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FELIX

The student newspaper of
Imperial College

Issue 1055
May 3rd 1996

IC universally unchallenged Imperial team win final convincingly

White set to head ULU

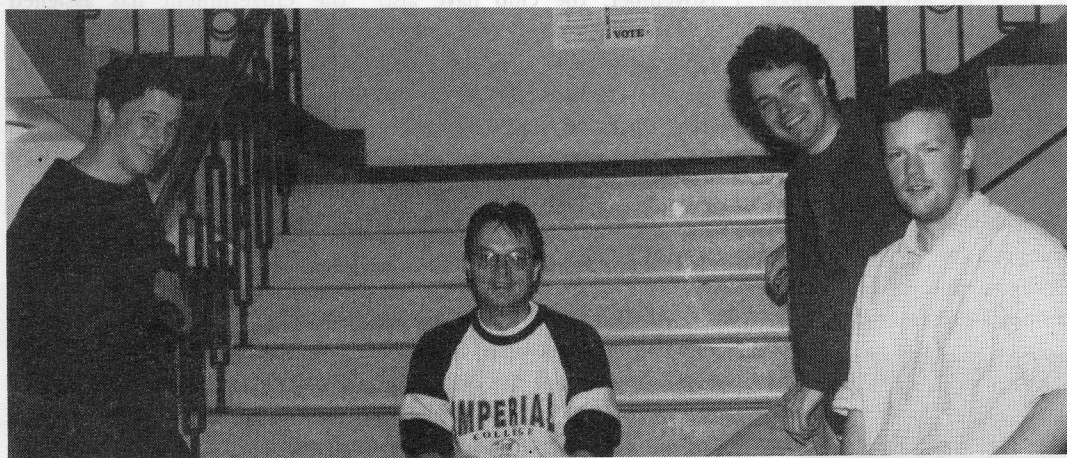


PHOTO: IVAN CHAN

"Beating the rest by more than two standard deviations": Nick Bradshaw, Mark Pallen, Jim Totty and Chris Morrison say they are unchanged by their University Challenge success.

BY ANDREW SMITH

The Imperial College team stormed to victory in this year's University Challenge, beating the London School of Economics in the Grand Final of the BBC2 quiz show. Recorded in October of last year, but not shown on television until Wednesday this week, IC finally won by 375 points to 220 after being chased all the way by LSE.

Despite winning the prestigious title no prize money comes

from the event, merely a somewhat oversized trophy. The team of Jim Totty, Nick Bradshaw, Mark Pallen (Captain) and Chris Morrison did manage to profit out of the adventure though by laying down their own money on a bet on themselves winning the title. Before even starting the first round they put down £40.00 that they would win at odds of 33 - 1, and are looking forward to collecting their reward.

Filming of the programmes

was very intensive with the first round being filmed last June, and the following four shows being recorded on three consecutive days in October. Such was the concentration necessary for the questioning that the IC team invented their own version of the New Zealand rugby team's Haka, in order to get their adrenalin pumping. They also engaged in psychological warfare with their opposition, leaving quiz books

Continued on page four

BY ANDREW SMITH

Sarah White, the current Imperial College Union President, has thrown her hat into the ring for the University of London Union (ULU) Presidential race. If successful, Sarah will follow that other well-known friend of Imperial College Union, Ghassan Karian, as London's Student Leader.

With only Paul Crawford, Vice-President of the Royal Veterinary College Union, standing against her, Miss White stands every chance of success. She has been supported by senior Student Union Sabbaticals at Kings College, Queen Mary and Westfield College, the Royal College of Music and University College London.

Highlighting communication, education funding and college mergers as the issues most important to ULU, Sarah believes that her track record is evidence of her ability to represent the student body effectively. The ICU President has

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in summary



BMS 'progressing well'

Demolition of the RCS II building is due to be completed today, enabling IC's contractors Schal to begin preparations for the construction of the BMS building next week. **page 3**

IC Radio Break-in

A break-in at the newly reconstructed Southside disco, when equipment worth £1200 was stolen, has highlighted concerns about security on IC's building sites. **page 3**

First postgrad ceremony

The first ceremony specifically to award postgraduate degrees was held on Wednesday. Lewis Warpole was inaugurated as a new Fellow of IC at the Albert Hall presentation. **page 4**

continued from front page
emphasised her wish to 'improve communications' but has yet to clarify how she intends to achieve this.

On education funding Sarah asserts that it is 'vitaly important that we plan for the future' and that we 'safeguard the future of Higher Education'. In a side swipe at the current President Sarah emphasises the need to consider the financial problems of minority category students, instead of 'concentrating simply on home undergraduates'.

Speaking to *Felix*, Sarah said, "I'm not planning a career in politics... but I feel it's time Imperial got more involved in the Union, and I feel ULU should move beyond Bloomsbury."

Sarah believes that her success in 'bringing together Imperial's current and future constituent medical school unions' will be of benefit in her prospective role as ULU President. But the presidential race has highlighted the rift between the smaller medical schools in London and the larger, more powerful colleges, such

Imperial, Kings College, and University College London. Representatives of medical school student unions are increasingly concerned that they are losing influence in the restructuring of ULU. With many of London's medical schools being merged in the next few years, student leaders feel that the strong traditions of the colleges will be lost.

With Paul Crawford, an influential member of ULU's Medical Group, as Sarah's only opposition, the contest looks set to demonstrate the extent of the split. Caroline Baker, President of Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School Students' Union, which is one of the major constituents of the new Imperial Medical School, has nominated Mr Crawford.

If successful Sarah would become the first IC student since Trevor McDonald to become ULU President. It is unclear whether Miss White will follow in Mr Phillips shoes to the extent of running for NUS President next year, and possibly even becoming a presenter on ITN.



PHOTO: WILLIAM LORENZ

News in brief

BY THE NEWS TEAM

Boat club to appeal

Imperial College boat club have appealed against Wandsworth Borough Council's decision to refuse planning permission for renovation and extension to their Putney boathouse.

The club's original proposal was rejected last November after local residents, supported by their MP David Mellor, complained that the plans would heighten disturbance in the area.

Since the appeal is unlikely to be heard by the council until November, the club have also submitted a revised plan, taking local residents' concerns into account. The boat club are hoping that it will be considered early this summer. Peter Mee, Imperial College's Registrar, said "We think we have met local residents objections as far as we can."

As part of the appeal process, Wandsworth Borough Council have sent the discussion of the plans to a Public Inquiry, to be heard in November. College authorities hope to avoid the costly legal fees this would entail by submitting the revised proposal.

Ghostly Albert Hall

A series of spooky sightings at the Royal Albert Hall has forced the management to seek help from a professional ghost investigator.

Frightened staff have been reporting paranormal activity for several years, so Chief Executive Patrick Deuchar decided he had no choice but to call in Andrew Green, a civil servant and part time ghostbuster. Green spent Monday night in the basement at the Royal Albert Hall along with reporters and film crews from all over the world.

Unfortunately Green did not spot any uninvited apparitions. He complained that he could not walk across the room without a television camera crew following him and that he only

had one hour between 3am and 4am in which he was left alone. As *Felix* went to press Green was revisiting the Hall for another attempt.

Med staff under threat

Cutting the number of medical school academic staff is one option being considered by the vice-chancellor's medical committee last week in order to meet Government cuts in funding.

Rising numbers of medical students mean that more staff will be needed to teach them, but the amount of money that the Government has assigned medical schools over the next few years means that the extra staff cannot be recruited. This has raised fears of a decline in the standard of teaching and a subsequently blight of bad doctors.

Sir Michael Thompson, chair of the committee, said that academic training had already absorbed a 28% cut in funding, yet the Government wanted more doctors trained to meet a shortage in the National Health Service.

Student debt rises

The level of debt that the average graduate carries with them when they leave university has leaped to £3,000, according to a survey by Barclays Bank. This is a 31% increase over last year's average. The survey found that more than three-quarters of last year's graduates were in debt to the Student Loans Company, banks, parents and credit cards.

Interestingly, graduates who found full-time employment in their chosen careers had larger debts than those graduates still unemployed, mainly due to large purchases such as a car or clothes. Also, it was found that men, with an average debt of £3,476, had a larger debt than women who had an average of £2,414.

The findings are in line with Government's policy of transferring the living costs of students onto the students themselves.

NUS overturns funding policy

BY MARK BRIDGE

The National Union of Students has dropped its 16 year long commitment to campaign for the return of student grants to 1979 levels. The policy decision came at Easter's Blackpool conference after a series of concentrated efforts by various individuals and groups to bringing about a more realistic NUS education funding policy. The impassioned annual conference attracted a record 1500 delegates, a majority of whom voted in the new policy.

During the preamble to the Blackpool conference both the Scottish and Welsh NUS conferences rejected radical policies advocating 'demonstrations' and 'occupying buildings to protest' typifying the sea change toward less militant positions.

Douglas Trainer, NUS Scotland President, who defeated Clive Lewis, NUS Vice-President, in the recent NUS Presidency contest rallied with Scottish Students Associations in calling for a policy of "realism rather than revolution". Lewis advocated a return to full grants and free education, however Trainer won the battle to lead the NUS next year by 586 votes to 458.

The lobbying group *New Solutions* has been credited with a significant role in bringing about the changes. Coordinated by Ghassan Karian, President of the University of London Union, the moderate pressure group was born out of feelings of disquiet

and malcontent after last year's NUS conference in Derby where calls for policy reform were previously dismissed.

Countering the old-style calls for free education that have characterised past NUS conferences Karian insisted that "the policy is unachievable and will not address the problems we face - of student hardship, the fall in quality and the need to increase access." He marked the occasion out as being one of the most important student conferences for decades.

However, the expedient vehicle that was *New Solutions* is now likely to disintegrate as its members leave to set up new NUS education funding-policy discussion groups. These will argue out the relative merits of top up fees, entrance levies and student contributions.

The decision to no longer press the Government to fully fund higher education comes in the light of increasingly worrying statistics on the extent of student hardship.

A newly released survey has indicated that a third of students miss lectures because they have to work in order to remain at university. The poll of 622 students from a cross section of different universities around the country showed that nearly one half of those in higher education also have part-time jobs. Of those that work, more than three-quarters said that it has an adverse effect on their studying.



PHOTO: ALEX FEAKES

Demolition of the final remaining support structures of the old Royal College of Science II chemistry building is due to be completed today, ahead of schedule. Phil Hilton, Schal Project Manager, said that the preparations for the construction of Imperial's new Biomedical Sciences building were 'progressing well'. He also expressed confidence that the contractors would be able to make up for time lost when planning permission for the new building was delayed.

Sheet piling will commence early next week as the process of underpinning RCS I begins. In a process expected to take several weeks, the contractors will construct a temporary retaining wall to help ensure that the historic chemistry building, which is part of a recognised conservation area, is not structurally harmed as the foundations for the new building are dug. The next stage of the process, excavating the basement, is due to begin on June 24th.

IC Radio victim of 'considerable security flaw'

BY JONATHAN TROUT

The newly reconstructed Southside Disco was broken into last Wednesday evening. Imperial College Radio's Jules Taplin and Rob Clarke discovered the break-in the following afternoon, finding an SL-1210 Technics deck, three headshells and a mixer missing. These items have a

combined value of over £1,200.

It appears that the intruders were able to walk through an unlocked fire door, which was protected by a lockable outer door before the new Health Centre building work. The culprits forced the lock on the DJ booth and made off with the equipment, missing in their haste

a £900 CD player.

