

SP

Improbable odds:
BSE and the national
lottery

fii It's not art and
it's not fair at the
Serpentine

inSci@ght^o
Dawkins: selfishness,
genes and mountains



FELIX

The student newspaper
of Imperial College

Issue 1061
June 14th 1996

'No confidence' vote for Ghassan

BY ALEX FEAKES

The future of University of London Union's president, Ghassan Karian, hangs in the balance pending a no confidence vote next Tuesday. The ULU General Union Council will meet to discuss a motion tabled by the Queen Mary and Westfield College sabbatical team, which raises concern over his new position as a Labour party Campaigns coordinator.

Mr Karian has raised the ire of many of the colleges in London

by prematurely leaving his ULU post to take up employment elsewhere. Although Mr Karian has taken up a full time position, he has not resigned his ULU presidency, the contract of which is due to run until the end of July.

The first of two motions tabled seeks to censure Mr Karian for his involvement in the New Solutions lobby group. The movement won a recent victory with the reversal of the NUS's policy of campaigning to return student grants to 1979 levels.

The second proposes a vote of no confidence in the ULU president, a move that Imperial College Union's delegates to the GUC have been mandated to support.

If the motion of no confidence is passed, Mr Karian will have been effectively sacked, leaving unfinished the ULU work which he has continued to do. Additionally, he would no longer be required to be present during the ULU sabbaticals handover period when the incoming offi-

cers are trained. This could jeopardise the training of ICU President Sarah White, who was elected as next year's ULU president last month.

Speaking to *Felix*, Mr Karian was in a unrepentant mood: "I could have walked away from ULU, [but] I've been at government committees, finance meetings, a million and one meetings, unpaid." He said QMW's Union officers were "petty politicians, who have nothing better to do

Continued on page three

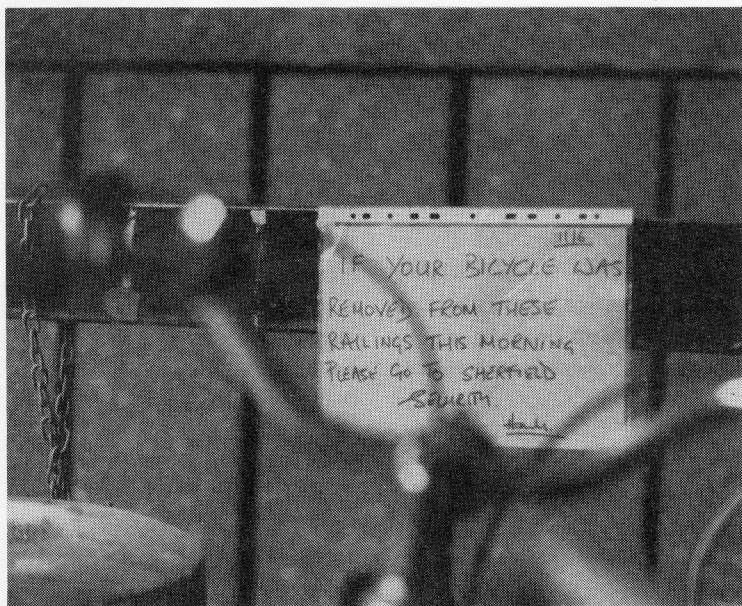


PHOTO: ROBIN RILEY

Security swoops on bikes

BY ROBIN RILEY

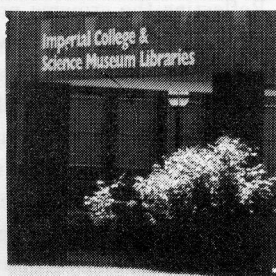
Students cycling to the Chemistry and Biochemistry departments on Tuesday were stunned to find that bikes previously attached to railings outside the buildings had been summarily removed by Security, with little warning.

The bikes removed had apparently been unused for some time and were considered a fire hazard by Security. When asked about the relative flammability of a pair of bicycles as compared to the chemistry department

itself, Ken Weir, IC's head of Security, refused to be drawn. he claimed that the bikes were attached too close to the main doors and would hinder escape from the buildings in an emergency.

At the time of going to press, no-one has come forward to claim the bikes. When asked if the missing owners would be able to reclaim their D-Locks, Mr Weir refused to comment, instead stating "I would prefer people to use the bicycle racks provided in future."

in summary



Library as planned

With considerably greater ease than for the BMS building, planning permission for the library extension has been granted first time. Westminster Council gave the go-ahead last week. Page 2

Tizard suicide alert

Emergency services were called to Tizard Hall in response to an attempted suicide by an ex-boyfriend of a resident. The Subwarden and Warden administered aid to the man. Page 4

Iranian Society ban

Imperial College's Iranian Society has been banned from having meetings of more than 20 people for the next three years following an incident last week in the Huxley building. Page 3

All change at the Lido

Construction of a safer, more user-friendly bathing area has been proceeding around the Lido Cafe on the Serpentine in Hyde Park for the past few weeks. The building program, involving divers working on pilings in the Serpentine, should be finished in time for the summer, and has provided an interesting — spectacle — for customers at the Lido.

The Cafe has also undergone an extensive refurbishment since last season, changing into a much more commercialised operation.



PHOTO: IVAN CHAN

More storeys for books

BY TIM ST. CLAIR

At the 6pm meeting on the 6th of June, Westminster Council approved item 6 on the agenda: extensive plans for improvement of the library facilities.

Work has already begun to strengthen the building's foundations preparatory to the addition of the extra floors, projected to begin in July. The main entrance will be closed over the summer as work begins on the lift shafts, and a temporary entrance and issue desk will be set up on level two, accessible via Sherfield.

The main entrance will be re-opened in October, although

work will continue on the roof and lifts. The new-look lobby will incorporate a larger bookshop than the one presently on Sherfield walkway. In April 1997 the main stair case will be extended to the fifth floor.

In order to minimise the disruption to study during the building work, loan allowances will be extended, permitting students to borrow more books so they can study elsewhere.

The plans are on display in the library, and further information will be available from the library homepage on <http://www.lib.ic.ac.uk/>

Boatclub's Bill to lead UK Olympic rowing team

BY THE NEWS TEAM

The IC Boat Club Manager Bill Mason will lead a women's rowing team to the Atlanta Olympics this summer. The women's eight won the selection regatta in Lucerne last weekend, breaking the course record and setting the third fastest time ever. The American team had broken the course record the weekend before, only to have it smashed by the British.

The team, who come from around the country, will join IC

Boat Club Coach Steve Ellis on the British Olympic rowing squad.

IC Boat Club had further success in last weekend's London Docklands regatta. They entered a total of ten events, coming away with gold in seven of them. Their successes included winning the Men's Senior Open Eights on both days, the Women's Senior Open on Sunday. The men's firsts also won the Open Eight and Open Four events on both days.

News in brief

BY THE NEWS TEAM

Another bill from the VAT man

Imperial College could face a extra VAT bill of as much as £40,000 annually after a ruling this week. An exemption clause which meant that charitable institutions, including universities, didn't have to pay VAT on staff recruitment advertising has been revoked.

Only last year Imperial's staff newspaper, *The IC Reporter*, ran a competition to find an appropriate VAT slogan. But the slogan: *At the leading edge of research, innovation and learning* will no longer be enough to give IC exemption from tax bills.

Jazz & rock mystery

Concerns over the safety of the Jazz and Rock club's equipment came to a head this week when a large power amplifier was reported missing.

The amplifier had not been seen for a couple of weeks before its disappearance was noted, as the Jazz and Rock club's chairman wasn't available to confirm that it actually existed. The chairman, Stefan Finch, has been studying for exams recently and has not been able to attend to the

club, which has cast doubts on the club's accountability.

The Social and Cultural Amusements Board, under whose authority Jazz and Rock falls, received two queries as to the whereabouts of the equipment. Mr Finch was able to identify what was missing at a meeting on Tuesday.

SCAB executive officers have been worried lately over the Jazz and Rock club, as the society's organisation seems opaque. Also, since Jazz and Rock club officers have been unable to attend SCAB meetings recently, there has been a lack of response to members concerns. As *Felix* went to press, there have been no reports as to the whereabouts of the amplifier.

