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FELIX

The student newspaper of
Imperial College

Issue 1056
May 10th 1996

White next ULU President

BY RACHEL WALTERS

Sarah White, the President of Imperial College Union, comfortably won Wednesday's poll to elect next year's University of London Union President. The ballot, held at the General Union Conference, which is made up of representatives from all University of London colleges, gave Sarah 35 of the 66 valid votes cast. Her opponent, Paul Crawford from the Royal Veterinary College, received 23 votes.

Although Sarah's first response was "it was a bit close!" she attributed most of Mr Crawford's votes to ULU's medical students' group representatives. ULU elections in recent years have tended to highlight the rift between London's smaller medical schools and the larger colleges such as Imperial and UCL.

The two vice-presidential positions were won by LSE students; Claire Lawrie will be the sabbatical responsible for Finance and Services while Paul Bates will take over the Welfare and Representation remit.

The widely-predicted results have led to suggestions that the



PHOTO: MATTHEW CROMPTON

The victorious Sarah White singled out medical school mergers and student funding as particular areas of her concern.

voting was unfair, or even fixed. Ed Ford, president of Queen Mary and Westfield College commented: "Well, we know it's rigged, it's just a question of proof, isn't it?" Sitting facing the delegates at the front of the conference, the current University of London Union

President, Ghassan Karrian, could be clearly seen nodding and shaking his head accordingly as candidates delivered their hustings' speeches. Kate Goldfarb, ULU's Welfare and Communication sabbatical, said the elections delivered "the result we had all expected."

Health centre delayed

BY THE NEWS TEAM

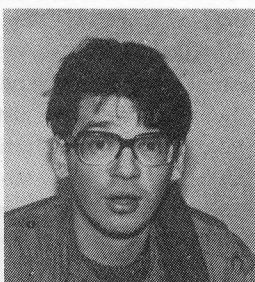
Building work on the new health centre in Southside has been suspended because the construction was causing too much disruption to students studying for exams. The fitting-out stage of the project will not resume until the summer because IC estates department received so many complaints.

The heavy drilling work which was particularly causing disturbance was due to finish by the end of the Easter holidays, but Ian Caldwell, IC Director of Estates said that "the building work was more difficult than expected." There had been some delay when health and safety measures had to be implemented to deal with asbestos that the construction has uncovered.

Students in the two Southside staircases that were most badly affected were offered use of study bedrooms in Weeks hall over the Easter period.

The new NHS centre was due to be up and running in time for the start of the next academic year, but it is not known when it will now be able to open.

in summary



Justice Bill

Ex-Felix editor Bill Goodwin has won his European Court of Human Rights case against the Government. Bill had been fined £5000 for refusing to reveal the name of a source. **page 3**

IC takes over NRI

Imperial College has been given responsibility for administering the Natural Resources Institute. IC will have £25 million of research funds to allocate annually. **page 3**

Spate of thefts

Imperial has been victim of another spate of burglaries, ranging from attacks on games machines in Linstead Hall to wide-ranging computing thefts in Huxley. **page 2**

Campus-wide theft spree

BY ALEX FEAKES

The May Bank Holiday weekend proved to be a bit of break to some enterprising young thief as Linstead Hall residents woke on Monday morning to discover that several of their games machines and a telephone had been looted. There were no signs of a forced entry to the building and the burglary has highlighted concerns about security in Halls.

The thefts, reported on Monday, are believed to have occurred in the early morning, shortly after a routine security patrol had toured the building. The thief removed glass from a pinball machine and broke open the cash box on a pool table in the bar as well as wrenching a payphone off the wall in the Lower Gallery, but it is not

known how much money was stolen from the equipment. Kenneth Weir, Deputy Head of Security, noted that the amount of violence used was unusual, and probably indicated that the thief was "inexperienced."

How the thief entered the hall is not known, and though the security around the bar area has been recently stepped up it does not seem to have prevented the games machines from being looted, something that has happened before.

Dr Lancaster, Warden of Linstead Hall, admitted that Security have "a major task securing Princes Gardens", and that access to Linstead was relatively easy, though the Hall and Security were looking to prevent unauthorised access more effec-

tively in the future, including a new set of locks for the doors and windows of the bar.

Until a few years ago, Linstead Hall had its own security guard, but with the introduction of closed circuit television monitoring, the guard was relocated to Southside. Dr Lancaster suggested that though a return to this situation might have an effect on the number of burglaries, the move would not be cost effective, as there have been too few burglaries to justify the two staff that would be needed to cover the Hall.

Mr Weir said that the resources that were available were insufficient for more guards, and that electronic monitoring from the Security station at Southside was preferable.

BY MARK BRIDGE

The Royal School of Mines was particularly badly hit by computer thefts over the Easter period. Thieves managed to steal a significant cache of components from the departments of physics, geology and earth resources engineering and an administrative section of the Huxley building. By selectively removing the components and replacing the outer shells they deferred detection until just before the start of term.

The thieves probably gained access to the building by following students who legitimately swiped in. There were no signs of any break-ins, and the first many knew of the problem was when terminals came up with memory error messages.

Ken Weir, Deputy Chief of Security, has advised the various departments to effect specific counter measures, "Security could not have known and this is a serious breach". He also suggested that if students and staff see someone not familiar to their department behaving suspiciously they should ask security to check that they are there with good reason.

News in brief

BY THE NEWS TEAM

Blythe spirit

Imperial College Governors are meeting today to decide whether to give the go ahead to develop a new arts centre on the top floor of the planned new library and bookstore complex.

The plans include a new auditorium and gallery as well as rehearsal rooms improved facilities for Imperial's choir and orchestras. The project has been made possible by the Blythe bequest, which was designed to promote music at Imperial, but it is unclear whether the fund has sufficient capital to go ahead with the plans in the near future. The Blythe project group are developing an application for National Lottery arts funding, which may include cooperation with the Albert Hall and local museums.

Grand entrance

Senior IC staff and Departmental Heads are reporting back to the estates department over plans to redesign the front entrance of the College.

Potential plans include enclosing the Exhibition Road end of the walkway beside Mechanical Engineering with a glass frontage and revolving door. There have also been suggestions that the development may include a drop-in centre for Imperial alumni.

Sue recovered

Sue Thornett, who works at Princes Gardens Day Nursery, is back at work after being struck by a car while on the zebra crossing in front of the Science Museum about two weeks ago. After X-rays and several days off she is now well, and just needs a follow up consultation. "It wasn't that bad... no broken bones or anything" said Sue, thanking the well wishers.

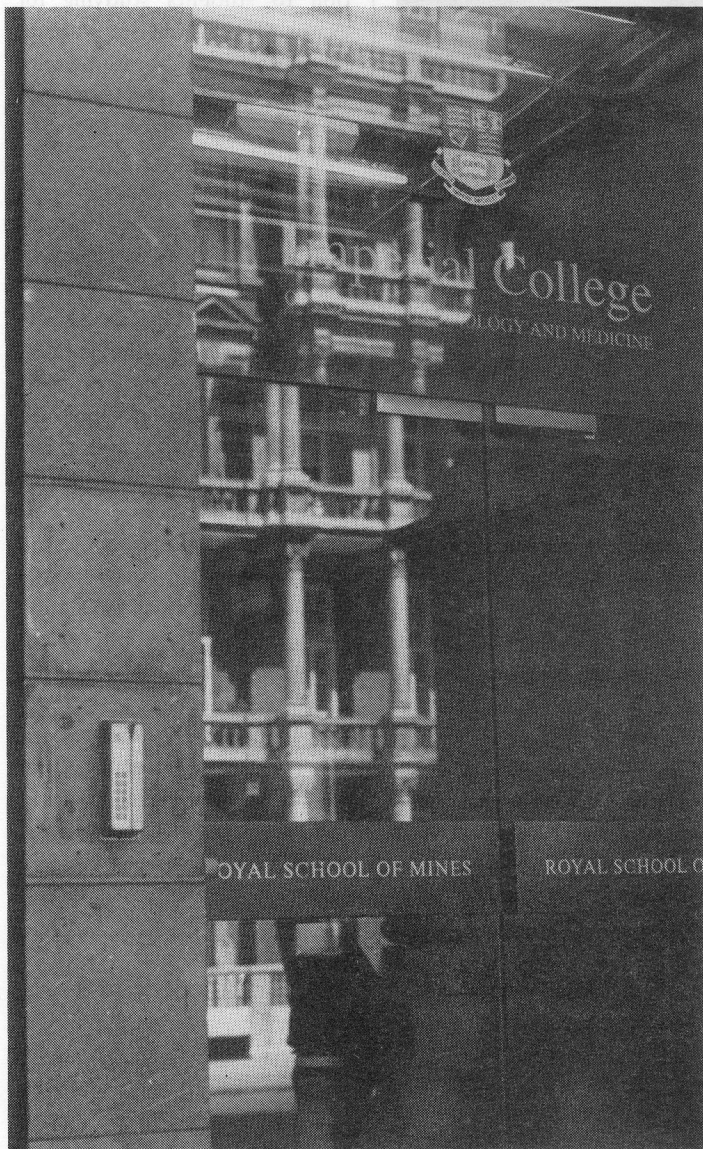


PHOTO: IVAN CHAN

Bill triumphs in European Court



Bill Goodwin: Felix Editor 1988-89, ground-breaking lobbyist for the freedom of the Press 1989-96.

BY THE NEWS TEAM

Bill Goodwin, an IC graduate and former *Felix* editor, has won a year-long case against the British Government, which he claimed was violating his human rights.

The dispute began after Bill, who was working for the trade paper *The Engineer*, received confidential information about a

computer company, Tetra Ltd. An informant, who wished to remain anonymous, described the company's financial problems. After attempting to contact one of the company's senior executives regarding the matter, Tetra claimed that the information had been stolen from its offices, and that its release could threaten the

company's survival. In November 1989 Tetra put pressure on Bill to reveal the identity of his source, winning a High Court battle. He refused to comply and was fined £5,000 for contempt of court. His case was also dismissed by the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords. At the time he told *Felix* that he only evaded a jail sentence "because of the publicity".

In June 1994 The European Commission for Human Rights referred the case to the European Court claiming that the British Government had violated the journalist's rights (*Felix* 1001). They said that "protection of the sources from which journalists derive information is an essential means of enabling the press to perform its important function of 'public watchdog' in a democratic society." They were unconvinced that the publicity had caused Tetra undue harm and that there was any justification in compelling Bill to reveal his source, given that the matter did not affect national security.