Ken Weir, Imperial's Chief Security Officer, stated: "Security cannot at this time make much of a comment, except that the break-in highlighted a considerable flaw in the security of the building. Temporary measures have been taken to plug the gap, namely

extra patrols and locks on the door in question."

Mr Weir also stressed the need for Southside residents to come forward with any information they may have relating to this or any other offence. He further advises anyone with expensive equipment to have it properly marked.

New degree ceremony 'low key'

ICU spend £1800 to cancel Commemoration Ball

BY DAVID COHEN

A new slimmer Commemoration Day experience was unleashed last Wednesday on Imperial College. The increasing postgraduate population, currently amounting to over a third of the student numbers, has forced College to split the occasion commemorating the departure of Imperial College students.

This week saw the first of two commemoration days after the decision to split the event into ceremonies in May and October was taken last year. In previous years, when there was only one graduation event, the ceremony usually lasted over three and a half hours. In a change from the traditional performance of the choir at the October event, this year's musical interlude was provided by the Imperial College clarinet player James Marchese.

Last Wednesday also marked the inauguration of a new Fellow of the College, Lewis Warpole. Famous for his radio and television appearances, he has for several years been actively involved in an effort to explain

science to the general public. Warpole encouraged the audience of new graduates to exercise a degree of humility when considering the impact of scientific and technological progress on society. This sentiment was later reinforced by the Chairman of the Governing Body, Sir Frank Cooper. The ceremony was completed in under two hours.

The day's proceedings came to an early end as the evening's entertainment, the Commemoration Ball, had to be cancelled due to lack of interest. With only forty tickets sold the cancellation has cost Imperial College Union, the event's organisers, £1,800 but this was calculated as being less than what would have been lost if the ball went ahead.

Negotiations are under way to gain compensation from College's Registry Department to cover the cancellation fee. With invitations allegedly being sent out three weeks after the planned date, ICU claim that the graduates did not have enough time to respond. Others have suggested that there was simply not enough interest from postgraduates in having a ball in the first place.

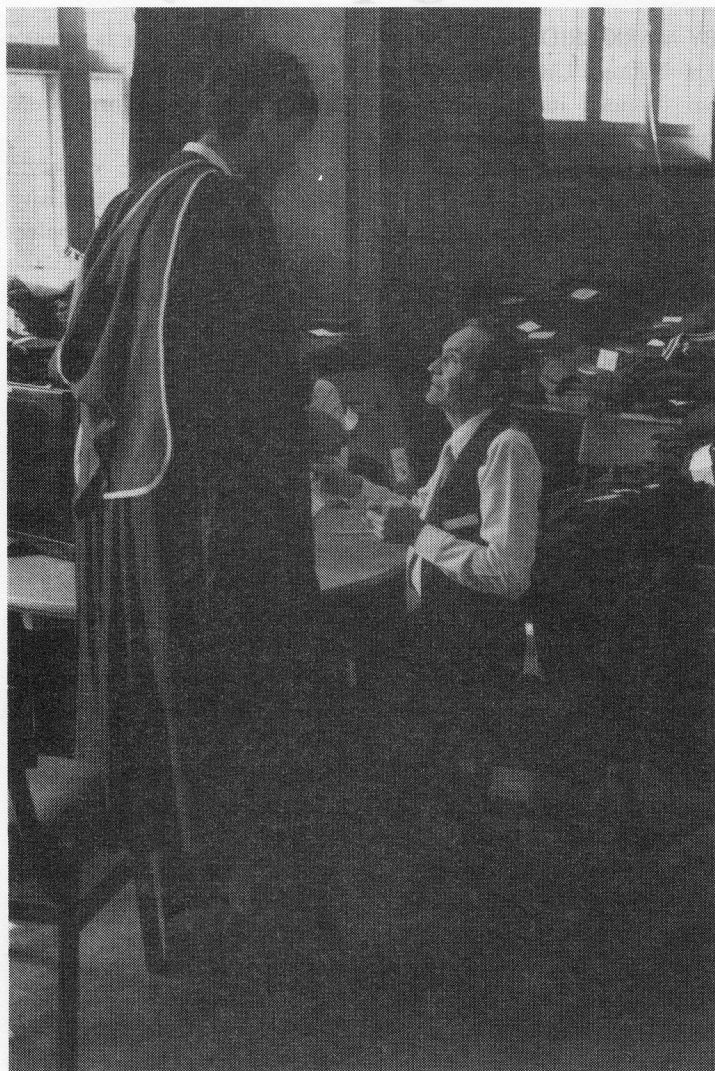


PHOTO: WILLIAM LORENZ

Paxman: 'A very nice bloke'

continued from page one

outside rival team hotel rooms in an attempt to intimidate them.

Jeremy Paxman, the University Challenge question master and formidable anchorman of BBC 2's political review, *Newsnight*, did not pose any problems for the team. Chris says that he was a 'very good, very nice bloke', and that after the final he joined them in the celebratory drinking. Mark, 34, felt that he was less intimidated by Paxman because he was older. 'We took the piss out of him,' he said.

Speaking to *Felix* earlier this week, the team were relaxed about their imminent fame. All

team members denied that winning the final would change their lives in any way. Mark commented that University Challenge success didn't predict 'how good drinkers or how good lovers' they were, but 'merely showed that we can win quiz programmes.'

Excitement was added to the final rounds as the competition was held two days before the captain's wife was due to give birth to their first child. Concerned that she might distract the team if she went into labour during filming, she decided to stay at home for the crucial matches. This anxiety

eventually turned out to be unnecessary, as Mark's child was finally born five days after the filming finished.

The glory is not merely limited to a half hour slot on BBC2 as the team has also made appearances on *The Big Breakfast*, *Greater London Radio (GLR)*, *The Evening Standard*, and are booked for an *IC Reporter* interview, or PRAVDA as Jim describes the college paper. Mark emphasises that winning has not changed the team: 'We were always this bad', he insists.

Festivities following the final were helped along by plenty of

free beer provided by Granada, the show's producers. Karaoke singing to 'We are the champions' was not especially diplomatic, but repeating the line 'No time for losers' did not apparently go down too well with the inebriated opposing teams.

The team summed up their experience as 'stressful' emphasising how different it is answering the questions in the studio as opposed to relaxing at home. Their total score of 1495 over five rounds was one of the highest ever seen in the tournament, or as Mark puts it: 'Two standard deviations away from anyone else.'

How To Leave College. Lose Friends and Influence People

In the tradition of suicide notes the world over, by the time you read this article I shall be somewhere far away. Goodbye cruel world...

Well not quite. I may be heading to a dark and foreboding place, but on closer inspection that turns out to be Sunderland, not Hades. Not an obvious distinction, I might add, but a crucial one. Are you sitting comfortably? Then we can begin...

(Swirly special flashback-type effects...)

When I decided to start my degree in Aeronautical Engineering – I'll admit it – I was drunk. There were a few places left on the old UCAS form, so I thought: "Why not? I always wanted to be a spaceman." Thus a fabulous career was to be born. So why now, six months down the winding track that is this country's educational system, am I writing an article on getting out?

The answer is that I have done. Read that again and you'll get it. Due to various factors I came to the decision that being an Aeronautical Engineer was just not for me. The first person I contacted was an old friend who'd been through a similar experience whilst reading Applied Physics at Durham. We chatted for quite a while, and I was given confidence that I was not alone. The testosterone dominated atmosphere of the College encourages few to divulge their shortcomings, especially those who've had it academically easy in the past. A big step is acknowledging that you've made a mistake, whether that be in your original choice of course or the amount of work you've put into it.

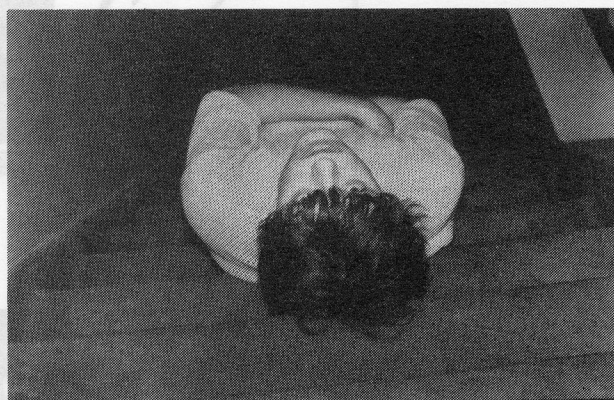
Mine was a hybrid case; it's challenging to take on a demanding course that interests you, likewise, a tiresome subject can be made palatable by it being simple to succeed in. However, when you manage to find yourself on a course as impossibly difficult as it is mind numbingly tedious, you should realise you've got problems.

During the Spring Term the merest consideration of leaving College hadn't had the temerity to think about crossing my mind. Things seemed to be promising on the relationships

front, I had some great friendships developing, things was going well with the newspaper and my radio show was gaining notoriety, if not popularity: why worry about my poxy little course? That would sort itself out, surely. Pass the Stoli, thank you very much.

Of course, when you're doing the most exacting degree in Europe, things are fairly unlikely to sort themselves out.

This realised, I leapt into panic mode, working unheard of hours to try and get back on target. Throwing myself into the maelstrom that is an Aero student's Easter break, I rapidly had my worst fears confirmed, that I was a) unable and b) unwilling to complete the course.



Having recovered from the resultant bacchanalian blow-out that such realisations often pre-empt, I looked to my parents for guidance, and like the best of counsellors, they merely brought out to the fore what I'd been thinking all along; to start thinking along the lines of doing something else.

But what?

"So, what, a day job? Not in this life" was the first thing to traipse merrily into my consciousness from the pen of Tarantino. But as I thought about it, what else is there to do?

It is notoriously difficult to take advantage of one's parents properly if you're hanging around the house all day. And the only other way for educated teenagers to make money is by dealing. After only a few moments hesitation, I reluctantly opened the weekend's pile of news-

papers and started the joyous task of 'job hunting' as I believe it is popularly called.

Several hours of the nicest possible telephone voice in recent history later, threatening much violence to my brother's antiquated Amiga and its equally ancient printer workmate, several copies of my appropriately sanitised CV were winging their wicked way to unsuspecting companies across the region.

"Yes of course I have extensive clerical experience," I was heard to claim. "Well motivated? Oh yes, absolutely. Reliable? Enthusiastic? That goes without saying, sir," I grovelled, realising for the first time how much arse-licking really goes on in the strange world of ignoring people of education, ambition, intelligence and original thought for those with a sad devotion to those holding the pay packets, a world which lauds obscurity and mediocrity as virtuous, a world that we risibly call real life.

Yes, that's right, I haven't got a job yet.

Upon my return to London the week before the start of what was to be my final term, one quick chat with my Senior Tutor and it was all over, quite literally in minutes. It was ironic that after all the upheavals and heartache of getting to Imperial in the first place, never mind the sleepless nights debating the issue of quitting, that the act itself was so transitory. Not so much as a form to sign. Walking out into the April sunshine I was left feeling quite, quite lost. I'd talked it through until I was, if not blue, then a pretty off-purple in the face. "I'm sure I'm doing the right thing" I heard my self saying to those I had sounded out.

Talking it over is one thing. Grasping the reality once the talking has been done is quite another.

I would like to apologise for getting all serious at the end of this article, and also to thank all those who have made my time here so enjoyable. You know who you are.

Jonathan Trout.

Don't Panic...

