4) | 85. Discontent with desire (4) | 114. Suggestion that pub in fashionable district has nothing (8) |
| 29. London underground police are clear (5) | 53. Immigrant is quiet at ceremony (4) | 86. Time for a fight on the lorry (5) | 115. Cut down by Scottish lake - it's futile (10) |
| 31. Sets up the platforms (4) | 55. Fruit left by oyster? (5) | 90. <i>Poignant</i> | 116. Criticises second element in a mess (8) |
| 32. Several came to pick up the | 57. Continental money for bird (3) | 91. To write a song about it is a bad thing (8) | |
| | 59. * | 92. A dance in Hell? (5) | |
| | 62. Ignore the southern German? (4) | 95. * | |
| | | 98. Set tasks on chart can be moved round (9) | |

Down:

1. *
 2. Boy becomes an old monk (9)
 3. Noblemen (5)
 4. Shared out benefits to daughter (5)
 5. Argue over pay (3)
 6. *
 7. Last part of search under bridge (4)
 8. Makes holes in bad laws (4)
 9. Breeding club in the doghouse (6)
 10. To point with a digit (4)
 11. Approaches answer haphazardly, and lost a quarter (5)
 12. English put down antelope (5)
 13. Laziness (9)
 14. Three points for any one bored (5)
 19. Glimpse card-game explosion (8)
 22. Explorer
25. *
 27. Amphibian is no non-drinker! (5)
 28. Group of eight (5)
 29. Middle of time of plague (6)
 30. Many agree with colours (4)
 31. Ushers might make a monkey (6)
 34. Copper in prayer for insight (6)
 35. *
 36. Group of nine Greek stories I heard (6)
 42. *
 43. I am back in divine lesson (6)
 45. Record on top over nickname (7)
 49. Love to stir around in dish (7)
 50. Used scarves to point out crack (8)
 52. Sharp cry (4)
 53. *
 54. Recall something about element
- (8)
 56. Too modest to throw? (3)
 58. *
 60. Diver on southern island (5)
 61. Greater part born by the smallest one (5)
 64. Revolutionary
 65. Soft and luxurious material (5)
 68. To shout in pain is cowardly! (6)
 69. Write back in French and hold place (6)
 71. Wanderer is not foolish! (5)
 72. Work in happy surroundings is awkward (5)
 73. *
 74. Courage of the messenger (5)
 80. *
 81. Small measure of a play (5)
 84. A magician might trick the
- arbiter (8)
 86. Mock drink of the south-east (5)
 87. Place of departure (11)
 88. Whale oil
 89. Those in scarlet had assembled in churches (10)
 92. Chicken eats plaited straw? (7)
 93. Security agency has hundreds of covers and bugs! (8)
 94. First spoken about one drink (7)
 95. Warn that first hour will be used up (8)
 96. Steals the scene! (8)
 97. At the bottom (7)
 99. It props up the last page! (7)
 102. Tag as firm which makes hot sauce (7)
 109. *
 113. *

Fit the unclued (*) shaded words in here:

a) _____ (18A)

b) _____ / _____ / _____
 (82A, 109D, 113D, 6A)

c) _____ / _____ (35D, 80D)

d) _____ / _____ / _____ (75A, 113D, 107A)

e) _____ / _____ (53D, 78A)

f) _____ / _____ (58D, 95A)

g) _____ (39A)

h) _____ / _____ (44A, 1D)

i) _____ / _____ (104A, 105A)

j) _____ / _____ / _____ (113D, 44A, 73D)

k) _____ / _____ / _____ / _____
 (6D, 109D, 113D, 59A)

l) _____ / _____ (25D, 42D)

exploration soc

Christmas lecture: Everest 1922 & 1933.
 December 14th, 12.30 pm. Chem Eng LT 1

finance society

McKinsey and Co: the strategic consulting environment. 14th December, 5pm. Clore LT

osc week

A couple of weeks ago, the annual overseas week brought a real multicultural feel to the JCR with over 18 of our societies setting up stands showing off their respective countries. Apart from the impressive displays, many stalls had regional delicacies to sample - gastronomic and musical! Every year, OSC week gives people the chance to acquaint themselves with the overseas societies they never quite got round to investigating during freshers week, as well as increasing awareness of the wealth of cultures represented here at IC.