Lecturers against loans

At its conference last week, the lecturers' union Natfhe voted against the Labour party shift from student grants to loans. Reflecting the growing militancy in university teachers worried about job security, the union has decided to set up a 'battle plan' to lobby against continuing job cuts in the higher education sector. They plan to set up a strike fund to cover possible industrial action by lecturers.

continued from front page
 than grind their axe," and bullishly said, "Let them do what they like, I would prefer not to have to do two jobs." Defending his career move, Mr Karrian insisted that he had "done more work in ten months than any of my predecessors did in twelve."

He seemed unconcerned by the threat to his position. Quoting Margaret Thatcher, whom he describes as 'his hero', he said, "I fight, I fight on, I fight to win." However, support for Ghassan seems thin on the ground. Kate Hampton, the London School of Economic Union's General Secretary, said that she and her delegates would be supporting the move to censure Ghassan at the very least, saying that most colleges are "extremely angry at Ghassan."

Mr Karrian's defection to another job so quickly after the ULU elections has been described as "cynical" in some

quarters. Many suggest that he is putting unreasonable pressures on his successors, while others suggest that the implications if he has to completely break links with ULU are even worse. These fears could be behind the tabling of a motion of confidence by Claire Lawrie of LSE, one of next year's ULU sabbatical officers.

With particular reference to the ICU support for the no-confidence motion, Mr Karrian complained that he hadn't been given a chance to defend himself at the Council meeting where the GUC delegates were mandated to back it. He said that "justice wasn't done," because the delegates are now obliged to vote against him regardless. The comment holds particular irony for QMW, as Ghassan criticised their NUS delegates for going against a mandate by not supporting Ghassan's New Solutions movement at the NUS conference earlier this year.

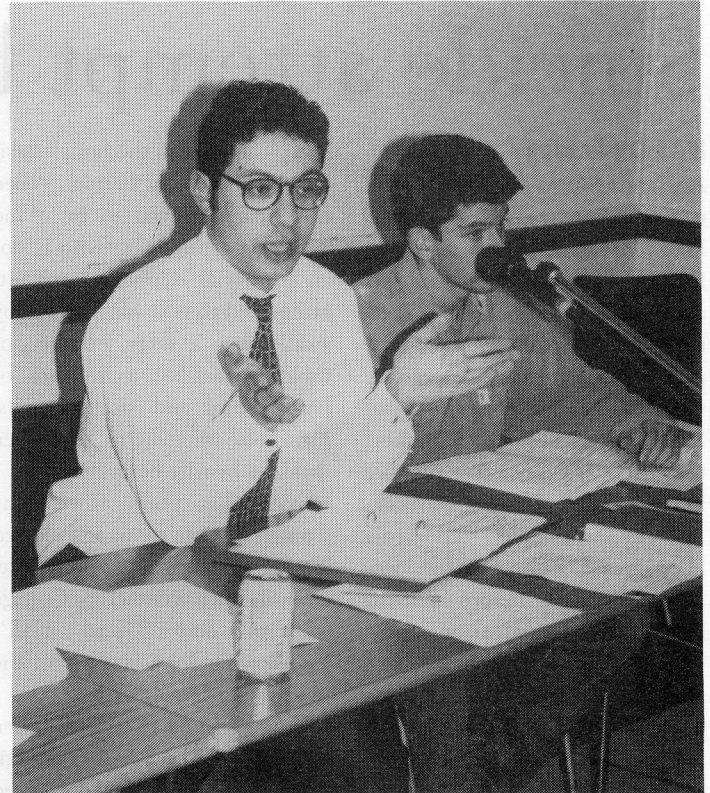


PHOTO: ALEX FEAKES

"Let them do what they like": Ghassan Karrian speaks at a recent General Union Council meeting at ULU.

3 year ban for Iran Soc

BY THE NEWS TEAM

Imperial's Iranian society have been banned from having any large scale speaker meetings after an unauthorised event last month turned into a security incident. They will not be allowed to organise events on IC premises for three years.

The society booked the Clore lecture theatre in the Huxley building via Imperial College Union and IC's conference centre. Authorisation was given for an internal event for 100 people on May 30th, but the meeting attracted well over 300 people, arousing the suspicion of the local police. IC Estates Director Ian Caldwell and ICU President Sarah White were called to the scene.

Only around fifty of the audience were Imperial students or staff. College staff were particularly concerned that the event had been advertised outside Imperial: the promotional leaflets, written in Farsi, were clearly designed for non-IC students, giving directions from South Kensington Station. "They say that someone else organised

the advertising, but if they can't control it they can't be trusted to run events," Sarah said. "They've shown that they're incapable of organising an event properly."

The speaker, Dr Abdul Karim Sonosh, a well-known Iranian philosopher, is known to Scotland Yard. The organiser allegedly claimed that, because Dr Sonosh hadn't been in Iran for 10 years, he didn't realise how famous he was.

Although the Iranian Society will not be able to organise any more large scale events, Professor Alan Swanson, Pro Rector (Educational Quality) explained that there was "no intention of stopping the organisation from having internal meetings of their Imperial College members." The ban, which came after discussions between the Pro Rector, College security and ICU, has been extended to cover ICU's Beit Quad premises as well as the Conference centre meeting areas.

The ICU executive decided on Tuesday to allow the society to appeal against the decision from November 1997.

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

Lindsay Coleman
 Departmental Administrator

(email: l.coleman@ic.ac.uk)
 (ext 46901)

Suicide attempt by jilted boyfriend

BY ROBIN RILEY

An ambulance and two fire-engines were called to Tizard Hall in Princes Gardens on Saturday night following the attempted suicide of a female resident's ex-boyfriend. The presence of so many emergency vehicles worried a number of Southside residents into thinking that there had been a major fire in the building.

The couple had reportedly been in a relationship for two-and-a-half years before splitting up, at her instigation, nine months ago. They are not thought to have spoken for the last eight months, although the boyfriend is believed to have unsuccessfully attempted to re-establish communication through a series of letters.

Events came to head on Saturday when the boyfriend entered Tizard Hall at around 7pm, in a state of some distress,

and pleaded with the female resident for a reconciliation. When this finally proved to be of no avail the young man, who is not an Imperial College student, attempted to take his own life by swallowing a large number of tablets, possibly a mixture of paracetamol and sleeping pills. He is also thought to have been drinking heavily beforehand.

At this point the young woman left the room and alerted Tizard subwarden Colleen Lee, who in turn contacted College security and Tizard Hall's Warden, Dr John Hassard of the physics department.

Ms Lee and Dr Hassard then administered emergency detoxifying treatment using powdered graphite before the arrival of the emergency services. Following further intensive treatment by ambulance crewmen and in hospital that night, the patient was pronounced 'out of danger'

at around 1.30am on Sunday morning. He discharged himself later that afternoon.

As an additional precaution, the young man, whom has not yet been named, is to receive counselling in order to help him recover from his obsession and the events of Saturday night.

Although Southside Halls were evacuated after a fire alarm which sounded during the incident, widespread rumours that the man tried to set fire to his ex-girlfriend and her room are untrue. There had been suggestions that the man had brought two petrol cans into the hall with him. The emergency services sent two fire-engines around half an hour later.

This incident comes just 18 months after a suicide attempt in Selkirk Hall, of which John Hassard is also Warden. Speaking to *Felix*, Dr Hassard commended Ms Lee on her prompt action,

and pointed out that the Tizard Hall Subwardens were already in a heightened state of awareness to the presence of intruders following a series of thefts from the Hall's games machines. Furniture in the Selkirk Hall television lounge was vandalised last weekend.

Dr Hassard went on to say: "This is a very sad story... It is sad how someone can become obsessed in this way. We must all be vigilant of strangers, and remember that there is no security in Halls except for that that the students provide themselves."

The incident has once again raised questions over the security of students in Halls, and their vulnerability to intruders creeping into the buildings. How an obviously drunk person without identification was allowed into the Hall has not yet been resolved.

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IT COULD BE YOU...

"Why?" I implored the old lady, "Why do you do it?" I waited for the truth but this old lady was yet another dead end:

"Well... it *could* be me, couldn't it?" and she ambled out of the post office clutching her lottery ticket.

She was right. It could indeed be her. Both she and I knew it probably wouldn't be, but it *could*. Repeating this experiment in a variety of locations around London, across different age ranges, one gets the same reply: "It *could* be me, it *could* be me."