Don't bottle it up; tell people what's on your mind as soon as possible. Talk to your friends, family, counsellors, pastoral staff - it doesn't need to be formal, and talking about the problem often gets it into perspective.

Find out your position with your LEA; you may need to pay back some of your grant, or they may be nasty to you and not give you any money ever again.

Likewise, look into your accommodation agreements. You may be liable for forfeit payments if you don't approach it carefully.

Take plenty of time and advice to decide your future, as rushing from one ill suited course into another would be disheartening to say the least.

Don't worry about finding something else to do. The very fact that you got into Imperial shows that you are more than capable of getting on a course or career of your choosing.

Make sure you get a bloody good send off.

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- Neurofuzzy Intelligent Systems and Control
- Optical Fibres
- Parallel and Distributed Computing
- Transducers, Sensors and Instrumentation

Multidisciplinary research projects with other areas (medicine, biology, chemistry, physics, electrical, mechanical and civil engineering) are also available.

Web site address <http://www.ecs.soton.ac.uk/>

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Enquiries and requests for a copy of the postgraduate brochure and application form should be directed to Mrs A Donohue, Department of Electronics and Computer Science, University of Southampton, Highfield, Southampton SO17 1BJ. Tel: (01703) 592882, fax: (01703) 592901, Email: add@ecs.soton.ac.uk

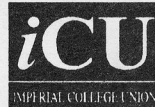
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**Permanent And Temporary Opportunities In
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The College relies heavily on its PCs and their support. Would you like to work in the Centre and contribute to this vital activity?

There are advertisements for permanent posts together with corresponding Job Descriptions on the World Wide Web. (from the College Home Page, under "Opportunities at Imperial College", click on *employment with the College*)

If you are graduating from College this year and think you might be suitable, I would very much like to hear from you.

There are also a number of opportunities for undergraduates to work for the Centre, on specific projects during the summer vacation. If you are interested, send me a CV including details of your computing skills, knowledge and experience.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Lindsay Coleman (l.coleman@ic.ac.uk)
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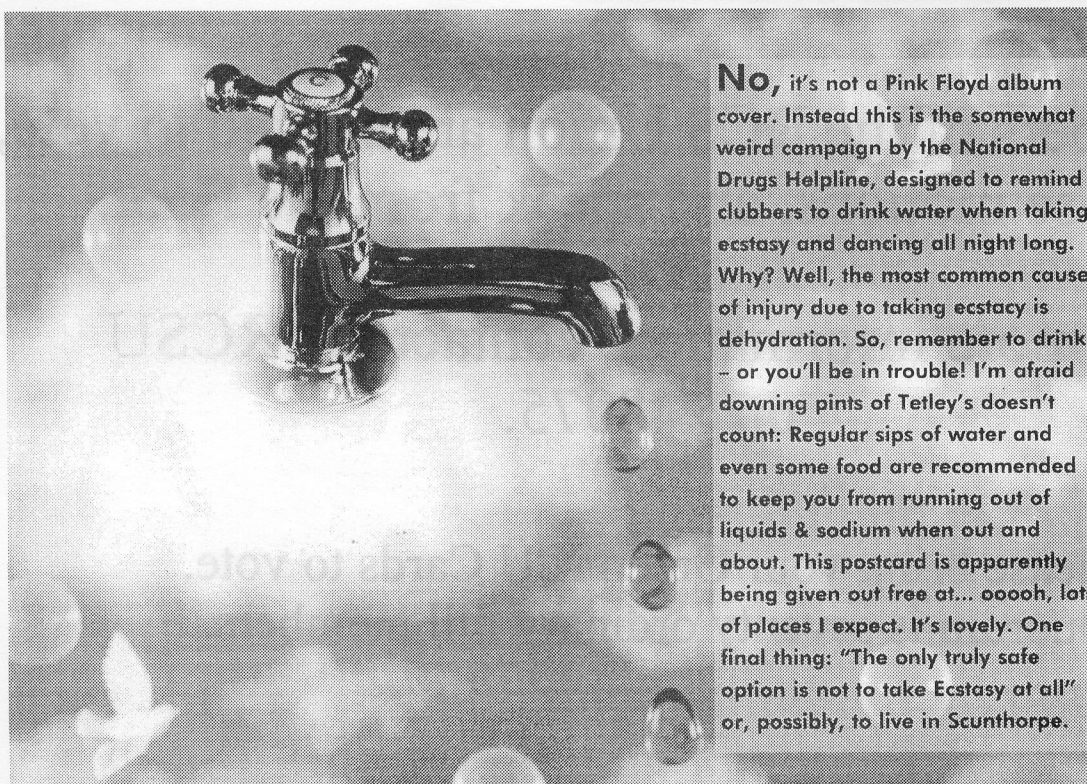
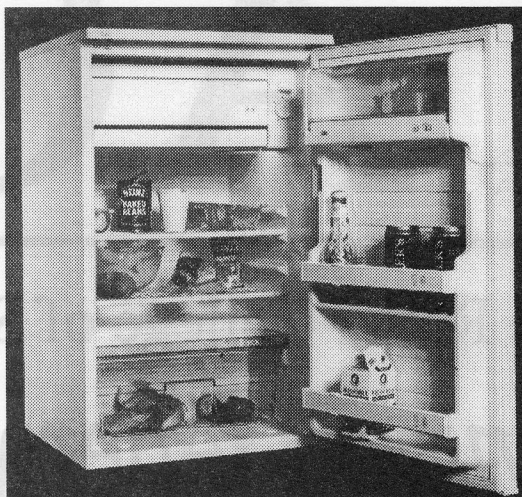
It's that lovely exam-time-of-year again, so expect more STUFF this term. Today we have a survey of the contents of students' fridges (grim, to say the least), a special offer on air flights and a rather odd little postcard. So there.

WE KNOW WHAT'S IN YOUR FRIDGE

We all know that the fridge is traditionally the hub of student flatsharing. In a survey of 500 student households, the following – rather odd – results have been found:

- , 70% of students say that the communal fridge is now the most common cause of student flatshare disputes.
- , 90% of students have had food or drink stolen from their communal fridge.
- , 83% of students have stolen somebody else's food from their communal fridge.
- , 65% students would stock more food if they believed that it would not be stolen.
- , 51% students have shared a fridge with another student with 'unacceptable' hygiene standards.
- , 84% student fridges contain alcohol.
- , 63% clean their fridge at least once every two months.
- , 11% students have never cleaned a fridge.
- , 4% students claim that they have made love against the fridge.
- , 40% student fridges are less than half stocked (not in my hall, they're not).
- , 2% fridges are completely empty.
- , 21% students claim that the students they share with place too much emphasis on a clean fridge.
- , 2% students will only share a fridge with another vegetarian.
- , 18% students have got their own back on flatmates by stealing or spiking their flatmates food.
- , 7% students claim they could live without a fridge.

To the right are the 'average' contents of a student fridge, plus an **exclusive** insight into the Felix fridge!



No, it's not a Pink Floyd album cover. Instead this is the somewhat weird campaign by the National Drugs Helpline, designed to remind clubbers to drink water when taking ecstasy and dancing all night long. Why? Well, the most common cause of injury due to taking ecstasy is dehydration. So, remember to drink – or you'll be in trouble! I'm afraid downing pints of Tetley's doesn't count: Regular sips of water and even some food are recommended to keep you from running out of liquids & sodium when out and about. This postcard is apparently being given out free at... oooh, lots of places I expect. It's lovely. One final thing: "The only truly safe option is not to take Ecstasy at all" or, possibly, to live in Scunthorpe.

GET AWAY FROM IT ALL

...with this rather smart little deal from Alitalia, encouraging us to "surf the air net across Europe." But naff slogans aside, you can fly about within Europe for £59 per flight, only £39 within Italy. Which means that you can jet around Europe, pretending to be a rich and wealthy... erm... thingy. Tourist? Something like that.

But what's the catch? Well, you must start and finish your flights at London or Dublin. You must have at least four flights, and your first and last flights must be to/from an Italian city. Of course, it goes without saying that you must fly Alitalia all the time (doh!).

But, restrictions aside, it does seem pretty good value for money. For example, the following flights: London – Milan – Moscow – Rome – Pisa – Catania – London is just £314 (not including airport taxes) for six flights! Cor.

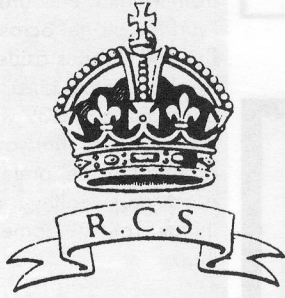
But are there any other restrictions? Well, not really. You've got to be a student up to 31 years of age (with an ISIC card) or 12-26 years of age. Oops, nearly forgot: The offer's valid from 6 April 96 until 30 April 97.

So, fly around to your heart's content! If I were you I'd contact STA right now and book my flight (except that I'm broke and should probably be revising anyway...)

And now for a piece of blatant advertising. Bored of revising already? Want something to do instead of all that coursework that's due in tomorrow? Of course you do! Then why not take up Halibut Surfing! Eh? No, I mean; Then why not write a feature for Felix! World fame*! Fabulous Pay*! Offers of Sexual Gratification From Members Of The Opposite Sex**! and even a Cup Of Tea!!!! So what are you waiting for... get writing!

* This is patently untrue.

** Only if you're an open-minded gerbil called Kevin.



AGM

The Royal College of Science Union's
Annual General Meeting

Thursday 9 May 1996
at 1230 iCU Ents Lounge

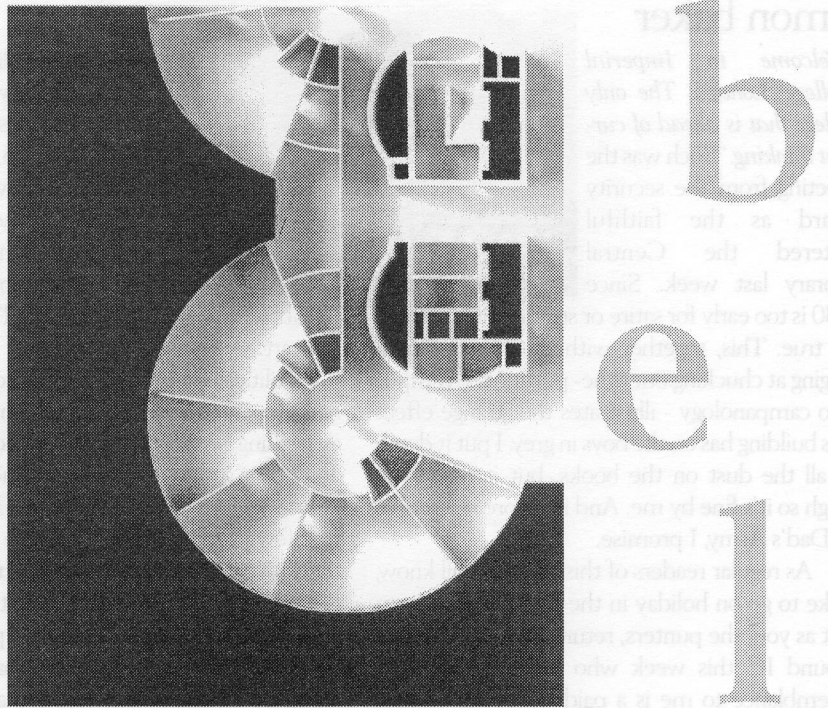
Elections of Union Officers
...and the Annual Union Report.

All members of the RCS Union are entitled to vote,
propose motions, and speak from the floor.