The event was a huge success. Most of the overseas societies took part and all provided a colourful display of their culture. Warm thanks to all the societies who took part. The Hellenic, Spanish, Lebanese, Sri-Lankan and Scandinavian socs also held events, and their discos and dinners were great successes. Well done!

It's a good omen for International Night 1996, the biggest OSC event of the year, due to take place on March 1st. Preparations are up and running...

stoic schedule

Thursday 14th - Friday 15th December 1995

12.30 MovieZone Christmas Special Reviews and previews of Christmas cinema releases including *Casino*, *Sabrina*, *Babe* and *The Santa Clause*
13.00 Level 3 Christmas Special!

Entertainment show with a seasonal feel and a nutty twang. Christmas games, shopping, music and films with all the trimmings and extra talent.

Anyone interested in taking part in our programmes should see us on Wednesdays, 1pm,

Level 3, the Union. Programmes filmed on alternate Wednesday afternoons include:

The Report News and features review programme designed to keep students informed enlightened and entertained.

MovieZone Reviews of all the new film releases plus all the latest from behind the scenes.

Level 3 Entertainment, games, music and comedy with absolutely no Paul Daniels. We also film sports, short films, pub and club reviews and documentaries amongst other things.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all, especially our members, especially the ones who've paid their membership. Have a brilliant Chrimbo and don't overdo the turkey.

xmas carnival

So here it is... Merry Christmas!

With just 2 days to go things are hotting up for the festivities that make up the ICU Christmas Carnival, and we're here to give you a final taster of what exactly will make this event so different to anything else you've ever seen in the Union.

The most obvious thing will be the decor - each floor will be themed, using banners, drapes and lighting to reflect the music being played on it. We're going to leave the exact details 'til the night so you can have something to look forward to!

Each room has a different music policy: starting at the top of the building, the Concert Hall is dedicated to pure upfront club sounds, with 6 DJs bringing their own top quality dance and a brilliant light show with 3 colour laser - happening enough for even the most hardened clubber.

UDH will be transformed into a darkened

haven for all you swing fans, as the "Sex on the Beach" crew bring you swing, soul, hip-hop, calypso and jungle in a room you just won't recognise and won't want to leave.

Finally, the Pop Tarts are in the Ents Lounge, with live cabaret from the goldfish-swallowing Stevie Starr (The Regurgitator), and music from a 5-piece Steel Band, guaranteed to bring a little sunshine into the bleakest midwinter. Plus 4 hours of top pop and party sounds for your pleasure.

As if all that wasn't enough, there's also (weather permitting) a gyroscope, bash-a-rat, coconut shy, and darts game in the Quad (if it snows, we'll be ready - well, we'll be moving it all to the Gym!), and a ski-board simulator in the Gym.

Put all that together, add a 2am bar (3 o'clock finish), and you've got the best £6 (or £5 with Entscard) you're ever likely to spend at Imperial. If you've not got a ticket, then run to the Union Office NOW to see if there're any left.

LETTERS TO FELIX:

EDITED BY MARCUS ALEXANDER

Sex!

Dear Felix,

Having read Suzanne McDermott's letter on the 23/11, concerning male/female ratios at IC; the letter concluded by advising the IC man to stop working and drinking in the bar with the lads. Perhaps what Ms McDermott fails to grasp is that is exactly what most IC men do. I like going down the bar with mates and I like women as well. What is it about these two that makes them so incompatible? Perhaps the real question is the amount of attention given to one rather than the other. On one hand, why should I have to join a club or do something I really don't want to, just to meet a woman, as Ms McDermott advises. On the other hand it looks like blokes are just stuck with it here at IC.

Leo Rowe
Physics MCMXIV

Car Crashes!

Dear Felix,

I'm not sure what Ms Wingrove possibly hopes to achieve by her constant whingeing (Letters, *Felix* 1043). As a driver given charge of £25,000 worth of minibus, perhaps a little more care in the first place would have been prudent; after all, the evidence does point to the fact that she had been driving for too long in one stint when she damaged the bus.