Backed by the National Union of Journalists, what was seen as a test case appeared

before the European Court of Human Rights in April 1995 (*Felix* 1026), with Bill's lawyers arguing that English Law violated the European Human Rights Convention by threatening journalists with fines and imprisonment if they wished to maintain the anonymity of their sources.

At the end of March judgement was given, ruling that Bill was not entitled to compensation, though the court agreed his rights had been violated. They further ruled that the British Government should pay his costs of nearly £37,600.

Geoffrey Robertson QC, who had been representing Bill, said that this was a "landmark judgement for press freedom," adding that the UK's 1981 Contempt of Court Act would have to be amended. He also felt that this would pave the way for journalists to claim compensation against the Government for "mental anguish suffered by being threatened with imprisonment for obeying their consciences." Bill commented that the outcome "was great news for me and for journalists in general."

Government gives IC the Natural Resources Institute

BY ANDREW SMITH

In the latest attempt to privatise ancillary Government activities, Baroness Chalker has announced that Imperial College is to be part owner of a former Foreign Office institute. Together with three other British Universities, Imperial will oversee the allocation of the Natural Resources Institute's £25 million research budget.

Speaking to *Felix*, Professor John Archer, Imperial College's Deputy Rector and newly appointed Vice Chancellor of Herriot Watt University, welcomed the college's successful bid saying that he was "delighted it has turned out so well for us." Imperial College will be responsible for the allocation of the research money, appoint-

ing two directors to a new company, but will otherwise have no financial outlay.

The Natural Resources Institute (NRI) is currently administered by the Overseas Development Authority (ODA), itself part of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The Government scheme, in implementing a proposal by the Universities of Greenwich and Edinburgh, and Imperial and Wye Colleges, sees the current establishment being separated into two distinct sections.

The first section will control the NRI's 360 staff and premises at Chatham Maritime in Kent, and will become a department of the University of Greenwich. The second section, which will be hived off from the NRI, is the

company in whom Imperial College will own a 25% stake and which will control the £25 million research budget.

NR International, this new company, is due to come into operation within three months. With the first part of the programme, transferring control of the NRI from the ODA to Greenwich University occurring last week, NR International is due to begin trading on 1 August 1996.

The Natural Resources Institute is the vehicle through which the government provides scientific and technical expertise in renewable and natural resources for the overseas aid programme. The Overseas Development Authority is committed to provide funding at

current levels for the next five years with the expectation that better value for money can be gained by this latest privatisation.

Under the programme accepted by the Government, NR International will put research programmes out to tender, accepting those which provide the best value for money. It is expected that Imperial itself will naturally submit bids for many of the proposals. The complementary nature of the four shareholders was emphasised by Prof Archer as he suggested that with Edinburgh's expertise in veterinary matters, Wye's concentration on agricultural research, and Imperial's well known ecological excellence, "nobody will be stepping on each other's toes."

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VACANCY

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FALMOUTH-KEOGH HALL

Applications are invited for the position of Warden of Falmouth-Keogh Hall, which is available from September 1996.

Falmouth Keogh Hall, in Princes' Gardens, is a self-catering mixed hall of approximately 190 students, housed in single study bedrooms. The warden is responsible for the pastoral care of students and for maintaining discipline. In return, he/she receives rent-free accommodation in a self-contained flat.

The majority of Falmouth-Keogh residents are first-year undergraduates, with some post-graduates and more senior undergraduates.

Application forms and an information pack can be obtained from the Establishment Office, Personnel Division, Room 513, Sheffield Building, Tel. Ext. 45533 or 45532. Any non-undergraduate of the College may apply, but experience of pastoral care of students would be an advantage.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications: Wednesday 29th May 1996.

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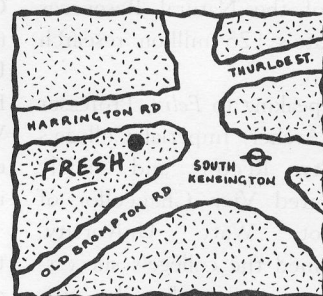
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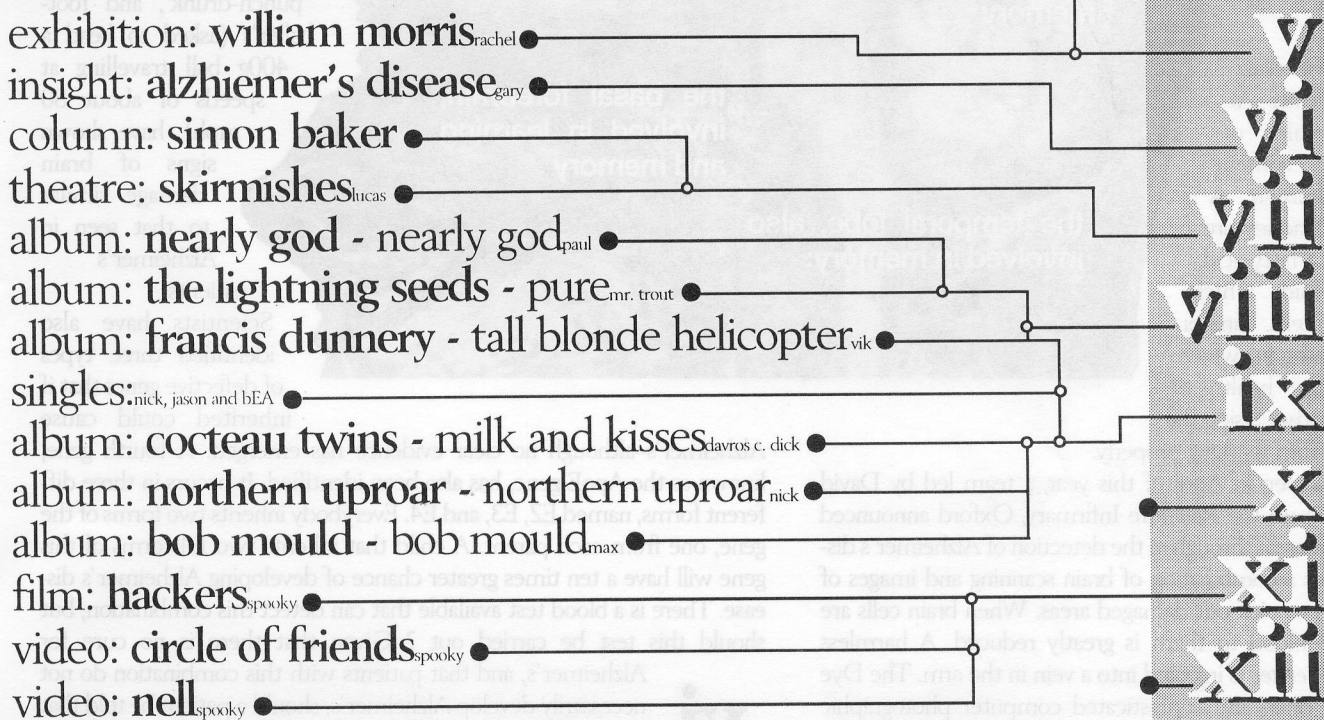
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William Morris was born in Walthamstow, Essex, on March 24th 1834 to a wealthy businessman's family. Having been educated at Marlborough College and Exeter College Oxford, he dropped his original intention to join the Church and devoted his life to art. Now celebrated as a designer, artist, poet and philosopher, he is most famous for his textiles and wallpaper patterns. The major new Victoria and Albert exhibition marking the centenary of his death demonstrates his prolific artistic talent, including tiles, tapestry, stained glass and calligraphy, but also considers his involvement in the early socialist movement.

WILLIAM MORRIS
Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road. Opens today, until September 1st.
Tickets: £5.50 adults, £3.25 concessions

WILLIAM MORRIS



Initially the onset of memory loss is gradual and inconspicuous. Then sufferers start to forget—not only where they left their keys—but what their keys are for. Gradually, confusion, loss of reason and language problems set in. In the final stages of the disease, The Alzheimer's victims can't even recognise their own family. It is devastating and undignified condition with no cure. But new advances in imaging technology are helping us to diagnose and understand Alzheimer's. **Graham Eastwood** reports.

Imaging Alzheimer's

Around 600,000 people in the UK are estimated to suffer from Alzheimer's disease. It accounts for over three-quarters of British dementia cases in the over 65's—but the disease can strike before the age of 30. It is the fourth largest cause of death, after heart disease, cancer and stroke, in the western world. As you read this it may be tempting to dismiss the disease as a problem for the elderly—but as health care standards continue to improve, and the population lives to an ever-increasing old age, it will become a major problem for our generation.

For scientists, Alzheimer's is very much a mystery disease. It is still not clear what causes it. Although we do know the disease progresses by destroying large numbers of nerve cells in the brain. Five areas are particularly susceptible (see figure)

Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) has shown that in the brains of Alzheimer's patients, the death of nerve cells (which can be up to one-third of the total of the brain) causes the brain to shrink and the fluid-filled spaces around it to increase. The neurotransmitter acetylcholine (ACh), which is the major chemical messenger between the nerve cells in the brain's memory circuits, is also depleted.

Another difficulty scientists have faced is in the diagnosis of Alzheimer's. At present the only way to diagnose the disease in living patients is by ruling out other possible causes of the symptoms, such as tumours or strokes.

Alzheimer's can be diagnosed accurately at death. At post-mortem, the brains of Alzheimer's patients contain abnormal bundles known as plaques and tangles. Plaques are formed by deposits of a fatty acid, known as beta-amyloid, which builds up in the nerve cells. Tangles form when the tau protein, which normally maintains the health of nerve cells, clumps together inside the cells preventing them from working properly.

Encouragingly however, in April of this year, a team led by David Smith and Kim Jobst from the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford announced what is being hailed as a breakthrough in the detection of Alzheimer's disease. The new test uses a combination of brain scanning and images of blood flow in the brain to pick out damaged areas. When brain cells are damaged, the flow of blood to them is greatly reduced. A harmless radioactive dye called *Ceretec* is injected into a vein in the arm. The Dye quickly travels to the brain and sophisticated computer photographic equipment builds up an accurate 3D image of the damage to the brain

The Science Museum is currently running an exhibition on Alzheimer's as part of the Science Box series. Entry is free to IC students and it's well worth going to see.