A statement of statistical probability has been bought by millions and is repeated across the land like a prayer (which of course it is). It provides ample justification to thousands who waste away their cash on this pursuit, yet it *could be you* doesn't offer a reasonable explanation to me.

What I wanted to know was, "Why do you play the lottery when you know the chances are that you won't win? Why indulge in this waste of time when there is more chance of you dying from a radiation leak from a nearby nuclear power station? *How the hell are you interpreting the odds here?*"

And this is the real crux of the matter, which lies at the heart of the lottery's success, but also at the root of the BSE and baby milk crises, fear of flying and so on. Considering the lottery first, I do not play because if I played the lottery, I would play in the expectation of winning. There would be no logic to my playing otherwise, unless I gained from the mild psychological kick which millions of others receive at 8.00pm every Saturday; but less us assume that I play only in the hope of winning the jackpot. That probability is famously small. Given that I have brought a ticket in the belief that the small expectation

may be realised (yes, it *could*), then the only consistent and logical response would be to apply the same perception of odds to other situations. Thus, as I emerged from the post office clutching my lottery ticket, I would have to be encased in titanium, should a falling piano land on my head. And of course I could never cross the road again, because I would surely die; both these events having a greater likelihood of occurring to me than winning the jackpot.



Risky business: a pedestrian tries her luck and crosses the road

Lottery players would scoff at my argument and argue that I have ignored the balance between downside risk and possible payoff. Thus with the lottery, the worst that can happen is that you lose a pound, but you *could* gain a massive fortune. The worst outcome in this case is relatively painless, and so the gamble is justified.

Unfortunately, the same logic would mean that I would have to assess the variable risks of crossing the road as follows: best outcome – successful crossing; worst outcome – death. Hardly an appealing choice, yet people apparently defy the odds and survive this reckless activity every day. Do they know that their chance of dying in any type of road accident is one in eight thousand?

OR COULD IT?

Given the current sporting climate, are footballers aware that their chances of dying on the pitch in any one year are one in twenty five thousand? I think they should be told.

The inconsistent behaviour of the public with the odds can be explained by their incorrect assessment of the risk. Thus with road crossing, we know (impersonally) of millions who have presumably crossed the road safely like ourselves, but we *actually* know very few people who have died from this act. With too large a sample size, we are destined to downplay the real risk of crossing the road.

The current furore over BSE contrasts strongly with the above case, because millions of people have played up the infinitesimally small chances of contracting CJD from eating beef. Faced with this, we would expect those with knowledge of these matters to provide some security. We generally do not expect beef to kill, so when evidence shows that it may, the actual probability is exaggerated.

Whilst the public cry out for a statement of certainty, the scientist can only reply with a statement of probability based on assessment of the available data. Thus the real 'truth' changes over time. That is how science progresses. Scientists don't offer certainty – indeed they are careful in their wording never to use words like 'certainty' or 'impossibility'. Scientific 'truth' is merely an assessment of probability. There are no absolutes. This is the public misunderstanding of science.

Fortunately for the public, politicians are only too pleased to offer the certitude which the scientist refuses to, and in so doing set themselves up for fiascos like the beef crisis. All it takes is one isolated case to contradict the official line, "There is absolutely NO risk," and the result is blind panic. Risk is perceived out of all proportion to the actual threat. Our perception seems to depend on whether we require somebody else to do the analysis for us (beef) or if we think we have all the information needed to form a correct assessment of risk for ourselves (road crossing). Given the natural tendency for the public to misunderstand science, and the bias for 'me' to believe 'myself' more than I believe

'you', it's hardly surprising that the public's behaviour appears mad.

The word of a scientist is even more suspect if he or she not only says, "X is probable in 1000 trials," but then continues, "But it still might not happen, even in 1000 trials." In the face of this apparent paradox, the public feel even more comfortable with their own assessment of danger. That is why they continue to play football. Of course they are right to do so, precisely because a statement of probability relating to death in a football match is not a statement of certainty.

Attempting to understand behaviour is further compounded by the human tendency to form patterns, to be either extremely cautious or optimistic, and to attach importance to events which are nothing more than coincidence. (Did you know that the probability of you sharing a birthday with somebody else in your lecture is very close to one?) In fact, humans are anything but rational.

Coincidences are spooky, and spooky things scare people. In order to explain something spooky we turn to religion, tarot cards, tea leaves, astrology, palm readers, or any one of a massive army of people in whom we place our trust (and money), in return for a prediction or assessment of the future.

The popularity of such activities is a reflection of the scientist in all of us – what are the men in white coats, if not agents attempting to explain causality and predict the future course of events?

Meanwhile the pensioner walked out of the post office and crossed the road in front of an oncoming bus. She speeded up and was clearly exerting her frail heart. It occurred to me then, that my search for the truth concerning the lottery was over. As a statement of probability, no matter how unlikely, 'it could be you' was the truth.

by Nooman Haque

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NATWEST MARKETS

fii

Not so much is it art, but is it fair? If only we could all get the Serpentine Gallery to pay us vast sums of money to display our home videos from last year's summer hols.

Yes, that's really what they've done: "documenting journeys that the artists have made recently, they depict chance occurrences - railway stations, farming activities, pedestrians, countryside." While I was there the 96 hours of video tape had happened to settle on footage of a couple of soldiers hosing down a tank, and a dentist assisting in a patient's plaque removal.

There's also a display of Fischli and Weiss' 'handpainted polyurethane sculptures' which are designed to replicate the residue found in the artists' studio - dirty ashtrays, styrofoam coffee cups, empty cans and lightbulbs. I didn't actually look at it, making the forgivable mistake that a roped-off room strewn with rubbish wasn't actually meant to be viewed.



Peter Fischli & David Weiss

Serpentine Gallery, Hyde Park, until July 21st.

exhibition: peter fischli and david weiss_{rachel}

column: simon baker

insight: dawkins' mountain_{ben wilkins}

album: metallica - load_{mark}

album: various artists - ocean of sound 2_{jim}

album: king's x - ear candy_{mark}

singles: _{jason and paul}

album: gabrielle - gabrielle_{jason}

gig: ash + jocasta_{jason}

album: grant lee buffalo - copperopolis_{ian}

book/talk: iain m. banks - excession_{sandals}

film: the confessional_{jenny ho}

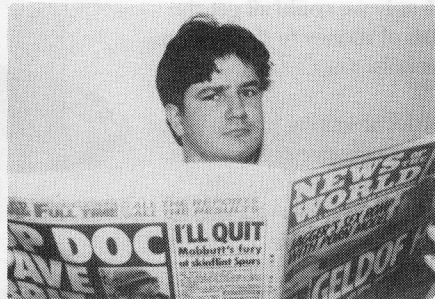
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xv

simon baker

It would seem that times are hard. Imperial needs our support. Or rather Imperial needs its support back, namely its supply of crutches. It appears that students at IC have not only broken bones but also the nth commandment by pinching these apparati, resulting in a very cross Director of Clinical Services. Dr Irene Weinreb (the little-known sixth Python?) is clearly keen to retrieve said equipment by using the ultimate threat of Regulation 2. It strikes me that you should not have let this situation get so ridiculously out of control, because if you withhold degrees pending return of crutches, you will not only be the laughing stock of the British University system, but also give the tabloid press a field day. As any doctor should know, playing with fire invariably results in nasty burns.

I had hoped that I would not need to drone on about the activities of the good folk in College Estates this week, but when such blatantly stupid and thoughtless work as the Weeks path is carried out, I am left with no option. My initial reaction was puzzlement as to why the path was essential to provide students with access to the gardens. The north face of the Eiger it is not, and while a path is necessary to prevent the lawn from being worn down in the long term, the timing of the work leaves much to be desired. Why on earth could it not have been carried out over Easter or during the summer, thus avoiding the disruption to students' revision? I was discussing this very point with one of my envoys in Sheffield a few days ago and was immediately put in the picture. "Can't be done any later," he said, "because there is a big event taking place in the garden on Wednesday, some very important people present." Ah, dear reader, everything is clear. All that flannel about being 'sensitive to exam pressures' is starting to ring a little hollow. What we have here is yet another cock-up by Estates, a department where use of the word 'planning' is a disciplinary offence. Obviously the path is needed if 400 people are to be at the Rector's Town and Gown summer reception, but yet again a total absence of foresight has resulted in work being carried out at the last minute, rather than choosing a time earlier in the year, safely before the exams. And yes, Mr Caldwell, "some students may not believe" that you are sensitive to exam pressures. Such understatement deserves a medal.