For more information, contact the RCSU
on x48075.

Please bring your Green iCU Cards to vote.
Quorum is seventy ordinary full members..

fii



Langlands & Bell is at the Serpentine Gallery, Hyde Park. Entry is free to this survey of the collaborative works of the two British artists, primarily focusing on the nature of architecture through furniture and wall reliefs.

left: conversation seat
above: BMW

langlands &

exhibition: langlands and bell rachel

column: simon baker

book: the consumers good chemical guide cbabe magnet

insight: chernobyl 10 years on carlo and ben

album: the cranberries - to the faithful departed caroline

gig: the auteurs nick

album: k's choice - paradise in me vik

singles: vik

album: rage against the machine - evil empire vik

gig: ruby + red snapper bEA

film: 12 monkeys & broken arrow magpie

theatre: trainspotting claire samuel

theatre: the prince's play kurt jacobs

theatre: the complete works of shakespeare rachel

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simon baker

'Welcome to Imperial College, London. The only college that is ahead of current thinking.' Such was the greeting from the security guard as the faithful entered the Central Library last week. Since

9:30 is too early for satire or strong drink, it must be true. This, together with the frenzied bell-ringing at chucking out time-putting the campus into campanology - illustrates the strange effect this building has on the boys in grey. I put it down to all the dust on the books, but it made me laugh so it's fine by me. And no more references to Dad's Army, I promise.

As regular readers of this column will know, I like to go on holiday in the first week of term just as you, the punters, return. The shifty bloke around IC this week who bears an uncanny resemblance to me is a paid double in to sit a couple of exams. Newspapers take a little while to reach the Caribbean, so this week will be a tad less topical than usual. Before I went, I did grab a copy of that thunderer of the press *IC Reporter* and saw that Silwood's chef has just won an award. Brilliant, but why confine the man's talents to the sticks? I know you'll find this hard to believe, but some people feel that College Catering is not quite as good as it should be, so let's get him up here. If he can, for example, sort out, the Linstead meals, he'll get more than a Good Heart Beat Award for Excellence. He'll get a knighthood.

I have on numerous occasions criticised the good folk of College Estates over the catastrophe



that is the Biomedical Sciences Building, yet when the Chemistry lecture theatres finally succumbed a few weeks ago, it was a very poignant, moving moment when I saw my first encounter with the non-alcoholic aspects of IC reduced to rubble. You see, Ian Caldwell, I'm a big softie at heart.

Politically, it is not necessary to have current newspapers to report accurately the state of play, as nothing seems to have changed for months. Tony Blair smiles, John Major dithers and Paddy Ashdown... well, does it matter? I have, over the past few months, put a brave face on the fate of the Government at the next election, but even I'm resigned to the fact that it ain't looking good. The continuing BSE crisis in particular has focussed on the inconsistencies that are so damaging, by mixing wholly justified attacks on the baseless intransigence of the EU with subsequent backtracking and kowtowing. While it is good that this issue has stimulated debate on the present future role of Europe and Britain's place in it, I suspect it is a discussion that John Major needs like a hole in the head.

I have just heard from the cocktail waiter that Imperial won University Challenge, after progressively more emphatic performances in the heats. He didn't say whether you managed to answer any science questions correctly, but so what, and who cares if the closest IC got to female representation on the team was someone whose surname was Totty? That cocky captain of LSE was ripe for a fall. Good work fellas!

book: the consumers good chemical guide -

john emsley babe magnet

Mild is less fattening than Guinness. Lessen the effect of your hangover by drinking a glass of full-fat milk beforehand and have a sweet breakfast afterwards. If there was ever a famine, chemists could turn sawdust and paper into high energy glucose. Olestra, the non-fattening fat is made of high energy sugar. All these facts and more are at your fingertips if you read this book by John Emsley, Imperial's resident science writer and frequent contributor to *New Scientist*.

Emsley explores areas of chemistry which are seen in a generally negative light by the public. He discusses amongst others fat, dioxins, PVC, nitrate, carbon dioxide, alcohol and others, trying to dispel the myths that have caused public fear. He rightly points out that there is a public phobia of the word 'chemical', yet of course everything around us contains chemicals.

Emsley bashes environmentalists throughout the book, but trips over himself; "[the environmentalists] use phrases like 'it is believed that'; speaking the language of doubt while appearing to be sure" - but Emsley uses the same

language "CO₂ has already contributed almost all it can to global warming and is really a spent force". (He is not afraid to be contentious!) As I progressed through the book, other problems with his arguments cropped up: Emsley states that metal salts leach from PVC, which could be used to wrap food. He asks "Could these salts contaminate the food? No, because the amounts which migrate are insignificant". Yet they are leaching and contaminating the food to a small extent. Here Emsley seems arrogant, confirming the perception of chemists - uncaring about public emotions and focused only on the statistical evidence - which he is trying to dispel. He does at least admit that chemists have made mistakes, while still maintaining that they have done far more good than harm.

All this is not to say that this book isn't a good read; it won the prestigious Rhone-Poulenc science writing prize. Some chapters were more gripping than others, but chemical substances are well indexed throughout the text and the writing style makes the book accessible by anyone (although harder work if you do not have a chemical background). Lend it to your non-scientist friends to prove that chemists aren't the nasty people many make them out to be.

"who cares if the closest IC got to female representation on the team was someone whose surname was Totty?"

book

the consumer's good chemical guide
john emsley

out now in Corgi
paperback, price
£6.99

X

Half Lives, Ruined Lives

>inSci@ght^o

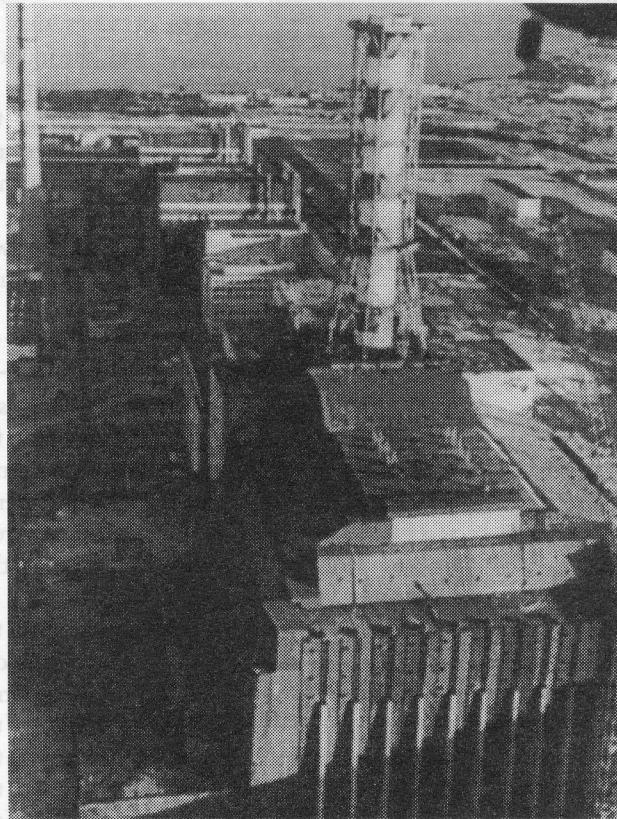
On April 26th, 1986 at 1.23am, a huge explosion in Reactor 4 at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station in the Soviet Union marked the advent of what was to be the worlds worst nuclear disaster. "What happened", inquired a confused senior operator shortly afterwards in the units control room. "I seem to remember you saying that the chance of an accident was one in ten million", he continued. "Yes", confirmed a fellow operator, "and this seems to be it." *Carlo Massarella reports.*

The explosion had dislodged the 2,000 tonne reactor lid. Fuel rods and graphite blocks were spat out of the core and a plume of radioactive dust began to form over the devastated site. The force of the blast shunted the reactor base down four meters. Hot nuclear fuel combined with the sand released from the reactors encasement to form a molten lava that burrowed its way through the floors below.

Immediate effort was channelled into extinguishing the inferno and to determine whether a fatal self-sustaining chain reaction might occur. Site workers hastily made sand bags to add to pilots' bombing artillery of boron and lead in what was to be a futile attempt to quell the flames. Fireman fought the flames heroically - wearing standard uniform, their boots melted in the intense heat while their bodies became infected with 'Chernobyl AIDS'. Engineers at the Chernobyl site continued unabated in the construction of reactors 5 and 6, while the children of Prypiat just 3km away played on.

While the battle against the blast raged, another desperate fight commenced. This time the rules on engagement were not the containment of radiation but the concealment of information. What shocked the world most was the complacency of the people involved. A tight veil of secrecy was hand-crafted by Soviet officials in an attempt to shield the world, including President Gorbachev, from the horrors that had occurred. Incredibly, it was almost 3 days later, 1,000 miles north of Chernobyl, that details of a nuclear incident became apparent. A worker clocking-off at Fosmark Nuclear Power Station in Sweden sparked initial concerns when his clothes registered higher than normal radiation readings. Senior operators immediately feared a leak at their plant. But before a discharge was located, Swedish meteorological centres identified airborne radioactive particles. Three Government agencies in Moscow denied allegations of a disaster. Only that evening did the Russian news agency, Tass release a brief statement confirming an 'accident' had indeed occurred.

After the accident, over 500,000 people assisted in an 8 month clean-up and entombing operation. Constructing the concrete coffin gave half of these people a whole life-time's recommended dose of radiation. The incident became entangled



Crumbling - Chernobyl's sarcophagus encases 30 tonnes of radioactive dust.

in a mound of conflicting statistics. Chernobyl and its casualties became the victims of clashing political agendas with events being consumed by copious information protection agencies of the former Soviet Union and the Western world.

For those living in the aftermath, Chernobyl's legacy is all too apparent. Russian sci-

entists claim the health of those affected by the blast will suffer "for generations, practically forever." It was announced last week that the children of parents exposed to Chernobyl's fallout have twice the number of genetic mutations as British Children. Psychological studies of affected parties indicates high stress levels - a factor linked to increased cases of depression, high blood pressure, and alcoholism. Cases of thyroid cancer in children and adolescents in the Ukraine and neighbouring Belarus have increased 1000 fold.

Today, an eerie wind of silence sweeps through the 30km exclusion zone around the concrete sarcophagus which conceals the remnants of horrific disaster. The power station, hailed in February 1986 as a 'model of safety', still employs 5,000 people to oversee the running of its two functioning reactors. Research at Chernobyl has been cut back. The sarcophagus containing 30 tonnes of radioactive dust continues to crumble. Experts monitoring its state predict a 'radioactive dust disaster' will occur in the next 20 years. Soviet authorities claim \$4billion is needed to close down the station and 're-house' the disabled reactor. So far, the Western world has not been forthcoming with the funds.

The Experiment That Went Wrong

Nuclear safety experts blame the accident on the bad design of the reactor compounded with an inadequate shutdown systems. RBMK reactors like the one at Chernobyl rely on pressurised water as a coolant. This means that inside the reactor, steam is produced which can accumulate into pockets called voids. The problem with pre-Chernobyl RBMKs was that if too many voids appeared in the reactor, the power generation could increase rapidly because steam absorbs less neutrons than water does. In normal operation this cannot occur and the reactor is stable. However, if the power generation falls below a certain threshold, the reaction can get out of

control. Unfortunately, it seems the designers of the reactor did not inform the station operators of this potential danger. Ironically, on the morning of April 26th, safety workers at the plant decided to test how the reactor would cope if they decreased the power output below the level needed to circulate the coolant. In the moments that followed they lost control of their experiment. Power surged through Reactor 4. The fuel unit ruptured. Then two explosions ripped through the core sending highly radioactive material into the atmosphere. One morning's work that will take centuries to put right.