Ms Wingrove's accusations are ill-founded. The damage done to the vehicle was more than just a scratch and there are several people who can vouch for this fact. Her repeated suggestions that we should just have touched up the paintwork are irrational in the extreme and point to false economy. Anyone can see that where this has been done in the past on some of the older minibuses there are now rusting holes in the bodywork.

[...] Most unions have no more than one or two knackered minibuses; users of the ICU fleet should recognise the value of the service [...]

Finally Ms Wingrove must surely be aware that when she hired the minibus she signed to accept responsibility for the bus. Had she remembered this she may well have had no reason to complain about an accident which would have been so easily avoided with a little thought.

Yours,
Matthew Crompton
Deputy President
(Finance & Services)

Arguments

Dear Felix,

In response to your article last week entitled 'Welfare snubbed by Prof'. There is an important issue at stake here. A certain union sabbatical appears to have a selective memory of the welfare meeting with the ex-union advisor [...] I wanted to produce a leaflet that was not already available in the Union office, specifically about hall matters.

I went out of my way to obtain first hand information from the hall wardens on the matter of student discipline. The response I got was poor and sarcastic [...] Sarah White, ICU President, was totally unsympathetic — as usual [...] If Prof New's attitude is 'just his way', then perhaps it is time he changed it! This appears to be the general attitude of many college and union officials these days. It appears that they are totally absorbed in their sad little political games and forget the reason that any of them are here at all, THE STUDENTS. While the majority of the student body seem so apathetic towards union affairs, a little less criticism of those who are prepared to take an active part might produce a more positive response.

Sincerely,
Julia Knight
(RCSU Welfare Officer)

Dear Felix,

The news item in your 1st December issue headed "Welfare Snubbed by Prof" may have raised a few eyebrows and may also have given the wrong impression. I think most students would be surprised by the headline and by the tone of some of the comments in the article as they will be aware of the dedication shown by Wardens to the cause of student welfare; they devote a large part of their time and energy to helping students in their halls and to sorting out difficult problems. Geoff New has always been and continues to be, a prime example of this dedication.

As regards the comments attributed to myself, your readers would never guess from what was written that I made it very clear to your reporter when he telephoned me that I could not comment on a letter I had not seen but that I was sure Geoff New had no intention of hurting anyone's feelings.

I know that Geoff sent Julia Knight a further letter before the *Felix* article appeared giving the information she wanted and Julia also

received a letter from the registrar a few weeks ago giving essentially the same information. But if Julia would like more detail she has an open invitation to discuss it with myself.

Yours sincerely,
Dr Gareth Jones
College Tutor

Dear Rachel,

After reading remarks about Professor New made in *Felix* 1043, I just want to comment that one would be very hard pressed to find a Professor at IC more dedicated to the welfare and well being of students than Professor New.

"It's just his way, he's just like that"

Jelle Beinen
Mathematics RA
(Falmouth Keogh subwarden
1990-1993)

Correction to last *Felix* issue:

RE: Letter from Julia Knight to Prof Hall

The Chairman at Bernard Sunley should have been referred to as Union Representative of the House - this stops confusion between the warden - the Chairman of the House Committee, who did not partake in any comment on the letter [to Geoff New quoted] in *Felix*.

Robert Park
(BSH union rep)

Apparently Geoff New has written to Julia to apologise for the misunderstanding and upset. So maybe everyone will be happy ever after.

Fire!

Dear Felix,

After another Friday night fire alarm, I'd just like to put a few misconceptions straight. Most importantly — contrary to many opinions, we do not set the alarms off as a drill — when the alarm goes off, myself and the stewards clear the building because as far as we are concerned there is a potential life threatening incident occurring.

Believe me, clearing 600 students in various stages of intoxication is no fun at the best of times and when our major concern is your safety, it is definitely made harder by people refusing to leave so they can finish their drinks, or because "it's just another drill" [...] So please help us, when you hear an alarm, please leave the building. If it is not a genuine situation, at least we can readmit you quicker!

[...] there is no such thing as a false alarm. We'd feel a lot better if everyone remembers that.

Cheers,
Mark
Events and Marketing Manager

Homophiles

Dear Felix,

I would like to offer an important correction to the Welfare supplement in *Felix* of 1 December 1995. The telephone number for the London Lesbian and Gay Switchboard is 0171 837 7324. The number may well be engaged the first time you call, but keep trying with the redial button. They have all kinds of information about places to go, groups to contact and they are also there simply to talk to.