The Private Finance Initiative got the Nooman Haque treatment last week, and very good it was too. I agree that the scheme is not tailor-made for Universities, but then this was not the intention, as a result of the greater freedom that higher education institutions enjoy. Nevertheless, it is a useful option in certain cases. Quite why the notion that "the PFI is largely to reduce the government's public deficit" is cynical is a mystery to me. Of course the PFI is designed to cut government spending, and if this



private sector involvement. As the article stated, there have been teething troubles, such as the expensive and woefully slow tendering process, but when this is resolved, companies will be much more eager to get involved. I also don't believe that the ultimate ownership of these constructions is a problem, be it a road, a hospital or, as the article suggested, a lab in College. Quite frankly, the Moonies can take over ownership of the third year lab which I was working in until recently if it results in an improvement of the facilities.

College services are probably most suitable for PFI-type deals. Car parking has already been done but the prime target, the ultimate goal, the *pièce de résistance* must be College Catering. British Leyland in the 1970s was a model of management practice in comparison with the fiasco responsible for feeding hungry mouths at Imperial, and also lost less money. However, any such deals must be handled very carefully. Wholesale transfer of Catering to an outside firm would be disastrous. What, I hear you cry, is he saying? Is he going soft in his old age, letting his capitalist ideals slip? Rest assured, I'm not cracking up. My concerns can be summarised in two words. Southside Bar. The jewel in the crown of Catering and Imperial as a whole, any attempt to interfere with its operation would inevitably harm it for the simple reason that it can't get much better. In such examples, like local authority tendering, the PFI is intended to kick-start sloppy, unprofitable organisations, descriptions which apply to Southside with the validity of favourable comparisons between Southside Shop and Kwik Save on price grounds. In general, Mike Hansen does seem to talk a lot of sense, which is not something you can say about many senior Sheffieldites. Mind you, let me make a small point on that score. I wouldn't trumpet our common heating system as triumph of cooperation in the Chemistry department. This is the system which has all the fine control of a sledge hammer in neurosurgery, ensuring that the building is about 95°C every day of the year, except for a week or two in early November, when the frost forms on the inside of the windows.

Finally, I can confirm that it's safe to consume. Not beef, but the material on 'Saturday Live', ITV's new comedy extravaganza. I know that funny comedy on ITV is as bountiful as free thinking in the Shadow Cabinet, but this time they've managed to pull it off. Harry Hill was brilliant, Alistair McGowan was perfect, that mad Dutch bloke was hilarious and Lee Hurst was so-so. They're onto a winner, folks.

"the building is about 95°C every day of the year, except for a week or two in early November, when the frost forms on the inside of the windows"

If there is something controversial to say about evolution, Richard Dawkins is usually the one to say it. Ben Wilkins reports from the launch of his new book 'Climbing Mount Improbable.'

≥inSci~~ght~~^o

Climb Every Mountain

"What are flowers for?" asked Juliet's father as they were driving through the country, passing fields full of poppies. Juliet pondered the question for some time then replied, "To make the world pretty and to help the bees make honey." It was with a tinge of regret that Juliet's father, who happens to be Richard Dawkins, had to tell her that her answer was completely wrong.

Richard Dawkins, the prominent Darwinist and author of 'The Selfish Gene', recently gave a talk at the Institute of Education in London where he discussed some of the ideas in his new book, 'Climbing Mount Improbable'. Dawkins' books are often controversial, and they are particularly unpopular with creationists. His latest book has been described as a "masterpiece of clarity and economy". It is a testimony to his continuing interest in questions like "How did we get here?" and "What is going to happen in the future?"

Dawkins comes on stage pushing a large model of a mountain. The side of the mountain that the audience can see is a near vertical, unassailable rock face. "Climbing mount improbable is metaphor for the difficulty in evolving complicated biological design", explains Dawkins. He discusses the eye, which is often used by creationists as an argument against evolution. "How could such a complicated organ have evolved by chance?" they say. Pause for scene shifting... Dawkins turns the model round to reveal a much gentler slope, with paths and foothills along the way. He explains that in evolution, the ascent is only as formidable as the next step.

The eye could have evolved by a series of accidents – small steps, starting with the development of a collection of photosensitive cells in a multicellular organism and eventually leading to the multitude of complicated eye designs we see today. "Evolution is not *just* chance", says Dawkins. The astronomical improbability of our evolution is the problem that all theories of life must solve. Darwinian theory 'smears out' this luck into small steps. Through successive generations, luck gets accumulated, culminating in the species we observe today.

Dawkins then shows a series of slides: the potter wasp which builds a pot to incubate its eggs in, cater-

pillars which turn into butterflies, symbiotic bacteria which live inside plant cells. Occasionally, Dawkins cannot remember the name of the species he is showing and asks if anybody in the audience knows. Invariably someone does. "All these organisms have evolved for the good of something.", says Dawkins. The question is who or what? What *are* flowers for? Some of the 19th-century answers to questions like this are hilarious. He mentions a few: the louse – an incentive for personal cleanliness; garden weeds – good for our fitness, cows – to keep our meat fresh!

Dawkins' solution is more profound. Things evolve for the good of one thing and one thing

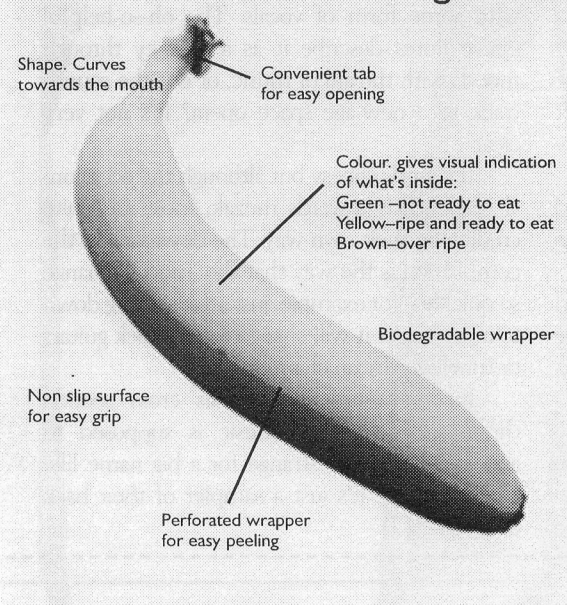
a very roundabout way. The instructions contain a fantastically large digression – the elephant!" This is also true for individual parts of an animal. For example the purpose of a peacock's beak is to make more beaks. The beak feeds the peacock so it can survive to reproduce and make more beaks. Similarly, a peacock fan is for picking up peahens and making more nice fans. A flower, as Dawkins will no doubt tell his daughter one day, is like a peacock's fan. Furthermore, the wings of a bee are really the 'wings' of a plant. From the bee's point of view, it doesn't know whether it is acting under its own instructions or the flower's instructions.

But how does all this machinery for spreading genes around get there? "It's like a computer virus which has to make its own computer first" says Dawkins. For something to be truly self-spreading, it needs to be able to make the parts, to make the machinery to make a copy of itself. This is the principle of what Dawkins calls a TRIP (total replication of instructions program) robot. An example would be an industrial robot which could get the raw materials to make another industrial robot. Dawkins believes that *we* are all TRIP robots. We originally occurred 4000 million years ago with the spontaneous arising of a hereditary entity. Next came mutation, then a variant population capable of exponential growth. These entities then prevailed and the best ones began to exercise control over other entities (phenotype begins). Gradually there was an increase in complexity until we became the TRIP robots we are today.

Dawkins is often accused of having a bleak, cold view of life. One wonders

why he bothers to get out of bed in the morning. His response to this comment is unusual. "We are all going to die. This makes us the lucky ones – millions more are never even going to be born. The potential people who could be here instead of me outnumber the number of atoms in the universe." So in the teeth of these stupefying odds we are lucky, because it is you and I that are here. Incidentally, Dawkins also believes that science is just about the only supportable occupation there is. "The universe is 60 million centuries in the past and perhaps another 60 million years in the future... Isn't it a noble way to spend our time in the spotlight to try to understand why we are here?"

The Banana. An Atheist's Nightmare.