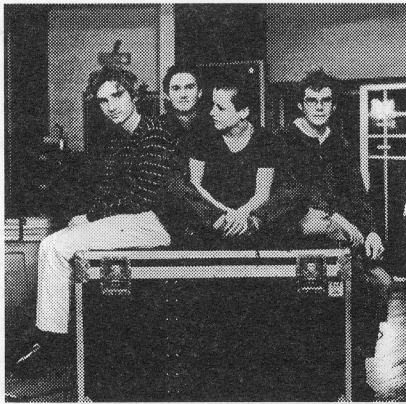
Ben Wilkins

album: the cranberries - to the faithful departed^{caroline}

Finally, a few years and a few million years later, The Cranberries are releasing their third album.

As expected, the songs rely heavily on the unique voice of Dolores, which may or may not be a good thing depending on your point of view. Her voice is backed up ably by the instruments and an increasingly strong percussion section, culminating in the almost military tattoo beating through 'Bosnia'.

This leads on to the fact that this album is used as a vehicle for various messages: anti-war in 'War Child' and 'Bosnia', and touching on suicide and sexual harassment in 'Free To Decide'. If some of the profits go towards helping people in these sit-



uations I'll be more convinced...

Nonetheless, the album has some good songs in the classic Cranberries style, in 'The Rebels', 'I'm Still Remembering', and of course the first single, 'Salvation', which should keep the fans

going until the tour in December. They have also tested a few new ideas such as a Taizé-esque chant in 'Electric Blue', and the rather Doors-ish organ solo in 'Free To Decide'. Unfortunately, in a couple of songs they go overboard, with the music in 'Joe' and the drums in 'Bosnia' overwhelming the voice, destroying the balance which characterises much of their other work.

Ultimately, however, this album will be well received by their current fans and will probably gain them not a paltry few more. (7)

gig: the auteurs^{nick}

"Cheers," utters Luke Haines, the king of introspection and pen master of scary lyrics. Is that all he has to say? "Cheers", I ask you. What next? The Auteurs recording an AOR record? No chance. Luke realises his mistake and satisfies the crowd with some abuse.

As you can tell, this is no normal gig. After all, The Auteurs are a band who are not really accessible to the kids and so there are no spotty moshers here (apart from two crazy French girls). To say that they are an acquired taste is an understatement. Described by one journalist as the type of band "who sound like they were good at maths at school" they play music that is in your face, with the inspiration for their songs coming from missing children to child brides.

Unsurprisingly, the gig has a unique atmosphere. The new album has been out for just four

days and everybody knows the words. There is an intensity about the crowd that is mirrored in the band who need to concentrate because the 'tunes' are hard to play. The crowd sways in near silence as the band start the set with the title track from the new album 'After Murder Park'. It is then that Luke utters his "Cheers".

The energy of the band builds through the gig. They haven't played live for a while and it shows, but they dig in, and the energy of James the cellist combined with the hushed tones of the lyrics brings forth the intensity of the band. As the set progresses the songs begin to gel and the crowd sway with greater vigour. By the end of the gig The Auteurs and the crowd are well satisfied with the performance. The third encore is a classic rendition of 'Lenny Valentino', crashing guitars and crazy lyrics combining to send the gig-goers home delighted.

album: k's choice - paradise in me^{vik}

Every now and again a song comes along that is special. I don't mean good, or even just plain excellent. I mean *special* - a song which captures your attention within its opening bars, which haunts your ears until they are overdosing on its strains, which is so special that you can even remember where you were when you first heard it.

For me, it was a Saturday afternoon in my room with the radio on. An airy female voice floated into my head and rested there contentedly. Four and a half minutes of understated percussion, guitars and wondrous melodies later I was gobsmacked. The song was 'I'm Not An Addict' but it had turned me into one and I needed another hit quick. Thankfully that hitherto unknown supplier, Epic Records, were only too happy to

oblige...

Predictably, the rest of the album doesn't quite live up to the sublime inspiration of the opening track, but if it had I don't think I could have coped. In many ways the fact that there are no more such inspired songs enhances the beauty of 'I'm Not An Addict'. That's not to underestimate the quality of the other material here, though. The likes of 'A Sound That Only You Can Hear' and 'White Kite Fauna' fuse the introspection of My Bloody Valentine and the more commercial elements of dEUS and lay Sarah Betten's controlled but stunning vocals on top. They might not be special but they certainly fall into the categories of good or plain excellent.

Just over a year ago I remember praising dEUS as the first ever fine Belgian band. Belgium now has two fine bands and who would ever have thought that possible? (8)

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singles: ^{vik}

orbital - the box
A bit of a departure for Orbital, this. Less electronic than usual, strangely hypnotic and very impressive.

andy blade - junkie shooting star
Innocuous and anonymous guitar pop.

tip top - pop muzik
Thoroughly unnecessary reworking of M's "classic" hit by Radio 1's novelty crew. Buy only when desperately short of beer mats.

super furry animals - god! show me the magic
Sounds like Marc Bolan playing Status Quo, but even worse than that description makes it sound.

glen matlock - my little philistine
This sounds young, fresh and exciting. Oh yeah, and The Sex Pistols aren't getting back together to make a quick and dirty buck either.

holy barbarians - space junkie
Ex-Cult man Ian Astbury returns with a new band and a new sound. Less bombastic, less riffy and to be honest a lot more boring than The Cult.

terrorvision - celebrity hit list
Typical Terrorvision. Fun, catchy but still rock-y. One of the better tracks from 'Regular Urban Survivors'.

gin blossoms - follow you down
Another fine example of how to play commercial rock without sounding cheesy.

sparklehorse - hammering the cramps
Jingly-jangly number that uses excessive reverb and distortion in an attempt to cover up their lack of inspiration. Needless to say, they failed.

nilon bombers - superstar
Nilon Bombers? Who are they? Exactly.

more singles:^{vik}

sleepers - sale of the century
Shock of the century more like
- Sleeper release a good single
(despite nicking the riff from
'The Passenger').

mice - the milkman
Julianne Regan, she of All
About Eve, continues her
Britpop suicide mission. A
wasted talent.

minty - that's nice
That's a lie.

lambchop - the man who
loved beer
So laid back as to be almost
comatose, this gentle lilt is surpris-
ingly pleasant. Oh and it gets song
title of the week too.

strangelove - living with the human
machines
Inky's gonna kill me but this noisy
and, erm, strange affair really isn't
bad.

ian mcnabb - don't put your
spell on me
A thoroughly pedestrian guitar
workout. He's done bet-
ter.

blur - charmless man
As nauseating you'd expect
and totally charmless, man.

scheer - wish you were dead
Forget the A-side. Their
cover of 'Hangin' On The
'Telephone', complete with
crunching, doom-laden guitars
is a classic.

babylon zoo - animal army
He might be weird but Jas
Mann actually possesses a fair
degree of talent. Not as
catchy as 'Spaceman' but
accomplished nonetheless.

coast - now that you know
me
How do these indie bands
get record deals?

peacemiks - hey radio
As apathy-inducing as the sin-
gle above.

ash - goldfinger
Aptly titled single for the
band with the Midas touch at
the moment. This is a stop-
start slab of well-executed,
noisy pop.

album: rage against the machine - evil empire^{vik}

Rage Against The Machine hardly need an intro-
duction. Their debut album was a wrecking-ball
of aggression driven by Tom
Morello's incredible array of
guitar sounds and Zack de la
Rocha's indignant rap vocals,
while 'Killing In The Name'
became every rock-club goer's
stomp anthem. Perhaps in view
of having a lot to live up to, it
has taken them three years to
release the follow-up, although
apparently it only took them
about three weeks to actually
record it. The trouble is that in
some places it shows...

'People Of The Sun' and
recent single 'Bulls On Parade'
open things in fine style and
showcase the new Rage sound - one that still
hinges around Morello's guitars and de la Rocha's
anarchistic stance, but which is now less riffy and



more percussive. The latter song, in particular, is
where they get it just right, where the emotional
pressure is allowed to slowly rise until the seal
breaks and the song explodes into one of those
cataclysmic finales that this band are so good at
delivering.

The problem is that from here
on it all gets, well, a little pre-
dictable. From 'Vietnow'
through 'Revolver' and on to
'Year Of Tha Boomerang' it's
the same formula and one that
hardly needs repeating.
Although there aren't any bad
songs there is a conspicuous
absence of memorable
moments resulting in a homo-
geneous mass of slightly tedious
aural anger.

Although I'm sure that the
energy of their forthcoming live
shows will more than compen-
sate for the quality of the songs,
I can't help feeling that they're going to have to
do something new and a bit quicker than it took
them to do this. (6)

gig: ruby + red snapper^{bea}

The recently refurbished, 'ultimate' concert
venue of ULU was sold out weeks in advance and
was packed with people eager to see Ruby's first
gig in London. The DJ, Dean Thatcher, did an
excellent job of warming up the crowd with a
selection of jungle anthems and house tracks, and
Ruby came on to a warm
reception.

Ruby's excellent album,
'Salt Peter', was a landmark
in the ever-expanding land-
scape that is trip-hop. It was
essentially the work of
Lesley Rankine together
with a bunch of producers
and programmers. In other
words, it was very much a
studio album and so it was
always going to be difficult
to translate the songs to a
live environment without
simply singing along to taped
backing tracks, a route was
thankfully avoided.

The band played well
enough. The familiar sam-
ples were present and cor-
rect and the songs were
there, but I failed to be moved by the whole expe-
rience. Lesley was obviously keen to emphasise
that she is no longer the boot-stomping 'grrrl' that
fronted Silverfish, but the one thing missing was
the anger and the sheer intensity that makes
Ruby's recorded output so moving. Tonight they
sounded like any average rock band, only occa-
sionally rising above mediocrity such as on the
current single, 'Tiny Meat', which far surpassed

the recorded version.

Perhaps the poor showing was due to nerves.
After all, this is their first gig in the capital,
although they have been playing in Europe since
the New Year. I only hope that they develop
enough to do justice to the excellent material they
have.

Red Snapper, however, were a different ket-
tle of fish(!). After more
classy tunes from the DJ,
they came on and hit an
infectious groove immedi-
ately. For those of you
unacquainted with their
work, it is best described as
'future jazz'. 'Reeled &
Skinned', their album, is a
fantastic voyage through
jazz licks coupled with
dubby, chilled out, trip-
hoppy beats, and that
essential groove. They are
even better live!

The rhythm section was
tight, with the double bass
delivering that extra
dimension. The saxophon-
ist played with great feel,
especially on their hit single
'Hot Flush', which had the
crowd in raptures. The whole band gelled bril-
liantly and even my companion enjoyed it, in spite
of her general aversion to 'dance' music.

Perhaps Red Snapper shone more as a result
of Ruby's lacklustre performance, but neverthe-
less, this band is destined for greatness. Their
remixes of Ruby's album and of Garbage's last
single will only enhance their reputation, one
which they thoroughly deserve.