People can contact Imperial Queers, the lesbian, gay and bisexual society here at Imperial College either by writing to us care of the Union, or by email to pink-help@doc.ic.ac.uk and there is more information on <http://pink.doc.ic.ac.uk/IC/>

Ashley Lumsden
President IQ

Smokin'

Dear Felix,

The letter published last week on smoking in the JCR expressed a problem that affects many students (*Felix* 1043). At the moment the JCR does not serve its purpose as a student common room because, despite numerous signs which are clearly visible from every angle, heavy smoking is still commonplace [...]

It is an established fact that for non-smokers, inhaling smoke-filled air is both a nuisance and a major health hazard, thus making the place unusable for these people, who also happen to be the majority of students. Since the JCR is supposed to be accessible to everyone, the union has a responsibility for ensuring that its no-smoking policy is complied with. Those who would like to light their cigarettes should be asked to do so in Davinci's or in the quiet space between the JCR and SCR.

Yours sincerely,
Y. Hatami EE4

Adding up

Dear Felix,

I read with disappointment the article 'Calculator Ban in Exams' on *Felix* 1034. I am deeply disappointed that the College Board of Examiners made the decision without any prior notification to the students of such discussion, let alone any consultation.

[...] I cannot imagine how a 'parity of treatment' can be achieved if students are asked to use some college-issued, unfamiliar calculators, which they may have seen only once or twice beforehand, under the critical time and psychological pressure in the end-of-year exam AND achieve the best results.

I appreciate the difficulty for invigilators to check every calculator in the examination hall. This, however, is not a justification to void the students' right to choose a calculator to use. I would like to suggest an alternative[...]:

In Hong Kong, students sitting for open examinations are allowed only to use calculators that carry approval stamps issued by the Hong Kong Education Authority. Prior to the exams, students need to submit the calculators they intend to use to the HKEA, who will examine the calculators and mark the machines with a stamp. Subsequently only calculators that carry the approval stamp are allowed to be used in the exam venue [...]

A similar scheme may be implemented in the College. Students could be asked to submit their calculators to either their departments or the Board of Examinors for approval checks; only those machines that comply to the Board's requirement will be given the approval [...]

I hope this will help the Board maintain a control on what calculators are used in examinations without facing the students with a difficult situation where they have to use unfamiliar instruments in crucial moments of their academic assessments. Moreover, this would save the College a considerable sum of money on purchasing calculators.

Yours sincerely,
Eric Chan
Chem Eng IV

Rag and bones to pick

Dear Felix,

We would like to correct a few facts that were included in Mark Bridge's article last week. Firstly, the Beer Festival did not make a loss as has been claimed. In fact the event made a small profit despite having a lower attendance than previous years.

Over £1200 was raised during the rest of Rag Week [...]. This has pushed Rag's total this year to just over £4500. The reason that we were unable to comment on this figure is that no-one from *Felix* bothered to ask!

Secondly, the Dirty Disco. Rag assisted with this event, providing the float, some of the publicity and making all of the bookings for the Disco. We asked the RSMU on several occasions whether they required any more assistance, and were assured that no more help was required. We eagerly await a receipt for the proceeds, as promised.

[...] Rag are as strong as ever and will keep doing what we do best — collecting money for the sick, home-

less and needy. It is a shame we do not have your support.

Yours sincerely
Jon Lambert, Rag Chair
Mark Harrison, Rag Treasurer

Bollocks did nobody ask how much you'd raised so far — the reason we couldn't put in a figure was that when we talked to you, no-one could tell us.

Ribbons

Dear Rachel,

I was very disappointed to see that *Felix* 1043 on 1st December did not pay more attention to World Aids Day. There are, as I'm sure you're aware, still a lot of myths about HIV and AIDS which your paper could have helped dispel with an article about how HIV is contracted and spread, and what can be done to prevent it [...]

Too many people think of HIV and AIDS as being 'someone else's problem'. It isn't. It will not go away if ignored. It is here amongst us. The only way at present to combat it is to educate everyone in safer sex practices. *Felix* provides an ideal medium to get the message across to people who aren't going to pick up a safer sex leaflet somewhere. I hope, in the not too distant future, you will publish an article, to which I would be only too happy to contribute.