Not everyone agrees with Dawkins' ideas about evolution. This was sent to him by a creationist.

only – DNA. He uses the example of viruses. What are viruses for? Population control? Punishment? No, says Dawkins, viruses are coded programs which say "copy me and spread me around". This, he believes, is the closest we can get to an answer. Biological viruses are very much like computer viruses or indeed chain letters. If chain letters manage to spread themselves around using discriminating humans, the same trick will certainly work for a biological virus which is set up to obey instructions.

But what about the elephants and hippos of this world? What are their instructions saying? To Dawkins this is a central question. "The elephant's DNA is also saying 'duplicate me', but in

album: metallica - load^{mark}

At long last, the new Metallica album has arrived. Let's get it straight: things have changed. (If you haven't heard of Metallica, then go and buy 'Metallica' instead) They show a broader range of influences and styles than ever before on 'Load', which has largely been described as 'experimental' by other reviewers.

So, complaints first: the CD booklet looks like a collection of fancy-dress or family holiday snaps. I preferred the simplicity of the others, and how about some lyrics? 32 pages and just few lines from each song!



The first listening brought a mixture of shock and disappointment – apart from the excellent 'Until It Sleeps' – but after a couple more times I've got used to the 'new' Metallica style. Which, incidentally, is less meaningful lyrics, even longer songs, less speed-metal, more heavy bass, and lots of black eye make-up if you happen to be Lars Ulrich (who looks as if he's lost a few pounds – good!)

So, after about three times through, the album is really quite good – not a patch on 'Metallica', but then this is an older, more diverse band, who've probably made quite enough cash and fancy doing something a little different.

If you dig under the gloss and actually *listen* you can still hear the mighty riffs of Mr Hammet, the bass of Mr Newsted, the throaty growl of Mr Hetfield and the thumping skins of Mr Ulrich. Yep, it's still Metallica under it all, and it's great to hear them again.

Just one final gripe: someone deserves to be shot for allowing the country and western guitar on 'Mama Said'.

Overall, a (5) when you first hear it, but give it a chance and you'll find an (8)

album: various artists - ocean of sound 2_{jun}

This is the first CD I've found which has more tracks than my old CD player can cope with. It also has more styles of music than I feel entirely happy with.

It's as if someone with a very large record collection has just dived in and pulled out tracks at random. Many of these are old jazzy or blues numbers from artists such as Chet Baker and John Lee Hooker, but it's difficult to generalise as there are tracks from all over the world, spanning the last fifty years.

The more recognisable names include Massive Attack, Primal Scream and Future Sound of London, while Yanomami Young Men and Ryuichi Sakamoto are a few of the more

obscure. (Nearly) all of the songs are mellow with some form of vocals. The oh-so-helpful sleeve notes describe it as a journey through moods with the aid of music, or is it the soundtrack to a new-age space opera? It's not very clear.

It sounds cheesy but although the occasional track tends towards muzak, most are quite credible in their own way. The downside to the compilation is the way that the 'moods' change so quickly – for example, just after settling down to a jazz singer it will change to feedback guitars or tuneless African chanting.

I'm not sure whom this cross section through background music is supposed to appeal to, which is strange for a big name like Virgin. Maybe it's just a sampler of their back catalogue? (7)

album: king's x - ear candy^{mark}

In stark contrast to the Metallica album (see above), the new offering from King's X demonstrates that they haven't changed at all.

Instead, they've honed their skills to produce a sublimely mellow and welcoming rock album which doesn't seem to have a single bad song on it.

The distinctive KX 'sound' remains: warm intricate guitars, wonderful harmonic singing, and intelligent lyrics. My personal favourite is 'Lies In The Sand (the ballad of...)', for several reasons. Firstly, that tantalising ellipsis in the actual title of the song leaves us not knowing the full name - whose ballad is it? But the lyrics, with their strongly (ir)religious message, are even more appealing: when seeking a 'light in the sky',

can we believe others or do we have to experience it directly ourselves? I couldn't sum it up better than this: "Is it all something new? And will I see it too?/ Or is this just continuing man?/ Throughout all history, claiming they all can see/ But the evidence falters just short of my hand."

This is a very accessible album, and it's perfect for those summer days when you can't be bothered to do anything but stick on a CD and do nothing at all. My one complaint is that it's pretty short – but then King's X tend to have short albums, so I'll let them off. After all, I can always play it twice.

There's nothing more to say. Just go and listen to it, okay? It goes against the grain to do it, but King's X get more than Metallica with a buy-it-and-chill-out score of (9). Ouch.

singles: jason

octopus - your smile

This is a brilliant psychedelic debut single, which sounds a bit like James in places.

gabrielle - forget about the world

She has lost the Motown influence in this song and has ended up with a semi-epic.

squeeze - heaven knows
Why do they bother to keep releasing material? They were in their prime back in the 80s and this song is a feeble attempt to regain their former glory.

cecil - measured
A bland attempt at heavy rock which is extremely unappealing. Avoid this record.

joyrider - another skunk song

Indie punk verging on the extreme beginnings of pop. A surprisingly good track.

combustible edison - blue-beard
Easy-listening, jazz style, is on offer here, similar to the Cardigans. A fantastic track.

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more singles:

jb³ - believer

Techno knob-twiddling from DJ Joey Beltram. Sparse and hypnotic but not exactly home listening material. One for the trainspotters.

the frames dc - revelate

Criminally unoriginal but nevertheless very likeable 'Waterboys meets Pearl Jam' grunge.

de la soul - stakes is high

The long-awaited new single lives up to all expectations. Less cheerful than usual, this one's a bit of a rant at the gangsta-rapper stereotype. Lyrically and musically, De La Soul continue to reach heights of inventiveness and slickness other hip-hoppers can only dream of.

empirion - narcotic influence

At last XL have re-released this classic 1993 rave track. Unlike many of its contemporaries, it doesn't sound the slightest bit dated and the central sample "Drugs taking their lives away" seems quite appropriate as the Met launch their latest anti-drugs campaign.

robert forster - cryin' love

It's easy to see why Edwyn Collins agreed to produce this. Just imagine Elvis crossed with Nick Cave. Then take away the song-writing talent of both.

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album: gabrielle -

gabrielle_{can}

This is the album with the gorgeous 'Give Me A Little More Time' that is simply sexy, with all the flavour to transport you to a cool, smoke filled bar amongst your friends without a single worry in the world. I love this track and I do want to justify the purchase of this album. Unfortunately, I can't.

Gabrielle's vocals are simply gorgeous on 'Give Me A Little...', their lyrical contents enveloping you in a cloud of happiness. However, the other tracks seem to fall short of replicating this. The opening song, 'Forget About The World', is merely a scrambled effort to produce something funky.

'People May Come' is lovely, with Gabrielle narrating one of life's many aspects with resignation but with a tinge of hope lurking somewhere. Tracks like these are gems.

Musically, there is nothing radically differ-

ent, with all smooth, professional feel that is common among many of her contemporaries. Anyone who caught her rendition of 'Give Me A Little More Time' on last season's *The White Room*, where she was accompanied only by acoustic guitar and bass, will agree that the lack of the raw edge that was evident during that recording is sorely missed.

The album as a whole is rather disappointing. Gabrielle seems to sing effortlessly on some tracks, resulting in that relaxed atmosphere that is highly addictive, but on most nothing really sets her apart. I find most of the music here annoying; it's simply examples of those typical keyboard and bass arrangements that dominate pop. In 'If I Could' in particular she seems to be trying to emulate a musical style simply aiming to please the average pop listeners. Somehow, I'd rather Gabrielle's voice carried the songs according to her own whims. There are some great tracks, but it's a lifeless album (5)

gig: jocasta + ash_{london}

Jocasta are a four-piece fronted by a singer-songwriter who really gives it his all tonight. Their music is melodic with a tinge of bitterness to it which is especially clear in the lyrics.

Nearly half of their set sounds very much the same, though they do show an unusual raw power. Songs such as 'Go' and 'The Land of Do-As-You-Please' really display the talent Jocasta are capable of, but unfortunately this talent isn't present in enough of their songs to make a big impact on the multitude of Ash fans gathered tonight.

There is an air of expectancy before Ash come on and suddenly screams echo round the hall. But instead of seeing a youthful Tim Wheeler we see a couple of life-size Star Wars stormtroopers staring out at us from either end

of the stage.