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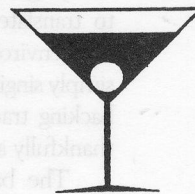
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the birdcage

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city hall 1.45, 4.25, 7.05,

othello 1, 3.50, 6.40, 9.30

broken arrow

9.45, 12.20 late fri & sat

things to do in denver when

you're dead 1.40, 4.20, 7.00,

9.40, 12.20 late fri & sat

tube; ken high street. £7, £6,

£3.50 before 5pm mon-fri,

£4 before 5pm sat-sun

mgm fulham road

0171 370 2636

the birdcage

1.00, 3.40, 6.30, 9.20

12 monkeys

12.30, 3.20, 6.10, 9.05

dead man walking

1.10, 3.50, 6.35, 9.20

smoke 1.40, 4.10, 7.00, 9.30

hackers

1.10, 3.40, 6.10, 8.40

tube; south ken then bus

£6.80, £3.70 students and

before 6pm

MONKEYS

BROKEN

XV

film: 12 monkeys magpie

Bruce Willis plays Cole, an observer sent from the future to gather information on the events which led to the death of 5 billion people in a viral epidemic, and to trace the terrorist group believed to be responsible. As Cole is swatted back and forth through time, he becomes more certain of the involvement of the Army of the 12 Monkeys, even as his own grasp on reality starts to decay.

For his doomsday prophecies, Cole is diagnosed as a delusional psychotic and placed in an asylum under the treatment of psychiatrist Madeleine Stowe. In the asylum he also meets Jeffrey Goines, an inmate whose father happens

to be a famous virologist...

Bruce Willis is surprisingly good and succeeds in creating the necessary madman-or-prophet uncertainty. Pitt gleefully over-acts, his exaggerated nervous twitches possibly indicating something more amiss than just a psychological illness. Stowe is elegant as the disbeliever who is dragged into Cole's 'delusions'.

The plot is well-constructed, sidestepping the possible traps of time paradoxes - Cole's overseers know they won't be able to change what has already happened, but they want a sample of the pure virus in order to find a cure.

12 Monkeys is undoubtedly the easiest of Terry Gilliam's films to watch but as he was just the hired hand, his vision was only secondary.

film: broken arrow magpie

While on a stealth bomber training flight, Vic Deakins (John Travolta) steals a couple of nuclear bombs, and ejects his copilot Riley Hale (Christian Slater) from the plane. Why? He has been passed over for promotion once too often, and wants to get his own back and make some money by holding the government to ransom.

Hale predictably decides that it's his duty to stop Deakins, and drags an innocent park ranger (played by Samantha Mathis) along with him. The two of them set off across the Utah out-back, implausibly dodging bullets, helicopter blades, trucks and an underground nuclear explosion on the way.

The action set-pieces are really spectacular, and director John Woo does everything right, but he's let down by a truly appalling script, with far too many awful clichés.

Good takings at the American box office have ensured that Travolta will escape unscathed by this pretty poor film, but his character is so over the top that he's no longer amusing. The film has little to commend it apart from the action sequences, and the Malteser-melting Slater. In a similar vein, Mathis is only there for the delectation of the blokes.

Broken Arrow is a wannabe *Speed*, but fails in suspense and script despite being written by *Speed's* writer Graham Yost. It's a mindless action film and as long as you don't expect anything more it's passable.

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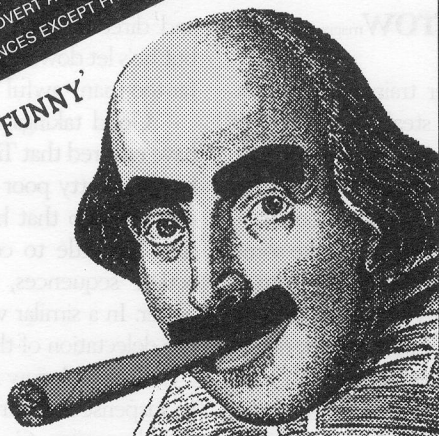
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COMMON QUESTIONS

Q Is it dangerous?

Those who call Kundalini dangerous usually have no personal experience of this particular system and are often simply repeating hearsay. Its reputation as dangerous arises from the immense transformative power of the practice. It works very quickly.

Q Is Kundalini yoga similar to other forms of yoga?

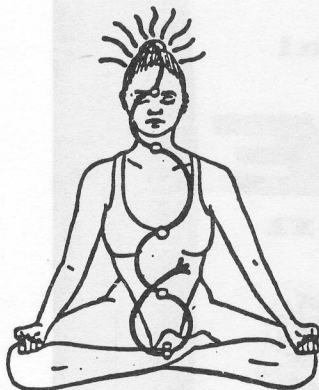
It is similar in so far as it contains the same elements as other forms of yoga but it differs in its combination of those elements.

Q What will it do for me?

Greater clarity of thought, increased vitality, inner tranquility, less stress and the ability to relax are frequently experienced with regular practice.

Q What is a Kundalini yoga class?

The usual format is some warm-up exercises followed by a kriya. Deep relaxation precedes the meditation which often takes the form of chanting.



Date: Starts: Thursday 2nd May 1996 First session free!

Time: 6.15 pm - 7.45 pm Price: £5.00 per session - £3.00 students

Place: Union Building, Top Floor, TableTennis Room, Imperial College Prince Consort Road, South Kensington, London SW7 2AY
 Enquiries: Mark Nuttall 0171 594 8237 or Pauline Yacoubian 0171 244 9675

Instructor: Pauline Yacoubian also known as Puraan Kaur, the name given to her by her spiritual teacher Kundalini Master Yogi Bhajan.

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EVERY THURSDAY

WEEKLY SPECIALS

NON-ALCOHOLIC COCKTAILS



theatre: this week

north pole theatre 0181 333 1956 BR greenwich from charing cross
the father
mon - sat 8.00pm £4.00
concs

the bush 0181 743 3388
shepherd's bush tube
clocks and whistles
mon - sat 8.00pm £6.00
concs

almeida 0171 359 4404
angel/highbury & islington tubes, N1
tartuffe
8pm mon-sat, 4pm sat
from £6.50

whitehall theatre 0171 369 1735 whitehall, SW1
trainspotting
mon - sat 8pm, from £5

royal court 0171 730 2554
sloane square, SW1
valley song
mon - sun 7.30pm, £5-£18

apollo shaftesbury 0171 494 5070 shaftesbury avenue, W1
dead guilty
mon - fri 8pm, sat 5pm and 8.15pm, £8 - £22

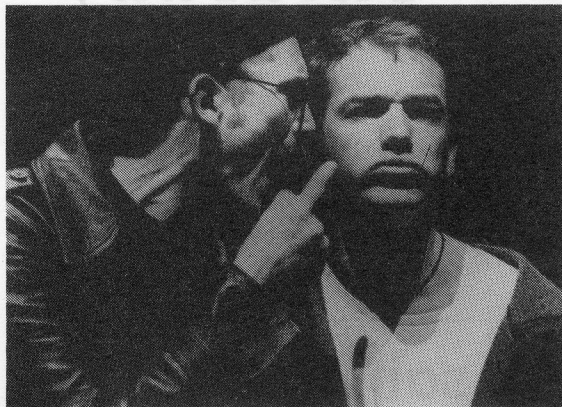
duke of york's 0171 836 5122 st martins lane, WC2
the changing room
mon - sat 7.30pm £5-£15

national theatre, olivier 0171 928 2252 south bank, SE1
the prince's play
mon - sat 7.15pm, from £9.50

criterion theatre 0171 369 1747 piccadilly circus tube
the complete works of william shakespeare (abridged)
tue-sat 8pm £5.50-£20
standby for concs £10

old vic 0171 928 7616
waterloo tube, SE1
an ideal husband
7.30pm mon-sat, 2.30pm wed & sat, from £12

play - trainspotting laire samuel



Maybe you've read the book, you've probably seen the film and unless you've been holidaying on Mars you could not have failed to miss the hype. So now Londoners have their third oppor-

tunity to see the stage version. After starting out on the fringe, they had a short stay in the Ambassadors in the West End followed by a country-wide tour, and have now settled in the Whitehall theatre.

Our guide to Edinburgh lowlife is Renton, who introduces us to his associates and haunts. It is the script rather than the minimalist black set, which describes the squalor. There is virtually no plot, just a stream of loosely connected reminiscences which are disgusting and offensive, but somehow very funny. The small cast of four leads to some identification problems, but does include the entertaining double of the psychopath Begbie also playing Renton's mother.

If you enjoyed the film, you'll love this, but be quick: it closes on May 11th.

play- the prince's play kurt jacobs

In 1832 the première of Victor Hugo's 'The Prince's Play' ('Le Roi s'amuse') caused the French King Louis-Philippe so much concern with its portrayal of the Prince as an underhanded scoundrel, that the opening night was also the last night of the run. In the 1990's, we may expect no such reaction to Tony Harrison's English adaptation. Many today would no longer even agree with the Victorian modes of thought so integral to the plot.

The fact that the script is in verse, while not overly apparent, serves to enhance the (correct) impression that the play was written a century and a half ago, and it is perhaps more interesting as a historical piece than it is enjoyable as a production in its own right. (Unless you happen to like that kind of thing - and a fine upstanding cit-

izen you would be too, I hasten to add.)

Good performances from Ken Stott (as the central character the Prince's Jester), and Arlene Cockburn (as the Jester's Daughter), among others, provide an evening of fine drama. However, one feels that many of the Play's most intense moments are held for too long; while Victor Hugo possessed many undoubted talents, perhaps we may accuse him of not knowing when to shut up.

The sets are very impressive, and maintain the excellent standard which we have come to expect from the Royal National. In particular, much of the stage is water for some scenes, and it really rains on stage, replete with thunder and lightning. This is not a play for all tastes, but under Richard Eyre's direction it is well staged and well performed.

play - the complete works of william shakespeare (abridged) rachel

Time Out says "It just ain't fun any more" but quite frankly they've lost their sense of humour. Admittedly, the idea is nine years old, and back in London after a tour round the country, but the Reduced Shakespeare Company are doing an admirable job of making their adaptation of the bard's entire works still seem off-the-cuff.

It's all over in 97 minutes (so we're told) and in that time the cast of three get through all 37 plays - and that includes Coriolanus as a cookery programme and Othello as a rap. It's a complete piss-take, but a very clever one: perhaps the most

memorable bit is when they get through all the histories as an American football game. And they don't just spend the entire second half on Hamlet, but we get an extra-concise three minute version, and then 'just one last time', only backwards.

Any complaints you could have with the performance would only imply that you were taking it all too seriously. It is certainly very silly, and with the great tradition of audience participation is more of a pantomime than a play, but the humour is refreshingly innocent and fast-paced.

On Tuesday nights the trio take a break from toying with English literature in order to perform *The Complete History of*

America (abridged) in a mere 90 minutes. It's not quite as funny, and not quite as tight, but hey, these things are all relative.



friday

3
may**Amateur Radio Society (HamSoc)**

1pm. Meeting in the shack. Top floor of union building. (R)

Rag Meeting

1.10pm Ents Lounge. (R)

Pakistan Society

3 - 5pm. Basketball, union gym. Contact Kashif, Aero II, k.ahmed@ae.ic.ac.uk for more information. (R)

Wing Chun Kung Fu

5-7pm. Union Gym, 2nd Floor ICU. Beginners welcome. 1st lesson free. (R)

Fitness Club

5.30pm. Advanced Step Aerobics. Southside Gym. (R)

Ents**City & Guilds Carnival.** Live music from My Life Story, Fold, and Zuduwah, plus Casino, ball pool and pole joust, Chill-out room, Pop Tarts and 1am bar. £5 all profits to rag. Tickets from Union Office or on door.**Free minibus service**

Bus service leaves from in front of the union, taking lone female students home to anywhere in central London. First run midnight, last run 2am. See Beit Security for times. (R)

f r i d a y

fleadh festival

Saturday June 8th

Do you want to earn some money, whilst attending one of the country's top music events?