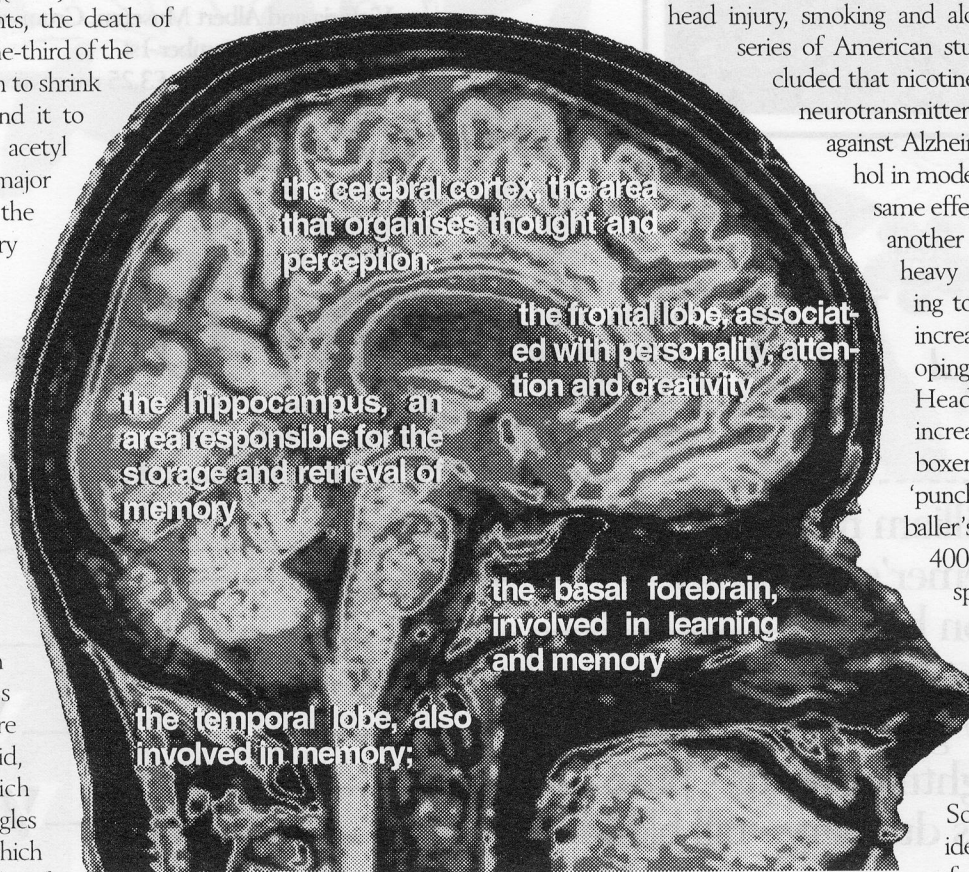
which has been caused by the disease. It is said to be more than 90 per cent reliable. This opens the way for the early diagnosis of the illness and the accurate selection of patients for future therapies and research programmes. Dr Jobst told *The Guardian* "Until now there has been no accurate diagnostic test for Alzheimer's while the patient was alive. We think we have made some exciting discoveries about brain function in Alzheimer's disease."

In other areas of research scientists have already identified a number of risk factors. Environmental risk factors could include head injury, smoking and alcohol. In a puzzling series of American studies, scientists concluded that nicotine, which mimics the neurotransmitter ACh, may protect against Alzheimer's, drinking alcohol in moderation may have the same effect. Strangely though, another study suggested that heavy drinking and smoking together may actually increase the risk of developing the disease.

Head injury may also increase the risk. Some boxers, often seem to be 'punch-drunk', and footballers (asked to head a 400g ball travelling at speeds of about 80 mph), have shown signs of brain damage similar to that seen in Alzheimer's patients.

Scientists have also identified three types of defective genes that if inherited could cause

Alzheimer's—although no clear evidence has emerged. A fourth gene, known as the ApoE gene, has also been identified. It occurs in three different forms, named E2, E3, and E4. Everybody inherits two forms of the gene, one from each parent. A child that inherits two E4 forms of this gene will have a ten times greater chance of developing Alzheimer's disease. There is a blood test available that can detect this combination, but should this test be carried out? Given that there is no cure for Alzheimer's, and that patients with this combination do not necessarily develop Alzheimer's, should a patient be told that they may have a ten times greater risk?



"I ate in Linstead for a year and I'm damned if I ever found anything of bovine origin. 'Bollocks!' I hear you cry, and maybe you're right."

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simon baker

The fact that I have now finished my exams will not endear me to about 80% of the college, but I do sympathise with you and hope it all goes well. Say what you will about the government, it is schools and universities that inflict the most discomfort on students by insisting on 'inviting' us to while away our summers slowly filling our heads with huge amounts of information over several weeks so that it may be totally emptied in about three hours. So, dear reader, when it's really getting you down, when the prospect of BSc (London) after your name seems to have the same cachet as membership of the Tufty Club, remember these words, which I read somewhere recently: 'Don't let the seeds stop you from enjoying the watermelon.' Of course, if you don't like watermelon, you're bugged. Can't win 'em all.

It was nice to see that the Care in the Community programme has been vindicated by the NUS's decision to moderate their stance on students grants. These angry young men and women really are now much more calm and less excitable, and may soon be permitted to write policy motions in biro rather than crayon (I gather that moves to change the Executive's stance on the flatness of the Earth are not yet complete). It would seem that the main protagonist of this change is my good friend Ghassan Karian, footsoldier in the Blair Army and president of ULU - Well done, Sarah on your bid to succeed



him. He seems to have persuaded the mish-mash of Trotskyists and Marxists (i.e. the moderates) within the NUS to accept New Solutions, which, although flawed and sketchy, is a bit more realistic and at least a step in the opposite direction.

Time will tell if the wicked cynics are proved correct and Uncle Tony gives Ghassan that nice safe Labour seat he has set his heart on.

This week has been surprisingly busy both in and out of college. I have seen an enormous amount of balls, and I don't mean the College Estates Development Plan, but rather the World Snooker Championship, won unsurprisingly by Stephen Hendry, which has been riveting, as was the climax of the Premiership. I'm not a football fanatic, but it has been a great season.

The BSE fiasco rumbles on, the Union deciding to announce that their beef is non-British, following a sign I saw in the JCR announcing the same about College Catering. While I do not eat in the Union often enough to pass judgement on this decision, other than that I would have expected a slightly more rational response from a student body entirely populated by scientists, the concern of College catering is hilarious. You cannot imagine how delighted we are that you care about your customers so passionately. Anyway, I ate in Linstead for a year and I'm damned if I ever found anything of bovine origin. 'Bollocks!' I hear you cry, and maybe you're right.

theatre: skirmishes^{lucas}

Despite needing meaning to their lives, the characters in *Skirmishes* have, according to this press release, reached 'a point of indifference where it really doesn't matter *what* they do or *why* they do it. A point located on the edge of the black holes inside their eyeballs'. Now, this is eminently quotable stuff, but considering how portmanteau stories (as this one is) can often be disappointing (a recent cinematic example is *Four Rooms*), it is interesting to see how this play can break pre-conceived notions.

London is the setting for this patchwork play which consists of four contemporary tales. These cover subjects like the anger of youth to the sociopathic nature of misanthropy. Neil Biswas is certainly a dynamic writer, able to effectively convey anything from profane, belligerent street slang to the detached, cyclical, seemingly irrelevant speech of autism. But apart from the already quoted link (and even that is tenuous) and the fact that they are all set in the Capital, this play lacked a convincing overall schemata. Maybe that was the point - to present these disparate tales together in order to try and make unlikely associations, but this meant it lost its coherence and agency.



The acting did not have any tangible vibrancy, energy or urgency. This was a shame, as Robert Pepper's mainly action-led direction was often focused and balanced. An effective attempt at a multimedia production was made by flashing transient dream-like images of the tales on numerous TV screens between the installments. These were accompanied by an appropriately weeping and dissonant cello. Other music included the sweet Motown rhythms of the 60's and the hell-on-earth techno anthems of the 90's.

Skirmishes may not be for everyone's palate, but nonetheless is a disturbingly real portrayal of London life.

album: nearly god - nearly god^{paul}

If you've missed the hype surrounding Nearly God, the latest project by ex-Massive Attack rapper Tricky, then you can't have read a music paper in the last six months. The long-awaited follow up to last year's 'Maxinquaye' has finally arrived in the shops to end the speculation over whether or not it can match the sheer brilliance of its predecessor.

This time, instead of re-using the 'Maxinquaye' format, Tricky has opted for a series of collaborations with various other singer-songwriters. It has to be said that this does sound like a money-spinner for an ageing rock dinosaur running out of ideas and it's hardly what you'd expect from one of the most original and exciting talents to emerge in this country for years. The list of collaborators didn't exactly bode well either. For a start, there's the past-it (or so I thought) Alison Moyet, Terry Hall (ex-Fun Boy Three) and how many people remember Cath Coffey, number two singer with the long silent Stereo MCs? In actual fact, it turns out that the whole idea is a stroke of genius. Although the album as a finished piece of work doesn't come close to 'Maxinquaye', some of the individual tracks are

easily as good, if not better.

Alison Moyet gets a whole track to herself and (I eat my words) does brilliantly. Her creamy vocals complement Tricky's writing style, helping to create his trademark black, depressive moods. The same applies to Cath Coffey who provides another variation on the screwed-up relationship theme in 'I Sing For You'. Ironically, however, it's Tricky's mainstay singer, Martina, who steals the show. 'Black Coffee' is a beautifully dark, catchy, possibly autobiographical account of insomnia and single parenthood. Tricky does only one song on his own - a cover of Siouxsie And The Banshees's 'Tattoo'. It's the perfect choice since Siouxsie's twisted, subversive lyrics could almost have been written by Tricky himself. The result is a match for anything that he's done before.

This album has only two faults. The first is that it's a bit scrappy. Some of the tracks do sound like they were recorded in a couple of hours and are a bit rough around the edges. The second is that the songs don't quite gel together properly. In a collection of collaborations this is undoubtedly unavoidable.

Having said all that, this is still an excellent album and Tricky has thus re-confirmed his songwriting genius, although "Nearly God" is a more than flattering and blasphemous self-title. (8)

gig: lightning seeds - pure...^{mr. trout}

Even if you don't know it, you've probably heard The Lightning Seeds before. If not from last year's lasting hit single, 'Pure', then you'll be familiar with 'Life Of Riley', the music on Match of the Day's Goal of the Month competition. Jingle-jangle nice guitar pop. I'd like to bet though, that you didn't realise that they had enough material to bring out a greatest hits album. And it's true, individually each of these songs are brilliant: amusing and pensive lyrics over a not quite annoying back-

ground of cheap keyboards and cloyingly sweet six-strings. The problem (and there is always one) is that each song is, identical to the one that went before. Pick any one song to listen to it, and you will be wowed by the sheer pop genius. Listen to all eighteen (count 'em) and you are in danger of having your brain crawling into your stomach, in the hope that digestion will drown out the bowel-churningly irritating clamour that the music becomes. So good you shake your head in wonder, so annoying it makes your hair ache.