Ash start the night with the very mature post-punk 'Goldfinger', followed by the greater crowd-pleaser 'Girl from Mars'. They surge through indie punk tunes from their mini-album *Trailer*, with the likes of 'Jack Named the Planets' and 'Uncle Pat', and soon race on to the more pop-oriented punk of '1977'. The kids go mad for it.

The next single 'Oh Yeah' and 'Angel Interceptor' are near-bliss and although I can't call Ash 'kids' myself (we're about the same age), they do attract the youngsters, no matter what the ticket says about age restrictions.

The band close with 'Kung Fu', their tribute to Cantona's kicking prowess. It seems that, unlike their hero, it will be a long time before Ash come back down to Earth.

album: grant lee buffalo -

copperopolis_{can}

Grant Lee Buffalo seems like a band with the raw talent to be noticeable, but they lack the charisma to attract the attention of the knowledgeable masses. The Counting Crows might make a suitable comparison.

According to the band, the album is essentially about "change and upheaval and how we resist it." Grant Phillips' voice is instantly recognizable, but that does not necessarily mean that it's any good! His voice is almost mundane, carrying the songs within the multi-layered music, but he utilises the music effectively to convey the emotions in the songs. At times it's gorgeous, like in 'Two And Two', but sometimes it just gets boring.

The album seems to drag on at times: the slower tracks in particular tend to lose their individual identity. The album has a "safe" atmosphere and you can't help but wonder what kind of a wind of change they are really talking about.



'Byperion & Sunset' almost slows down to a crawl and the attention of the listener must inevitably go with it. Fortunately 'Comes To Blows' jolts us back with the blend of calm and chaos that is the trait of their more successful tracks.

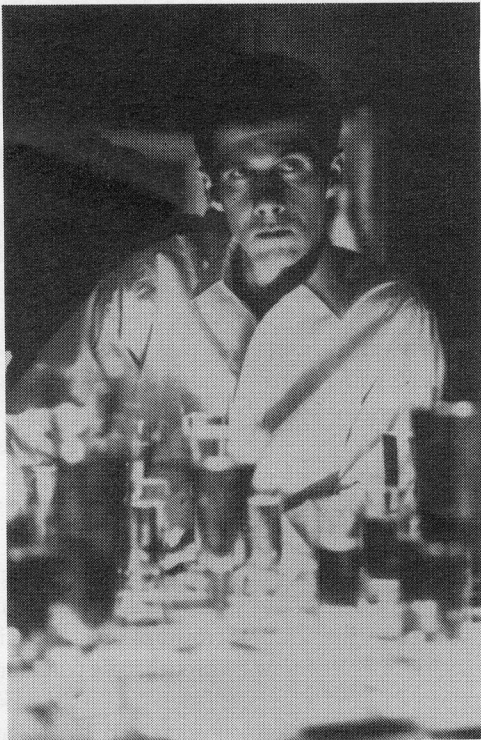
GLB lack the emotional presence of Counting Crows and Radiohead. I can't dislike this album but can't get away from the fact that it does get tedious at times. They seem to use their music as a personal indulgence, much as Tori Amos did in *Boys For Pele*: it does nothing to draw the listener in. Fans of GLB will no doubt like this but for the others: there's really no hurry. (6)

film: the confessional jenny ho

The Confessional starts with Pierre Lamontagne (Lothaire Bluteau) returning to Quebec in 1989 to attend the funeral of his father, Paul-Emile, who died blind after neglecting his diabetes. He meets up with his adopted brother Marc, an illegitimate child who has begun to question his identity. Together, the brothers embark on a quest to find out who Marc's father really is.

The film switches back and forth between modern day and the 1950s, often within a single shot which conveys the power that the past exerts over the present.

In 1952, Alfred Hitchcock is shooting *I Confess* in the parish church in Quebec City, where Paul-Emile is working nights as a taxi driver. He and his wife Françoise share a house with Rachel, Françoise's sixteen year-old sister. Rachel works in the presbytery of the parish church and is pregnant. Filled with shame, she seeks salvation in the confessional and, trusting to



the vow of silence, makes a confession to a young priest who is suspected to be the father.

A senior civil servant seems to hold the key to the confession and the truth surrounding Marc's birth. Past and present fit together like a jigsaw puzzle and reveal clues to the audience as they watch a family tragedy and a mystery unfold.

The Confessional is a British, French and Canadian co-production-part produced by David Puttnam. Lothaire Bluteau makes for an unlikely leading man material while there are rare and brief appearances by Kristin Scott Thomas (*Four Weddings and a Funeral*) as the assistant to Alfred Hitchcock.

The film starts slowly but proceeds to tell an intriguing tale. *The Confessional* is challenging viewing and offers

the audience the opportunity to question how sacred the word of confession should be. As an art film, it is stimulating and thought provoking without losing its entertaining aspect.

book: excession -

ian m. banks sanctals

It is 6.30pm on Wednesday night. Five of us are sitting at the back of a 300-strong audience in the Lyttelton Theatre. Iain (Menziess) Banks has just walked onto the stage, accompanied by Oliver Morton, the UK editor of *Wired* magazine. *Wired* ran an interview with Iain in their June issue along with a preview extract from his new novel *Excession*, for which Iain is now doing the book-signings and talks.

Since the new book is a science fiction novel set in Iain's previously-visited galaxy of the Culture, the topic of conversation centres around the general ideas of the Culture, as opposed to the specifics of a book which few of the audience would yet have read.

The Culture is a utopian "post-scarcity" society of humanoids and machine intelligence. Asked whether he would still describe it as 'anarchic-communism', he replies, "Only when I'm talking to a load of right wing American writers," raising one of many laughs. Since it is utopian, stories set within typical every-day circumstances would be what Iain disparagingly calls 'Hampstead novels'. Hence the novels take place within the Culture's 'Contact section', which interacts with other societies. In *Excession*, the appearance of an object of tech-

nology superior to that of the Culture triggers the machinations of various groups which form the story. The machine intelligences are the main protagonists here, and this new viewpoint on the Culture is particularly welcome, seeing that it is they who effectively run the Culture.

After about 25 minutes the audience is asked for questions. The first is a standard "Films?" and the answer is more specific than I have previously heard. The BBC are in the process of filming *The Crow Road*, and the result will be shown in the autumn. His more standard answer follows - that Hollywood can have *Consider Phlebas*, give it a happy ending and stick Arnie in as the hero - just so long as all those great scenes are done!

The other main question is which authors he personally reads. His first answer, describing how as a teenager he would simply look around the library for the yellow Victor Gollanz books, struck a strong chord. When it came to more recent specific books, I was not surprised at his choice of Dan Simmons' *Hyperion*. That has one scene, involving satellites, personal communicators and a lot of gore which, on reading, I thought, "Iain Banks could have written that!"

Iain has a further four-book deal, two SF and two mainstream, which means I have at least four books to look forward to over the next five years.

celluloid guide: this week

odeon kensington
01426 914666

up close and personal
12.40, 3.35, 6.30, 9.25 [L]

richard iii
4.15 (not sat-sun), 9.45 [L]

now and then
2.10, 4.40, 7.10, 9.40

secrets and lies
11.55, 3.00, 6.05, 9.10 [L]

sense and sensibility
12.30, 3.30, 6.30

the grotesque
12.15, 2.35, 4.55, 7.15, 9.35 [L]

[L]=late fri-sat 12.15
tube; ken high street. £7, £6,
£3.50 before 5pm mon-fri,
£4 before 5pm sat-sun

mgm fulham road
0171 370 2636

up close and personal
12.40, 3.30, 6.20, 9.30

how to make an american
quilt 1.30, 4.20, 7, 9.40

secrets and lies
12.10, 3.10, 6.10, 9.10

the grotesque
1.20, 3.40, 6.10, 8.40

the confessional
1.10, 3.40, 6.40

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

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Excession,
the new Culture novel by
Iain M. Banks
is now available from Orbit
in hardback only, price
£15.99
isbn: 1 85723 394 8

BOOKSetc in Charing
Cross Road have copies for
£12.99

for more info. look at
<http://www.sys.uea.ac.uk/~u9323899/cs/shock.html>

friday
14
june

Rag Meeting
1.10pm Ents Lounge. (R)

Ents
Standing Room Only -
4.30pm Portugal v Turkey
7.30pm Czech Republic v Italy.
Typically Tropical - Beach party
to raise funds for the Hockey/
Football Club tour. This will
include a raffle for a mountain
bike/ travel vouchers/ etc, and
top surf sounds to set you up for
summer. There'll also be a
Cocktail Bar, Chill-out room
and BBQ. Beachwear, shorts and
shades are this evening's dress
code - anyone wearing socks will
be severely laughed at! £1/ free
before 9.