Between 50 and 100 programme sellers are required for the Fleadh Festival. For more details, contact Mark on 48068, m.horne@ic.ac.uk or in the Union Office.

the
week
ahead

saturday

4
may**Gliding Club**

Gliding at Lasham Airfield. For more information contact gliding@ic.ac.uk. Come to Thursday meeting first. (R)

s a t u r d a y

sailing club
spring sail

Port Solent, on the last Monday of March: sixteen Yacht Club members are ready to yield to the call of the sea. Ian and Jeremy were skipping two 36 foot boats with the most international crews they probably ever had. There were British, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, and Spanish folks.

The two vessels, Romeo and Juliet, did not escape the fate of their names and diverted their course from the very first day. The adventurous Romeo set off for France while Juliet chose to take advantage of the easterly wind and go west. As the night came, the fog thickened and the wind dropped; just about the worst conditions for sailing. To keep going we decided to split into two watch teams.

Dealing with the lack of wind and visibility was pretty much a matter of staying warm and awake. Meantime, sounding the fog horn to make sure other vessels noticed us did not precisely match Ian's musical taste. The tiny light hanging around the mast kept projecting twisted shadows onto the fog curtain, thus making the scene even more surreal.

The lapping of the sea on the hull, the long "toot" from passing cargoes and the intermittent messages on the VHF radio were our only links to the outside world. As the first watch team went to bed for the third time that night, the wind suddenly picked up. We reached Torquay in the morning with some worries about the engine, but it did not resist Greg's inspection. We went for a nice meal before setting off again to the nearby harbour of Dartmouth.

The week passed surprisingly quickly. We managed to reach Salcombe on Wednesday evening. Back toward the east, the sunny day was as enjoyable as the steady westerly wind that led us to Weymouth, a quiet place really. But Juliet will rather remember it for its bakery around a street corner. The next day, on the way to Poole, we nearly lost our cook. He had managed to climb up the mast! And that was not all. After the radio betrayed Romeo's return, Juliet met him up on his balcony at Poole harbour. This eventful trip finally ended in Cowes on Saturday night, where Simon celebrated his birthday in the local pubs.

With a bit of tan and a persistent feeling of rocking, we came back to Port Solent on Sunday, already considering the next trip.

sunday

5
may**Gliding Club**

Gliding at Lasham Airfield. For more information contact gliding@ic.ac.uk. Come to Thursday meeting first. (R)

Wargames

1pm. Table Tennis room. (R)

Fitness Club

2pm. Southside Gym. Intermediate aerobics. (R)

Ents

Da Vinci's. Standing Room Only. Coverage of Newcastle & Man Utd's last premiership games of the season live on the big screen. Bar from 1pm.

s u n d a y

ents

I'm sure you're all dead keen to know what we (well, I say we, but the hardworking crew have all bugged off on holiday and left me on my own!) in the Ents Office have been sorting out whilst you've been away.

Well, most of the usual events stay the same, although Wednesday nights will be finishing at midnight for the rest of this term, so as not to distract you from the serious business of your exams. We may also be tinkering with the odd one-off on a Wednesday night as well, so keep your eyes open.

For Friday nights we'll be staying open 'til 2am with a mixed bag of old faves and total one-offs, plus we hope the chill-out room will become a permanent feature - watch out for posters! But as a taster, during the term there'll be more comedy, another College Band night, a Beach Party, two visits to "Hedonizm", "Shaft", "Pop Tarts", a reggae based night, and it's all going to be topped off on June 28th with the best Carnival of the year. We've got a couple of up and coming guest DJs, a tarot reader, percussionists, more live techno, the return of the seven colour laser, a full-on reggae sound system, a girl-led indie band who make Sleeper look like the New Seekers, and brilliant decor throughout the building already sorted, and possibly an orchestra and other summery specials and freebies to be confirmed. I promise it'll be the best way to end your year, so if you weren't planning to stick around, change your plans now!

It all starts tonight with the C&G Carnival with live music from My Life Story, Fold and Zuduwah, a charity casino, chill-out room, Pop Tarts DJs and inflatables. Tickets are £5, available on the door.

Finally, I know it's a busy term but if any of you have any feelings about how this year's Ents has been, or things you'd like to see changed for next year, you can e-mail me on m.horne@ic.ac.uk.

Have a good term, we'll be doing our best to help you enjoy at least some of it!

monday

6
may

Student Industrial Society

12 - 2pm. Table Tennis room, Union building. (R)

Fitness Club

12.30pm. Beginners body toning (45 mins)
5.30pm. Beginners aerobics
6.30pm. Intermediate aerobics.
Southside Gym. (R)

Ski Club

5 - 5.45pm. Southside Upper Lounge. (R)

ArtSoc

12.30 - 1.30pm. Brown Committee Room.
Come and sign up for our many trips to
Musicals. (R)

Concert Band

5.15pm. Great Hall. Any ability. (R)

Cross Country

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

IC 2nd Orchestra

7 - 9pm. Great Hall. All welcome. (R)

Methsoc

6pm. Prince's Gardens Ecumenical Group.
Chaplaincy Office, Northside. (R)

Ents

8pm Davinci's. More FA Cup footie with
Standing Room Only.

m o n d a y

union general meeting

The Union Annual General Meeting will take place at 12:15pm on Friday 17th May in the Ents Lounge. Nominations are open for the following posts which will be elected at the meeting - Council Chair, Accommodation Officer, Transport Officer, Welfare Officer, Women's Officer, Equal Opportunities Officer, Post-graduate Affairs Officer, Imperial College Community Action Group Chair, Rag Chair, Web Editor, Haldane Book and Record Buyer. Papers are on the notice board opposite the Union Office, and further information about the elections or posts is available from Sarah White, on x58061.

Nominations are now open for ICU Colours. These awards are made to those who have made a contribution to the Union over and above that which would normally be expected e.g. as part of their Union/Club position. The awards under consideration by the Colours Committee are Union Social Colours, Outstanding Service Awards and Honorary Life Memberships. Nomination forms are available from the Union office, and should be submitted to the President by Wednesday 15th May.

tuesday

7
may

Cathsoc

12.00 pm. Bagratt Centre, Mechanical Engineering. (R)

Yacht Club

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

African Caribbean Soc

12.30 - 1.30pm. Room G02, Materials dept, RSM. All welcome. (R)

IC Sailing Club

12.45 - 1.45pm. Southside Lounge. (R)

AudioSoc

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

Photo Soc

1.00pm. Southside Lounge. (R)

Circus Skills

5 - 8pm. Ents Lounge. sdh@ee.ic.ac.uk (R)

Fitness Club

5.30pm. Advanced aerobics. (R)

IC Bridge Club

6pm in the Clubs Committee Room. (R)

icsf

7pm in STOIC Studios.
<http://www.ph.ic.ac.uk/moontg/> (R)

IQ

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

Canoe Club

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

ICCAAG

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

Ents

8pm. Da Vinci's. Bar Trivia. Put all your revision to good use and win yourself £50 in the process.

After Dark

8 - 11.30pm in the Ents Lounge. Admission is only £1 for a night of swing, hip-hop and jungle with the African Caribbean Society. Definitely the way to celebrate winning the bar quiz. (R)

t u e s d a y

next diary
deadline: noon,
May 6th

wednesday

8
may

IC Sailing Club

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

Skate Society

12.15pm. Southside Lounge. Contact Alex a.cinelli@ic.ac.uk, 0171 352 9111 (R)

Wargames

1pm Table Tennis room. (R)

Fitness Club

5 - 6pm. Southside Gym. Intermediate/
Advanced step class. (R)

Squash Club

3.20 - 5.20pm. Sports centre. (R)

IC Symphony Orchestra

7 - 10pm. Great Hall. (R)

Wing Chun Kung Fu

1.30 - 3.30pm. Union Gym. Union Building.
Beginners welcome. 1st lesson free. (R)

Ents

7.30pm. Cup Winners Cup Final, followed by a Frolik! - a somewhat truncated night of pure pleasure. B ar 'til 11, midnight finish.

w e d n e s d a y

1996 handbook

The 1996 ICU handbook will be delivered to the doorstep of all next year's freshers during September, guaranteeing you a captive audience. Entries of not more than 300 words, ideally with a decent quality photograph, and/or logo, should be given to Tim Townend, via the ICU offices by May 31st. You should include a contact name for next year's committee, giving their department, year and e-mail address, details of the times and locations of your meetings, and a general description of what the club does.

the
week
ahead

thursday

9
may

Fitness Club

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

ConSoc

1pm. Southside Upper Lounge. <http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/clubs/societies/scc/consoc/home.html> (R)

Gliding Club

1pm. Aeronautics 266. (R)

Mountaineering Club

7pm. Social meeting in Southside Upper Lounge. (R)

Yoga Soc

6.15 - 7.45pm. Table tennis room. Beginners' Kunalini yoga class. More information from mpn@doc.ic.ac.uk, ex 48237. (R)

Christian Union

6.30 - 7.45pm. W2 in Biology. (R)

ICCA

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

Skate Soc

Night skate - all welcome. Contact Alex on 0171 352 9111 or a.cinelli@ic.ac.uk for more details. (R)

YHA

1pm Southside Lounge. "Take a walk on the wild side." (R)

Ents

Cocktail Night at Da Vinci's. Forget it all in an instant! The best way to celebrate finishing your exams, or just the fact that it's Thursday. It might not be *quite* as good as real sex on the beach, but makes for a pretty good substitute.

t h u r s d a y

the
week
ahead

friday

10
may

Amateur Radio Society (HamSoc)

1pm. Meeting in the shack, top floor of union building. (R)

Rag Meeting

1.10pm Ents Lounge. (R)

Pakistan Society

3 - 5pm. Basketball, union gym. Contact Kashif, Aero II, k.ahmed@ae.ic.ac.uk. (R)

Wing Chun Kung Fu

5-7pm. Union Gym, 2nd floor ICU. 1st lesson free. (R)

Fitness Club

5.30pm. Advanced step aerobics. Southside gym. (R)

Free minibus service

Leaves from the union, taking lone female students home to anywhere in central London. First run midnight, last run 2am. (R)

f r i d a y

Subwarden

A subwarden position is now available in Holbein / Willis Jackson Hall in Evelyn Gardens. Please contact the Warden, Rowland Travis, in Mechanical Engineering 515, extension 47090, e-mail r.travis@ic for more details. Closing date 13th May.

Homework Assistant

Required for homework supervision for children aged 12 and 13, weekdays between 5 - 7 pm. Will entertain only college students, and the applicant should have good English. £8 per hour. Please contact 0171 584 5842 between 8 - 9 pm weekdays.

afro-carib soc

Annual Dinner May 10th: Drink wine, dine on delicious African Caribbean cuisine, be entertained by the tropical sounds of the Ebony Steelband, then boogie on down to the latest in Soul, R&B, Ragga, Jungle, Hi-life and Soca.

It's the formal black tie dinner event of the year, for the bargain price of a tenner for members, £12.50 for non-members, and £5 for the dance only. Contact Audrey at annal@ic or ext. 52724 for more details.

ULU Graduate Society

For the last three years you thought college was something a bit special but now you know that if you can just make it through finals, an even more fabulous life lies before you: an orgy of fun, freedom, fame, wealth and success.