For each song, (9). For the album as a whole, a mere (2).

album: francis dunnery - tall blonde helicopter^{vik}

"Francis Dunnery? Who's he?" I hear you cry. "A genius, that's who," I reply. I'm not going to go into his past musical exploits, having been there, done that, to beyond even a dead horse's flogging capacity in last year's *Felix* pages. In any case, the third solo album from the ex-It Bites (read Best Band In The World... Ever!) frontman has very little to do with his past work. Yes, it continues the descent into Mellow Land begun by previous album, 'Fearless', but it is far rawer, far more secure than its predecessor in its own polished, semi-acoustic way.

'48 Hours' is a pure pop opener, driven by that prodigious Dunnery guitar playing, and underpinned by one of those gargantuan Dunnery choruses. 'The Way Things Are' follows in even more accomplished fashion, structured around a

deceptively jaunty rhythm section (all instruments played by the man himself, you understand), and boasting some honest and self-expressive (but never self-indulgent) lyrics.

On the subject of which, this is probably the most positive album that 'Mad Frank' has ever written, which is uncoincidental in that its release coincides with three years of him being sober. The likes of 'Sunshine', 'In My Dreams' and 'Grateful And Thankful', in their song titles alone, showcase the thoughts of someone who is finally beginning to settle down a little and who uses music as his cathartic outlet without the overblown hysteria that has plagued so many supposedly 'tortured' artists.

It's possible that Dunnery's apparent lack of personal problems have robbed this album of some of the emotional edge that marks his work out. But the fact remains that if you appreciate sincere acoustic pop, you'll appreciate this. (7)

singles:^{mick}

inaura - coma aroma
Despite the blatant Massive Attack name drop, this fairly frantic, Beloved-tinged, pop marvel is not bad at all. This lot will go far.

mali rain - forecast for storms
This is officially the longest single ever (76 minute 46 seconds) and to your average punter it would appear to be an album. Fairly nondescript ambient soundscapes and purely background music.

60ft dolls - talk to me
Yet another band tipped for the top in '96. Not much different from a lot of the guitar-chorus-solo-wannabes at the moment. Having said that, after a few listens it's, well, okay.

robyn - you got that something'
(Allegedly) Sexy Swedish Sixteen year old Sings Shabby Sleep-inducing Slow Swing Rubbish, absolute rubbish. Swing should be banned under the Trade Description Act. It is NOT music.

the bluetones - cut some rug
How I was impressed by the pathetic dope reference (not). The worst track on an excellent album, it just doesn't work. This single is only worth it for the B-sides.

the daisies - if I was barry white
Despite its 'comedy' title, this is a really energetic toe tapper. It even has a tambourine!

zero zero - strong
No one has heard of this band but they are good, honestly. Accomplished musicianship, good lyrics, impassioned vocals, walls of guitar and great B-sides.

sterling - everest eyes e.p.
Sounds like one of those support bands that about four people clap for. This is on the reasonable side of mediocre but they appear to be a band who want to be more shouty but just can't seem to manage it.

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more singles: Jason and BeA

mantaray - I don't make promises
Produced by Ed Buller (Suede), this is a mediocre typical indie single from a band who look like the Longpigs.



space monkeys - keep on trippin
The title is more appropriate for a chart/rave song and this song has about as much sophistication.

jack - white jazz
Jazz this is not. However, it is a fairly good indie/rock track.

eggman - not bad enough
Debut single from Sice, lead singer of the Boo Radleys, which has a mellow '60s feel to it.

jubilee - shake and shiver
The title of this song tells you exactly what happens when you hear this song. Unoriginal and poor.

soul coughing - soundtrack to mary
Nirvana-esque song, but lacking any of the Seattle band's finer musical qualities.

the orch - flatlife
'80s synthesised style with a psychedelic twist to it. But a song about living in a flat?!

moloko - fun for me
Very much an acquired taste but I love this trip-hop venture.

de la soul - the bigness
A great return to form! Laidback, jazzy and seriously infectious.

album: cocteau twins - milk and kisses clavros c. dick

I'm sure that if we all learnt to speak 'Elizabeth Fraser', then the world would be an altogether more beautiful place. How can you fail to be enchanted by this, the umpteenth Cocteau Twins album, with all its ethereal charm? It doesn't matter that the words are a hotchpotch; a dictionary that has had alternate pages torn away to reveal a whole new vocabulary. Rather this than some forlorn attempt at a failed rhyming couplet (I have still to understand quite what a 'Wonderwall' is, apart from a crass attempt to avoid using the word 'wonderful').

Anyway, enough of the vitriol. As I said, there is no room for it here. This album comes as some surprise, following much internal squabbling between Liz and one-time partner, Robin Guthrie

- the man, along with the frequently under-rated Simon Raymonde, responsible for the intricacies adorning this particular cathedral. What did we expect - something as venomous as The Exploited perhaps? Maybe, for the cynics. But it's no use trying to preach to the unconverted - you either love the stuff or you find it as vile as Bonnie Langford in Just William. To me, this album shows the Cocteau's continuing maturity, adding more and more delicate lyrics without ever detracting from the fine song-smithery that the trio obviously possess in abundance.

"So then, much more of the same," you say. Well, yes, to be perfectly honest but would we really have it any other way? I, for one, will be taking Elizabeth Fraser to bed with me again tonight and tomorrow night.

Whispering sweet nothings? For me, more like speaking in tongues. (9)

album: northern uproar - northern uproar nick

Northern Uproar are this year's Ash. Some of the band can't drink legally and yet they are in a band who are going to be successful, in a band playing music to crowds of adoring fans, in a band. But I'm not bitter, honest. This is the realisation of every schoolkid's dream - having a record deal and an album out before doing A-levels (if they are doing any). The difference is that Northern Uproar can play. Okay, we're not talking stadium filling standard (yet), but they're not bad at all. Tambourine-augmented, good-time rock combines with an apparent ability to sing to produce tracks that grab you and give you a good shake.

The album kicks off with 'From A Window', a power chord-laden opener if ever there was one with just a doff of the cap to a punk influence (unsurprising since it was produced by James

Manic). From then on it's all teenage angst, girls, and drinking (although I couldn't find any reference to acne anywhere, thankfully). The angst is definitely not of the whimsical variety - it's more Manc than Morrissey and more lad than Lou Reed. The kids have obviously been listening to Oasis in their bedrooms and have decided that they quite like it. After all, most of the tracks are of the shouty variety with a little guitar inspiration and, lo and behold, a few string arrangements.

In spite of their youth, the band appear to be fairly sympathetic to each other's playing and the guiding hand of such an accomplished producer has rounded off the necessary rough edges.

Overall, 'Northern Uproar' is a great album for when you really feel like making some noise. I still can't forgive the fact that these mere children have achieved such critical acclaim (from me of all people) but I am begrudgingly going to have to award them a big *Felix* (8).

album: bob mould - bob mould max

The third solo album from the ex-frontman of Hüsker Dü and his first release since the demise of Sugar reveals that his loathing of the music industry has reached an all time peak. "This one is for me," is the sole acknowledgement and indeed, there will be no tour, no singles and no interviews to promote this record.

Bob Mould has carved a career out of making great up-beat guitar pop, while at the same time writing some of the most introverted and self-critical lyrics. His talent is again evident here with tracks such as 'Deep Karma Canyon' and 'Egoveride' which have instant appeal and easily stand out above the rest.

The problems start when the tempo slows and the guitar effects are removed, leaving only an acoustic guitar with his, quite frankly, none-too-special vocals. A prime example of this is 'Hair Stew', which is by far the worst track, and ends

with a particularly painful piece of feedback over some badly sung, soul-destroying lyrics.

My main gripe is not the music, however, which is on the whole very good, but the cynicism which you find rising within you as each track passes. We all like to wallow in self-pity now and again, and some would say that it is very good for the psyche, but not all of us have a multi-million dollar music industry backing us up in order to allow us the outlet for this emotion. Making money from this makes me feel that Mould is lying. If this album is indeed just for him, why even release it? I'm sure that his record company don't indulge their artists for love; the fact of the matter is that fans will buy it and that the record company have saved a lot of time and money through lack of promotion.

From the self-assessment chart on the insert to the lyrics, the whole affair stinks of self-indulgence rather than self-criticism. For being up his own rear end, Bob Mould gets a (0). For the musical content I have to give him a (7).

Da Vinci's
Café-bar

8pm EVERY TUESDAY

bar

TRIVIA

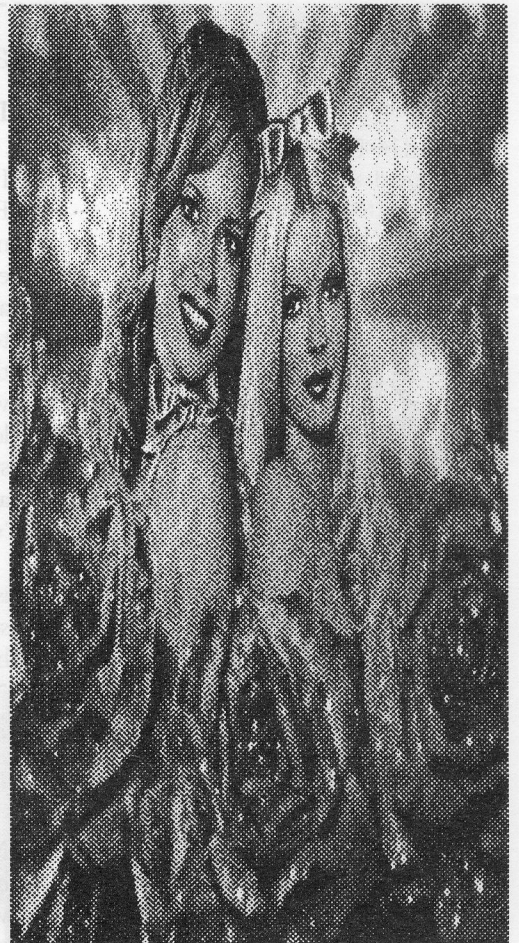
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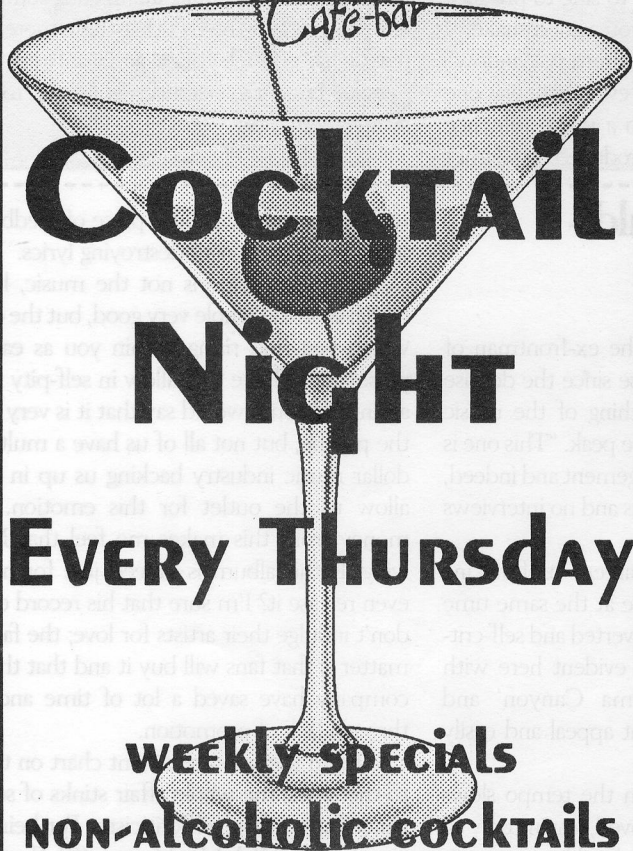