Free minibus service

Leaving from the front of Beit
Quad, taking lone female stu-
dents home to anywhere in cen-
tral London. The first run will be
at 12 midnight, and the last run
at around 2am. Ask at Beit
Security lodge for times in
between. (R)

f r i d a y

saturday
15
june

Ents
Standing Room Only -
3pm England v Scotland.
6pm France v Spain.
Normal Bar opening hours.
Da Vinci's.

s a t u r d a y

**To All
Tenants...**

If you will soon be moving out of
private rented accommodation,
you might expect to get your
deposit back. If your landlord
refuses to return it, or makes
what you consider to be unrea-
sonable deductions, then you
should take action to recover it.

If you feel that your landlord
has behaved badly in any way,
and you obtained your accommo-
dation via the Accommodation
Office, it is very important that
you lodge a written complaint
with them. These will be held on
file, available for future students

sunday
16
june

Wargames
1.30pm in the Union. Magic:
The Gathering, Sealed Deck
Tournament. Prizes and the new
Alliances expansion cards.

Ents
Standing Room Only -
3pm Russia v Germany.
6pm Croatia v Denmark.
Da Vinci's.

s u n d a y

to view. If a number of serious
complaints accumulate against
any particular landlord then he or
she will be prevented from
advertising on the lists and
noticeboard. If these landlords go
unreported then this cycle will
simply repeat.

The only way to get back
deposits which have been illegal-
ly retained is to sue the landlord
in the small claims court. This is
a lot less complicated and expen-
sive than you may think. Please
contact the accommodation
office or the Union Adviser on
x48067 if you want to discuss
any problems you may have.

monday
17
june
m o n d a y

FELIX

Desperate to relive those happy
memories of IC Estates' interrup-
tions? Keen to keep photographs
of next year's sabbs covered in
shaving foam for posterity? Then
you need a *Felix* bound edition...
all 32 issues in a handsome
leatherette binding, carefully
embossed with the name of your
choice. Call 58072 for details.

the
week
ahead

ICU Cinema £2

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

Woody Allen's

Mighty Aphrodite

Wednesday 19th at 8pm

Thursday 20th at 8pm

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

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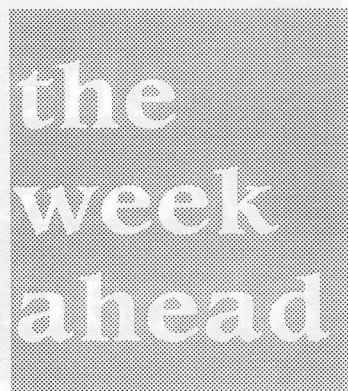
STA TRAVEL

tuesday
18
june

Cathsoc
12.00pm. Bagratt Centre, Mech Eng. (R)

Ents
Standing Room Only -
4.30 France v Bulgaria or Romania v Spain.
7.30 England v Holland or Scotland v Switzerland.
Da Vinci's.
Because of the football there will be no Bar Trivia this week, but there's a rollover next week!

t u e s d a y



wednesday
19
june

Ski Club
Southside at 5pm. Call Daniel on 0171 228 1740 if you can't make it.

Ents
Standing Room Only -
4.30pm Croatia v Portugal or Turkey v Denmark.
7.30 Italy v Germany or Russia v Czech Republic. Da Vinci's.
9-12. **Frolik!** The last restrained dose of mid-week excitement. From next week (June 26th) the bar will be open 'til midnight. Hurrah!

w e d n e s d a y

thursday
20
june

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

ConSoc
1pm Southside. (R)

IQ
9pm Union bar.
E-mail gaysoc@ic.ac.uk. (R)

Ents
No football! Pretend the Quad is a Caribbean beach and indulge yourself at Da Vinci's Cocktail night.

t h u r s d a y

friday
21
june

Rag Meeting
1.10pm Ents Lounge. (R)

IC Dance Club
Spring Ball. 7.30pm in the JCR. Cost £5, black tie. contact Sam Baker, email s.baker2@ic.ac.uk.

Ents
The penultimate Friday of term and it's going to be huge! Plenty of summer choons to get you in the mood for next week's carnival, with **Sex on the Beach**, bringing you the phattest beats. Plus a Cocktail Bar and 1am bar. £1/ free before 9, but get there early!

f r i d a y


Fulbright Awards

A new type of sponsorship, offering time in the States and sponsorship by business and industry, has been developed as part of the US-UK Fulbright Programme. Awards are offered for postgraduate study in the US and can be linked to periods of attachment to the sponsoring companies.

You need at least a 2:i, as well as evidence of leadership potential.

The closing date for 1997-98 awards is 25th October 1996. Details can be obtained from the Careers office, or US-UK Fulbright Commission, 62 Doughty Street WC1N 2LS.

**final diary
deadline:
noon,
June 19th**

euro 

**EVERY
GAME LIVE
ON THE
BIGGEST SCREEN
IN COLLEGE**

Da Vinci's
— Café-bar —

KEEP YOUR COOL

 **LAMOT PILS**

£1
A BOTTLE
(while stocks last)

Skol Special

£1.05 A BOTTLE
(while stocks last)

Da Vinci's
— Café-bar —

THE UNION BAR

saturday
22
june

Ents
Standing Room Only -
3pm First quarter final (Group
B runners-up v Group A win-
ners)
6.30pm Second quarter final
(Group B winners v Gp A run-
ners-up).
DaVinci's.

s a t u r d a y

sunday
23
june

Ents
Standing Room Only -
3pm Third quarter final. (Group
C winners v Group D runners-
up)
6.30pm Fourth quarter final
(Group D winners v Group C
runners-up).
Da Vinci's.

s u n d a y

monday
24
june

m o n d a y

Visas

As reported in the Advice Centre Newsletter, the Home Office had introduced compulsory application forms for anyone wishing to extend or vary their leave to remain from June 3rd. On June 5th, faced with legal action to judicially review their use (following concerns about the the new system) they decided to withdraw them.

For the time being, the original process can be followed but the Home Office intend to re-issue improved compulsory forms soon, so if you need to extend your visa over the summer and plan to do so by post, please ensure that you are following the correct procedure.

If you need more information or advice on the subject, Martin Thomson, the Union advisor, can be contacted via the ICU office or by calling extension 48067.

tuesday
25
june

Ents
Bar Trivia - end of term total trivia spectacular! The first prize is £75: that's 15 Carnival tickets or about 60 pints! (or a couple of top text books off next year's reading list) and £25 for the runners up - you'd be mad to miss money this easy! What a great start to the hols!

Cathsoc
12.00pm. Meeting. Bagritt Centre, Mech Eng. (R)

t u e s d a y

the
week
ahead

Jobshop

Although ICU has been unable to gain funding for a full-scale employment service, we will be proceeding with a scaled-down version for now. Vacancies within the Union, College and the surrounding area will be advertised on a noticeboard outside the Union Office.

We will be focussing on part-time and holiday vacancies, and if anyone knows of any vacancies that our students could fill, please contact Michelle in the Union Office, extension 48060.

Union Minibus Drivers

Drivers are needed for the Friday night minibus service for next year (Oct '96 - Jun '97), especially female drivers. **Good rate of pay** due to the late hours.

Contact: Anne Ovens, Union Women's Officer.
e-mail: a.ovens@ic.ac.uk or give details at the Union Office reception.

iCU

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Summer Carnival

In true Carol Vorderman style, the countdown has begun for the biggest, sunniest Carnival of the year. Yes, we're only a fortnight away from the Summer Carnival and it's going to be a monster!

As you come in you'll be treated to a free glass of Archers and lemonade, serenaded by a string quartet from the My Life Story Orchestra, entertained by uni-cycling fire jugglers and faced with the Barbecue - before you've even entered the building!

On the ground floor Da Vinci's and the Union Bar are open until 2am and the Ents Lounge will be buzzing with poppy sounds from the Pop Tarts. Live music is supplied by Succulent and the excellent Showgirls who make lots of Sleeper-type noises and make Pulp look like shy retiring types. Don't forget that this is your very last chance to 'enjoy' the, er, 'unique ambience' of the Ents Lounge as it is.