OK, so its a bit over the top. Still, even if finals pressure hasn't sent you spinning off into deranged fantasy, with so much to look forward to why is the news all so gloomy? Unemployed or in a dead end job, defaulting on loan repayments, losing touch with friends and forced to live at home again, this is the image so often portrayed of Graduate life.

Whatever may be waiting for you on the other side, however, there are certain things you can still rely on. One of these is the University of London Union (ULU). By joining as a Graduate member you can still enjoy all that ULU had to offer you as a student. You get access to the fitness centre, swimming pool, sauna, treatments, classes and other sports facilities; use of the bars, restaurants, stationary and sports shops, all of which charge student prices; confidential advice from the welfare unit; and the chance to join any of ULU's varied societies and sports clubs. With the return of ULU as a major gig venue, the ULU ticket shop is by far the cheapest place in London to buy tickets.

The Graduate Society isn't just a membership scheme for ex-students though, it's also a social society established to address the particular needs of its Graduate members. The "GradSoc" newsletter produced twice a year, contains relevant news, information on members, a graduate careers section, features, articles and an international section.

Even if you move away the newsletter can help you to stay in touch with university news and issues of interest to you.

If you are intending to stay resident in or around London, you'll also be able to enjoy the events on offer. Winetastings, theatre trips, a day out in Kew Gardens, a comedy evening and speakers on UFO's and pagan religion were amongst the events organised in the last year or so.

As part of the commitment to provide the practical support which graduates need, now more than ever before, networking and careers events are currently being planned, while suggestions for other possible graduate services are also being considered.

Finally, and most importantly, the Graduate Society encourages involvement. All contributions to the production of the newsletter are enthusiastically received, while administrative and financial support is available for any member keen to host a particular event. Members are also encouraged to join the steering committee or to simply go along to meetings and join in.

So don't listen to the pessimists and alarmists. Step confidently into Graduate life with the security that ULU will always be there for you.

The very best of luck for exams and the rest of your life.

Membership of the ULU Graduate Society costs just £10 per year (£12.50 EU, £15.00 rest of the world) and is open to all ex-London students. Watch out for the application form with your degree certificate, pick one up from reception, ULU, Malet Street, London or phone the Graduate Society office on 0171 580 9551 x239

ICU ENTS PRESENTS

a **FISTFUL**

of

FRIDAYS

3RD MAY

**CITY & GUILDS CARNIVAL
9 - 2 AM £5**

10th

PRO PLUS COMEDY

3 acts £2/£1 8pm

Hedonixm £1 9-2am

17th

**Third World First
Charity Night
live reggae night**

24th

OPEN MIC Semi-Finals

**14 acts plus Boothby Graffoe
£2.50 8pm**

SHARP 10 - 2 £1

31st

**AbONdOn 2
Band Night 8pm free
COMMON PEOPLE 9-2 £1**

June 7th

Hedonixm 9-2 £1

14th

**"Typically Tropical"
Beach Party
9-2 £1**

21st tbc

28th

**Summer Carnival
guest DJs, 4 bands, drapes, BBQ,
Very special surprises ! 9-3am**

**Plus Chill-out Room & Cocktail Bar
Each Friday night (except 10th May)**

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£12 MEN

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THE AFRICAN CARIBBEAN SOCIETY
OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE

cordially invites you all to our

ANNUAL DINNER

FRIDAY 10TH MAY

EBONY STEELBAND

SPECIAL GUESTS
AND A DONATION PRESENTED TO THE ABENG CENTRE

**DINNER AT 7.30PM
BAND & DANCE FROM 10PM**



UNION DINING HALL



Beit Quad, Prince Consort Rd, South Kensington, near Albert Hall

BLACK TIE Dinner: Members £10, Non-members £12.50 Band & Dance: £5

For tickets & reservation: Audrey.anna1@ic.ac.uk x52724, Francis 0181 795 4238, Destiny 0956 349 541

LETTERS TO FELIX

REPLIED TO BY RACHEL WALTERS

Dear Felix,

I was interested to see your article about the bookstore last term. It looks to me as if College has found another way of stitching up the students.

The Union Bookshop might not be the best in the world, but in theory, at least the profits are supposed to get spent on us as students. This isn't going to happen if a "proper" bookshop takes over, and you can guarantee College aren't going to make up any lost income to the Union, so we students lose loads of money that could have been spent by clubs or societies. And it must be a sizeable amount of money if the rent is going to be £60k, and everyone is still interested in it.

So College gets us a great deal, it gets £60k rent a year, we get a posh bookshop with no guarantee of better service, we lose another Union service and all the money it generates and the services the Union could provide with the money. Brilliant. Why doesn't College go the whole way, get rid of the

nonpaying students, and sell off all its facilities to the highest bidder?

I'd say don't let this happen, but I don't suppose my opinion as a mere student matters, does it?

J. Williams.

PG. 1

Suffice to say you are not alone in your thoughts on this matter! Profits from the bookstore go directly to pay staff salaries in the union, money that would have to be found from elsewhere if ICU loses it.

Deadline for letters in Felix 1056: midday, Tuesday 6th May
Please bring your union card for identification.
Letters may be edited for length.
The opinions expressed by the editor or guest editors are not necessarily those of the paper as a whole.

UNION STATEMENT

RE: BSE SCARE

All beef used in ICU Catering is only butchered in EC approved plants, which are regularly inspected by MAFF/EC appointed inspectors.

We have not used British beef since October 1995, and minced beef was replaced by minced lamb over a year ago.

FELIX

FOUNDED 1949

PRODUCED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION PUBLICATIONS BOARD

PRINTED BY THE IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION PRINT UNIT
 BEIT QUAD · PRINCE CONSORT ROAD LONDON SW7 2BB
 TELEPHONE/FAX 0171 594 8072

EDITOR: RACHEL WALTERS

PRINTERS: ANDY THOMPSON AND JEREMY

BUSINESS MANAGER: JULIETTE DECOCK

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ISSN 1040-0711

IC win 'night-in-bar-after-university-challenge' final

The four Imperial College brainboxes dominated the competition from the beginning, with a quick starter for ten pints. They then succeeded in getting several bonus pints from fans. They continued in good form until problems with christian sundaes slowed them down.

LSE began to claw back, with 'Hideous Shirt' very swift with the right arm. But

disaster struck when 'Green Shirt's stomach gave way and he was forced to spend the next hour answering questions on digestive linguistics on the toilet floor.

The IC team pulled through to a good finish, the only casualty being Pallen, who an eye witness said "had problems manoeuvring his enormous head". Well done, lads.

EDITORIAL TEAM:

NEWS: ALEX FEAKES FEATURES: MARK BAKER

SUB-EDITING AND PROOFING: TIM ST CLAIR

MUSIC: VIK BANSAL CINEMA: WEI LEE

PHOTOGRAPHY: IVAN CHAN SPORT: JONATHAN TROUT

PUZZLES: CATFISH CLUBS AND SOCS: STEPHEN HAMILTON

THEATRE: KATHERINE FISHWICK AND CLAIRE SAMUEL

ARTS: JEREMY SCIENCE: BEN WILKINS

INVALUABLE EDITORIAL ASSISTANCE: JEREMY

COLLATING LAST TERM: MARK, BEN, TIM, DAN

FELIX

monday, high noon

clubs & societies

articles deadline

monday 1.20pm

reviewers'

meeting

monday 6pm

news meeting

tuesday noon

arts meeting

tuesday noon

letters deadline

tuesday 6pm

features meeting

thursday night

collating

friday morning

another Felix hits the

street...

WEEK

The indispensable guide for Felix contributors and helpers

FELIX SPORT



Cosmopolitan Team Go Down

At the end of April, a team of six went to France to take part, for the second time, in the Edhec International Yachting Regatta held in La Rochelle.

Representing Imperial's cosmopolitan image the crew was made up of Irish skipper (Mark), three Frenchmen (Charly, Francois and Eric), two Germans (Lutz and Eric again) and a Norwegian (Bjorn).

Tension built up during the Sunday training, in spite of the excellent wind conditions, revealing how difficult it was for the team to adjust with so little training.

The general outcome of the week confirmed that nervousness was justified. Even though, they finished 5th out of the 12

Whirlpool boats on Monday, their luck ran out on Tuesday when an early start disqualified them. Unfortunately, the English boat edged over the starting line before the signal. But the sun helped them to stay in good spirits.

In spite of strong hopes for the next regattas, they finished 11th on the Wednesday night event. The six came back fatigued at three o'clock in the morning, their faces betraying bitterness after twelve hours at sea. Their fate was no better than 8th on Thursday, and they brought up the rear on Friday. Finally, they shattered all expectations by coming second, on the last regatta, on Saturday. Better late than never!

Third Class

A rollercoaster Hockey season which began in ignominy was rounded off in grand style by a cup run and victory over Royal Holloway.

The thirds began life as a disjointed throng who showed little promise of the glories yet to come. After shedding a little ballast, the post-Christmas period surely counts as one of the most prolific in the teams history.

Although our Wednesday league performances were somewhat lacklustre and Saturday games yielded only average results, the infamous and elusive team spirit was in full force and threatened to blind teams who didn't wear sunglasses!

But the real jewel in the 'Ken Army' crown lay in the BUSA Cup matches. A powered up team braved the rigours of RHUL and UCL - where we did ourselves proud to play the game of the season and win 3 - 1.

Although the steam train was eventually derailed by the superb Brunel UL, the previous results made us the 'prodigal sons' of the club as a whole.

A fluke light failure in the last game may mean we avoid relegation... but does it matter? In a season of missed trains, boat races and lost minibuses the game becomes perhaps secondary to the laughs we've had as a team. KEN ARMY!!!

Imperial Cyclists Come Ninth

Once again Imperial were the only London College to field a complete team for the national student championships and (with some carbon fibre assistance) they put in a good performance. Lacking injury-hit Nick Osborne, the team of Liam Maybank, Duncan Emery and Agis Agisilaou competed against national squad and commonwealth games riders to achieve a highly creditable 9th in the team competition.

Best individual performance was Liam with a rapid 22 minutes 29 seconds (averaging 26.7mph) for the distance, Duncan came home with 23 minutes 30 seconds (25.5mph) and Agis, in his first British time trial, recorded 24 minutes 43seconds (24.2mph) The overall winner in the individual competition was Michael Hutchinson (Cambridge) with 20 minutes 49 seconds (a rapid 28.8mph) (obviously he has no work to do). Next up is the national 25 mile time trial in two weeks. A big thankyou goes out to the Harlington Trust for paying for the aerodynamic aid.

SportsNews

Manchester United are strong favourites to lift the Premiership title after beating Forest 5 - 0 last weekend. Newcastle must now make up six goals in their remaining two matches if they are to be crowned champions.

From Division One Sunderland (Champions) and Derby are both to play Premiership football next season. Oh yes.

IC Athletics Clubs Committee is sponsored by



Chess club reach quarter finals

This year IC chess club entered a team in the national handicap rapidplay knockout competition. Each player plays the same opponent twice and the time limit is half an hour for each player for all moves. We did rea-

sonably well, knocking out a strong side from Barbican in round 3, but in the quarter-finals we were knocked out by Maidstone, who won last year. The handicap system meant that a team may require as much as

6.5/8 or as little as 2/8 to go through to the next round. Our team (usually) consisted of Matt Piper, Dom Goodwin, Jeremy Davies and Dave Tang.

Hopefully we can do better next year.