Yours sincerely,
Nigel Russell MED

I couldn't agree more, and eagerly await your contribution... though on reading your letter one resident *Felix* wag announced that AIDS day isn't relevant to Imperial because no one has sex here.

Non-dedicated Reader

Dear Felix,

I am not a dedicated reader of your "student newspaper", but it often provides light entertainment of a Friday morning. I have noticed the higher standard of the content this year over last and have been struck by a scattering of surprisingly diverse and interesting articles. Imagine my dismay then to find the majority of issue 1042 devoted to an adolescent and frankly boring discussion of drugs; ecstasy in particular. For goodness' sake GROW UP!

The articles seemed to make out that IC was some kind of drugs haven or opium den. Call me naïve if you like (you'd be wrong) but I really cannot believe that IC has a major drugs problem, if indeed any drugs problem at all. Where IC's problem lies is in the large proportion of narrow mind-

ed fools who seem to think that using drugs is about being 'cool'. Of course I'm not saying that this problem is exclusive to IC but think about it; if you did a survey asking people what types of drugs they had tried or regularly used, I think you could be justified in interpreting the results for dope use (and similarly for other types of drug) as follows:

- 1) People who have tried dope = people who know someone who has.
- 2) People who regularly use dope = people who use it when their brother's dodgy mate offers it to them.
- 3) People who use it daily = people who buy and use it occasionally.

One columnist claimed that he had spoken to an IC dealer. Maybe, but I wouldn't be surprised if this 'dealer' was just someone who once sold some stale weed to a mate. You see, people who use dope and other drugs because they ENJOY them and especially those who sell them don't tend to show off about it and make a song and dance.

So come on Felix, please don't bore us with such fashionable discourses on drug use, especially if it is done in such an unprofessional way.

Rupert Ingham
Civ Eng.

If a *Felix* reporter writes about having spoken to a dealer, it is most likely that it is because they have, in fact, just spoken to a dealer, and not 'just someone who once sold some stale weed to a mate'. If however you wish to delude yourself otherwise then feel free to do so. Our job is merely to bring information to you, and if you choose to ignore it and carry on spouting your own ill-informed ideas then that is your prerogative. We can give you the facts, but we can't *force* you to think about them. On another note, your equation 'people who have tried dope = people who know someone who has' simply implies that people who have tried dope are people who know someone who has; a foregone conclusion, surely. Thus, Mr Ingham, you reveal yourself not only to be small minded, arrogant and (despite your protestations) naive, but a poor logician as well.

Letters may be edited for length. The guest editor's opinions are not necessarily those of the editor.
Deadline for letters in *Felix* 1045: 6pm January 8th.
Please bring your union card for identification.

FELIX

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fatigue

Thanks to an inordinate number of letters this week I have been relegated to a rather small corner: jolly good really. It's almost Christmas, and quite frankly *Felix* is looking forward to a quiet few days eating turkey and doing little else. After a week when one employee of the Imperial College Union Print Unit managed to get taken to hospital with concussion and the other came down with a rather peculiar skin disease, quite frankly we're all in need of a few days to put our feet up...

happy happy joy joy

Which leaves me only to wish you all a rather jolly Christmas and ask that no one gets too offended by the not at all serious *felix*ed bit. All in the best possible taste. A very big thank you to everybody that's contributed this term, with a special note of appreciation to the Conservative Society for making it all so much fun. Thank you very much for the Christmas card - it was very touching, although perhaps the lipstick on the envelope wasn't *strictly* necessary, boys...

ps

Felix will be back on January 12th: contributions by the end of Monday 8th, please.

EDITORIAL TEAM:
NEWS: ALEX FEAKES
FEATURES: MARK BAKER
MUSIC: VIK BANSAL
CINEMA: WEI LEE
PHOTOGRAPHY: DIANA HARRISON
& WILLIAM LORENZ
SPORT: JONATHAN TROUT
PUZZLES: CATFISH
SCIENCE: BEN WILKINS

COLLATING LAST WEEK:
MARK AND BEN
DELIVERIES: MARK AND IVAN

FELIX SPORT

Virgins Satisfied

VIRGINS 5 - 0 BART'S

With the return of Shiner Evans from injury IC Virgins played to their strengths in their first league match, showing last week's defeat at the hands of the Vet College to be a mere aberration.