iCU
IMPERIAL COLLEGE UNION

Fri. May 10th 9 - 2
£1 free b4 9

Da Vinci's
Café-bar

**Cocktail
Night**



Every Thursday

WEEKLY SPECIALS
NON-ALCOHOLIC COCKTAILS

bust-a-gut comedy club presents

**THE PRO PLUS
COMEDY TOUR**
WITH
**MILES CRAWFORD
SIMON FOX
MAN WITH THE BEARD**

**ENTS LOUNGE
FRI. MAY 10TH
8PM. £2**

celluloid guide: this week

odeon kensington
01426 914666
the birdcage
1.20, 4.05, 6.50, 9.35, L

sense & sensibility
12.15 (not sat, sun)
3.15, 6.15, 9.15

copycat
1.00, 3.50, 6.40, 9.30, L

things to do in denver when you're dead
1.40, 4.20, 7.00, 9.40, L

mighty aphrodite
2.25, 4.45, 7.05, 9.25

white squall
12.45, 3.40, 6.35, 9.30, L

seven L

broken arrow 11.45 fri & sat

toy story 12.15 mats, sat & sun

[L=late perf, 12.20 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

executive decision
12.30, 3.20, 6.20, 9.20

12 monkeys
12.30, 3.20, 6.10, 9.05

smoke 4.00, 9.00

the birdcage
1.00, 3.40, 6.40, 9.30

hackers 1.40, 6.35

white squall
12.30, 3.10, 6.00, 8.50

tube; south ken then bus
£6.20, £3.70 students and before 6pm

mgm chelsea
0171 352 5096

things to do in denver when you're dead
12.50, 3.35 (not sat, sun)
6.20, 9.10

toy story
2.10, 4.15 (sat, sun mats)

the birdcage
1.20, 4.05, 6.50, 9.25

richard iii
1.40, 4.10, 6.45, 9.25

copycat
1.05, 4.00, 6.35, 9.15

tube; south ken then bus
£6.20, £3.70 students and before 6pm

chelsea cinema
0171 351 3742

mighty aphrodite
2.25, 4.35, 6.45, 9.00

tube; sloane square then bus
£7, £6, £4 (£2.50 concs) 1st perf

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film: **hackers** spooky

The newest genre to emerge from Hollywood, the so-called 'cyber-thriller' which bases itself on the Internet hasn't been up to much (witness *The Net*, or *Johnny Mnemonic*). Until now, that is.

Hackers revolves around the new breed of youth, those with super-competent computer skills, the bane of all major companies. Jonny Lee Miller (Sick Boy in *Trainspotting*) plays Dade aka Crash Override aka Zero Cool, a computer genius who caused the largest computer crash in Wall Street history when he was only eleven and was consequently banned from going near a computer until his eighteen birthday. Having just moved to New York and turned eighteen, he has lost none of his skills and soon establishes himself amongst the local hacker elite, Acid Burn, Cereal Killer, Lord Nikon, and The Phreak. When one of their number accidentally uncovers a plot to steal millions they go up against The Plague, a master hacker who intends to cover his own tracks by framing them for the crime.

By fully embracing the technology, making it integral to the plot rather than simply a plot device, *Hackers* is able to escape the trap that previous films have fallen into. Rather than



assuming that all the techno-babble and hardware would frighten off much of his audience, the director Iain Softley has adapted it to become accessible to everyone, using swish graphical effects to represent what is going on.

This is a very fast-paced and stylish movie; all the leads are street-smart and roller-blade everywhere. The script is sharp and funny; the antagonistic relationship between Crash Override and Acid Burn (Angelina Jolie) is especially good, despite its predictability (Crash and Burn, geddit?). The weakest links are the NSA agents and Lorraine Bracco's corporate bimbo accomplice. Fisher Stevens makes a suitably slimy bad guy, and Miller is reasonably convincing as an eighteen-year old.

Hackers is a highly enjoyable, youthful film and the first of the new breed of thrillers worth watching.

video: **circle of friends** spooky

Set in Ireland during the mid 1950's, *Circle of Friends* is a gentle revolving around Benny (Minnie Driver), a rather frumpish girl from a small village who falls for blue-eyed wonder boy Jack (Chris O'Donnell) at university in Dublin. The heartaches are provided when one of her best friends, Nan (Saffron Burrows), becomes pregnant by the English 'Lord of the Manor' (Colin Firth).

There is nothing particularly remarkable about this film, being neither bad nor especially great. The dominance of rural Irish-Catholicism,

emphasising that sex outside marriage is a mortal sin, helps to give the coming-of-age tale a new angle, but the story as a whole moves fairly slowly and fails to captivate. In fact the sub-plots involving Benny's two friends Nan and Eve (Geraldine O'Rawes) are often more interesting than the main story. Not that this has anything to do with the lead, Minnie Driver in her film debut, is more than competent carrying a lot of the picture herself, it is more the fault of the script.

This is a quiet, gentle little picture: it's unremarkable, but a lot better than much of the trash you could see.

video: **nell** jenny ho

Jodie Foster is Nell, a woman who has spent all her life living a hermit-like existence in an isolated woodland cabin. When she is discovered by doctor Liam Neeson with only her dead mother for company, she is gibbering an incomprehensible language. Keen to prevent Nell from being institutionalised for research purposes, Neeson and psychologist Natasha Richardson observe Nell for three months in her own environment to help the courts decide what her future will be.

As they attempt to help Nell integrate into the modern community, doctor and psychologist learn to understand Nell's language and by doing so, they finally obtain her trust and friendship.

Where the film succeeds most is in portraying Nell's vulnerability as a potential victim of the media and the curious public, but the film requires some suspension of disbelief. Nell seems surprisingly well-groomed and healthy despite having lived in the wilderness for all her life, and the courtroom scene where Nell makes a speech while her doctor translates, is particularly unconvincing.

Already the winner of two Oscars for her roles in *The Accused* and *Silence of the Lambs*, it seems that Foster was trying her damndest to gibber her way to a third. Some might find her performance irritating and a means of showing-off, but there's no denying that it is a fine and convincing one.

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. Bring trainers. Contact Kashif, Aeronautics II, k.ahmed-@ae.ic.ac.uk for more information. (R)

Wing Chun Kung Fu

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

Fitness Club

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

Ents

Double the fun!! Doors open at 8pm for Bust - A- Gut Comedy, who bring you the Pro-Plus Comedy Night with three top acts - Simon Fox, Miles Crawford & the Man with the Beard. (see right). £2/£1 with entscard.

Alternatively, indulge yourself in pure Hedonism - a night of storming dance tunes with Christian, Nick & Phil. £1/ free. Bar 'til lam.

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)

friday

the
week
ahead

saturday 11 may

Gliding Club

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

Ents

FA Cup Final. Man U. v Liverpool live on College's only 8 foot screen for the best view. Bar from 1pm. Da Vinci's.

saturday

bust-a-gut

Don't say we don't care for your mental health - in this most stressful of terms, we've decided that the best solution is for you all to have a good laugh, so we've got two great comedy nights for this term.

The first is tonight and is sponsored, aptly enough, by those purveyors of exam term relief, ProPlus. To take your mind off work for a while, we've got three acts and special giveaways. The acts are Miles Crawford, Simon Fox, & Man with the Beard, who between them have done everything from the National Lottery Live to the James Whale Show, via compering the Annual Hells Angel Convention (so heckle at your peril). In addition to all this TV work, all three are regulars on the national circuits and play to packed houses all over the country.

All this comedy talent is yours tonight for just £2 or £1 with entscards, and doors open at 8pm.

The second show is the regional semi-final of the Daily Telegraph Open Mic competition, which is going to be a smorgasbord of comic talent, with fourteen acts getting five minutes each to win the chance of going to the Edinburgh Festival, and on to stardom, wealth, & tons of top drugs.

The evening will be compered by the show-stopping, stage grabbing bag of talent that is Boothby Graffoe. Plus there's a smart offer that means that everyone who comes with a copy of the Daily Telegraph gets a free bottle of Newcastle Brown.

Doors open at 8.30, tickets are £2.50 or £2, & you get free entry to "Shaft" afterwards.

sunday 12 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)

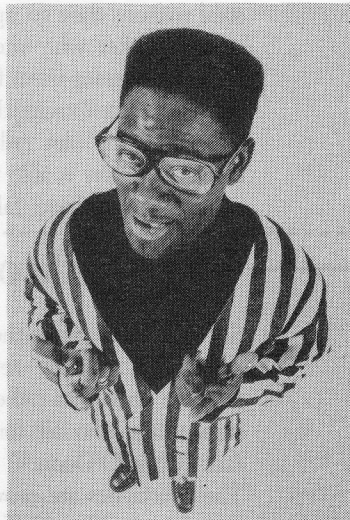
Fitness Club

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.

sunday



Miles Crawford (above) and The Man with the Beard (below, believe it or not) are tonight's top Bust-a-Gut attractions at Imperial College Union.



monday 13 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. A damn sight easier than University Challenge - Da Vinci's Bar Trivia. And you win £50 which is more use than some ugly trophy!

monday

third world first society

In association with ICU Ents, The Third World First Society present "A Night of Roots Reggae" featuring live music from Sound Rebellion on Friday 17th May, in ICU. Eat Jamaican style: spicy burgers and hot chicken wings courtesy of Da Vinci's. There is a bar until 1am, and disco until 2am, all for £2.