The Union Dining Hall will be the coolest (literally) place to hang out with top chill-out sounds washing over you, and those very nice Malibu people

are supplying a very special range of cocktails, plus freebies.

If you venture to the 2nd floor you'll find out where the serious noise is being made. In the gym you'll find the famous Channel One Reggae Sound System. In the Concert Hall the PoodleChaos crew will be giving it loads of hardhouse and techno with live sounds from James Hockley. The room will be fully decked out with the return of the seven-colour laser, and for the un-superstitious of you there'll even be a tarot reader.

To make it all a bit special, the whole building will be decorated by PropArt in a summer stylee with drapes and fluorescent bees and butterflies throughout the building!

All of this is just £5, or £4 with an entscard, tickets are selling fast already from the Union Office & DaVinci's, so get yours now! Tickets sold out 2 days in advance last year, so don't leave it too late.

The Ents news and listings are now available at <http://www.su.ic.ac.uk/Ents/ents.html>.

Elimination by Clansman

- a. Put down a rug?
- b. Two with bell
- c. Maori weapon tree?
- d. Two making sentry
- e. Light covering?
- f. Two homonyms
- g. Animal sound?
- h. Two anagrams
- i. Aquatic implement!
- j. Two with turn
- k. Unhappy garden
- l. Two authors
- m. Loveable plant!
- n. Two synonyms
- o. Majestic instrument
- p. Two with top
- q. Gun pellet?
- r. Two fish
- s. Spoken notes?
- t. Two making utensil

- 1. Cow
- 2. Mat
- 3. Out
- 4. Pan
- 5. Ball
- 6. Down
- 7. Felt
- 8. Fish
- 9. Lamp
- 10. Left
- 11. Look
- 12. Neat
- 13. Pike
- 14. Wolf
- 15. Wood
- 16. Yard
- 17. Grand
- 18. Grave
- 19. Knife
- 20. Lance
- 21. Notch
- 22. Piano
- 23. Place
- 24. Right
- 25. Sauce
- 26. Shade
- 27. Vocal
- 28. Write
- 29. Archer
- 30. Cannon
- 31. Chords
- 32. Flight
- 33. Flower
- 34. Miller
- 35. Plaice
- 36. Ringer
- 37. Harmony
- 38. Herring
- 39. Orderly
- 40. Passion
- 41. Whistle

It's he-ere! The solution to the Daily Telegraph Prize Crossword:
Across: 1.Frankie Dettori, 9.UAE, 10.Robbo, 12.Alec, 13.Denver, 14.Bye, 16.Meyer, 17.Tifosi, 18.Sir, 20.Pirate, 22.Ereng, 25.Ken, 26.Neston, 27.Stan, 30.Greta, 31.Orr, 32.Osvaldo Ardiles. **Down:** 2.Archery, 3.Kjus, 4.Epee, 5.Exeter, 6.Teravainen, 7.Roberto, 8.John Higgins, 11.Palm Springs, 14.Bratislava, 15.Els, 19.Rik, 21.Rangers, 23.Estoril, 24.Donald, 28.Mota, 29.Brad.
 ...and the winner was Leigh Herdman (Physics II), runner-up Matthew Chong (Mech Eng PG). Come and collect your prizes, guys...

Due to the unprecedented amounts of Daily Telegraph Prize Crossword promotional material we've had thrown our way, there are a couple of Daily Telegraph T-shirts going begging. If you want one, come to the Felix office (far left corner of Beit Quad) and say "I'm an evil Tory bigot!" First come, first to the right-wing regalia...

VACANCY

**ASSISTANT
WARDEN**

GARDEN AND WEEKS HALLS

Applications are invited for the position of Assistant Warden at Garden and Weeks Halls, which is available from October 1996. Weeks and Garden halls are run jointly, with the Warden resident in Weeks Hall, and the Assistant Warden resident in Garden Hall. There is in addition a Subwarden in each of the Halls.

The Assistant Warden will be responsible for assisting with the pastoral care, welfare, discipline and administration in Garden and Weeks Halls and he/she will be expected to reside in rent-free accommodation within Garden Hall.

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 26th June 1996.

Da Vinci's
Café bar

TUES JUNE 25TH

bar

TRINIA

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ST/

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LETTERS TO FELIX

blank walls

Dear Felix,

As a resident in Weeks Hall disturbed by the noise last week I noted with interest that Ian Caldwell and indeed the editor herself were surprised that we did not complain first to our warden about the racket.

It should be noted that "our" warden seems to have more interest in staying on the right side of the "powers that be" than student welfare; his supreme indifference to Hall residents is well known.

In short, those complaining did not speak to the warden since they felt their complaints would be greeted with "blank wall" diplomacy or the usual derisory arrogance.

How can we go through the proper channels when those channels are not open to us?

*Weeks Hall Resident
(name withheld by request)*

Deadline for letters in Felix 1062: midday, Wednesday 19th June
Letters may be edited for length.

phoenix is out!
pick up your free copy at:
felix, union entrance, jcr, some departments

FELIX WEEK

wednesday, high noon	wednesday noon
clubs & societies	letters deadline
articles deadline
monday 1.20pm	tuesday 6pm
reviewers' meeting	features meeting
.....
mon & wed 6pm	tuesday night
news meetings	collating
.....
tuesday noon	wednesday morning
arts meeting	the very last of this year's Felix hits the street.

Solution to this week's Illumination:
a.(23,2) b.(1,36) c.(20,15) d.(11,3) e.(9,26) f.(24,28) g.(14,41) h.(7,10) i.(8,19) j.(6,13) k.(18,16) l.(29,34) m.(40,33) n.(12,39) o.(17,22) p.(21,32) q.(30,5) r.(35,38) s.(27,31) t.(25,4)and the word left over was 'Harmony' (37).

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

PRINTER: ANDY THOMPSON

BUSINESS MANAGER: JULIETTE DECOCK

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ISSN 1040-0711

ill-feeling

Oh, and I was doing so well too. Optimism, positive thinking, constructive thought... Well, certainly a spot less cynicism, which is pretty good going for me. But not any more.

Firstly I'm really disappointed about the Rector's Town and Gown summer reception. I had been completely charmed by Ian Caldwell's story: he was really sorry about disturbing the Weeks students, but hey, we had their best interests at heart, we thought they'd like somewhere quiet and peaceful outside to revise in. Somewhere peaceful to revise in, my foot. 400 members of the Knightsbridge Association for tea, that's what.

Besides, I wasn't invited. It's utterly unreasonable: there you are, elected for position to the 1995-96 IC students' union sabbatical team, all getting abuse from the drunk medics together. Where are we now? Sarah White gets to go to the Rector's Town and Gown summer reception, and I get to spend all night stapling whilst getting hate mail from disgruntled Security Guards.

And while we're on the the subject of Student Union Presidents, I am entirely sick of the political machinations of

Ghassan Karian. This man may have two important sounding jobs. He may be the chief General Election Campaigns Coordinator for West London for the Labour Party. He may be the figurehead of the largest student body in the country. But he clearly has difficulty filling his time. Alex Feakes phoned up Kate Hampton (the LSE President) to ask about their anti no-confidence motion (or something like that). A couple of hours later, and all hell had broken loose: Kate had told Ghassan who called Sarah who passed the call on to me to say that she said that he said that she said that he said that you're going to write a nasty article about me. Well I certainly will now, mate. It is my considered opinion that the University of London Union is an utter waste of time. A great venue, yes, a centre for student advice/welfare/travel certainly, but as a body of student opinion it is made entirely irrelevant by the autonomy of its constituent colleges.

Or, to put it another way, I am a little concerned that the Student Union Presidents of LSE, Imperial and the University of London (amongst others) have nothing better to do than decide whether they have confidence in each other.

EDITORIAL TEAM:

NEWS: ALEX FEAKES FEATURES: MARK BAKER

SUB-EDITING AND PROOFING: TIM ST CLAIR

MUSIC: VIK BANSAL CINEMA: KATIE HOPKINS & WEI LEE

PHOTOGRAPHY: IVAN CHAN

PUZZLES: CATFISH CLUBS AND SOCS: STEPHEN HAMILTON

ARTS: JEREMY SCIENCE: BEN WILKINS

COLLATING LAST WEEK: TIM, DAN, ROBIN



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