IC started in confident fashion with the forwards obtaining good ball from the scrums allowing the backs opportunities to make ground through intelligent running. The back line was well organised despite all but the scrum-half playing in unfamiliar positions.

Tackling was of a high standard throughout the game, and running from the forwards most impressive. The only score of the game came from Evans, a superb solo effort, in which she covered nearly half the pitch after receiving the ball at fly half.

The score would have been even more in IC's favour had it not been for some handling errors in vital situations.

Overall though, a vast improvement on the disaster that was the last game, demonstrating the importance of teamwork and commitment.

Rather Silly Mnemonic

RSM seem to be playing some good football these days. Despite their first team's admittedly lucky win over LSE, the seconds move from strength to strength.

Not content with a 4-0 triumph over fellow CCU side St Mary's, they went on to thrash St Georges by a mighty six goals to one on Saturday.

This match included a fifteen minute hat trick from man of the match Mark, who added his fourth goal just ten minutes later.

Despite an attempted comeback on the second half, there was no way that IC would let them back into the game, and emerged worthy winners.

Hat Trick Seals Fine Win

ICAFC II 4 - 1 UCL II

This league fixture began as a bit of a grudge match after IC came back from 5-1 down to win 6-5 in the cup earlier this season. Both teams made a positive start with Ike Ombala scoring for Imperial after a powerful run into the box. His second came from the penalty spot after He was brought down en route to goal. After a sustained period of pressure, UCL pulled a goal back just before half time; this pressure continued after the break, until Ike Ombala's third strike finished the game off - again from the penalty spot, this time sending the goalkeeper the wrong way. A fourth was soon added when Ike's run and square pass set up a simple chance for Rob Ochola. UC fought hard, but some stout defence, notably from Will Scott, safeguarded the scoreline.

Scientists Brave the Arctic

RCSRUF 3 - 3 W C F B

With all the other college Rugby matches cancelled due to the snow, we were thoroughly delighted (honestly, we were) when our skipper informed us that our match at Northolt, against the Western Command Fire Brigade was still on.

Kicking off in the middle of a blizzard, three inches of snow, and a 'swirly-whirly-wind', we face the daunting prospect of a Samoan-sized front row and a distinctly French-looking three-quarter back line. Fortunately for us, the arctic blasts of wind halted our opposition in their tracks, and a powerful pack performance in the second half saw IC ahead by 3-0. Despite our dedicated defending though, we were unable to hold the firemen out for ever, and a penalty in the dying minutes levelled the match.

SportsNews

Sunderland AFC moved to the top of the Endleigh League Division One after a sensational six-nil win over that morning's leaders Milwall. Craig Russell scored four goals.

Mike Atherton's unbeaten 198 was hailed as one of the greatest innings of all time, enabling England's cricketers to snatch a draw from the jaws of defeat.

C&G Rally Around

Due to bad planning and a complete absence of any common sense our first rally took place in December. The starting field of seven was quickly whittled down, with 'Devil's Elbow' taking its inevitable toll on one racer, whilst dozing off behind

the wheel was the source of another's demise. I got to the end and waited for the winner to arrive, only to find myself diving out of the way of Steve Barnes' 2CV, which powerslid across the line almost completely under control. Road-rage-heaven, man!

IC Athletics Clubs Committee is sponsored by



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Results

FOOTBALL

MEN'S
IC II 4 - 1 UCL II
IC IV 3 - 3 QMW IV
RSM 2 - 0 LSE
RSM II 4 - 0 MARY'S II
RSM II 6 - 1 GEO'S II

RUGBY

WOMEN'S
VIRGINS 5 - 0 BARTS
MEN'S
RCS 3 - 3 WCFB

YACHTING

SUNSAIL REGATTA
IC CAME 10TH OUT OF
THE TOP TWENTY TEAMS
IN THE COUNTRY.

ROWING

WALTON SMALL BOATS
HEAD 1995
IC WON. EVERYTHING.
AS USUAL.