Proceeds will go towards Christian Aid's campaign against the International Monetary Fund's policies of economic and structural adjustment affecting the poor in Jamaica.

tuesday

14
may**Cathsoc**

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

Yacht Club

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

African Caribbean Soc

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

IC Sailing Club

12.45 - 1.45pm. Southside Lounge. (R)

AudioSoc

1.00pm. Brown Committee Room. 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 Skills5 - 8pm. Ents Lounge. Contact sdh@ee.ic.ac.uk for details. (R)**Fitness Club**

5.30pm. Advanced aerobics. (R)

IC Bridge Club

6pm in the Clubs Committee Room. (R)

icsf7pm in STOIC Studios. <http://www.ph.ic.ac.uk/moontg/> (R)**IQ**9.00pm. Union Bar. 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)

ICCAG

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)

tuesday

wednesday

15
may**IC Sailing Club**

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

Skate Society12.15pm. Southside Lounge. Contact Alex a.cinelli@ic.ac.uk, 0171 352 9111 (R)**Motorbike Club**12.45pm. Southside Lounge. Contact Ian Robinson, i.robinson@ic for more details. (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. Beginners welcome. 1st lesson free. (R)

Chess Club

6.30pm. Brown Committee Room or Clubs Committee Room. (R)

Ents

8-12pm. Frolik! A short night of exam relief. Free!

w e d n e s d a y

ICU Annual Meeting

The Imperial College Union Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday May 17th at 12.15 pm in the Ents lounge.

Elections will be held for the positions below. Nomination papers are up on the notice board opposite the union office.

The positions open are for 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, and Haldane book and record buyer.

thursday

16
may**Fitness Club**

12.30pm. Die Hard circuit training.

5.30pm. Beginners aerobics. Southside Gym. (R)

ConSoc1pm. Southside Upper Lounge. <http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/clubs/-societies/scc/consoc/home.html> (R)**Gliding Club**

1pm. Aeronautics 266. (R)

YHA

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

Yoga Soc6.15 - 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)

Mountaineering Club

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

ICCAG

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

Skate SocNight skate - all welcome. Contact Alex on 0171 352 9111 or a.cinelli@ic.ac.uk for more details. (R)**Motorbike Club**7.45pm Southside. Rides in and around London. Any size and shape of bike welcome. Contact Ian Robinson, i.robinson@ic for more details. (R)**Ents**

8 - 11pm. Indulge yourself at Da Vinci's Cocktail Night.

t h u r s d a y

next diary
deadline:
noon,
May 13th

friday

17
may**Imperial College Union Annual General Meeting**

12.15pm. Ents lounge.

Amateur Radio Society (HamSoc)

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

Rag Meeting

1.10pm Ents Lounge. (R)

Pakistan Society3 - 5pm. Basketball, union gym. Bring trainers. 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)

Ents9 - 2am. ICU. Third World First Reggae night with *Sound Rebellion* playing live. A mere £2 on the door. Profits to Christian Aid campaigning in Jamaica. Bar until 1am and disco until 2am. For more information contact Jon via j.parkinson@ic (see left).**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 Quad Security for the leaving times. (R)

f r i d a y

the
week
ahead

the trout files

Imperial College, 4th May, 8:00am.

Agent Trout, having rejected the idea of infiltrating the college by pretending to be a student in Aeronatics, returns to base to consider his next move. Reports follows:

"Hangover, n. a severe headache or other unpleasant after effects from drinking much alcohol." OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY (GRIFFIN SAVERS EDITION)

Yes, that about covers it. Ten days, two hundred units of alcohol, thirty four hours of sleep and a five hour car journey after my last epistle, I have returned to my quaint and charming home town of Sunderland.

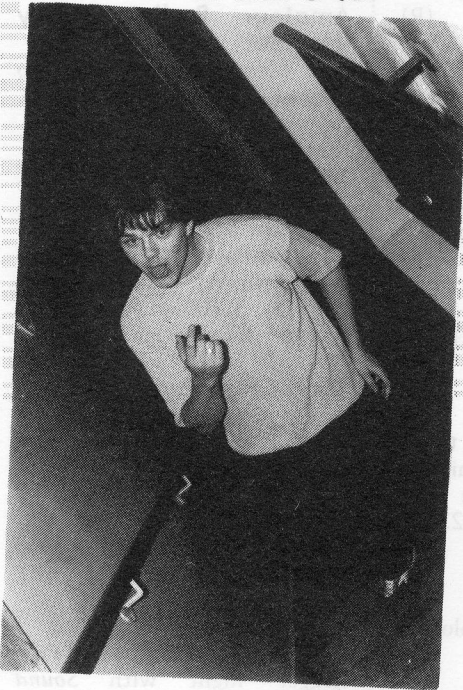
Despite the aforementioned unpleasant after-effects, I still managed to have a hugely enjoyable weekend, much at the expense of Newcastle United Football Club. The unbridled joy as Middlesborough went one-nil down. The childlike glee of seeing Keegan's face. The rare beauty of miserable, dejected Geordies. Poetry.

One thing I now have in common with many of my neighbours is

unemployment. It was a sense of acute surrealism with which I entered the expansive Sunderland DSS office, a sadistic amalgam of a cattle market, the stock exchange and a lower division game of rugby. It alarms me that, should I be unable to find employment, I shall be bound to attend on a weekly basis. I would prefer, to be brutally honest, to perform indecent acts with an orangutan of dubious personal hygiene. But that's just me.

Enough of my private life; I am both amazed and saddened that style is not appreciated in the North-East. Those who hold the likes of Jarvis Cocker and Mark Horne as gurus above the blue-jeans-and-checked-shirt brothers Gallagher are so few in my home town that I have been threatened in no uncertain terms that, should I ever wear my daffodil yellow acrylic shirt (with pointed '70's style collars) again, it and I will be set aflame. It's good to be back.

Cheers, J.T.



The Daily Telegraph

OPEN MIC AWARD

Britain's Biggest Comedy Talent Search

HOSTED BY

BOOTHBY GRAFFOE

"I was swept away on a tidal wave of idiotic laughter." *The Guardian*

In association with the
**NEWCASTLE
BROWN ALE
NATIONAL
COMEDY
NETWORK**

SEMI-FINALS

WEDNESDAY 15th MAY
SHEFFIELD HALLAM
The Furnace
Box Office: 0114 253 4122
Doors: 8.30pm

THURSDAY 16th MAY
EDINBURGH
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS
ASSOCIATION
The Pleasance
Cabaret Bar
Box Office: 0131 650 2349
Doors: 8.00pm

SATURDAY 18th MAY
BIRMINGHAM
UNIVERSITY GUILD
The Joke Joint
Box Office: 0121 472 1841
Doors: 8.30pm

THURSDAY 23rd MAY
THE ACADEMY
Cleveland Road,
Uxbridge
Box Office: 01895 813 504
Doors: 8.30pm

FRIDAY 24th MAY
IMPERIAL COLLEGE
UNION
Bust-a-Gut Comedy Club
Box Office: 0171 594 8068
Doors: 8.30pm

SATURDAY 25th MAY
STAFFORDSHIRE
UNIVERSITY UNION
Odyssey College Road
Box Office: 01782 294310
Doors: 7.00pm

Tickets £2.50

£1,000
First Prize

O.S.C. ELECTIONS

The Overseas Students Committee consists of a team of individuals who will form the umbrella for all the Overseas Societies at Imperial. Each person on the committee must be dedicated, and do a bit extra. They should be able to get along with other members, especially at times of stress, and be willing to give up some of their spare time to make the committee successful.

If you would like to make the OSC successful like it has been in past years, then run for one of the posts available.

SIGN YOUR NAME ON THE OSC NOTICEBOARD (WALKWAY) BY MONDAY 13th MAY 6:00pm ALONG WITH TWO SECONDRS, WHO MUST COME TO THE ELECTIONS ON TUESDAY 14th MAY AT 12:00 IN THE UNION LOUNGE.

ALL MEMBERS OF IMPERIAL ARE ENTITLED TO RUN FOR A POSITION AND VOTE.

Positions available:

CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIR, HON SECRETARY, TREASURER, JUNIOR TREASURER, PUBLICITY, THREE EVENTS OFFICERS, INTERNAL LIASON, EXTERNAL LIASON, WELFARE OFFICER, SPORTS OFFICER

LETTERS TO FELIX

REPLIED TO BY TIM ST. CLAIR

Dear Felix,

I was very disappointed with your editing of my chess report. Why is it that everybody else gets twice as much space as us? I was not impressed with the way you chopped the report in half, explaining all the details of how the competition worked, but then not even giving our results. What is the point of explaining all the rules of the competition and then only writing one line to say how we did? If there wasn't any room or something, we'd much rather have had a decent report in the next Felix. Also I was hoping you might mention when we meet, which you didn't put in the article or the diary. Anyone who reads the article and wants to come to the club won't know where we meet. It would be nice if you could include us in your diary in future. We meet on Wednesdays in the Brown Committee Room or Clubs Committee Room at 6.30pm.

Dom Goodwin

On behalf of Felix, I'm sorry you feel that you were treated unfairly, but there are also a few points to clear up.

It's generally understood that reports may be edited for length; as it was printed, your write-up said who was on the team, what the competition was and how well you did, which I'd regard as the relevant points.

The sports section size depends on the number of reports submitted, so it would be unfair on the other sports teams for us to set aside space for 'old news' if we haven't been asked to do so.

The same applies to diary entries - you have to make your wishes known. Now that you have, you've been given a regular diary entry from now until the end of term.

Deadline for letters in Felix 1057: midday, Tuesday 14th May
Please bring your union card for identification.

FELIX

FOUNDED 1949

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unhappy people

It's taken me four years, but I've finally sorted it out. I've worked out what's wrong.

It's not that Imperial's students are boring and ignorant - witness Bradshaw, Totty et al. and their rather alarming knowledge of Greek mythology and stained glass windows.

It's not that the College is run by uncaring, anti-student proponents of officialdom - over the past few months I have gradually come to the conclusion that those who pull the strings here are actually exceptionally enthusiastic and motivated.

That's just the point, you see: I think that as they plan and spend their way into a bigger and brighter and shinier Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, those they employ sink into deeper and deeper pits of dissatisfaction.

I think IC must have a monopoly on poorly - motivated, sullen and intimidating staff. People whose very presence oozes a feeling that they are thoroughly pissed off and don't want to be here. Catering staff that throw your change at you as if to suggest that you really don't deserve to be allowed to pay through the nose for a bland

chicken tikka sandwich. Finance department staff who throw your grant cheque at you as though the deed is the work of the last of the great martyrs rather than part of their job description. Lecturers whose job dissatisfaction and frustration is manifested into a disdain and dislike of students that makes going to ask for last week's lecture notes akin to a Labour of Hercules. Security staff who, when tentatively roused from sleeping on the job because you, unreasonably enough, require some security assistance, display the care and compassion of Victor Meldrew.

I don't if they're not paid enough, not challenged enough, or if we simply have a personnel department that has rather a lot to learn. And before I get a post-bag full of indignance, I wouldn't begin to suggest that there aren't plenty of absolutely delightful security staff, nor that the finance department doesn't have it's fair share of charm. But so long as the public face of this college is permeated with a liberal dose of bored insolence we are never going to get away from the fact that being at Imperial is a little bit embarrassing, and considerably depressing.

EDITORIAL TEAM:

NEWS: ALEX FEAKES FEATURES: MARK BAKER

SUB-EDITING AND PROOFING: TIM ST CLAIR

MUSIC: VIK BANSAL CINEMA: WEI LEE

PHOTOGRAPHY: IVAN CHAN

PUZZLES: CATFISH CLUBS AND SOCS: STEPHEN HAMILTON

THEATRE: KATHERINE FISHWICK AND CLAIRE SAMUEL

ARTS: JEREMY SCIENCE: BEN WILKINS

COLLATING LAST WEEK: MARK, BEN AND JEREMY

FELIX

<p>monday, high noon clubs & societies articles deadline monday 1.20pm reviewers' meeting monday 6pm news meeting tuesday noon arts meeting</p>	<p>tuesday noon letters deadline tuesday 6pm features meeting thursday night collating friday morning another Felix hits the street...</p>
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The indispensable guide for Felix contributors and helpers

Solution to this week's crossword:
 Across: 1.Sahib, 4.Badminton, 9.Roaches, 10.Sojourn, 11.Torons,
 12.Ferocely, 14.Gone to seed, 15.Oslo, 18.Move, 20.Fraternise,
 23.Doctrine, 24.Aurora, 26.Plumage, 27.Oregano, 28.Telemetry,
 29.Tiers Down: 1.Stratagem, 2.Hearthen, 3.Behemoth, 4.Bust,
 5.Dissidents, 6.Injury, 7.Toupees, 8.Nanny, 13.Astringent,
 16.Operators, 17.Proudest, 19.Victual, 21.Isolate, 22.Orgasm,
 23.Depot, 24.Toby

FELIX SPORT

IC Athletics Clubs Committee is sponsored by



Linstead footballers win tournament

BY MARTIN ARCHIBOLD

At the end of last term the eleven most elite hall teams met head to head in the most prestigious event in the inter-hall football calendar. The Competition played at Harlington was the first of its kind.

Opening rounds saw surprisingly early exits for Falmouth Keogh and Garden halls. In the semi-finals unlucky Tizard suffered at the hands of 'boring boring' Clayponds (1-0), whilst Southwell were overwhelmed by the relentless attacking style characteristic of Linstead Hall.

The final predictably saw some determined play from both sides, Linstead defence held Clayponds uncompromisingly,



with some unrelentingly savage tackling, notably by David Chattenee and Ming Chan.

The Clayponds eleven-man defence held solid in the first half despite some sparkling work down the centre by Linstead's

resident superstar Amo.

In the second period there was more of the same, our under-strength attacking talent sprightly brushing aside the Clayponds old-timers.

With ten minutes left on the

clock, a Linstead forward eventually penetrated the Clayponds rearguard, a dashing run by Amo followed by a lovely controlled pass left Shane with a clear sight of goal. Unsurprisingly his superb right shin shot found the net.

Clayponds finally decided to play some football. Alas, despite some ludicrous penalty claims, they never really troubled the better, and basically harder side.

The game ended one-nil to us, the terraces went crazy with both pleasure and pain, and the entire population of Linstead went to Southside bar to brag about it.

Special thanks to all the team captains and Nic Roland in particular for a very well organised competition.

Crossword by Catfish

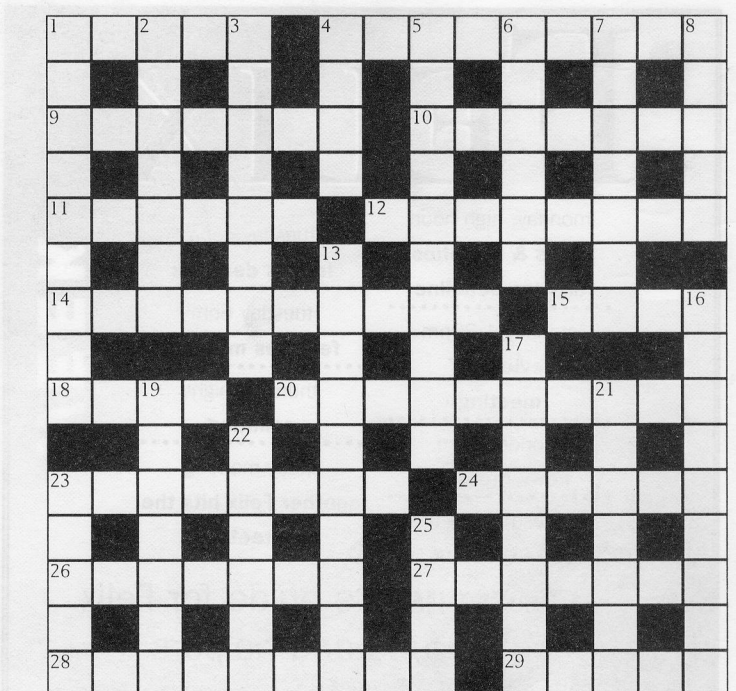
Across:

- 1. Outside the house, prejudice reverts against Indian gentleman (5)
- 4. Spoiled moneymaking project which has been arranged in court (9)
- 9. Hose car to remove the insects (7)
- 10. Child toured around for a day in France - a short stay (7)
- 11. Symbols used to stem misunderstanding (6)
- 12. Many included in relief flight - for a year it's done aggressively (8)
- 14. German capital shouldn't be missed before first day has faded... (4,2,4)
- 15. ...one must go slowly within this city (4)
- 18. Motive? It's lost in the translation (4)
- 20. Group together after siren went off (10)
- 23. Taught to do trick badly, and many missed the point (8)

- 24. Golden halo seen outside, in the sky (6)
- 26. Fruit must ripen before it's useful to birds (7)
- 27. Wild ass returns with love for green stuff (7)
- 28. Note the French sent me about attempt to use radio beacons (9)
- 29. Queen may sit back in the terraces (5)

Down:

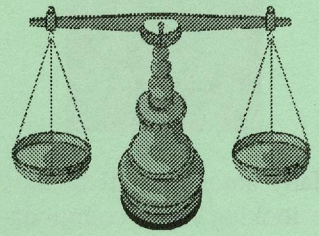
- 1. Plan to get stone from under layers of rock (9)
- 2. Encourage, and earn the breaks (7)
- 3. Girl runs round the home, disturbed by giant creature (8)
- 4. Break up statue (4)
- 5. Argues, and I had joined in with them (10)
- 6. Harm caused to one quarter of the twelve peers (6)
- 7. Scalp applications may seep out and make a mess (7)
- 8. She might look after the kids! (5)
- 13. Tightens up on the charac-



- ters' great sin in this book (10)
- 16. Surgeons working at the exchange (9)
- 17. Writer from French interior who stands out most? (8)
- 19. Vital to include copper in a varied meal (7)

- 21. One is very slow to set it aside (7)
- 22. A cyborg, as maintained, has little sensation (6)
- 23. Drank up the stores (5)
- 24. This chap might drink from the jug (4)

ADVICE OFFICE NEWSLETTER



May 1996
Editorial

The Union Advice Office has produced a booklet on financial matters simply called 'Financial Guide For Students' which looks at various aspects including the costs associated with studying, how to deal with hardship mid-course, tackling debts and creditors and possible sources of financial help. It is hoped that sections will be useful to prospective, current and departing students. Copies are available from the Union reception. The extent of financial difficulties experienced by Imperial College students is difficult to assess. It can probably be safely assumed that many students are living on very low levels of income and that most will be graduating with considerable debts.

Because of this, the Union will be conducting a financial survey in the near future to try to get a better idea of how people are coping. Further details to be announced shortly.

I am normally available by appointment Monday-Friday between 11.00am-5pm (phone 48060 to book in). Alternatively, telephone enquiries can be made between 10.00am-5.00pm on 48067-ansafone in operation if I am either out of the office or with another client. All advice and assistance given is confidential, independent, free and impartial.

Having said that, I Hope you have a problem free and successful summer term.

Martin Thomson
Union Adviser.

VISA EXTENSIONS

New procedure for extending visas from June 3rd.

The Home Office has announced that it intends to make standard forms for applying for a variation of leave compulsory from this date. It is also saying that if an application to vary leave is not on an official form and does not include "all the relevant documents" then it will be invalid. Therefore, anyone who has to renew their visa will need to ensure that they :

1. Obtain a copy of the form to complete.
2. Provide all the necessary documents with the form within their current leave to remain.

The wording from the Home Office implies that an incomplete application will be rejected outright (currently the Home Office may request additional information but will consider the client to have made a valid

application to vary leave while waiting for additional documentation). If not correctly re-submitted before the visa runs out, then the applicant will technically become an "overstayer" and be liable to deportation.

The Union Advice Office will have copies of the forms by Mid-May. They will also be obtainable directly from the Home Office.

VACATION WORK AND TAX

If you are working over the summer vacation (or any other) then you should obtain a form P38S which should be completed and returned to your employer. You should be able to get hold of a form from either your local tax office or through your employer. Any excess income tax deducted while waiting for this to be processed will normally be repaid by your employer. Alternatively it can be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue, normally at the end of the current tax year

(April).

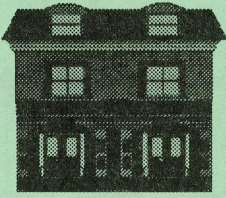
As long as your expected total income for the current tax year is below your personal allowance (plus any applicable additional allowances) then you will not have income tax deducted from your wages. The following are not taken into account as income:

1. Student Grant
2. Scholarships
3. Most research awards
4. Housing Benefit

You will however have to pay national insurance con-

tributions if you are going to be earning over £61.00 per week. If you do not have a national insurance number, you must apply for one via your local Department of Social Security. They will generally only be issued if you already have found employment. Students from outside the EEA must ensure that they have complied with any requirements to seek permission from the Department of Employment before starting any kind of work.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS BOUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR
STUDENT UNION



HOUSING TIPS

Many students will already be looking for accommodation for the next academic year. Every year, many find themselves experiencing housing related problems. Often, there is little that can be done to avoid this but sometimes better preparation and information can help to avoid or at least to deal with some situations more effectively.

Important First Questions

When you find a potential property, by asking yourself some obvious yet crucial questions you can save yourself a lot of trouble later on. Such as;

1. Can I afford the rent?
2. Do I want to live in this area? Will I feel secure travelling to and from it at night?
3. How much are my travel costs going to be?
4. If sharing with others- am I confident that I will get along with my co-tenants- and are they sure that they will not want to move out early?
5. Who is responsible for paying the bills and council tax? (If all tenants are students then you should apply for exemption from Council Tax from your local authority).
6. What do I know about the landlord? Can I speak to some previous tenants to see if there have been any problems?
7. Will I be a tenant or a

licensee? (A licensee has fewer legal rights than a tenant and can sometimes be evicted without a court order).

Licensee or Tenant ?

You may be a licensee if, for example;

- a). You will be living in the same property as your landlord and sharing some accommodation (such as a bathroom or kitchen)
 - b). You are living in a shared house but...
 - c) Each resident has a separate tenancy agreement.
 - d) The landlord is responsible for replacing tenants who leave.
 - e) The landlord reserves the right swap people around into different rooms (in other words you have not been granted `exclusive possession` of any room)
- It can be quite complicated to ascertain your housing status in the event of a dispute (for example, if your landlord is trying to get you to leave.)

Even if you are a licensee, it does not necessarily mean that you will face difficulties. However, it will make it all the more important that you consider point 6 above. Another word of warning, do not rely on "testimonials" or written statements which purport to be written by ex-tenants. Try to contact ex-tenants directly if you can. If they still live there, do this when the landlord is not around to ensure that you are

getting an honest evaluation.

Contracts

and before you sign the contract.....

8. Have I read the it through thoroughly?

If there is anything you are unsure about, you should get it checked. Remember that you are signing a legally binding document. If there is something in it which you do not like or which seems unreasonable, you should try to change it now. If there is a written clause which causes you some concern and the landlord assures you it will not be applied, the only way to be sure of this is to change it before you sign. Verbal contracts can be difficult to enforce.

9. Am I signing a fixed term tenancy (i.e. a contract for a specified length of time)? If so, am I allowed, by virtue of an express "break clause" to move out before the fixed term by giving a certain length of notice or am I legally liable for the entire period? Usually, there will not be a break clause and you will be bound by the agreement for the fixed term.

10. Is there an inventory of furnishings and fittings? (This is important as your landlord might wrongly claim that you have damaged or lost items when you have not and this could lead to deductions from your deposit when you move out).
11. Am I happy with the

condition of the property? It is sometimes much better to get faults and damage remedied before you move in.

12. Do I have to pay a deposit? Will I be given a clear receipt for this and a written assurance that it is returnable (less deductions for breakage's, damages, cleaning or whatever)?

Joint Tenancies

Also, a few points to note on Joint tenancies

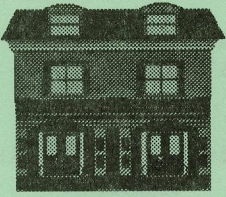
1. Joint tenants are equally liable for all the rent on a property. Therefore if one tenant refuses to pay his/her rent, the others would have to make it up or risk facing an action for possession by the landlord.

2. The easiest thing to do if one joint tenant moves out during the fixed term is to seek the landlords permission to replace him/her. If the tenancy is an assured shorthold, then the original tenancy is still in force unless the landlord agrees to issue a new agreement to include the new tenant. Unless this is done, the new tenant is effectively a sub-tenant of those named on the agreement and technically, the person who moved out could still be pursued for any rent owed.

Most students experience few problems while living in private accommodation but some do get into difficulties.

As ever, careful thought and preparation before entering

If you have any accommodation problems ring Martin on 48067, or if you got the property via the accommodation office, call them on X59433



into an agreement is your best chance of avoiding possible pitfalls. Get a copy of the Union produced 'Housing Rights Guide' from either the Union Reception or the College Accommodation office.

If you are ever in a situation where you think that your landlord might be behaving illegally (in terms of financial demands, harassment, refusing to carry out repairs etc.), then you should seek assistance as soon as possible and never pay out extra fees to landlords without checking your legal situation first (and this applies even if you are breaking a fixed term agreement). Also, the earlier you begin to look for accommodation, the less likely you may be to accept something sub-standard. You will be paying out a considerable amount of money, it is up to you to try to ensure you get reasonable value for it.

Problems

Finally, if you have problems with accommodation obtained through the College Accommodation Office, please put a complaint to them in writing. Bad landlords will be refused access to the free advertisement facilities but the accommodation office cannot act to prevent future problems unless it receives your help.

Positive feedback to the accommodation office will also be welcomed.

ACCOMMODATION AGENCIES AND ILLEGAL FEES

My thanks to the student who called to inform me of some accommodation agencies in central London who were demanding a "registration fee" from prospective tenants (many of whom he believed to be students). Under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, it is illegal for an agency to ask for money for registering a client for simply receiving a list of properties and it is also illegal to ask for a deposit which the agency claims will be refunded if they do not find the client a property.

Accommodation agencies can charge a fee for actually finding a property and may ask a client to sign an agreement promising to pay this

when the agency has found suitable accommodation and she/he has agreed to move into it. It is legal as long as the client is not charged before agreeing to take it.

An agency can also charge a "holding deposit" if a client has agreed to take a property but has not yet signed a contract to take up the property.

If someone has paid such an illegal charge they could follow two courses of action.

1. Report the matter to Trading Standards who will investigate and could prosecute if they find evidence of such criminal.
2. If you have actually paid such a fee, you could sue the

agency in the small claims court.

Obviously, a tenant would have to bear in mind that if they were now in accommodation provided by the agency who charged the illegal fee, then court action could result in their agreement being terminated either at the end of a fixed term or possibly sooner depending on the nature of the contract.

If you think you have been asked to pay an illegal fee, check before you part with any money. Any agency which knowingly operates in this manner may not be very dependable and you may be much safer to take your custom elsewhere.

**THE UNION
ADVICE CENTRE
WILL CHECK
ANY HOUSING
CONTRACTS YOU
MAY HAVE
QUERIES ABOUT.**

**CONTACT US
VIA THE UNION
OFFICE IN
BETT QUAD OR
BY PHONING
594 8060.**

**A SELECTION OF
LEAFLETS ARE
ALSO AVAILABLE.**

PROBLEMS ?

DRUGS - FEES - IMMIGRATION - HOUSING - DEBT - CONSUMER - BENEFITS - FAMILY - HARASSMENT

**Advice is at hand.
Contact 594 8060
to make an appointment with
Martin, the Union Advisor.**

LIST OF USEFUL CONTACTS

GENERAL

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

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

Health Centre
Princes Garden int. 49375

Disabilities Officer
Loretto O'Callaghan
Room 324, Sherfield int.48935

Nightline (6pm - 8am)
0171 436 5561

ULU Advice Office
0171 580 9551 ext. 225

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

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

SEXUAL HEALTH/ PREGNANCY/ CONTRACEPTION

Brook Advisory Centre
(0171 713 9000 for details of
nearest centre)
(24 HR recorded helpline 0171
6178000)

LIFE
01926 311511
(Pro-Life organisation offering
counselling
and information on all aspects of
Pregnancy
and abortion)

WOMENS HEALTH
0171 251 6580
(Information and referrals to spe-
cialist
agencies)

FAMILY PLANNING
ASSOCIATION
0171 636 7866
(for details of local clinics and
services)

PREGNANCY ADVISORY
SERVICE
0171 637 8962
(Counselling relating to pregnan-
cy, abortion,
emergency contraception,
Womens health)

WOMEN

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

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

Eating Disorders Association
01603 621414 (Mon - Fri 9-6.30)
0891 615466 (Premium rate line)

Womens Therapy Centre
0171 263 6200 (10-12pm,2-4pm
M-F)

RACIAL HARRASMENT

Commission for Racial Equality
Elliot House
10 -12 Allington Street
SW1E 5EH
0181 828 7022

City Centre
Sophia House
32 - 35 Featherstone Strret
0171 608 1339

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

LESBIAN AND GAY HARRASMENT

Lesbian & Gay Employment
Rights
21 Old Ford Street
E2 9LP
0171 704 6066

Lesbian & Gay Switchboard
0171 837 7324
(Info., counselling, & referral service)

Gay & Lesbian Legal Advice
57 - 59 Cowcross Street
EC1N 6BP
0171 253 2043
(Advice, assistance on legal prob-
lems)

PACE
0171 263 6200
(Counselling for gay & lesbian
people)

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

SKILL : National Bureau for
Students with Disabilities.
336 Brixton Road
SW9 7AA
0171 274 0565

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

RADAR
(Royal Association for Disability
& Rehabilitation)
0171 250 3222

Dyslexia Institute
0171 730 8890
(Information, treatment &
research)

PEOPLE WITH HIV / AIDS

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

Aidslink
0483 300150

National Aids Helpline
0800 567 123

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

DRUGS

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

Release - National Drugs Helpline
0171 603 8654

Drugs Helpline
0800 776600

Drinkline
0171 332 0202

VIOLENCE/SEXUAL ASSAULT

London Women's Aid
0171 251 6537
(for victims of domestic vio-
lence)

Everyman Centre
0171 793 0155
(Help for violent men)

Victim Support
0171 735 9166
0171 960 4613 (Local scheme)

London Rape Crisis Centre
0171 837 1600
(6pm-10pm M-F, 10am-10pm
W/E)
PO Box 69, WC1X 9NJ
(Support and counselling for
women
who have been raped)

Details of many other
specialist agencies are
held in the advice office.

A FULL
SELECTION OF
ADVICE LEAFLETS
ARE AVAILABLE
FROM THE UNION
OFFICE.

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